

Board Community Linkage Session

December 2

2009

The Board of Education of the Mansfield City Schools District met in a Board Community Linkage Session at 6:00 p.m., on Wednesday, December 2, 2009, at Raemelton Elementary School, 856 West Cook Road, Mansfield, Ohio.

Sondra Asher, President, called the meeting to order.

The roll, as taken by the treasurer, was as follows:

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| Members Present - Mrs. Sondra Asher, Mr. Domenick Danza, | |
| Ms. Deanne Osgood, Mr. Dale Musilli ----- | 4 |
| Members Absent – Mr. George Rusiska ----- | 1 |

Dr. Lloyd Martin, Superintendent, was in attendance along with community members and staff.

Mrs. Asher appointed Ms. Osgood as Treasurer Pro Tempore for this session as Mr. Lehmann is on vacation.

Opening Comments:

Ms. Osgood welcomed members of the community and staff to the second Board Community Linkage session.

Raemelton Elementary School:

Pre-K Program: Principal Jody Nash introduced Pre-K teachers Jennifer Uhde and Nancy Fensch. Mrs. Uhde told the audience that the Mansfield City Schools' Pre-K program is the best kept secret in town for the last 12 years. The program is expanding to meet the needs of as many Mansfield children as possible to prepare them academically for kindergarten. The Pre-K teachers have reviewed and analyzed the results of the kindergarten Kral test. From this data they know what students entering kindergarten need to know. The Pre-K teachers have developed quarterly benchmarks so that the Pre-K students will be where they need to be when entering kindergarten. Pre-K teacher Mrs. Fensch shared an overview of a typical Pre-K classroom day. The age, as well as the ability level, of the Pre-K students varies in the classrooms from ages 3 through 5. Students attend classes Monday through Thursday for a half-day session; morning and afternoon classes are held. On Fridays, the Pre-K teachers conduct home visits, work together on curriculum benchmarks and classroom related activities, meet with parents, etc. Pre-K teachers believe preparing the Pre-K student for kindergarten will provide the students with a strong foundation in the academics throughout their educational years.

Spanish Immersion Program: Mrs. Nash told the audience that by 2014 the Ohio Department of Education wants to have a second-language program in each educational region of the state. We are one of five currently in the state. The Spanish immersion program at Raemelton has doubled in size over last year's program. She also noted that Spanish was chosen for Mansfield because it is one of the fast growing languages in the world today. Students in language immersion programs, according to all the research data, tend to be more focused in the classroom and achieve academically at a higher level. Many parents of students in the Spanish immersion program spoke highly of the program and stressed their desires to have the program continue. In addition to the parents from the Mansfield City Schools' attendance area, a number of parents from Lexington, Ontario, and Clearfork who have their children enrolled in the program were also outspoken regarding the concerns of keeping the program.

Mr. Danza provided some closing remarks

09-224 Resolution to Adjourn

Ms. Osgood moved and Mr. Danza seconded a motion that the meeting be adjourned.

Roll Call: Aye: Ms. Osgood, Mr. Danza, Mrs. Asher, Mr. Musilli ----- 4
Nay: None ----- 0
Motion passed

Mrs. Asher declared the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Sondra Asher, President

Deanne Osgood, Treasurer Pro Tempore