

**MANHEIM TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SCHOOL WORK SESSION**

**District Office**

**February 20, 2014 (rescheduled from 2.13.14 due to weather conditions)**

**7:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

Bill Murry, President, called the Work Session of the Manheim Township Board of School Directors to order at 7:00 p.m. School directors present were Mark Anderson, Tony DeLeo, Nathan Geesey, Todd Heckman, Mike Lynch, Bill Murry, Don Reed, Mike Winters, and Ricky Wood (via speakerphone). Also present were Gene Freeman, Superintendent; Tim Williams, Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Curriculum, Instruction and Technology; Mike Bromirski, Assistant to the Superintendent for Elementary Curriculum and Instruction; Katherine Setlock, Director of Pupil Services; Laura Heikkinen, Director of Business Operations; Donna Prokay, Director of Human Resources; Tom Koch, Plant Manager; Micaela Hines and Elizabeth Miller, Student Representatives; and Kathleen Arnold, Board Secretary.

Visitors present are recorded in the official school board guest book. A quorum was present, and due notice had been published.

**Recognitions**

Mr. Murry congratulated:

- Employee of the Month – Barbara Murphy, ESL teacher, Schaeffer Elementary School, and
- Skip Walters, retired MT Golf Coach

**Discussion items - no action  
taken at this meeting**

The agenda, as listed below, was reviewed and discussed in preparation of a vote at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting following this Work Session. No formal action was taken during this meeting.

- Recommendation for the following changes to the Curriculum and Instruction program. The Administration presented a PowerPoint on their recommended changes (attachment).
- Approval of full day kindergarten for all kindergarten students beginning in the 2014-2015 school year.  
The goal of full day kindergarten for all students was one of the initiatives of the 2009 Strategic Plan. Academic and social benefits have been documented during the last 10 -11 years that the district has been exploring kindergarten. There will be a total of 12 staffing positions needed to expand to full day kindergarten.
- Approval to add 10 minutes to the Landis Run Intermediate School student day (8:00 a.m. – 3:10 p.m.), changing the start time of the day from 8:10 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. This adjustment to the schedule will increase math instructional time from 80 minutes to 90 minutes and ensure that lunch blocks do not overlap.
- Approval to begin the process of phasing out the Spanish Immersion Program beginning in the 2014-2015 school year; and transition to implementation of an elementary Spanish world language program.

Mr. Bromirski noted that the Spanish Immersion Program began in the district in 1994. Over the past three years, the lottery has averaged 49 students annually. There is an average of 400 students entering the district, so this is a small percentage of

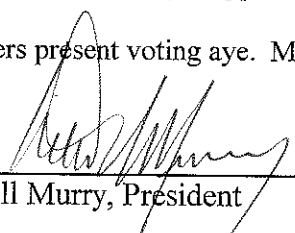
students served. There are both benefits to the program and challenges. Benefits include world language acquisition is optimized in younger children, second language proficiency is learned more quickly in an immersion program, and students often become fluent in the second language. Among the challenges are finding staff with correct credentials as determined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Also, the teacher of Spanish Immersion must be a native speaking teacher who is also proficient and able to teach in English. Other challenges are scheduling issues, and remediation of students struggling in immersion. While these are not new challenges, reduced resources have impacted our ability to meet the challenges. The recommendation proposed would keep the commitment to those students already in the program, but the district would not start a new 1<sup>st</sup> grade class for the 2014-15 school year.

- Approval to add 10 minutes to the Middle School student day, changing the start time to 7:25 a.m. (adding 5 minutes) and ending at 2:35 p.m. (adding 5 minutes). Band, orchestra, and chorus would have an extended period. Also adding Introduction to World Languages beginning in grade 7, and adding Study Skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. In grade 7, Health/PE would become one course. In grade 8, Health and PE would be two courses.
- Recommendation to submit PlanCon K, related to the issuance of the General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2014, to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the Department's approval.
- Recommendation to submit an Act 80 exception request for the 2013-2014 school year to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the Department's approval
- Recommendation to amend the 2013-2014 school calendar to change March 14, 2014 to a student day with an early dismissal day and April 21, 2014 to a regular school day.
- Recommend ratification of the decision of the Judiciary Committee in the case of student 2013-14.7.
- Recommendation to extend Compass Real Estate, LLC listing contract for 2933 Lititz Pike, Lititz PA to March 31, 2015.

#### Adjournment

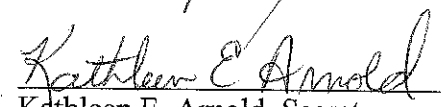
Mr. Anderson moved and Mr. Reed seconded a motion to adjourn the Work Session to a School Board Meeting at approximately 8:08 p.m.

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



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Bill Murry, President



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Kathleen E. Arnold, Secretary

**2014-2015  
Recommendations for  
District Programs**

**Full Day Kindergarten**

- MTSD has offered a form of Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) since 2000.
- The district's Strategic Plan had a target date of 2012 for FDK for all students in our district.
- MTSD began an official FDK pilot in the 2010-2011 school year (1 classroom).

**Full Day Kindergarten**

- In 2013, MTSD established 7 FDK classrooms.
- Currently, 40% of kindergarten students receive FDK.
- Evidence of Effectiveness

**Full Day Kindergarten**

- For the 2014-2015 school year, we are requesting that the board approve Full Day Kindergarten for all students in the Manheim Township School District at the February 20<sup>th</sup> school board meeting.

**\*\*Impact:** Every kindergarten student (approx. 400 students)

### Discussion

- Discussion, questions, or comments from school board members.

### Landis Run Intermediate School

- Add 10 minutes to the student day  
(Student day from 8:00am – 3:10pm)
- Increase math instructional block from 80 minutes to 90 minutes.
- Adjustment of the schedule to ensure that lunch blocks do not overlap. This will allow an increase in the amount of time students have to eat lunch.

### Landis Run Intermediate School

- Content Area classes would be a total of 75 minutes with a 15 minute recess included as part of the block.
- Related Arts Classes remain at 60 minutes per day.

### Discussion

- Discussion, questions, or comments from school board members.

### Spanish Immersion

- 1994-95 Immersion began in M.T. kindergarten at Nitrauer. (25 students/year via lottery)
- Modifications to the program

### Immersion Benefits

- World language acquisition is optimal for young children.
- Student learn second language proficiency more quickly than in regular school-based programs.
- Immersion students often end up being fluent in the second language and some continue to learn a third language.

### Spanish Immersion Challenges

- Staffing
- Materials
- English instruction
- Remediation
- Scheduling
- LRIS Impact

### Spanish Immersion

It is the recommendation of the entire MT administrative team to begin phasing out the Spanish Immersion program starting in the 14-15 school year and transition to implementation of an elementary Spanish World Language Program.

### What does the recommendation mean?

- Commitment remains for the students currently in the program.
- We are recommending that we do not start a new 1<sup>st</sup> grade Spanish Immersion class.
- We are recommending that we transition to a Spanish World Language Program for elementary students in 14-15.
  - K & 1 students in first year.
  - Expand to other grades in following years.
  - Exposure to a different language while reinforcing district curriculum & state academic standards.

### Discussion

- Discussion, questions, or comments from school board members.

### Middle School

#### Current Schedule:

- Student Day 7:30-2:30
- Nine 40 minute periods – 8 instructional and REM
- Band, Orch., Chorus during REM (38 min.)

#### New Schedule:

- Student Day 7:25-2:35
- Eight 47 minute periods, no REM
- Band, Orch., Chorus during day (47 min.)

### Middle School

#### New Courses:

- Introduction to World Language - Available to students that cannot take a foreign language. □Students will get a quarter of either Spanish or German in grade 7 and either Chinese or French in grade 8.
- Study Skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century - A related requirement for all students, fulfilling a need expressed by parents, teachers, and students

## Middle School

### Revised Courses:

- Structured Learning Initiative - A structured class where students will focus on a variety of topics from character education to career exploration. Students who do not take a world language will have this course for the year. Students who do take a world language will have a condensed version for one quarter as a related course.
- Health / PE – grade 7. No longer two separate courses. Standards being blended to make room for new related offerings.
- PE / Fitness – grade 8. Health will be a separate course due to the depth of content

## Discussion

- Discussion, questions, or comments from school board members.