

**MANHATTAN SCHOOL DISTRICT 114**  
**February 8, 2017**

REGULAR MEETING:

The Board of Education of Manhattan School District 114, in the County of Will and the State of Illinois, met at Wilson Creek Elementary School on February 8, 2017 for a regular meeting.

ROLL CALL:

President, Scott Mancke, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

1. Present: Scott Mancke, Dan DeCaprio, Dawn Murphy, Liz Boyles, and Mark Gray
2. Absent: Sue Prynne and Joe Mitchell
3. Others present: Renee Karalus, Russell Ragon, Ryan McWilliams, Kim Maher, Pete Slattery, Dr. Ron Pacheco

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

**D. Murphy made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, with a second by Dan DeCaprio. Roll Call Vote: 0 nays, 5 ayes – DeCaprio, Mancke, Murphy, Boyles and Gray. Motion carried.**

JANUARY DISBURSEMENTS

EDUCATION FUND	\$ 614,515.20
BUILDING FUND	\$ 98,147.62
BOND & INTEREST FUND	\$
TRANSPORTATION FUND	\$ 66,597.41
IMRF FUND	\$ 20,182.66
WORKING CASH FUND	\$ 0.00
TORT IMMUNITY FUND	\$ 89,517.16
LIFE SAFETY FUND	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$ 888,960.05

VISITORS TO BE HEARD:

No visitors to be heard.

## GOOD NEWS:

### **Mrs. Karalus**

I am excited to share that Nicholas Brach a student in our ACCESS class at Wilson Creek was selected to receive the 2017 Outstanding Student Technology Award from Infintec. Infintec is a company that assists greatly in assistive technology for students in need. They are located in Tinley Park. He is awarded this for his progress and skill related to his use of his assistive technology device. Nico and his family were invited to a dinner and awards ceremony at Odyssey Country Club where he will be recognized for this honor. Way to go Nico!

### **Mrs. Maher**

Wilson Creek's annual Family Literacy Night was held on January 25th. About 150 families joined us for a night of fairy tales, nursery rhymes, and STEM activities. The Wilson Creek staff worked together to plan a really wonderful night of science and literacy! Families left with arms full of things like catapults for cows to get over the moon, witch traps, binoculars to find lost sheep, and parachutes for Jack to get down the beanstalk. (Literacy for ALL)

Following their return from winter break, students were assessed by our benchmark team and their classroom teachers. Using AIMSweb and STAR assessments, data was collected on all students. Teachers then spend time with their students' data in preparation for our Data Day meetings. Data Day meetings took place on February 1-3. Thank you to Mrs. McHugh and Mrs. Chamberlin for facilitating those meetings with individual teachers. Throughout February, we will also have a Data Day meeting with each grade level team. Data is used to assess support for students as well as inform instruction to promote growth among all students. (Data for ALL)

Based on a desire to expand knowledge and increase discussion on a few topics, five dates have been set for morning meetings for in-house professional development at Wilson Creek. On Tuesday, January 31st teachers met to learn more about using Instagram as a resource for instructional ideas, connect with teachers in and outside of our building, as well as showcase what is being done in your classroom. Several teachers participated and have started exploring Instagram. Instagram users can search #wilsoncreeklearns to view the collection of posts by Wilson Creek teachers. Thanks to Ms. Jensen, Ms. Reszel, and Ms. Coglianese for facilitating the learning that morning. Our next topic will be Close Reading in K-2. (Professional Learning for ALL)

Mrs. Boersma has been working hard, with the support of the PTO, to plan this year's Art Show, "The Science of Color." It will be held the evening of February 16th at Wilson Creek. Every child will have a piece of work on display. There will also be demos by a professional cartoonist, crafts, activities and a raffle of collective artwork created by our K-2 students. It's going to be a wonderful night celebrating the arts and our students!

### **Mr. McWilliams**

Literacy Committee met on December 8<sup>th</sup> and January 18<sup>th</sup> to continue their work integrating LA & Writing curriculum. The committee will in-service the entire staff at the

February TI Day on the progress made; the rationale behind the changes; and how the learning standards impacted the decisions. (Professional Development for ALL)

Stef Horwath & Sam Ramsey facilitated their 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> technology showcase for staff on December 13<sup>th</sup> & January 10<sup>th</sup> as a continued effort to make staff more comfortable with our tech devices. Session focused on creating own Weebly webpage. Next showcase will be February 13<sup>th</sup>. (Professional Development for ALL)

Reps from the Chicago Blackhawks visited Anna Mac on Dec 20<sup>th</sup> to share hockey activities with some classes. 6 tickets were offered to the Ronaldson Family for any home game of their choice. Pretty neat!(Professional Development for ALL)

Student of the month luncheon was held on Dec 21<sup>st</sup> and January 27<sup>th</sup>. Attendance by our parents continues to be excellent. (Becoming One)

11<sup>th</sup> annual dodgeball tourney was held on Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>. Staff ran the table and upset all 3 grade levels this year. First time in history, Mrs. Snipes hit a buzzer beater vs 5<sup>th</sup> grade to seal the deal! Congrats to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Mrs. Paskauskas, 4<sup>th</sup> grade Mrs. Ramsey, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Mrs. Kijewski's class for winning their respective grade level brackets. Mrs. Kijewski's class won overall tourney. (Becoming One)

Thank you to our PTO and all the parents that volunteered their time to coordinate and supervise the winter & Valentine's Day classroom parties. (Becoming One)

Hope everyone had a great holiday break!

STAR benchmarking executed on January 13<sup>th</sup>. AIMSWEB was January 24<sup>th</sup>. (Data For ALL)

Perfect Attendance pizza party was held on January 18<sup>th</sup>. (Becoming One)

Stef Horwath, Debbie Dolezal, & Sam Ramsey attended the Google Summit January 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> (Professional Development for ALL)

Data Days February 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>. Elise Kirk did an excellent job walking staff thru PARCC assessment data and the learning standard areas in which we were below the state average. Day 2 involved her meeting 1 on 1 with staff to speak about specific kids in each class and using STAR data to plan for instruction. (Professional Development for ALL) (Data For ALL)

Good luck to Brianne Kaluzny! She went on official leave at the end of January for the rest of the year.

## Dr. Pacheco

MJHS students began the 5Essentials Survey prior to winter break. The deadline passed and once again attained the required parental participation threshold to have the data piece included in the report. (Data for all)

The Blue Crew organized a spirit week before winter break. Each day, the students were invited to dress according to a daily theme. The dress themes were Red and Green Out, Santa Hat Day, Holiday Sock Day, Christmas Flannel Day, and Ugly Sweater Day. (Becoming one)

The winter benchmark took place when students returned. Paula Paymaster has tirelessly scheduled data meetings and oversees the majority of the scheduling aspects for the data meetings. The results show that when looking at standards met, we are moving in the right direction. However, when we reflected on *when* the students were assessed on STAR, we noticed that we administered it one week earlier in the curriculum than in years past. That said, it appears that we should have kept the assessment during the same week. (Data for all)

The refinished gym floor looks amazing! The company began at the dismissal of students December 22 and completed the final coat of finish on Tuesday, January 3. Pete informed me that the old surface had about 1/8 of wax build-up. The removal debris more than filled a dumpster at MJHS! I have a before and after pic to share.

A team representing Manhattan Junior High School achieved Highest Honors in the recent **WordMasters Challenge™**—a national vocabulary competition involving nearly 150,000 students annually. The sixth grade team scored an impressive 188 points out of a possible 200 in the first of three meets this year, **placing second in the nation!!!**

Competing in the difficult Blue Division of the **WordMasters Challenge™**, sixth graders Brooke Bergeron and Caitlyn Burgess each earned a perfect score of 20 on the challenge. Nationally, only 26 sixth graders achieved this result. Other students from Manhattan Junior High School who achieved outstanding results in the meet include sixth graders Nolan Adam, Mickey Ceh, Samuel Fromer, Madelyn Noland and Mallory Ritter, and seventh grader Adam Pearse. The students were coached in preparation for the **WordMasters Challenge™** by Joyce Watson and Michele Hallihan.

The **WordMasters Challenge™** is an exercise in critical thinking that first encourages students to become familiar with a set of interesting new words (considerably harder than grade level), and then challenges them to use those words to complete analogies expressing various kinds of logical relationships. Working to solve the analogies helps students learn to think both analytically and metaphorically. Although most vocabulary enrichment and analogy-solving programs are designed for use by high school students, **WordMasters Challenge™** materials have been specifically created for younger students in grades three through eight. They are particularly well suited for children who are motivated by the challenge of learning new words and enjoy the logical puzzles posed by analogies.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

*Wilson Creek Water Tower Bid Proposals:* We received 4 bids for the Cooling Tower project at Wilson Creek. As reported during the Committee of the Whole, the bid of Johnson Controls came in more than \$10,000 less than projected and \$12,000-\$20,000 less than the other three bidders. Johnson Controls proposed to furnish the materials and perform the installation for the net price of \$58,831.00. It would be my recommendation to approve the bid and the project.

**D. DeCaprio made a motion to accept the bid of Johnson Controls for the Wilson Cooling Tower Project, with a second by Mark Gray. Roll Call Vote: 0 nays, 5 ayes DeCaprio, Mancke, Murphy, Boyles, and Gray. Motion carried.**

*School Fees – 2017-18:* I have reviewed the fees and am recommending the fees be set at \$165 if before May 1, and \$175 if received after May 1. The reason for the increase is due to the convenience fee. We have been using online payments for several years now and we now receive very little cash payments for anything, school fees, activity fees, school lunches, etc. Do to almost all payments being made directly online, the annual convenience fee is approximately \$10,000. The increase in fees would be to simply cover the cost of offering the service of online payments.

I would also note that the activity fee for Bowling is separate from all other activities. This is due to the charges for the use of Laraway Lanes. The fee collected covers the cost of lane usage and a portion of the t-shirts. All other expenses for the program come from district funds (Transportation, Coaching, Awards, Tournament Fees, etc.)

I am recommending that we keep all the other fees set at the current rate. It may come to a point in future years that we will need to review the Transportation fee. It has been at \$375 for some time. As long as we are able to transport for this cost, even with limited reimbursement from the State of Illinois, I will continue to recommend holding the cost down. As a comparison, Frankfort charges about \$525 for their transportation fee.

Other fees/rates I would like to consider changing for 2017-18 would be the rate of pay for Substitute Teachers. I would like to survey the area districts and see what they plan to pay for the next school year. Others may be increasing their rates in order to compete for a limited pool. Hopefully next month or in April, I can return with information and a recommendation for the 2017-18 school-years.

**L. Boyles made a motion to approve School Fees for the 2017-18 School-Year as presented, with a second by M. Gray. Roll Call Vote: 0 nays, 5 ayes – DeCaprio, Mancke, Murphy, Boyles and Gray. Motion carried.**

*2017-18 Amended School Calendar:* Last month I mentioned that we would like to add three additional SIP dates where students are dismissed early so that the staff can work on the curriculum, receive professional development, and/or address the current standards. This recommendation would be in place of asking staff to come in before

school or stay after hours to complete the work and then contractually having to pay them extra. It will prove to be a cost savings measure to the district. I have proposed adding the dates into the calendar where students will be dismissed prior to a holiday weekend, break, etc. I have included a copy of the calendar for you to review.

**D. Murphy made a motion to approve the Amended School Calendar for the 2017-18 School-Year as presented, with a second by L. Boyles. Roll Call Vote: 0 nays, 5 ayes: Murphy, Boyles, Gray, Mancke, DeCaprio. Motion carried.**

*Regular Board Meeting Dates for 2017-18:* Last month the members of the Board indicated the preference to keep the regular meeting date of the Board on the Second Wednesday of the Month and the starting time at 6:00 pm for Committee of the Whole and 7:00 pm for the Board Meeting. I have included a copy of the Regular Board Meeting Dates for 2017-18.

**D. Murphy made a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting Dates for 2017-18 School-Years as presented, with a second by M. Gray. Roll Call Vote: 0 nays, 5 ayes: Boyles, Gray, Mancke, DeCaprio, Murphy. Motion carried.**

*State of the Village Address – March 9, 2017:* This is just a reminder that we will be hosting the State of the Village Address here at Wilson Creek Elementary.

#### OTHER

I wish to publicly acknowledge and congratulate Wilson Creek daytime custodian, Roberto Martinez, for receiving the Employee of the Year Award from GCA. He has been recognized as the top employee in their company, not just here in Manhattan. Congratulations to Robert!

I attended a meeting at the ROE last week at the invitation of Shawn Walsh. He had the Legislators come and give an update. I do not hold much hope for any compromising in the House. The Senate seems willing to work together but from the House Members present, the thing they all seemed to agree on was that there would likely be no compromising. I will be pleasantly surprised if there is a budget passed before the new fiscal year and will not be surprised to learn that we have spending bills separately approved for K-12 Education. In preparing the new budget, I will work under the assumption of no additional monies and either the absence of or the proration of all categorical aid from the State.

The current amount of Categorical Aid that is owed to Manhattan 114 is slightly more than \$500,000. We are supposed to receive a little more than \$1,000,000 in Categorical Aid (Special Education, Transportation, Etc.) and thus far at mid-year, we have not received any. We can only hope that we will receive at least 2 payments in each category and only be owed \$500,000 at the year's end. I will update you on this as we get further along in the school year.

Included in your packets are graphs showing the STAR assessment reports after the winter benchmark period. We are very pleased with the results and our student progress. Our student performance is yet another indicator at just how hard our staff continues to work day in and day out, and what great people we have here working at MSD114. We are all excited about what the future holds for the district and are very excited about our plans for the future.

Current enrollment is 1425

BOARD REPORT:

Lincoln-Way Special Education District #843 Governing Board Report - Nothing new to report

Foundation for Educational Excellence Report - Nothing new to report

Illinois Association of School Boards Report – Nothing new to report

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Building and Development/Growth Committee Report – Nothing new to report

Policy and Curriculum Committee – Nothing additional to report

Finance and Operations Committee Report: Nothing to report

**L. Boyles made a motion to approve the teaching assignment of Samantha Ramsey as Media/technology Instructor at Anna McDonald and the teaching assignment of Brianne Kaluzny as Media/Technology Instructor at Wilson Creek for 2017-18 with a second by D. Murphy. All voted aye: S. Mancke, D. DeCaprio, D. Murphy, L. Boyles. Motion Carried.**

**L. Boyles made a motion to direct Superintendent Ragon to post open Teaching position for the 2017-18 school-year at Anna McDonald School with a second by M. Gray. All voted aye: S. Mancke, D. DeCaprio, D. Murphy, L. Boyles, M. Gray. Motion Carried.**

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

**Correspondence:** Wilson Creek's 2017 The Science of Color Art Show will be held on Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> from 6 – 8 P.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mark Gray reported that Cheryl Della Penna, Administrative Assistant for LWASE 843 is retiring. She has done a great job and hard to replace. We wish her the best.

ADJOURNMENT:

**L. Boyles made a motion to adjourn at 7:25 p.m., with a second by M. Gray. All voted aye: Mancke, DeCaprio, Murphy, Boyles, and Gray. Motion Carried. The next meeting is March 8, 2017, 7:00 p.m. at Wilson Creek Elementary School.**

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**Scott Mancke, President  
Board of Education  
Manhattan School District 114**

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**Dawn Murphy, Secretary  
Board of Education  
Manhattan School District 114**