

**MANHEIM TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS MEETING**

**District Office  
August 20, 2020  
7:00 p.m.  
VIA ZOOM**

**M I N U T E S**

Nikki Rivera, President, called the Board Meeting of the Manheim Township Board of School Directors to order at 7:03 p.m. School Directors present via ZOOM were Janet Carroll, Sara Grosh, Stephen Grosh, JoAnn Hentz, Curtis Holgate, Nikki Rivera, John Smith, Joyce Stephens and April Weaver. Dr. Robin Felty, Superintendent and Jennifer Davidson, Board Secretary were also present via ZOOM.

Absences:

As noted in the announcements listed below, visitors are participating via livestream. At this time, the district does not have visitors logged into the official school board guestbook, however, participants are noted in the public comment section of the minutes. A quorum was present via livestream, and due notice had been published.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mrs. Rivera led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Announcements**

- Mrs. Rivera thanked the School Board members for signing up for the Saturday Community Conversations.
- Mrs. Rivera clarified that Items #6 and Items #14 for public comment include community members and district employees. Item #6 is for Consent Agenda items only, Item #14 is for any comments. Emailed public comments will be forwarded
- Mrs. Rivera thanked the Administration and Staff for preparing the district for students both in-person and remotely. She also thanked the Tech Integrators for providing support to the professional staff with the classroom cameras and technology necessary for the start of the school year.

**Presentations:**

- Mr. Darkey gave an update on the Middle School Project

**Roll Call Vote**

Mrs. Rivera announced that unless otherwise stated, each vote taken at this meeting will be considered a roll call vote and the secretary will record any negative votes or abstentions.

**Manheim Township Citizens Comments**

Mrs. Rivera invited citizens' and district employees' in the audience to comment on any item on the agenda.

- No comments

**Approval/Modification of Agenda**

Mrs. Rivera asked if there were any agenda items that should be removed from the consent portion of the agenda.

Mrs. Hentz moves to add discussion after Item #14 Public Comment. Mr. Holgate seconds and motion passes 9-0.

**Consent Agenda**

On motion by Mrs. Stephens and seconded by Mr. Grosh the consent agenda passes 9-0 with Mrs. Hentz pulling Item B.

- A. Recommend approval of the Treasurer’s Report
- B. Recommend approval of the Personnel Report (ITEM PULLED)
- C. Approve Manheim Township School District’s application for Flexible Instruction Days (FID) subsequent submission to Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) on/by September 1, 2020
- D. Approval of the list of Bus Drivers for the 2020-21 school year
- E. Approve the continued partnership between Manheim Township School District and the IU13 by approving the 2020-21 Title I Agreement for Services
- F. Approve the continued partnership between Manheim Township School District and the IU13 by approving the 2020-21 Title IIA Agreement for Services
- G. First reading of the following policies with final approval in September:
  - Policy 146.1 – Trauma-Informed Approach (NEW)
  - Policy 218 – Student Discipline
  - Policy 218.2 – Terroristic Threats
- H. Policy 249 – Bullying/Cyberbullying
  - Policy 831 – Livestream Video

**Items Pulled for Consideration**

- On motion by Mrs. Hentz and seconded by Mrs. Stephens to approve the Personnel Report. Mrs. Hentz asked for clarifications regarding the sabbaticals (paid), substitute teachers, and extracurricular positions. Mrs. Ward was able to satisfy her questions. Motion passes 9-0.

**Other Recommended Actions**

- On motion by Mrs. Carroll and seconded by Dr. Smith the approval of the Secretary’s minutes of the Board Work Session Meeting on June 11, 2020, regular meeting of the Board of School Directors on June 18, 2020 and the Special Board Meeting on July 30, 2020. Motion passes 9-0.

**Superintendent’s Report**

- Dr. Felty updated the School Board on the success of the Summer Lunch Program and produce food boxes.
- Dr. Felty provided an update on the enrollment for the beginning of the 2020-21 school year.
- Professional Development activities are underway. Dr. Felty provided an update of the activities at all building levels.

**New Business**

- No new business

**Board Member Reports**

- Student Representatives – no report. Student representatives will start in September.
- Mrs. Carroll – Envisions has waiting lists at Neff and Reidenbaugh Elementary (approximately 140 students). Envisions is ready to open for staffing and excited to start the school year. Mrs. Carroll had a tour of Schaeffer Elementary last week.
- Ms. Grosh – LRIS has sent out a kick-off newsletter to parents. PSBA asking members to urge Governor Wolf to pass liability protection for schools this fall. Legislative needs were identified. New unemployment guidelines have been posted.
- Mr. Grosh – Attended Kindergarten Orientation at Neff Elementary which discussed bus safety and wearing masks.
- Mrs. Hentz – LAC will be held at Central Penn Business College instead of HACC due to online for HACC. A few adjustments have been made to the curriculum. She toured Reidenbaugh Elementary and felt it was ready
- Mr. Holgate – The Manheim Township Commissioners approved the plan for Stoner Farms which could impact enrollment. Bucher Elementary is working hard to prepare for the opening.
- Mrs. Rivera – IU13 Board Meeting: Health & Safety Plan was approved. IU13 students rely on attending in-person. Middle School hosted all new students to the building orientation.

**Citizens’  
Comments**

- Dr. Smith – MT Parks & Rec: Landis Woods Preschool is at capacity and they have added an afternoon session. Doug Pennington has retired. Pools will be closing the beginning of September. High School has done a tremendous job getting the building ready for students to return.
- Mrs. Stephens – LCCTC approved Health & Safety Plan with students attending 5 days in person. Brecht Elementary has been getting ready for their students and came up with creative solutions to allow for social distancing.
- Mrs. Weaver – MTEF awarded about 18 grants for the fall grants in 2019. Grant season was postponed from the spring. Annual report will be emailed from Mrs. Weaver. MTEF received a \$25,000 grant for the Design & Build Lab. She toured Nitrauer and attended their Kindergarten orientation. Staff are excited to see the students. Mrs. Weaver was able to see the cafeteria and classrooms and how they will be implementing the Health & Safety Plan.
- Mr. Reynolds, Manheim Township district employee, spoke regarding the concern of the reopening of the district
- Mrs. Kurtz, Manheim Township district employee, spoke on behalf of the Kindergarten team at Reidenbaugh Elementary and the concern for reopening the district.
- Mr. Michael Carney, Manheim Township district employee, spoke on behalf of the Second Grade team at Reidenbaugh Elementary and the concern for reopening the district. They recommend a delayed start date of August 31.
- Mr. Mark Oles, resident and Manheim Township parent, spoke regarding the opening of schools.
- Ms. Marla Bennett, Manheim Township district employee, spoke regarding the concerns for reopening the district due to not feeling prepared. She is recommending a delayed start of the school year.
- Tammy Sweeney, Manheim Township district employee, spoke regarding delaying the start of the school year so there is more time to feel prepared.
- Ms. Beth Lester, Manheim Township district employee, asked the board to give teachers more time to deliver the hyflex model and believes the teachers are not prepared.

**Added Board  
Discussion**

- Mrs. Hentz is concerned with the teachers’ concerns for the opening of schools next week. She is hearing the teachers comments and the desire to push back the start of school. She is concerned with the quality of education that will be going out to the students.
- Mr. Grosh asked what the purpose of the discussion was for this evening. He is concerned that the intent is to create an action item, which the board cannot do at this time.
- Mrs. Carroll agrees that it cannot be an action item, but asked Mr. Lyons to discuss the sound quality. She feels as though we had a lot of teacher input and thinks that putting in the early dismissal will help
- Mr. Lyons shared that even within the different styles of microphones and cameras, each classroom has been working to switch out cameras and microphones to accommodate what works best in their classrooms. This is a large scale project that the technology department is working to make sure each teacher is getting what they need. Technology is working to adapt to create a good environment for staff and students.
- Mr. Holgate said it appears that a little more time would have been beneficial as the district is planning for the unknown.
- Mrs. Rivera asked what the process is if a camera is not working properly.
- Mr. Lyons reviewed some of the procedures that have been put in place for staff.
- Mr. Grosh reminded the board that there was no action item taken this evening regarding the start of school, it was discussion only.

**Adjournment**

Mrs. Stephens moved and Dr. Smith seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:53pm.

Voice vote with all members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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Nikki Rivera, President

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Jennifer R. Davidson, Secretary