

**MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday April 22, 2008**

M I N U T E S

Lincoln Center
7:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Crockett, Edwards, Hackett, Moran, Pohl, Rizzo, Small-Miller, Stafford

ALSO

PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Ouellette, Assistant to the
Superintendent of Finance & Management Brooks,
Director of Student Support, Ms. Jenifer Tait

A. OPENING

A.1 Call to Order

Ms. Hackett called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

A.2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Town Clerk Joseph Camposeo.

Ms. Hackett recapped that at the Board Meeting on March 28th, 2008, Mr. Pohl read a letter addressed to Mr. Camposeo, Town Clerk, tendering his resignation from the Board of Education.

A.3. Nomination to fill Board Vacancy & Swearing in of Appointed Board Member

The Board sought nominations to fill Mr. Pohl's vacancy until the next Municipal Election, for the Term April 2007 through November 2009.

Mr. Stafford nominated Mr. Christopher Pattacini, having known him for a number of years; a very strong advocate for educational issues; founding member of the Foundation for Manchester Public Schools; a very fair-minded, rational, knowledgeable, young man who Mr. Stafford believed would be an awesome asset to the Board.

Mr. Edwards was distinctly honored and privileged to second the nomination of Mr. Pattacini to fill the vacancy. He had known Mr. Pattacini for many years; had the privilege of working with him on several initiatives for the Town of Manchester, specifically for the School System in its physical plant. He had always found him to be hardworking; very knowledgeable and dedicated in those tasks. He reiterated that he wholeheartedly seconded the nomination and urged his fellow Board members to add their approval.

There being no other nominations the Chairman declared the nominations closed and called for a vote.

MOTION: Stafford/Edwards s.v. The Manchester Board of Education unanimously voted to approve the nomination of Mr. Chris Patticini to the Board through November, 2009. 7/0/0.

Ms. Hackett extended a welcome to Mr. Patticini who was duly sworn in by the Town Clerk and under Oath promised to faithfully discharge, according to law, the duties of a member of the Board of Education to the best of his abilities.

Mr. Patticini took his seat with the other Board members.

Ms. Hackett said she too had known Mr. Patticini for some while through his involvement in many educational issues also as a Manchester School parent.

A.4. MINUTES

MOTION: Marcano/Rizzo s.v. The Manchester Board of Education approved the Minutes of April 9, 2008, with two friendly amendments, and two abstentions. 7/0/2.

B. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Part I

B.1. Patriot Pen Contest Winners Presentation

Ms. Doris Robotto recognized five students who had participated in the Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy Essay Writing Contest. The Veterans of Foreign Wars sponsored the contest and presented awards to the winning students. Ms. Robotto represented the VFW Post and Ms. Linda Shaw the Ladies Auxiliary.

Ms. Hackett mentioned that three of the awardees had conflicts and could not be present in person to accept their awards. Their school principals would accept the awards on their behalf.

Ms. Robotto said that this year Connecticut in the Voice of Democracy placed 12th in the Nation. She encouraged all Manchester students to continue entering the Contest.

Winners were:

Manchester High School

Cassondra Eldridge, 11th Grade Student – placed 1st for Voice of Democracy Essay 2nd place for the District level. Mr. O'Donnell, Principal, Manchester High School accepted the award on her behalf.

Illing Middle School

Samuel Iacobellis, 7th Grade Student – placed 1st for Patriot's Pen Essay

Steven Pearce, 8th Grade student placed 2nd “ “

Kenneth Carone, 8th Grade student – tied for 3rd place with

Highland Park Elementary School 6th Grade student Emily Falkowski

The Principals of Illing Middle School and Highland Park Elementary School accepted the awards on behalf of Kenneth and Emily.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hills Town Road, mentioned four items:

On the topic of Leave No Child behind Act, a book had emerged four years ago by Dr. Alfie Kohn “What Does It Mean to be Well Educated”;

Series “What You Can Do To Succeed”.

Hartford Courant talked to Educators on the issue of adoption because family situations changed. Families had a lot of grandparents who were caretakers, etc.

Manchester Reminder –series of articles “Keep Kids Safe” reminder about the Foster Care System and Domestic Violence;

School Safety Brochure from Manchester Police Department “What You Can Do About Gangs”. “How not to be a crime victim.” (Copies were available in the lobby.)

NEA magazine article “In a Gangster’s Paradise.” Claimed there was gang clothing signs, they may/ may not wear colored shoelaces;

Education Digest; Massachusetts School System tackles childhood obesity;

Public Schools and the Challenge of the Supreme Court’s Integration decision, June 2007.

Improvements that needed to be made.

Earth Day – 38th Anniversary.

D. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT

Ms. Melissa Proano reported that the Performing Arts Department held their spring musical March 28; a wonderful success, very lively and fun.

Annual Murder Mystery Dinner – April 4, raised \$900.00.

MHS received a silver honor from the Connecticut Associations of Schools at the Leadership Conference.

Mr. Tyler, Music Department, traveled to Williamsburg, Virginia, the past spring break with his choir for the Northern America Music Festival; a wonderful achievement. Three hundred schools competed; in their division four schools competed in which MHS got three out of four ratings, superior being the highest the Roundtable and Hand Belt choir received. The jazz choir received excellent and the women’s choir was awarded first place; a superior rating, and best chorale of the entire festival. Special congratulations to Mandy Cook, a senior, who received best vocal soloist. Baseball and Softball were off to an amazing start; baseball with a record of 6-2 and softball with 7-1, Boys and Girls Track were also off to a good start and looking forward to superiority in the upcoming meet in the league standings. Michael Hartfield broke his own long jump school record by over one foot, finishing with a new record of 24 and one-quarter inches. He was now placed 9th in the Nation and eligible to enter for the Greensboro Championship on June 19th. Friday, April 25th: Annual Mr. MHS, in which eighteen junior and senior boys were competing to win a free prom. The event would be in the Bailey Auditorium, tickets were \$5. ; Doors would open at 7.00 pm; Show would start at 7:30 p.m. The Latino Club would host its 10th Annual Latino night on May 2. Tickets were \$5. the event would be in the Manchester High School cafeteria from 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

Mr. Edwards commented that he was in Williamsburg and he and his family had the privilege of hearing the Round Table Singers perform in Market Square. A lot of pedestrians stopped to listen to the performance.

E. CONSENT CALENDAR

Dr. Ouellette presented four items on the Consent Calendar for approval by the Board.

E1. Personnel Action

The Board had been given details and supplemental information in their agenda packets.

E.2. Appropriation for Education Special Projects - \$209,575

Medicaid Grant.

E.3. Appropriation for Education Special Projects - \$771,780

State Teachers' Retirement Grant

E.4. Appropriation for Education Special Projects - \$46,000

Summer School Program.

MOTION: Marcano/Edwards s.v. The Manchester Board of Education approved the Consent Calendar as presented by Dr. Ouellette. 9/0/0.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Part II

F.1. Racial Imbalance Update

At this time, Dr. Ouellette introduced Dr. Peter Prowda, Consultant, who had recently retired as Coordinator of Special Education Programs for the State Department of Education. Dr. Prowda's services had been approved by the Board's Personnel and Finance Sub-committee to provide an enrollment projection for every elementary school, by ethnicity, to determine their racial balance for the next ten years.

Dr. Ouellette recapped that three possible options to the Racial Balance Plan for our elementary schools had been submitted to the State Department of Education in October, 2005. Through the process of Community Conversations, alternative plans were discussed and formulated as viable options to the plan and presented at the April 23, 2007 Board Meeting. The other three options were presented at subsequent Board meetings. Controlled Choice, one of the plans in the Racial Balance Plan, was presented in detail at the May 9, 2007 Board meeting. A second plan, Paired Sister Schools, was presented at the May 29, 2007 Board Meeting; the third plan, Redistricting, was presented at the June 11, 2007 meeting.

Some of the highlights from those presentations embraced the sentiment that all students needed to have critical access to quality curriculum and quality instruction and also deserved to learn about different cultures.

The purpose of the June 20, 2007 Public Hearing on the Racial Balance Plan, held from 7:00-9:00 p.m. was to give the public an opportunity to express their views, provide ideas, express support or non/support to the four options that had been crafted and developed by a broad-based group of citizens over the last six months. The Board felt it was critical to include the community in researching which plan would be viable for Manchester. The Board had to make a

decision based on input from the community. That evening was the first public hearing to be held on all four options.

Twenty-five members of the community had spoken at the Hearing, two of whom spoke a second time. Of the twenty-five public comments, six were in favor of Redistricting; two in favor of Paired Sister Schools; one in favor of the Alternative Plan; zero for Controlled Choice and sixteen rejected all four options and were supportive of a “stay put’ option.

Dr. Prowda gave a brilliant and in depth Power Point Presentation titled “Racial Imbalance in the Manchester Public Schools, 2007-2012. (Copies of the Power Point slides had been provided to the Board in their agenda packets.) Dr. Prowda began by detailing how he had used the statistics and his findings to determine if there was a need to continue with the current 2005 Racial Balance Plan, or alternatively resubmit an updated version, based on our District’s current data. He had started with 2007 as the data was already available. During the course of his presentation Dr. Prowda enlisted participation from Board members.

Dr. Prowda elaborated on the processes he had used for definitions; findings; method; enrollment trends; birth trends; racial balance of the schools; caveats and impact.

Dr. Prowda pointed out one thing in the law that a lot of people did not know about, i.e., a diverse school. What happened was a lot of rules changed when the percentage of minority students, not just elementary, but the District as a whole, was 50% or more. If, under this situation there was a school where there were more than 25% minority students, or less than 75%, that school was considered diverse. This opened up a whole new set of rules, one being that it became unnecessary to file a Racial Balance Plan with the State to remedy imbalance; all one had to do was file a plan that said the school was diverse. This would come into play in Manchester very shortly.

Dr. Prowda discussed his findings in a few of the schools. We would have no schools, by State definition, imbalanced in 2007, 2008 or 2009. Buckley and Martin Schools would be imbalanced. i.e., greater than 25% starting in 2010, but each of those schools would have more than 25% minority children and by 2010 the percentage of minority students in Manchester schools would be greater than 50%, hence they would be considered diverse. Basically there would be no State consequences beyond declaring them diverse. The same thing would apply in 2012, except that Highland Park School would become imbalanced and also labeled a diverse school.

Dr. Prowda wound up his presentation by telling the Board that how they managed race balance would now be governed more by Board policy than by State statute. This would change the dynamics.

Ms. Hackett thanked Dr. Prowda for his report recognizing that he had been working on the report for a long while, and he had come up with a very comprehensive one. The issue had a lot of gravity in Manchester and the Board would need to process what they had just heard.

Mr. Edwards complimented Dr. Prowda on his presentation on a complicated topic and wanted to know if, when analyzing the birth data, was that data provided by the race of the child or the mother? Dr. Prowda told him it was Health Department data and he was unsure. Mr. Edwards found it interesting that the Federal Government had provided these statistics for many years and up until comparatively recently they had categorized this by the race of the child. This had proved somewhat difficult. Mr. Edwards recalled that currently when we enroll students it is left to the parent or guardian to declare the race of the child.

Mr. Edwards and Dr. Prowda discussed the question of this ‘magic’ 50% when suddenly everything got easier, and the school became a diverse school. Dr. Prowda affirmed Mr. Edwards’s original supposition was correct “You are only in trouble if you go below 25% absolute minority.”

Mr. Edwards mentioned the opening of the new Head Start facility and his assumption that the Head Start classrooms would be moved out of the elementary schools. Had Dr. Prowda contemplated that move in his charts? Dr. Prowda told him he had.

Mr. Edwards involved Dr. Prowda in a discussion about the economic slowdown causing unintended consequences. Dr. Prowda viewed it a great question and one he had not considered. Could it change the scenario? Yes!

Mr. Edwards, through the Chair, addressed Administration, and started a discussion on the ‘No Child Left Behind’ sanction that might result in moving children from one school to another. He said his initial sense was that this could help our numbers but would only be true if we really could give preference to transfers of students who were in the affected subgroups. Dr. Ouellette joined in the discussion at this stage mentioning the issue of legality imposed by the State and concluded she would have to carry out some research on this again.

Ms. Small-Miller entered into a discussion about describing a school as diverse while it was still racially imbalanced. She found this difficult to understand. Dr. Prowda agreed her point was well taken and ‘yes’ the schools were technically imbalanced. Imbalance was an arbitrary point, 25% plus or minus, which made a 50% gap that a majority of legislature said was acceptable. He pointed out that if he were to go around the room and secretly ask people what degree of gap they thought was acceptable he would not get one number, but a variety. The State did not want to be in the business of slapping the Board’s hands about racial imbalance; they did not want to do it so it was in the Board’s hands now. They would still get a letter that two or three of our schools would be racially imbalanced. The only thing that would change was the Board’s response. The racial balance problem burden just shifted from a report that Dr. Ouellette had to prepare for the State; the only difference being the length of the report.

Mr. Marcano referred to P.12 of the report – the projection of growth of minorities from 2002-2012. He was concerned about whether or not Administration would be ready to meet the staff needs of the minority students. He realized there was already concern about finding qualified staff to meet the needs of Manchester.

Dr. Ouellette said ‘yes and no’. She referred to a previous presentation by Dr. Brindamour with regard to recruiting certified staff of color within the District. She believed he had announced the national trends that revealed there was certainly a shortage in that area. Ms. Brooks was overseeing the Human Resources Department and had put a real focus on recruiting teachers of color. She would have to say ‘No’ to his question, if taking it proportionately. The Board was doing absolutely all it could with regards to recruitment. Ms. Brooks was trying to reach out to the minority population but it was a nationwide problem.

Ms. Hackett asked the Board and the Administration for some suggestions on where we should take this issue. It would obviously take another meeting to analyze the report and perhaps require additional information from the Administration or Dr. Prowda.

Ms. Small-Miller just wanted to know “Where do we go from here?” The Board would need to give some direction.

Dr. Ouellette agreed with Ms. Small-Miller; she would need direction from the Board as to the next steps. We did have a plan that had been adopted by the State Board of Education and been submitted to the State with the understanding that we would move to one of the three options, or, alternative plans for racially balancing our schools. If we were going to fall short of that commitment we would need to resubmit a plan to the State for acceptance, in addition to looking at our policy and at the diverse school perspective. Dr. Ouellette said she would need to move very quickly on that as the plan had indicated we would move in the direction of using those options in 2008-2009 to balance our elementary schools. The Board had to make a selection.

Mr. Stafford would like at least another meeting to think about this and come back with any questions. He could not answer the question that evening; he needed to look through it, hash it out, and if the Board brought it back to another meeting they would all have had the opportunity to take another look at it and think more about it. More questions could be asked and a determination as to where to go from here.

Mr. Edwards thought it was important to recognize that Ms. Small-Miller’s comments were well taken. There was the issue of State compliance and it sounded to him that if we did nothing we would be in compliance with the State. It begged another question, “What did we, as a Board of Education and a school system, feel was an appropriate level of balance? We needed to think about the disparity in enrollments, about what that disparity meant, and when it was too great. It was important for the Board to have a frank and open discussion about one school 74% white, and another 74% minority: that was one huge difference in two schools.

Mr. Edwards was also interested in alternative plans to those proposed as it was clear, from a public standpoint, they did not much like any of them. Most people wanted to do nothing and it was important to recognize that fact; that we were facing segregation, not a State or Town sponsored segregation, but in many ways sub-segregation. Parents liked their children to go to a school with children who shared the same background; same culture, etc. Mr. Edwards wasn’t sure if they could solve the issue in just one Board meeting but it was something they needed to

be able to do. Perhaps the simplest thing would be to look at Policy #5117. It would be good for the Board to become reacquainted with what that Policy said at this point.

Mr. Moran agreed with the point made by Mr. Edwards that there was a lot to digest. He posed a question to Dr. Ouellette, through the Chair, wanting to know if she could give the Board a timeframe. Dr. Ouellette responded that the plan indicated that in the school year 2008/2009 the Board would choose one of the options, i.e., Controlled Choice, Paired Sister Schools, Redistricting, and implement the plan.

Dr. Ouellette said what she probably would have to do would be to write an amendment to the plan and indicate to the State that at this point in time we were still not moving in the direction of committing to any of the plans. It would be helpful to revisit the Policy but she knew the Policy did not support moving students based on certain subgroups; preserving the integrity of all students within the District, and just not selecting a certain group of students to move.

Dr. Ouellette said she would work with Dr. Prowda to contact the State and the Legal Department to inform them that Manchester was still wrestling with the issue and might need to submit an extension or something; otherwise we would be in violation of not implementing the policy in 2008/2009. Dr. Prowda had worked very closely with the Legal Department so she was unsure if it was even an option.

Dr. Ouellette pointed out that Dr. Prowda would not be available to attend the next Board Meeting. It would be helpful to her if Board members submitted their questions, in writing, on any technical data viewed that evening. This would afford her the opportunity to consult with Dr. Prowda and have the information available for them.

G. OLD BUSINESS

G.1. Kelly Educational Services Update

This item had been before the Board previously on April 9, 2008 and was on the agenda for Board approval. Ms. Brooks had provided information in their agenda packets with regard to costs.

Ms. Brooks said the Board had been given an analysis of the hard costs and soft costs savings if they implemented Kelly Services as Management Company for their certified substitutes. The soft costs were an estimate; they were pretty close to approximately \$10,000 to actually implement their services for the next school year.

Mr. Stafford hoped there would be some kind of reporting every year on what the actual savings were. Ms. Brooks said there would. The report would be reviewed each year to make sure the program was fulfilling their needs and proving actual savings.

Mr. Patticini asked Ms. Brooks to describe how the \$140,000 estimate was arrived at and was told it was an estimate that Kelly had worked out by the number of substitute teachers we currently used this year. The \$140,000 would be the increase in cost, and that would be the 39% markup on those services for the number of substitutes we used this year. Mr. Pattacini further

questioned if that would be based on the anticipated number of vacancies they would fill, or the actual number we were filling now. Ms. Brooks said it was based on the number we were filling now. Mr. Patticini asked if we might anticipate another increase if we went from 60% to somewhere around 90%. Ms. Brooks thought we were somewhere close to 75% -80% right now and anticipated going up to a 92-94% increase fill rate. The \$140,000 included that.

Mr. Edwards asked about the stipulation that if we hired a substitute teacher who had been subbing for less than ninety days we had to pay a \$1,000 fee. He ascertained from Ms. Brooks that would not apply to any substitute currently working for us at this point.

Mr. Edwards ascertained that Kelly would offer referrals.

Mr. Crockett asked what the timetable was for coming to a decision on this issue and was informed by Ms. Brooks that she would like a direction in order to make a start as it would take about three to four months to implement. If we began the process now it would start September 1, 2008 as a lot of background work would need to be done, e.g., designing a contract, etc. for the Town Attorney's approval.

Mr. Crockett indicated he would have a problem voting for this proposal that evening as the Board had no idea what its budget would be. He was in favor of waiting until the budget was passed. Ms. Brooks said while she would like the proposal to be approved she understood the logic of waiting until the Budget had been voted upon. They discussed what had already been budgeted for. Ms. Brooks said the adoption of the Budget would take place on May 6.

Mr. Rizzo wanted to know if the proposal were approved that evening and then something happened was there any reason why Kelly Services proposal would not be one of the items that could be considered. He questioned if we were going to lock ourselves in. Ms. Brooks assured him she would certainly not sign a contract if she was directed by the Board to hold off until the Budget Workshops were held.

Ms. Hackett called for a motion.

Mr. Stafford moved that the Board accept the proposal, as presented by Ms. Brooks. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rizzo.

Mr. Edwards requested the motion be amended to read that while we were accepting the proposal we were not obligating the Manchester Public Schools, at this time, but at some time in the future, with a requirement that a contract be executed.

Ms. Hackett asked Mr. Stafford if he might wish to withdraw his motion and consider the Motion put forward by Mr. Edwards.

Mr. Stafford withdrew his motion.

Mr. Stafford repeated his motion for the record and **MOVED** that we accept the proposal, as outlined by Ms. Brooks, with the caveat that no contract would be executed until the Board of Education approved the execution of a formal contract. Mr. Marcano seconded the Motion.

MOTION: Edwards/Marcano s.v. The Manchester Board of Education unanimously approved the revised Motion to approve the proposal by Kelly Educational Services, as submitted by Ms. Brooks. The vote was taken by individual roll call. 9/0/0.

G2. Policy #4013 Revision (Sexual Harassment - Personnel)

Ms. Jenifer Tait pointed out the minor revisions to Policies #4013 and #5013.

MOTION: Marcano/Edwards s.v. The Manchester Board of Education unanimously approved revised Policy #4013, as presented by Ms. Tait. 9/0/0.

G3. #5013 Revision (Sexual Harassment – Students)

MOTION: Marcano/Edwards s.v. The Manchester Board of Education unanimously approved revised Policy #5013, as presented by Ms. Tait. 9/0/0.

G.4. Policy #1330 (Community Use of School Facilities)

Ms. Brooks presented revised Policy #1330, which included the adjustments recommended by the Board at its previous meeting.

Mr. Marcano moved that the Board approve Policy #1330 and the motion was seconded by Mr. Edwards.

Mr. Stafford said he would vote for the policy, but was just concerned the policy might become too prohibitive and he asked they take a further look at it so the Auditorium could be used by those who wished to use it. He thought the Board was being over cautious in what they were mandating concerning the stage; specifically the ban on having water on the stage. “Perhaps the policy could be brought back at a future date to have another look at that?”

Ms. Hackett thought the policy permitted water on the stage.

Mr. Moran talked about the issue of vandalism and was assured by Ms. Brooks that the auditorium would be checked out before, and after, renting. This was stated in the policy.

Mr. Pattacini followed up on the request by Mr. Stafford, specifically where the regulations talked about tap shoes. He wondered if that would be an onerous item for the dance troupes. They wanted to make sure that the regulations would not preclude people from renting the auditorium. A discussion ensued and it emerged this was included in a lot of policies. Floors could be rented to protect the existing stage flooring and Ms. Brooks said as they got into rentals she would look into this further. They were presently being very protective of the pristine new auditorium.

Mr. Rizzo said he was all for keeping Bailey Auditorium facility in as ‘like new’ condition as possible. As a caution he felt the Board should be open minded with the people who wanted to rent the auditorium and while they should not damage the facility they should allow groups to do

certain things and take a flexible approach with renters. No one would really want to damage the facility deliberately and the Board should show some flexibility.

Ms. Hackett said she had been contacted by some of the Arts group who appeared to be very eager to rent the auditorium. It should be borne in mind that these people helped with the passing of the Referendum. With that said, Ms. Hackett felt it was better to be a little conservative about the ideal conditions and be reasonable with the people who rented. She hoped there would be feedback to track where we might need to show leniency or become more restrictive.

MOTION: Marcano/Edwards s.v. The Manchester Board of Education unanimously approved the adoption of Policy #1330, as presented by Ms. Brooks. 9/0/0.

H. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

I. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications

J. COMMITTEE REPORTS

J1. Curriculum & Instruction Committee

Mr. Rizzo reported there was only one item on the Curriculum & Instruction Committee agenda for the meeting of March 31, 2008 and that was a discussion of the National Junior Honors Society requirements.

A number of Administrators from Illing Middle School were present and they explained it was important to dovetail the requirements for the Honor Roll at Illing with the National Junior Honor Society requirements, allowing students who made the Honor Roll at Illing to also qualify for the National Junior Honor Society.

There are other requirements in addition to the scholarship and those were not changed, they remain the community service standards that they outlined to us and all of this was to an eye towards broadening the pool of possible applicants who would be able to qualify for the National Junior Honor Society and students are still required to meet the grade standard, as well as the service standard. A lengthy discussion took place and the participants who were there from Illing Middle School did a very good job at explaining the rationale. It was made clear to the Board who proceeded to move forward with the change to the grade requirement for the National Junior Honor Society. The next meeting would be on May 5, 2008.

K. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road commented on the proposal by Kelly Services and questioned if they had done outreach to organizations of color, such as the NAACP, Urban League Hispanic Council, Black, Hispanic & Women's' Colleges.

Education Digest “How Do I Know If My Student Is Dangerous” by Ms. Ellen Grecko, a Psychiatric Nurse. Mr. Stringfellow recalled that under the Sexual Harassment Policy he neglected to mention at a previous meeting that students who happened to be transgender high school students or even college students could sometimes be harassed in different ways and called rude names. This had happened and was shown on television. Beatings such as those that had taken place in Florida were very bad.

Mr. Stringfellow thought the Presentation given by Dr. Prowda had been well done and raised a lot of questions. He had a lot of articles which he proposed passing on to Dr. Ouellette which dealt with the same subject. Education Digest in the current month discussed integrating community and culturally conscientious classrooms.

Adoption Families Magazine, March/April articles “Raising Latino Children” and “Saying no to Racism” by Gloria G. Rodriguez, PhD Journal Inquirer. P.16, 22 April Issue - Yale Law Students put forth argument for adequate funding for education to the High Court of the State of Connecticut.

L. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Mr. Stafford said he would like some kind of a progress report on the parental report card which had been discussed the previous year. He would like to know about any movement on that. Dr. Ouellette surmised there had not been any new movement and it needed to go back to the Policy Committee.

Mr. Marcano had a short discussion with Dr. Ouellette on the District Improvement Committee and was informed by Dr. Ouellette that she believed Dr. Richardson would be presenting a report to the Board upon its completion.

M. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Stafford/Rizzo s.v. The Manchester Board of Education unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 p.m. 9/0/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Enrique Marcano, Sr., Secretary
Manchester Board of Education