

Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education Update

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Superintendent of Schools

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Information regarding the current status of the Mansfield Public Schools: items, issues, challenges, and opportunities district staff addressed during the month, as well as upcoming district and school events.

Enrollment

Gr.	GW		SE		VN		MMS		Total
	+	-*	+	-*	+	-*	+	-*	
PK	30	4/0	29	1/2	32	1/0			91
K	31	0/0	29	3/2	54	1/0			114
1	36	0/0	43	0/0	33	0/0			112
2	34	0/0	41	0/0	54	0/0			129
3	32	0/0	48	1/3	51	1/0			131
4	35	1/0	48	0/0	49	0/0	1		133
PK-4									710
5							134	0/1	134
6							147	1/1	147
7							144	1/0	144
8							140	1/0	140
# Boys	109		123		143		291		666
# Girls	89		115		130		272		606
Total	198	5/0	238	3/5	273	3/0	566	3/2	1275

*Entries/Withdrawals

- Homeschool year to date total: 6 families with 10 students.

	GW	SE	VN	MMS	District
Immigrant Children*	5	3	2	3	13
ELL**	2	3	3	10	18

*Eligible immigrant children are defined as a) ages 3-21 enrolled full-time in school, b) not born in any state, c) have not been attending 1 or more schools in 1 or more states for more than 3 full academic years.

**English Language Learners

Connecticut Mastery Test – Fourth Generation Results

#/% of students at/above goal – March 2009

Grade	Math	Writing	Reading	Science
3 – 133	113/85.0%	86/72.2%	98/73.7%	-----
4 – 124	100/83.3%	92/74.2%	91/75.8%	-----
5 – 137	97/71.3%	99/72.3%	101/73.7%	110/80.3%
6 – 141	113/80.1%	109/77.9%	120/85.7%	-----
7 – 136	105/78.4%	110/80.9%	116/87.2%	-----
8 – 160	131/81.9%	139/86.9%	138/86.8%	142/88.8%

- Students not reaching goal in one or more areas: (2009-2010 grade)

Gr. 4 – 47/35.3%	Gr. 7 – 44/31.2%
Gr. 5 – 49/39.5%	Gr. 8 – 40/29.2%
Gr. 6 – 63/46.0%	Gr. 9 – 42/26.0%

Budget

- Food Service Comparison:

Sept.-Oct., 2008		Sept.-Oct., 2009	
Paid Meals	Total Meals	Paid Meals	Total Meals*
24,349	34,484	22,439	31,704

* May be due to increase in student absence year to date.

Personnel

	Certified	Non-Certified
Retirements	0	0
Resignations	0	0
Requests for Leave	0	0
New Hires	0	2
Reduction in Force	0	0

District: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Including Instructional Technology Applications

- Conducted two administrative council meetings.
- Continued Study Island software program for all district grade 3 and 4 students to use both at school and at home.
- Facilitated a year two implementation plan for *Bridges in Mathematics*.
- Facilitated the plan for implementing Houghton Mifflin: *Legacy of Literacy*.
- Implemented a plan for in-class preschool music.
- Implemented district review and use of CBAS (CT Benchmark Assessment System) for grades 3-8 in Math & Reading.
- Initiated MyRTI assessment.

Policies

- Implemented MBOE Policies reflecting recent changes in legislature drafted by Shipman & Goodwin were adopted by the Board.

Building and Grounds

- Initiated and implemented an alternative work order system.
- Implemented initial and planned secondary remedy for Vinton playscape, as well as follow-up remediation as needed.
- Attended MMS Fuel Conversion weekly meetings regarding project implementation.
- Attended MMS Fuel Conversion & School Building Committee monthly meeting.
- Facilitated efforts to resolve water issues at MMS.
- Resolved classroom environment issue at Southeast.
- Secured Mansfield Town Council approval for completion of MMS alternates.

Programs

Liberty Bank Grant – Study Island Through October 24, 2009

Grade 3				Grade 4			
Math		Reading		Math		Reading	
Q*	% Correct	Q*	% Correct	Q*	% Correct	Q*	% Correct
6,514	82.5	1,753	67.9	2394	87.9	2187	67.4

*Number of questions attempted on grade level

Security

- Facilitated installation for second Security Grant for all four schools.
- Reviewed and initiated the implementation of new required crisis prevention drills for all schools with emergency management officials.

Energy

- Implemented school building energy committees.
- Implemented guidelines for after school building use in an effort to reduce energy consumption.
- Reduced hall lighting in hallways in all 4 schools and some classrooms at MMS.
- Monitored use of energy efficient refrigerators to replace classroom use of small refrigerators.
- Reviewed Town of Mansfield/MBOE Energy Conservation Policy/Administrative Regulations.

Communication

- Directed district response and dissemination of H1N1 virus information to appropriate staff.
- Distributed Dorothy Goodwin Bequest Fund reminders via school QNotify and “kid-mail.”
- Conducted monthly meetings with bargaining unit leaders.
- Facilitated district Technology Committee meeting via video conference.
- Held monthly meeting with Town Manager.

Professional Development

- Facilitated Literacy How training for K-2 teachers and support services staff.
- Facilitated Math professional development for K-1 classroom teachers.
- Facilitated Writing Prompt Scoring for gr. 4-8 classroom teachers.
- Facilitated staff attending AYP subgroup training.

Technology Administrative Applications

- Continued implementation of HealthOffice Software.
- Continued implementation of automated system for recording substitutes.
- Continued spread sheet submission of language arts assessments.
- Continued review of Horizon library system software.
- Supported training and development of PowerSchool software at MMS and Filemaker Pro/EASTCONN RTI software.
- Implemented new PowerSchool cafeteria software in all four schools.
- Initiated implementation of MyRTI software program.

Other

- Attended MAC (Mansfield Advocates for Children) meeting.
- Attended ELL Presentation for Board of Educations.
- Attended National Incident Management System (NIMS) training at UCONN.
- Attended SDE *Common Core of Learning Workshop*.
- Attended CABA *Legislative Wrap-Up*.
- Attended EASTCONN Staff Development Council.
- Attended SERC/SDE *SRBI Conference*.
- Attended URSA and Hockanum Superintendents’ meetings.
- Attended CAS *Fall Conference*.
- Awarded CAS Citation in recognition of outstanding leadership, exemplary commitment, and extraordinary contributions.
- Attended SDE *Emergency Planning for Schools*.
- Attended Annual New England Conference on Multicultural Education.
- Attended CAPSS Public Policy Convention and Technology Committee meeting.
- Attended UCONN Colloquium, *Growth Models*.
- Attended CECA Conference.
- Attended SERC *Making AYP for Students with Disabilities*.
- Attended State TOY Celebration.
- Attended Shipman & Goodwin Fall Labor Conference.
- Attended Southeast Parent Math Night.

Additional information will be provided upon request by calling 429.3350 or by emailing mboesupt@mansfieldct.org.

Mansfield Public Schools Monthly Memorable Moments

Goodwin School

- On October 8, thirty-nine Goodwin students joined a group of Goodwin teachers in our first Walk to School Day. It was a beautiful autumn day and the walk to school was great fun for all. The event culminated in an impromptu race across the Goodwin playground to the school. School psychologist, Roseann Holden gave the group a head start and still managed to tie for first!
- As part of Mansfield's SRBI initiative, Goodwin held its first Student Achievement Team meetings on October 9. While classroom teachers reviewed achievement data and developed Tier II interventions for students needing additional assistance, students participated in a variety of curriculum based enrichment activities and field trips organized by Nancy Titchen, Roseann Holden, Beth Schwartz, Cheryl Courteau, and Anne Wiant Rudd. Student Achievement Team meetings will occur each month providing teachers the opportunity for in-depth collaborative planning and allowing students the chance to explore science, health, social studies, and world language topics. The entire Goodwin team came together to make this a very productive day.
- Eerie lights, a disco ball, mazes and obstacles that change at a moments notice are all part of Mr. Dean's annual Halloween PE classes. By mid-October, students start peering into the darkened gym in anticipation of the big event. Thirty minutes of safe scooter navigation and game strategy fly by. On October 31, the course disappears as magically as it arrived!

Southeast School

- Karen Moylan, Math Coordinator, recently conducted a Family Math Night at Southeast School. The purpose of this event is to have our students and families spend an evening together doing fun math activities. The materials used for this event were from the new BRIDGES Math Program. We had several America Reads tutors from UCONN volunteer to assist with the activities. We also had two of our instructional assistants help with the event
- This year the Southeast Fall Carnival raised over \$7000. This money will be used throughout the school year to fund assembly speakers, field trips, science presentations and Special Persons' Day. The event was awesome! We had beautiful autumn weather, lots of fun activities for the children, hay-rides all day, a silent auction, a bake sale and food for snacks and lunch.
- Dr. Joseph S. Renzulli was interviewed by NBC at Southeast School. Due to his recent recognition for receiving the prestigious Harold W. McGraw-Hill Prize in Education this year, NBC asked to film a clip for their *Making the Grade* series. Sue Irvine, enrichment teacher at Southeast was also interviewed by NBC. Ruth Sangree's fourth grade students were part of the coverage. Sue Irvine presented a Total Talent Portfolio lesson within the fourth grade class as part of the coverage. The film clip has been on NBC several times within the last two weeks. It will also be available on-line in a few weeks.

Vinton School:

- The Vinton Publishing Center is officially open, and parent volunteers are trained and ready to help students type and bind their books. We already have one book published and we're looking for more. We will see if we can beat last year's total of 149 completed books. Students have been instructed on how they can publish a book.

Vinton School continued

- On October 27, 2009, Vinton students enjoyed an assembly brought to us by the PTA. Steve Max was the presenter and his program "Simon Sez For Better Listening" was an opportunity for students to learn how to be better listeners through a simple game of Simon Sez. The program is based upon the idea that in a classroom, the best students are the ones who listen well. Other topics touched upon included respect, staying focused and not succumbing to peer pressure, and, most importantly....its O.K. to make mistakes.
- "The Beagles" - Vinton's House Band -- Vinton's 4th graders, Joey Lemieux (drums), Kenton Weinland (guitar), and Peter Tomanelli (piano) have spent the last year playing together. The name of their band emerged from their love of the Beatles, beagles and Snoopy. They first came to love music through their fathers, all accomplished musicians. "The Beagles" played at Fred's Brick House on Friday night, October 30 at 6:45 p.m., at which time the audience was charmed by their rendition of *Twist and Shout*.

Mansfield Middle School

- Thanks to all 199 parents who visited MMS during Middle School Education Week. We appreciate parents finding the time during the school day to come in to see what a 21st century middle school looks like in action.
- Music ensembles continue to thrive at MMS with membership in the choruses, bands, orchestra, Chamber Strings, Chamber Choir and Jazz Band totaling 361 students this year. (Some students are members of more than one ensemble.) Our first concerts of the year will begin with the band concert at 7 p.m. on December 9th, the orchestra concert at 6:30 p.m. on December 16th, and the choral concert at 7:45 p.m. on December 16th.
- Seven former middle school students, now in ninth grade, were recognized at the Windham Chamber of Commerce Volunteer Leader Award ceremony at UConn on October 7th. The students were nominated for providing outstanding leadership, as MMS Student Council members, on a variety of humanitarian projects during the past three years. Students recognized were Caitlin Briody, Maye Henning, Crystal Mastrangelo, Mahnoor Mian, Calia Harakaly, Brenda Busuulwa and Madison Sundquist.
- Students working in the MMS Writing Center have begun pen pal relationships with students learning English at an orphanage in Kabul, Afghanistan. They have taken photographs at MMS and written letters about their interests and their life at school.
- MMS technology coordinator Jim Griffith taught lessons in the fifth grade about Internet safety, raising students' awareness of the dangers present when they go online. Students learned not to give out personal information, to tell parents immediately about information that makes them uncomfortable, NEVER to agree to meet with someone they meet online, and never to respond to messages that are mean or make them uncomfortable.
- Ten MMS violinists and cellists joined music teacher Mike Carbonneau and instructional assistant Sylvia Griffin on *Fiddlehike*, an annual fall weekend field trip to the White Mountains that combines hiking with two opportunities to perform. Students played for guests at the Highland Center Lodge and Mt. Washington Hotel in Crawford Notch, NH. After playing, students hiked a portion of the Appalachian Trail and spent the night at the AMC's Mizpah Springs Hut.

Upcoming Events in November:

Please join us at any/all of these events

GW	SE	VN
Pequot Museum Gr. 4 FT 11/4/09	Parents' Hour/TPO 11/2/09 6:00pm	Parent Math Night 11/4/09 6:30pm
UConn Chemistry Lab Gr. 3 FT 11/6/09	Science Fair/Invention Convention 11/18/09 6:00pm	Book Fair 11/20-24/09
PTO Meeting 11/18/09 6:30pm	Book Fair 11/19-11/20	Thanksgiving Feast & Celebrate Vinton 11/20/09 12:00pm
Thanksgiving Feast 11/20/09 12:00pm	Thanksgiving Feast 11/20/09 12:00pm	
MMS		
ACT Presentation Gr. 8 11/4/09 1:15pm	Student Council Halloween Party 11/6/09 2:45pm	Model Congress Gr. 8 11/19/09
Career Day 11/25/09		
District		
Board Meeting 11/12/09 7:30	Board Workshop 11/19/09 5:30pm – Bishop Center	Early Closing/Parent Teacher Conferences 11/23-25-09
Thanksgiving Holiday 11/26-27/09		