

**BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MANCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT SAU #37**

February 10, 2025

6:30 p.m.

It was indicated that due to sickness, the Westside Chamber Orchestra was unable to attend this evening but that their performance would be rescheduled.

1. Mayor Ruais called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. Mayor Ruais called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

He welcomed Principal Larochelle and the students from Northwest Elementary school. He asked Committee Member O'Neil to introduce the students.

Northwest Elementary School – Shelly Larochelle, Principal

Charlie Dumond – Grade 1	Miles Dionne – Grade 2
Cecilyanne Emmerling – Grade 4	John Oke – Grade 2
Jeremiah Oke – Grade 2	Eleanor Croteau – Grade 2
Madelyn Croteau – Grade K	Samantha Lyonnais – Grade 4

3. A moment of silence was observed.
4. The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Committee Members Turner, Parr, Soule, Want, Bergeron,
Argeropoulos, O'Connell, Potter, Spillers, Baines, Senecal, O'Neil, Gonzalez and
Student Member Miller.

Absent: Committee Member Bonilla.

5. RECOGNITIONS

Committee Member Baines asked that we congratulate the Mayor and his beautiful wife for the birth of their 3 lb 2 oz baby girl.

Mayor Ruais asked that Dr. Chmiel and Mr. Ed Doyle join him for the recognitions.

Mr. Doyle stated that it is his honor to introduce to tonight the high school, all state musicians. There are various festivals that our students audition for and it is a multi-month process. It actually starts at Memorial

High School when students from all across the state come together and do the auditions in November. The Jazz all state festival happened just this past weekend at Pinkerton Academy and the regular all state, or classical all state, happens in April, in the City of Concord. We have multiple students that we want to acknowledge tonight, and we'll do so by school. He stated that there are two students who have gotten sick but they will acknowledge them none the less. He stated that they also wanted to recognize their teachers too, Mr. Russell from Memorial, Mr. Brian from Center, Ms. Berger from West and Mrs. Redmond from Central.

- a. High school all-state music selections: The following high school students have been selected for all-state music festivals:

Central High School

- **Jonah Therrien** – All-State Jazz Band
- **Jack Lianos** – All-State Jazz Band; All-State Orchestra; Chamber Festival
- **Thomas Martineau** – All-State Jazz Band; All-State Band
- **Lily Szulc** – All-State Jazz Choir; All-State Mixed Choir
- **Katherine Thorner** – All-State Jazz Choir; All-State Mixed Choir
- **Marley Walker** – All-State Jazz Choir; All-State Mixed Choir
- **Will Brewer** – All-State Band (No. 1 score in Percussion); Chamber Festival
- **Sophia Boisvert** – All-State Mixed Choir (4-year award); Chamber Festival
- **Michaela Aufiero** – All-State Mixed Choir

Memorial High School

- **Meta Denio** – All-State Orchestra; Chamber Festival
- **David Kulikovskiy** – All-State Orchestra
- **Anna Sobozenski** – All-State Treble Choir

West High School

- **Fatoumata Bah** – All-State Treble Choir

Committee Member Baines stated that as a former high school music teacher for instrumental band, he wanted to commend all the students and parents and the teachers for continuing on with playing a musical instrument as this has been something that they have done for many years, through the pressures that are out there for students. Mastering an instrument at this level is very commendable. He stated that he believes Committee Member Parr would agree with him as a music teacher himself. He stated that he can't express the pride that he has seeing all these students present 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.

Julie Langlois and Waad Mohammed, Manchester High School Students, were present to speak:

The clerk indicated, prior to the students speaking, that there were handouts on each board members desk this evening regarding the fundraiser that they are present to speak about.

They stated they are here today to talk and invite you all to some activities that our club, FBLA, which stands for Future Business Leaders of America are doing. FBLA is a club that aims to improve leadership and collaboration within high schoolers to various community activities. Recently, FBLA has been focusing on fundraising so our members can go to a State Leadership Conference at the DoubleTree Hilton . This opportunity, will allow them to network and meet other leaders from all across New Hampshire. They also wanted to invite everyone to come to their Chipotle fundraiser this Wednesday that's happening in Bedford from four to nine, and they stated that they would love to have everyone there. They stated that they are also having a sponsored basketball game towards raising awareness about cancer, specifically because the month of February is a National Cancer Awareness Month. FBLA is selling shirts and the profits will go towards a cancer organization in New Hampshire and the rest will be utilized to buy blankets, socks and other essentials for cancer treatment centers. They again invited everyone to their basketball game, and hoped that the board would be able to attend to show support. They stated that they hope to make an impact and help others who are very strong fighters, who have battled or are battling cancer. If you guys are interested in supporting them, please feel free to contact them through their principal, Mr. Dichard. They thanked the board for giving them the opportunity to speak.

Greg Erskine, of 125 Electric Street, was present to speak:

He stated that wanted to say, on January 24 we received an email from the superintendent emphasizing that the right to an education was one of our core values, regardless of children's immigration status. He wanted he wanted to say thank you for sending that and stated that he greatly appreciates it. He sent an email back immediately, saying, Thank you. He stated that his kids are in no danger of being deported. They were born here and he was born here, as well as his parents and grandparents. But that can't be the same necessarily for everyone in their class, their friends, their classmates and he wanted to make sure that my kids have the

stability of knowing that everyone is safe at school and afforded proper education. He appreciates that commitment to making sure that everyone has that afforded education to them. Thank you.

- 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 O'Connell**, 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 for the public comment to the end of the meeting for those that have not already spoken. All were in favor and the motion passed.*

7. Response to Public Comment

There were no responses to public comment this evening.

8. **PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations this evening.

9. **ACTION AGENDA**

There were no items on the action agenda this evening.

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.

No items were removed from the consent agenda.

12. Approval of minutes from the Board of School Committee meetings on: January 27, 2025 regular and special meeting.
13. Report(s) of the Committee of Policy, if available.
14. Report(s) of the Committee of Teaching and Learning, if available.

- a. Multilingual Learner Education Program Update
- b. School Climate Programming

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

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

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

*On motion of **Committee Member Soule**, duly seconded by **Committee Member Turner**, it was moved to approve the consent agenda as submitted. 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

Mr. Toland was present and stated that he wanted to talk about two items that the committee has in front of them this evening. The first item is the district fast facts, which is really hard to say quickly, but this was requested at the last meeting. Essentially the idea is that it's a quick fact sheet so that either elected officials or any stakeholders have something in their hands when they go out to either an event or if they just have something they want to write something about the schools. He stated that if the board has any questions or suggestions on this, this is still just a draft document, and he asked that they please send them along, and then as soon as it is finalized, they will publish it on the website and make any additions there. They wanted to share this with the board so you guys have it and can print and share and/or if need be they can probably do some limited runs of prints for distribution.

He stated that the second item he wanted to discuss was the graduation schedule. He stated that the graduation schedule is as follows:

- 1. 8:00 a.m. MST – at SNHU Arena;
- 2. 10:00 a.m. Central – at SNHU Arena;

3. 2:00 p.m. West – at SNHU Arena; and,
4. 5:30 p.m. Memorial – at SNHU Arena.

Questions and comments on this item included:

1. 8:00 am is not a very convenient time for a graduation, as family members travel to attend these meetings. It was stated that no other graduations in the state take place at this time. It was indicated that no other district in the state has four high schools and in order to utilize the day that SNHU is able to accommodate the district, one of the graduations has to occur at 8:00 am and the smallest school is the one that has been scheduled at this time. It was stated that the district will review this for future years.
2. Logistical challenges and recommendations from SNHU are the reasoning for this schedule.
3. It was asked about flip flopping graduations and it was indicated that this schedule is based on the sizes of the graduating class and running the smaller ones first, so that the entire schedule doesn't get pushed back if a school goes over.
4. It was asked if the district has received any feedback regarding the times for the graduations, as this has not changed in the past years, and it was stated that no feedback from parents or families has been received.
5. It was stated that a question was brought up about the dropout rate in the district and the state formula that does not appear to be accurate. It was indicated that the administration will be looking into this item.

Mr. Ransdell was present to give athletic updates. He stated the following:

1. We are reaching the end of the winter seasons.
2. Elementary Basketball is in the final stages of playoffs, with the final four teams being Weston, Jewett, Northwest and Green Acres for the boys; and, Highland, McDonough, Parker Varney and Northwest for the girls.
3. Parkside Boys became the Division II Tri-Country Champions with a win over Nashua.
4. At the Winter State Track meet, the district had the following successes:
 - a. Central - Caesar Flahn – 1st Place 55 Dash and Qualified for Nationals;
 - b. Central - Boys 4x200 – 1st Place Division I, Record and Provisional Qualifier for Nationals;
 - i. Student Athletes: Caden Gagne, Wyatt Fougere, Sean Venator, and Caesar Flahn.
 - c. Central - Caden Gagne 3rd Place in the 300 meter and will qualify for New Englands;
 - d. Central - Sean Venator – 6th place in the Long Jump and 6th Place in the 300 meters;

- e. Central - Angela Cenesca – 2nd place in the 300 meters and 3rd place in the long jump;
 - f. West - Eshaya Lauder – 1st place in the long jump, DII Record and 2nd place in the high jump.
5. He stated that these students will be recognized at future board meeting.

It was added that the Alpine Ski Team for Central completed at Division I states at Pat's Peak and the Central Boys finished 10th out of 18 alpine ski teams, which is remarkable. The girls team will compete tomorrow.

Dr. Chmiel gave the following updates:

1. Snow Updates – a team sits behind the scenes and discusses the conditions of the roads, sidewalks and other information. This team consists of members of the city and the district. They pay special attention and get up to date, real time information to make the best decisions. She stated that they talk about safety and if it is safe to get back and forth to school when determining if school will be open, if there will be a two hour delay, early release or if school will be cancelled.
2. They are gearing up to do practice runs for remote days.
3. February vacation is the last week of the month and there will be no school.

Questions and comments included:

1. Do all the kids have devices for remote learning days, and accessibility to wifi? It was stated that they are currently working with IT to get the numbers and to replace devices that have been either damaged or lost.

19. Board of School Committee Members' Communications.

b. Job Openings List

There were no questions or comments on this item.

b. Update on Board Goals

There were no questions or comments on this item.

20. Personnel Report.

No items were removed.

On motion of Committee Member Baines, duly seconded by Committee Member Soule, it was moved to approve the personnel report and supplemental report as submitted. All were in favor and the motion passed.

The approved personnel report was as follows:

RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS: CERTIFIED STAFF

Name	Position	Location	Salary
Aimen Harizi	Math Teacher	Central	\$45,000.00
Lisa Keefe	School Nurse	Parkside	\$64,953.00
Mary Ann Skersey	School Nurse	Green Acres	\$64,953.00

NOMINATIONS: CERTIFIED STAFF

Name	Position	Location	Salary
Benson Furber	Special Ed Teacher	McLaughlin	\$45,000.00

RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS: NON-CERTIFIED STAFF

Name	Position	Location	Salary
Evenson Pierre Jeudy	Attendance Coordinator	District	\$62,272.60
Kathleen Neveu	Paraeducator II	Jewett	\$24.33
Lacy Randall	COTA/Cert Occ Speech Asst	Highland	\$32.00
Linda Godinez	Paraeducator II	Parker Varney	\$22.53
Robert Fratus	Bus Driver	District	\$28.00
Erin Ray	Paraeducator II	Highland	\$21.00
Evangelia Theodorakakos	Registered Behavior Tech	Smyth	\$30.00

LEAVES OF ABSENCE: NON-CERTIFIED STAFF

Name	Position	Location	Salary
Hamisi Juma	Multilingual Liaison	District	\$29.85
Heidi Pliakos	Paraeducator I	Green Acres	\$17.00

NOMINATIONS: NON-CERTIFIED STAFF

Name	Position	Location	Salary
Ayla Goulet	Food Service Worker I	Parkside	\$15.00
Brad Cartier	Varsity Softball Coach	West	\$3,960.00
Evangelia Theodorakakos	Registered Behavior Tech	Smyth	\$30.00
Evenson Pierre Jeudy	Student Success Prj Mgr	Hillside	\$65,000.00
Phillip Braden	School Bus - Trainee	District	\$15.00
Payton Moran	21st Century Club Asst	Webster	\$15.00

21. TABLED ITEMS

There were no tabled items this evening.

It was asked if there was anyone else present wishing to give public comment.

Patricia Anglin, 17 Congress Street, was present and stated:

She stated that she wanted to add to the athletics. For those not aware, this past weekend was the city wrestling meet, where, traditionally, every year, all three city schools get together and compete. For the first time since 2009 West brought home the trophy. She stated that she is the nurse at Central; however, she has no allegiance. She works at Central, graduated from Memorial, her kids went to West and her kids wrestled for West. She was quite excited to see West take home the trophy for the first time since 2009. She stated to put it in perspective, when her kids wrestled, the team was so small they didn't qualify as a team through NHIAA, they were independent, and now the team is large enough that they not only qualify, but they're bringing home the city trophy, and have 30 students competing. She stated that for those interested, this Wednesday is Central senior night for wrestling at seven o'clock. She added that tomorrow, House Bill 386 is being heard in the house Labor, industrial and Rehabilitative Services Committee. It is the legislation that she assisted in drafting, and David Priest was kind enough to submit for her banning non competes for nursing agencies with organizations. It would effectively ban and eliminate the non compete clauses that the school district has with agencies if it passes. She stated that she did the math, even if half the nurses that are currently contracted want to come to the district, we're looking between \$104,000 in savings. She encouraged everybody to go online. Support it. She stated that she is taking a personal day tomorrow and will be up there testifying in person. Thank you.

*On motion of **Committee Member Turner**, duly seconded by **Committee Member O'Connell**, it was moved to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented. All were in favor and the motion passed.*

Response to public comment included:

1. Committee Member Parr:

- a. House Bill 386 – As was indicated there is a hearing tomorrow and in the past, the board has submitted bills of this type and he wanted to get a sense of the Board's support of this bill so that he can submit some online testimony in support of this and offer the potential for savings if the bill was passed. These non-compete clauses are part of the reason that we have had a difficult time full staffing our nursing positions. The consensus of the board was

that they supported Committee Member Parr speaking on behalf of the board in favor of this bill.

- b. He stated that there are a lot of bills that are coming into the state and the education legislation committee has been prioritizing these bills and tracking them.
 - i. A bill that was up today, was regarding the cutting of subjects from the adequate education, inkling the arts, music, civics, personal finance, computer science, economics, and other items. There are over 28,000 people who have registered online in opposition and only 60 in support of the bill.
 - ii. This week, the expansion of support for students who are eligible for Medicaid and free and reduced lunches is before the senate on Wednesday at 3 p.m. and this is Senate Bill 293, and this is another bill tha we should support.
 - iii. There is a universal voucher bill on Wednesday as well, being SB 295, and this would dimmish funding for public education and this bill he will be opposed to.

22. NEW BUSINESS

1. Committee Member Soule:

- a. MST Open House – She attended and it was very well attended. She was able to visit certain classrooms and met the teacher for gaming, who explained what the students do, as well as her receiving a demonstration of English through graphics.
- b. The Community Schools will be doing an update presentation to Teaching and Learning. Two of these community schools are Parker Varney and Beech. They are providing ESOL instruction during the day at one of the schools and after school for the second school.
- c. There was supposed to be a huge STEM celebration last Thursday that was cancelled due to the storm and it will be rescheduled.
- d. There is a new food pantry at Beech Street and anyone that is interested, can donate money or items to Corey's closet or the other food pantry's in schools across the district.
- e. She attended adaptive Turtle Art show and fundraiser that was held last Friday. Attendance was small because it was postponed but the different art pieces were amazing. This is an adaptive art class.

2. Committee Member Bergeron:

- a. He stated that he also attend the open house at MST and toured the cosmetology area. It was fantastic and they offer many services.

3. Committee Member Baines:

- a. He stated that he visited West for another reason, but is happy to report that the Owl Program is still in effect. He stated that he ran into Gary Hunter at Jim McQueenie's wake and he said that 1000 students have been through this program since it was started in the 1980s.
- b. He was disappointed to hear that the Steam ahead initiative has faded away at West. He stated this is no criticism of Mr. Dichard, who is a great leader at the school, but he was disappointed to hear this. He stated that we should look into bringing this back. Project based learning is very important.
- c. Project Happy Initiative, being spearheaded by Nicole, has many volunteers lined up and nonprofits in the community. This will be launched at West High School March 11 and 12. There will be a presentation to the entire student body.
- d. The Mayor hosted an event at the Boys and Girls Club on February 9th and it was very exciting. They met with Diane Fitzpatrick and they are doing incredible work to support the young people in the community.
- e. He visited MPal and this is an absolutely extraordinary service being offered in the city, that connects students with volunteering and the non-profit community.

4. Committee Member Bergeron:

- a. He wanted to agree with everything that Mr. Baines said. He stated that the board needs to venture out and attend these events, as they are great!

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 affect 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.

7:25 p.m.

*On motion of **Committee Member Turner**, 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, Bergeron, Argeropoulos, O'Connell, Spillers, Baines, Senecal, O'Neil, and Gonzalez voted yes. Committee Member Bonilla was absent. Motion passed.

Present: Administration: Dr. Chmiel, Karen DeFrancis, Forrest Ransdell, Nicole Doherty; and from the Mayor's Office: McKenna Gladysz and Daley Frenette.

- 1. A specific personnel matter was discussed.*
- 2. An update on a Student Matter was given.*
- 3. An update on legal matters was discussed.*
- 4. An Update was given on other personnel matters.*

24. A motion is in order to call the meeting back to order.

7:36 p.m.

*On motion of **Committee Member Potter**, duly seconded by **Committee Member Senecal**, it was moved to call the meeting back to order. All were in favor and the motion passed.*

*On motion of **Committee Member Turner**, duly seconded by **Committee Member Soule**, 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.*

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 Potter**, it was moved to adjourn. All were in favor, meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.*

True Copy. Attest.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Angela McCarry".

Clerk of Committee