

**MANCELONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Board of Education**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting**  
**March 9, 2021**

Present: Ackler, Clark, Musselman, Derrer, MacQuarrie, Thompson, Ross

Central Office Staff: DiRosa, Meeder, Phillips and Musall

President Thompson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. in the Middle School Media Center

**Approval of Agenda**

Musselman/Ackler approve the agenda as presented

YES: 7

NO: 0

Motion carried.

**Citizens Comments including comment on extended COVID-19 learning plan.**

**Board President, Burt Thompson:** Thank you for being here tonight. We understand that most of you are in attendance to share feedback about a recent high school English assignment. It is clear that this assignment generated passionate reactions on all sides. We welcome your feedback and perspectives. We will listen closely. The very mission of Mancelona Public Schools is to provide top-notch education for our children and preparing students for successful futures in the world around them – in college, career and life. This includes fostering critical thinking and open-minded consideration of many perspectives as well as being part of a more diverse and global state and country than ever before.

Several high school classes addressed diversity education, at the direction of the administration. These teachers were working to have a thoughtful, constructive conversation to help students see challenging situations through different sets of eyes and experiences. To work through several tough issues on race, gender and class that are all around us today. From what we have seen and understand, it was not trying to force a perspective or blame anywhere, but about trying to foster critical thinking and open-minded consideration of diverse perspectives.

Mancelona Public School leaders remain committed to reviewing curriculum and materials to ensure we are doing our part to promote learning, understanding and representatives of the community we serve, adjusting as needed while doing so with open minds.

Mr. Thompson reviewed the meeting particulars: We will ensure that no one's right to address the board is denied. There are a few key ground rules to ensure fair and orderly expression per our longstanding Mancelona Public Schools School Board policy.

1. Please follow the COVID precautions and requirements of the state of Michigan that we are bound to follow to help ensure health and safety, including the 6 feet social distancing boundaries.
2. Everyone will respect each person's right to speak without interruption. Comment must be kept to 3 minutes or less each.
3. Everyone will maintain a respectful tone at all times. Harassing, abusive or obscene language or personal attacks are not acceptable.
4. Please avoid repetitive or unrelated comments.
5. Anyone behaving in a disruptive manner will be asked to leave, or escorted out accordingly.

6. Board members and administrators are here to listen and take comment and will not be able to respond directly to every individual's statement.

Thank you again for taking the time to be with us today.

Mancelona community members addressed the board with concerns and some in support of the English assignment.

**Consent Agenda**

Musselman/Clark

to approve the Consent Agenda Items:

- A. Minutes of the regular held on February 9, 2021;
- B. Monthly Finance:  
Approve Accounts Payable checks for the dates and amounts of: **GENERAL FUND: 2/17/2021 - \$75,243.72; 3/2/2021 - \$278,694.80**
- C. Accept recommendation to hire Kyle Crandell as the varsity volleyball coach.
- D. Accept the recommendation to hire Joe Johnston as the middle school wrestling coach.
- E. Accept resignation from Linda Parsons as an elementary assistant.
- F. Re-confirmation of the extended COVID-19 learning plan.
- G. Accept the recommendation to hire Crystal McDowell as an elementary assistant.
- F. Accept the recommendation to hire Ryan Lavanway as the varsity baseball coach.

YES: 7

NO: 0

Motion carried.

**Community in Schools of NWMI:** Lori Harvey stated the afterschool programs at the elementary has had focus on relationships, friendship, kindness and social and emotional learning. Ms. Harvey announced the middle school after school programs have been working on critical thinking, board games design and hypothesis on slime experiments. At the high school, Ms. Harvey stated students are designing t-shirts for the June 5<sup>th</sup> 5K run, working on leadership, plan and budget to make projects happen. Ms. Harvey stated CIS is promoting Safe Route to School, working on a plan to coincide with Earth Day.

**Principal's report:** The principal reports were sent to each board member via email.

**Superintendent's Report:** Mr. DiRosa stated he was grateful for all that showed up for public comment and concern. Mr. DiRosa announced the Governor's budget allows \$164 per student, hopeful to be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. DiRosa stated federal dollars will be coming. Mr. DiRosa indicated parent teacher phone conferences had high participation and good feedback. Mr. DiRosa announced Mike Washburn will be at the April 13<sup>th</sup> 3:30 closed session with the regular board meeting at 4:30.

**Items for Future Consideration:** Tom Ross suggested we continue with parent teacher conferences via phone since we have such good parent participation. Mr. Ross also suggested that the curriculum be discussed.

**Adjournment**

Ross/Clark

Adjourn 5:15

Yes: 7

No: 0

Respectfully submitted,



Laurie Phillips, Recording Secretary



Kim Musselman, Secretary