BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MANCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT SAU #37

January 8, 2024 **6:30 p.m.**

1. Mayor Ruais called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Mayor Ruais called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Ruais introduced Principal Lubelcyzk and asked Committee Members Potter, Spillers and Baines to introduce the students.

Jewett Street School – Peter Lubelczyk Principal

Brooke Marquis – Grade 4
Brooklyn Harwood – Grade 4
Ishaan Saini – Grade 4
Isaiah Ryder – Grade 4

3. A moment of silence was observed.

4. The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Committee Members Turner, Parr, Soule, Want, Bonilla, Bergeron, Argeropoulos, O'Connell, Potter, Spillers, Baines, Senecal, O'Neil, Gonzalez, Mayor Ruais and Muhidin

5. RECOGNITIONS

There were no recognitions this evening.

PUBLIC FORUM

6. The purpose of the public forum is to give the residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the board. All people wishing to speak will have up to three (3) minutes to do so, and any comments must be directed to the chair. Any resident wishing to speak will come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized and give their comments.

Glenn Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street, stated:

He has not been to a school board meeting in over a year because he works second shift but tonight he has off and he stated that he is glad that he does. He stated that there is an item that he wants to mention and its in part A and part two and that is why do we spend and bond millions of dollars to repair schools or the JFK and then think about tearing them down a couple of years later. That is not a good investment. If you own the company, you wouldn't do that. We need to think in a bigger box to tear down a school. This school was the last school in this district that got the classrooms reopened concept back in their walls. It is probably the best built school now in the elementary schools and that is the one you want to tear down, after spending $5 million dollars. We are still paying for that. It is not financial or conservative for sure. The other thing is the John F.K. he understands is no longer on the plan but there should have been a public meeting. That building is an historical building for our city and not too many years ago, in the last 10 years, we spent $7 million to repair that building. He stated that he is very happy that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen made sure that we are no longer on the plan. We need to be careful with taxpayer money. It's as simple as that. We need to have a better plan. The last thing he stated was he wanted to say was yes, we have four high schools, including the School of Technology, and he is convinced that here is enough space with the three high schools that they have in the city now and that have been here since 1986. In this city, it is well known that in our schools we don't fix our buildings until they are falling apart. You will all remember Central High school, windows were broken, furnaces didn't work, people were wearing hats and mittens to do their SATs. We need to do a better job. Although, this year, he does congratulate the board because they did spend over a million dollars to repair schools and that is what we have to do, not wait until they are falling apartment. Remember this, if there is a hole in the roof, its not going to get better if you don't fix it now. He thanked the board and congratulated those that won their elections. He stated the elections are now over, let's do the people's work.

Ken Tassey, 226 Karatzas Avenue, #309, stated:

He stated that he is present to address item 9-a on tonight's agenda. This item is that the school district administration requests that the board vote to waive the bidding process for all purchases greater than $50,000 related to the $290 million bond for the Phase one Long-Term Facilities Plan. Attached to that request is a document pertaining specifically to the two bids received for the new modular classrooms, which is confusing and gives the appearance that the proposal is limited to that

single purchase. The fiscal impact section of the proposal on the agenda seems to ask that the board waive the bidding policy each time that a $50,000 plus purchase is required during the entire phase one project. This proposal in essence, says that we don't want to be slowed down by the bidding policy, which is understandable, but we will do our best to follow it without being held to a policy. In a project that will take years and costs more than half a billion dollars, there will be a need for many contractors and professional service providers that will exceed $50,000. This proposal asks the public to trust you and your successors, who they don't yet know, to manage money without being held to a policy. Policies related to the use of taxpayer money are created to prevent fraud, to provide a fair playing field for all providers and to force the process of due diligence. Passing this policy waiver request as written would set a bad precedent for managing future projects and would diminish public trust. We want to know that our elected and appointed leaders are at least bound by policy. If the school district administration is concerned about the time it takes to bid up projects, they should rather lobby to streamline that process or change policy, rather than ask to circumvent an important step in finance management that protects everyone. Since the district has already received bids for the modular classrooms and received the recommendation from SMMA, the architectural firm overseeing that part of the project at the very least, this proposal is modified to be a limited waiver specifically for the purchase of the modulars and not a general waiver for the entire phase one project. He respectfully asked that the board vote NO to this request as it is written or presented.

a. If there is no one else present wishing to speak, a motion is in order to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented and to table the remaining minutes for public comment to the end of the meeting for those that have not already spoken.

*On motion of **Committee Member Argeropoulos,** duly seconded by **Committee Member Soule,** it was moved to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented and to table the remaining minutes of public comment to the end of the meeting for those who have not already spoken. All were in favor and the motion passed.*

7. Response to Public Comment
(Note: Motions limited to sending items to Committees only.)

As all public comments pertained to items on the agenda, there was no response to public comments at this time.

8. PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations this evening.

9. ACTION AGENDA

a. Interim Assistant Superintendent Contract – by Attorney Katie Cox Pelletier

*On motion of **Committee Member Baines,** duly seconded by **Committee Member O'Connell,** it was moved to approve the contract for the Interim Assistant Superintendent. All were in favor and the motion passed.*

There was no discussion on this item.

b. Waiver of policy Fiscal 119: Bidding Procedures for the Priority One Long-Term Facilities Project

*On motion of **Committee Member O'Connell,** duly seconded by **Committee Member Baines,** it was moved to open item 9-b up for discussion. All were in favor.*

Dr. Gillis stated she is asking the Board to waive language and policy fiscal 119. She stated that regarding the process, they will continue to seek at least three competitive quotes and or use the RFP process for projects which exceed $50,000. They will determine awards for the most appropriate vendor, so we can maximize funding for priority one with quality materials and services as outlined in our policy. They will also continue to update the finance and facilities committee on a monthly basis, to include updates on RFP awards, quotes and status on the long term facility project. The aspect she stated that she is seeking the waiver to cover is the need to bring RFP awards to the Board of School Committee for final approval as we move forward. This past practice aligns with the practice used on the city side. Once a project scope has been approved and bonding secured, the facilities team does not bring each RFP award forward for approval. This waiver is necessary to meet deadlines within priority one of our long term facilities planning project. Without the waiver, she stated they will quickly find they are clogged in the language of policy rather than focusing on the project at hand.

Questions and comments included:

1. This is the same process that is followed by the City and was used during the work on the road extensions for public works.
2. The district will make sure that they are transparent throughout the entire process.

*On motion of **Committee Member Baines,** duly seconded by **Committee Member Gonzalez,** it was moved to approve waiving the policy Fiscal 119: Bidding Procedures for the priority one Long-Term Facilities Project. All were in favor.*

10. CONSENT AGENDA (ITEMS 10 – 17)

11. Mayor Ruais advises if you desire to remove any of the following items from the Consent Agenda, please so indicate. If none of the items are to be removed, only one motion will be taken at the conclusion of the presentation.

Committee Member Want removed item 13-b and Committee Member Muhindin removed item 13-a.

The balance of the consent agenda was as follows:

12. Approval of minutes from the Board of School Committee meetings on: December 11th, 2023 meeting and the January 2nd, 2024 meeting.

13. Report(s) of the Committee of Policy, if available.

c. Revisions to Administration 104: Evaluation of the Superintendent

14. Report(s) of the Committee of Teaching and Learning, if available.

a. African American Cultural Studies – Manchester Community College (MCC) On-Site Early College Pilot
b. Policy Instruction 120: K-3 Minimum Reading Instruction

15. Report(s) of the Committee of Finance and Facilities, if available.

a. Treasurer's Report
b. Financial Reports
c. City Services Invoices ($1,296,481.24)
d. Manifest of Authorized Expenditures (November 2023) ($18,823,571.11)

e. Grants, Gifts and Donations report ($2,519,997.00)
f. Professional Leave Requests ($20,941.36)
g. FY25 Capital Improvements Projects (CIP) Priority Listing

16. Report(s) of the Committee of Student Conduct, if available.

17. Report(s) of the Committee on Education Legislation, if available.

a. Advocacy Letters to be sent

*On motion of **Committee Member Argeropoulos,** duly seconded by **Committee Member Soule,** it was moved to approve the balance of the consent agenda. All were in favor and the motion passed.*

13. Report(s) of the Committee of Policy, if available.

a. Revisions to policy Students 116.1: Expectations for Students in Athletics with Academic Expectations Procedures – Specifically regarding Carpooling

Committee Member Muhidin asked how parents go about the process of getting approved.

Attorney Cox Pelletier stated page 10 talks about the process of getting approved. There are guidelines that are set and once they have submitted all the documentation, including their insurance, driver's license and vehicle registration, they would be approved for the season.

Additional questions and comments included:

1. This is a process they are looking for approval for the rest of the school year. They will continue to work on transportation in the hopes this will not be necessary.
2. Students are not able to drive other students as this is a liability issue.
3. The hope is that in the future the transportation services will provide these services.
4. This is the process that has been followed through the spring and up to now. They have been coming in about every 60 days for the continuation of the approval and they are just asking for this to go through the end of the school year.
5. Ultimately, they would prefer for buses to be available for the transportation of our student athletes and this is in place so that games are not being cancelled.

*On motion of **Committee Member Argeropoulos,** duly seconded by **Committee Member Soule,** it was moved to approve item 13-a, Revisions to policy Students 116.1: Expectations for Students in Athletics with Academic Expectations Procedures. All were in favor and the motion passed.*

b. Multilingual Family Support Specialists I and II

Committee Member Want stated that as the chair of the Policy committee it was brought to her attention that the wording that was asked to be put in the job summary regarding the sentence "due to the diversity of our district, we welcome all applicants and will provide professional development and opportunities for new employment" is not typical for the district. This wording will be put on the website regarding all applicants but they are requesting that it not be on each job description in the summary.

The Board was in agreement with this amendment.

*On motion of **Committee Member Want,** duly seconded by **Committee Member Turner,** it was moved to approve item 13-b, Multilingual Family Support Specialists I and II job descriptions, as amended. All were in favor and the motion passed.*

COMMUNICATIONS

18. Superintendent's Communications.

a) Board Report Email Update

There were no questions or comments on this item.

b) Superintendent Updates

i. Update on the Owner's Project Manager (OPM) Request for Proposals (RFP) for Priority One

Dr. Gillis stated that this position is slated to be connected to the Long-Term Facilities planning process. They released the RFP on Friday, January 5th and it closes on Friday, January 19th. Following the closure, they will do a public opening and will interview all vendors who have

applied, with the hopes of awarding this in mid February. The RFP for this item is on the district website if anyone wants to review it.

There were no questions or comments on this item.

ii. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work in the district.

Dr. Gillis stated that they received eight submissions from the RFP. The next step is for the team to conduct interviews and select a vendor for nomination of this award. More information will be coming to the board in February so that we can get this vendor in place.

There were no questions or comments on this item.

iii. Modulars Request for Proposals (RFP) responses and award

Dr. Gillis stated that the information on the modulars is located on pages 2-4 of the agenda. You will see that the recommendation is to with the low bidder, which was Triumph, in the amount of just over $16 million for all six of the modular buildings. They are working on the timeline, as was previously reported, to have these in place for the opening of school in fall of 2024. The six locations are Beech Elementary, McDonough Elementary, Southside Middle, Parkside Middle, McLaughlin Middle and Hillside Middle School. Not including in the award is the cost for the Jewett Street building, as they pulled the quote and will include that in Priority II. The long term facility planning can be found on our website under the tab labeled long term Facilities Planning. If you're curious where it is go to our main webpage, it's down on the lower right corner. She also want to take a moment to share that we will be providing an update on priority one in the Finance and Facilities meeting on Wednesday. In that update, they'll be sharing the initial set of staff and community formed dates, times and locations in regard to the six locations she already stated for the modulars. In addition, they will be working internally with the transition team in regard to the closing of Wilson Elementary School, moving students and staff to Beech and McDonough and the work that was related to transitioning the balance of our fifth graders to McLaughlin and Hillside.

Questions and comments included:

1. It was reiterated that community meetings will be held and those dates, times and locations will be shared with the neighbors surrounding the schools and the community.

iv. Semester One ends on 1/25/23

Nicole Doherty stated that semester one closes on Friday, January 26, 2024. They will be giving an update to the Committee on Teaching and Learning on the data from Semester one at their February meeting.

v. Course Catalog updates

Nicole Doherty stated they are on schedule to provide all students with tehri 24/25 schedule by the end of the school year. They have been working diligently with the technology department to be ready to have the courses within the course selection process in Aspen and working to finalize the course catalogue for printing by the end of this month.

There were no questions or comments on this item.

vi. Department of Defense Starbase

Nicole Doherty stated they had 35 middle school students attend the Starbase program at the Department of Defense. These were students form Southside Middle School. An open house was attended by Dr. Gillis and herself, along with Senators from the State of New Hampshire, Principal Sousa and Principal Espinola. The students were designing straw rockets and launched them to determine what modifications were going to be needed to improve their launch. You could really feel the energy in the room as you watched the students participate. They will be having a presentation on this at the Teaching and Learning Committee in March. She is excited to have Parkside students also attend.

There were no questions or comments on this item.

19. Board of School Committee Members' Communications.

There were no items presented.

20. Personnel Report.

Committee Member Argeropoulos removed item 25 and Committee Member Potter removed item 2.

*On motion of **Committee Member O'Connell,** duly seconded by **Committee Member Soule,** it was moved to approve the balance of the personnel report and the supplemental personnel report. All were in favor and the motion passed.*

The approved personnel report was as follows:

RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS: ADMINISTRATION

Name	Position	Building	Salary
Deidre Smith	Student Services Coord	District	$66,969.83
Tom McGee	21st Century Program Dir	District	$66,996.22
Stacey Champey	MTSS-B Coach	District Office	$78,071.63

NOMINATIONS: ADMINISTRATION

Name	Position	Building	Salary
Stacey Champey	MTSS-B Director	District Office	$115,000.00

RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS: CERTIFIED STAFF

Name	Position	Building	Salary
Angela Berg	Library Media Specialist	Bakersville	$79,190.00
Arthur Stauff	Sr Naval Science Instructor	West	$103,338.08
Cheryl Kearney	Health Teacher	Parker Varney	$74,104.00
Daniel McNally	Vocational Teacher	MST	$61,131.00
Deborah McCullough	Math Teacher	Southside	$74,104.00
Eugenia Bell	Lit/Math Interventionist	Smyth Rd	$79,190.00
Katherine Dunn	EL Teacher	Beech St	$61,131.00

NOMINATIONS: CERTIFIED STAFF

Name	Position	Building	Salary
Tarik Hasic, EA 147269	ESOL Teacher (1 Year)	MST	$46,649.00
Deidre Smith, EdID 84112	Special Ed Teacher	Southside	$70,550.00
Peter Adamakos, ID 37476	Math Intervention Teacher	Parkside	$83,430.00

RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS: NON-CERTIFIED STAFF

Name	Position	Building	Salary
Patricia Foley	Food Service Worker I	Highland	$15.74
Krystal West	Paraeducator I Sped	Parker Varney	$15.45

NOMINATIONS: NON-CERTIFIED STAFF

Name	Position	Building	Salary
Ana Ascencio	Student, Family, Comm Proj Asst	District Wide	$15.00
Branden Aguirre-Berrios	Paraeducator I	Hillside	$15.45
Danielle Bachhuber	Food Service Worker I	Green Acres	$15.00
Gina Lebrun	Asst Elem Basketball Coor	Memorial	$2,000.00
Halyna Boiko	Food Service Worker I	Webster	$15.00
Ian Ritterbush	Asst. Fire Instructor	MST	$30.00
India May	Girls A Basketball	Southside	$2,417.00
Jason Lauder	Asst Girls Indoor Track/Field	West	$2,605.90
Joshua Swallow	Asst. Fire Instructor	MST	$30.00
Kaley Abrego-Rodriguez	Varsity Spirit Coach	West	$2,884.20
Sarah Sutherland	Enrichment Instructor-21st CC	Bakersville	$15.00

Sydni Carpenter	Unified Basketball (Split)	Central	$500.00
Tetiana Ponomarenko	Food Service Worker I	Southside	$15.00
Alisha Magar	21st CC Club Assistant	Parkside	$15.00
Cameron Anagnos	Food Service Worker I	Hillside	$15.00
Cooper Brien	Part Time Accounting Tech	SAU Office	$19.94
Dana Sousa	Administrative Asst II/Recpt	SAU Office	$18.90
David Teshinsky	HR Benefits Coordinator	SAU Office	$62,000.00
Hannah Velez	Administrative Asst II	Central	$18.90
Ian Feller	Elementary Basketball	Northwest	$500.00
James Dunn	Unified Basketball	West	$1,000.00
Jerold White	Elementary Basketball	Green Acres	$500.00
Lisa Greene	Paraeducator I	McDonough	$15.45
Mary Catherine Gill	Student, Family, Comm Proj Asst	District Wide	$15.00
Melissa Cadorette	Admin Asst. Student Svc	West	$19.94
Paula Quiroga	HR Coordinator	SAU Office	$62,000.00
Raven Kienia	Elementary Basketball	Northwest	$500.00

21. TABLED ITEMS
(A motion would be in order to remove any item from the table.)

There were no tabled items this evening.

22. NEW BUSINESS

Committee Member Soule –

1. She stated that as a reminder, the presidential primary is Tuesday, January 23rd, and there are three board members who are working the primary and will need to be allowed to leave by 8:30 p.m. as they have to be at the polls by 5:00 a.m. and will not be finished until 10 or 11 p.m. It was indicated that everyone was okay with this.

Committee Member O'Connell –

1. He stated that those members that are being appointed to the Joint School Building Committee include himself and Committee Members Turner and Soule.
2. He stated that he is looking at possibly merging some of the committee meeting dates to make it so that there are less nights that the Board Members, the administration and the clerk will have to come out for meetings. He stated that he will be in touch with the Committee Chairs to see how and if this could work.
3. He stated that he is trying to reduce the meeting expectations for Dr. Gillis, as she tends to be here for meetings late into the evenings many nights a week. He stated that he is looking to have her join the two full board meetings but not having to attend the committee meetings. If at any time, the Committee Chairs need her in attendance, they can reach out and request for her to attend their meetings.

4. Last Week the vote in concord for Medicaid for free and reduced lunches did not pass. He reminded anyone watching of the importance of applying for free and reduced lunches, as it increases adequacy aid that comes into the district. He stated that the previous stigma around free and reduced lunches is not as it used to be and all information is kept confidential for the students. It is important that those that meet these poverty levels apply for these services, even if they decide not to use the services.

Committee Member Baines –

1. He stated that there use to only be one full Board Meeting and this was recently changed about 12 years ago and he stated he would like to see the Board get back to only having the one meeting where business is done. It was stated that maybe a second meeting could be held from time to time for presentations and items like that.

Committee Member Muhidin –

1. She stated that on Thursday, Erica, John and Joselyn, as well as other school board student members, are going to be part of the civics and civility panel that is going on. This helps bring youth into politics and show them how the be civil and how civility is dying in the country's politics right now. This is very exciting for them.

23. A motion is in order to go into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91-A:3 II (a, b, and c, e, j and l) and RSA 91-A:2, I (b and c): for the dismissal, promotion or compensation of any public employee or the hiring of any person as a public employee; and, for matters, which if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person; consideration of negotiation of pending claims or litigation; consideration of confidential, commercial or financial information that is exempt from public disclosure under RSA 91-A:5, IV; consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally; and, Strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining.

A roll call is required on the motion.

7:10 p.m.

On motion of ***Committee Member Argeropoulos,*** *duly seconded by* ***Committee Member Soule,*** *it was moved to go into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91-A:3 II (a, b, and c, e, j and l) and RSA 91-A:2, I (b): for the dismissal, promotion or compensation of any public employee or the hiring of any person as a public employee; and, for matters, which if discussed in public,*

would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person; consideration of negotiation of pending claims or litigation; consideration of confidential, commercial or financial information that is exempt from public disclosure under RSA 91-A:5, IV; consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally; and, Strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining.

Roll Call: Committee Members Turner, Parr, Soule, Want, Bonilla, Bergeron, Argeropoulos, O'Connell, Potter, Spillers, Baines, Senecal, O'Neil, Gonzalez and Mayor Ruais voted yes. Motion passed.

24. A motion is in order to call the meeting back to order.
*On motion of **Committee Member O'Connell,** duly seconded by **Committee Member Baines,** it was moved to call the meeting back to order. All were in favor and the motion passed.*

*On motion of **Committee Member Want,** duly seconded by **Committee Member Potter,** it was moved to seal the minutes until the Board reviews the minutes at their next meeting for unsealing, as they could likely adversely affect the reputation of any person who is not a member of the public body or they could render a proposed action ineffective. All were in favor and the motion passed.*

*On motion of **Committee Member Soule,** duly seconded by **Committee Member O'Connell,** it was moved to unseal the sealed minutes from the December 13, 2023 board meeting. All were in favor and the motion passed.*

*On motion of **Committee Member Baines,** duly seconded by **Committee Member Soule,** it was moved to approve items 2 and 25 of the Personnel report and supplemental report. Committee Member Argeropoulos was opposed to #25. All others were in favor and the motion passed.*

ADJOURNMENT

25. If there is no further business, a motion is in order to adjourn.

On motion of ***Committee Member Baines,*** *duly seconded by* ***Committee Member O'Connell,*** *it was moved to adjourn. All were in favor, meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.*

True Copy. Attest.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela M Carey

Clerk of Committee

Angela Carey <acarey@mansd.org>

For the minutes

Ken Tassey Jr <kentassey@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 8, 2024 at 6:54 PM
To: Angela Carey <acarey@mansd.org>

Hi Angela,
Please submit to the minutes.
Thank you!
Ken

Good evening,

In today's agenda item 9-a, (pages 1-4) our school district administration requests that the board vote to WAIVE the bidding process for all purchases greater than $50,000 related to the $290M Bond for the Phase 1 Long-term Facilities Plan. Attached to that request is a document pertaining specifically to the two bids received for the new modular classrooms which is confusing and gives the appearance that the proposal is limited to that *single purchase.* The Fiscal Impact section of the proposal seems to ask that the board waive the bidding policy each time a $50,000+ purchase is required during the entire Phase 1 project.

This proposal, in essence, says, "we don't want to be slowed down by the bidding policy, but we'll do our best to follow it without being held to policy". In a project that will take years and cost more than a half-billion dollars, there will be a need for many contractors and professional service providers that will exceed $50,000. This proposal asks the public to trust you and your successors, who they don't know yet, to manage money without being held to a policy.

Policies related to the use of taxpayer money are created to prevent fraud, to provide a fair playing field for all providers, and to force the process of due diligence. Passing this policy waiver request as written would set a bad precedent for managing future projects and would diminish public trust. We want to know that our elected and appointed leaders are at least bound by policy.

If the school district administration is concerned about the time it takes to bid out projects, they should rather lobby to streamline that process rather than ask to circumvent an important step in finance management that protects everyone.
See policy: https://www.mansd.org/o/msd/page/msd-policy-fiscal-119-bidding-procedures

Since the district has already received bids for the modular classrooms and recommendation from SMMA, at the very least this proposal should be modified to be a limited waiver specifically for the purchase of the modulars and not a general waiver for the entire Phase 1 project.

I respectfully ask that you vote NO to this request as it is written, or modify it as above.

Thank you,

Ken Tassey Jr.
Resident, Manchester Ward 6