

**SPECIAL MEETING  
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN  
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

**June 1, 1999**

**7:00 PM**

Mayor Wieczorek called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll. There were thirteen aldermen present.

**Present:** Aldermen Wihby, Klock, Reiniger, Sysyn, Pinard, O'Neil, Girard, Shea, Rivard, Pariseau, Cashin, Thibault, Hirschmann.

**Absent:** Alderman Clancy

Mayor Wieczorek advised that the purpose of the special meeting was to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to two minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Wieczorek requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Daniel Fletcher, 567 Granite Street, Manchester, NH stated:

Last year I came to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to try to get assistance on ransacking of my home. There was an executive order from this Board to get through the Police Commission and have them try to give me some relief on it. I am living by myself on Granite Street and it is attributed to something that happened to me five years while I was incarcerated down in New Jersey by the State of New Hampshire. The City of Manchester was involved in it also because of the Police Chief then was Louie Craig. Paul Brodeur who used to work for the investigations of the Manchester Police Department was a Commissioner of the Department of Corrections. Unfortunately, the State of New Hampshire and the State of New Jersey unlawfully took my life and made me an involuntary guinea pig for the Defense Department. To this day, I have not been able to get the proper medical treatment to get unwired from what they did to me for the last five years. I am having problems getting assistance from the local hospitals, from CMC and Elliot Hospital, trying to get detached from it. I am asking you tonight if I can come and see you privately, I am glad to, but this has got to stop. It is inhumane what happened to me, the City of Manchester was involved in it back then along with Steve Merrill who was the Governor and Christine Whitman down in New Jersey on that defense project they did on me unlawfully. I was shot at, at the prison, with some kind of a stun gun or what have you, they knocked me out and they transported me to St. Francis Hospital and worked me over, the officials down there with New Hampshire. I need some relief from this what went on, I am praying to you tonight could arrange some kind of a meeting to talk about this so that I can get that help and get detached from the Nuclear Warfare they used on me, I would appreciate it.

Leslie Quint, 315 Blevens Drive, Manchester, NH stated:

Speaking as a concerned parent of a student entering seventh grade at Hillside middle school next year. She is the child who sang for you a few weeks ago in preparation for the citywide talent show. This young girl who you all commented had a beautiful voice is afraid to take chorus not a cool thing to do. This tells me a couple of things, one I have some more work to do as a parent to help her deal with peer pressure, but it also reminds me that peer pressure is a very normal thing at this age. I hear it in the words and see it in the actions of many of her friends as I drive them to various activities and as I see them in my yard or at my dinner table. They are going through very normal emotional changes, very rapid physical and emotional changes at this age. These changes are some of the same changes that we would see are more rapid than changes we would see in children happening in their first year of life. The difference is, in that their first year of life we have complete control as parents, we can protect them from harm. At this middle school age we do not want to have that kind of control, this is not what we are looking for. We do want to protect them from harm. We as parents must rely to some extent on the good sense of our elected officials both on the Board of Schools and the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to provide us with safe schools where we can send our children. Not 100% safety, we know that. What we ask you to consider is this rapidly...we really want to take into consideration that these kids are growing very fast.

Deborah Langton, 170 Birchwood Road, Manchester, NH stated:

I am the author of the letter dated May 20, 1999 that I sent to the School Board and the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. I brought up some major concerns that are shared by many people in the community. I hope you have read my letter and have seriously considered all the questions I put forth. I am a 6<sup>th</sup> grade middle school teacher. I believe whole-heartedly in the middle-school philosophy. I attended a middle school, I enjoyed it very much. I am also very pleased to teach middle school, however, in my opinion Manchester is not ready nor is it prepared to begin the middle-school concept. I am asking that the Manchester School Board and the Board of Mayor and Aldermen delay the implementation of the middle schools in Manchester. I would like to reiterate a few of my concerns: the middle school involves a core group of teachers who will teach through integration of subject matter in real life situations. This type of teaching can only be done with a team teaching concept. Team teaching involves tremendous planning. There are very few days of school left for the Manchester teachers. Do the sixth grade teachers know their team members and what subject matter they will be teaching in September, have they had any training or experience in team teaching. Will they meet their team members the day before they meet their students? How do you expect them to be effective educators? You are setting up unfair expectations for these teachers. Are you considering the needs of our students, are the sixth graders going to be placed in the Junior High so that the City of Manchester can call it a middle school? A middle school incorporates all of the students into the system. All of the middle-school students should be able to participate in activities such as band, chorus, student council, dances, sports. Are the new Manchester middle schools ready for this? Will sixth graders be included as they should be in the middle-school activities or will they be isolated from the Junior High activities? The seventh-graders at Hillside are supposed to go into trailers,

how can team teaching take place in trailers? Students will have their core subjects in the trailers, thus the students will have to travel between the trailers and the main building for two unified art classes and lunches daily. What will happen during inclement weather? Rain and snow will be tracked into both facilities at least four times a day. This scenario could lead to injury due to slipping and falling. During inclement weather and cold days the students will have to carry their jackets and boots with them and create unnecessary...

Murray Onigman, 324 Walnut Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am here to talk about one thing. I was here the last time and thanks to television three people came up to me and told me they ran out of the referendum and they could not vote. My subject tonight is voting public and our rights. It is as simple as this, you had a 12k yes 12k no on the non-binding referendum on the civic center. You also had, running for Mayor a 12k same figure for the present Mayor and his opponent 7k 8 hundred. What happened to 5k votes? They did not come to vote for a living being, a Mayor, they came the other 5k people to vote no on a civic center. That gives you a total of 12k saying no, if you add up all the award aldermen positive votes, you do not come to 12k in this city. When you look at that vote, you are saying 12k people are saying no and will never step foot in that building. These same differential in the vote, they ran out of ballots, they did not have enough. People came up to me and said we did not vote, they ran out of ballots, the second ballot. Where is the will of the people. The referendum should go again since I have asked twice for reconsideration by the Aldermen and Mayor, should go to the November election headed with exactly the same saying reconsideration of that vote.

Billy Dodd, 181 Mammoth Road, Manchester, NH stated:

I want to title my thing tonight playtime in the City, the bubble, I do not do windows and a golden goose. There have been some articles in the paper about the architects for the civic center and they have been playing with the little models and rearranging them to see how it is going to best configure on the sight. Where is model for new parking garage, where have they been playing with that to see how it is going to configure with entering and leaving the civic center? Where are they advising building this parking garage? Riverwalk – ballpark -- recent thing in the paper, you guys say you need to have a management plan of how you are going to run the Riverwalk. Shouldn't that have been something you should have done at the very beginning when you first thought up the Riverwalk project, come up with a plan before you start allocating money? Plans to deal with increased students besides the plan that the School Administration surprised the School Board with back in February. The School Board comes up with the ideas and the administrators administer their ideas. You are going to spend .5 million in portables what plans to get rid of them – funds aside for building fund to make sure you get rid of these trailers. You have paid for a consultant that is going to give you a report on how the city schools are doing. They will not be ready until September but you are taking action with all of this Claremont money now. Clean schools – what were your plans when you got rid of the city workers, was it to save money, get the schools cleaner? I do not think you accomplished either one of them. How much money are you going to get out of bond money that WFF&A put up for the overtime money you had to spend?

Aroline Godbout, 203 Mayflower Drive, Manchester, NH stated:

I am very concerned about the plan to implement the middle school concept next year. Since there is no room for the sixth graders, portable classrooms will be placed outside of Hillside and Southside. This will place approximately four hundred students outside the security of the school buildings. We went to the May School Board meeting to request that the sixth graders be allowed to stay in the Elementary Schools that now house them. There was much discussion among the School Board representatives about the negative aspects of portables. The West Side representatives described how the portables came in twenty-five years ago and never went away. In the end, School Board Members voted to purchase the portables. They were told that if the portables were not used at the middle school, they would be needed at the Elementary Schools. When asked where the portables would be needed at the elementary level, Catherine Hamblet would not answer that question. How can the School Board make an informed decision if they are not given all the information? Mr. Healy suggested that a special meeting be held to discuss the matter further, this has not been done. Unless we were expecting a substantial increase of new students this Fall, why would additional portables be needed at the elementary level? According to the information from the NASDAQ study, enrollment in the Elementary Schools is going down. The current enrollment K-8 is 10,849, the operating capacity is 11,060. These numbers indicate that there is indeed room to house the sixth graders at the elementary level. I urge you to consider leaving our students in their current schools for sixth grade, eliminating the over-crowding at the middle-school level. This would allow the City time to evaluate the NASDAQ study and to develop a plan.

Steve Vaillancourt, 161 Faith Lane, Manchester, NH stated:

MCTV is one of the best things that we have in this community, an informed electorate is something that helps all of us. I know, as you consider the budget you will do right by MCTV because it is doing right by everybody in the City. I understand that five percent of the media contract for Media One is supposed to come back to the City and can be used, I hope you will consider giving as much as possible to MCTV that way they can do more. These people work incredibly hard, but what they do is not enough, they need more. They are sending their crew out to tape the mayoral announcements, but it has to be producers that tape the Aldermanic announcements such as yours Alderman Wihby tomorrow night. I did Mike Lopez the other night. The more they can get at MCTV, the more they can do to serve this community. It is the best investment we can have in our future. I am an interested party, because I do have a TV show on MCTV. It runs every Thursday night 6:30-9:30 Politically Alert. As you are about ready to say two minutes I can say I do not care if my two minutes are up or not because I can talk about how Claremont is not supposed to be just about more money for education, it is supposed to be about how equitably to spend that money and to reduce property taxes. I can talk about this armed robbery of 6 ½ million dollars that occurred in Concord against the City of Manchester last week. I can talk all about that for more than two minutes because I have a ½ hour every Thursday night. I hope all of you like that show like all of the other great shows that run more than two minutes on MCTV.

Larry Constantine, 39 Devco Drive, Manchester, NH stated:

GM vet community commended 10, 11 & 6 for showing up for the parade. I would also like to commend two young people who assisted the Disabled American Veterans, Brian Martineau and Ryan Emrick from Troop 135 that walked the longest and hardest mile of their lives.

Catherine Shaw, 548 Blodget Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am here as a parent, I have a daughter in seventh grade and one that will be going into eighth grade next year and a daughter in fifth going into sixth at Hillside. Hillside already seems overcrowded to me as a parent and I am not sure that the portables are the right solution. I do think it may be a safety issue. New England may not be the best place to implement outdoor portables.

Tracy Miller, 106 Hunters Village Way, Manchester, NH stated:

I was at last Tuesday's meeting and got the budget, I would like to know if it could be outlined more, what is being spent on what and what is being taken in instead of just a flat rate. Is that available for every day citizen? I called City Hall and would like a list of the Aldermen and their phone numbers and the School Board if that is made available to the public so that we can just go by and pick it up and call them if we want to because I have a hard time getting that. I lost my list from last year. If Bedford and the surrounding towns, what they are paying for tuition equals out what it costs us to put our children through school per student. Are we paying more per student than they are? DECA from MST, about five students from there won the nationals down in Florida in marketing. I do not know if any of you are aware of that. MST is doing a lot there and they are not sports and they do not get recognized a lot. You have some pretty good students at MST and I beg you not to get rid of that. I wish more of that made the paper than who won what for the sports.

John Hudon, 86 Precourt Street, Manchester, NH stated:

The Airport Acquisition Program, those of you might remember me from last month, we spoke to you about the same problem we had then. I wish I had better news to give you. Last month, the Property Acquisition Program was appraising in particular and several other people in the neighborhood considerably lower than fair market value. We have been able to confirm that, we have paid for our own appraisal and we were right where we thought we would be.

Unfortunately, we cannot get the airport to convince or at least acknowledge the fact that our appraisal means anything. They have offered to pay for another appraisal, which was done several weeks ago, they got it last Thursday. A man that they told us to hire and they would consider his appraisal along with ours in order to offset the original appraisal that they had done. Now we are being told that the appraisal that the airport is paying for is privilege information and we are not privy to that, we do not have a right to know what it was. It is my home, if I do not have the right to know what that appraisal is, I do not know who does. What I want to ask the Board tonight is: do not give this airport anymore money until somebody here can at least account for what they are spending. This airport is wasting money hand over fist and nobody is standing over them to make sure that they are not wasting it. There are people in this city who have waited some...just a few weeks for soundproofing have been waiting for over five years

while homes in our neighborhood that have been soundproofed are being torn down today. Nobody would have to wait five years for soundproofing if the homes that were not soundproofed were not wasted on it. New windows, doors, central air conditioning, they are dismantling these homes as we speak.

Chris Herbert, 20 Old Wellington Road, Manchester, NH stated:

I serve on the School Board. If everybody got what the Mayor put into his budget, I believe we would have a minimum of \$1.75 tax cut from last year. The revenue figure is not quite clear and there is a good chance we will get more revenue so the tax cut could go up. That is if everybody, including the School Department gets all of the money it needs. Parkside Junior High on the West Side had 40+ children in one of its math classes this year. Under the middle school concept, with the additional building we are also doing, the average class size at Parkside on the West Side will become 23 kids per class. That gives you an example of what is possible in the City of Manchester if we support education and if we put the money into it that we need to put into it, that is if we do the middle school concept, if we do not do the middle school concept, I do not know what the class size figures will be. If we get ambitious and aggressive and use the money that has been made available to us, through the Claremont decision, we will be able to put in an educational system in this city that will be the best in the State. Instead of having the other towns around us well look at Manchester, it is big and cumbersome, antiquated and its buildings and curriculum are out-of-date, will be able to for the first time in a long time, show them that Manchester has the ability and the desire and the quality of people in its City to do something excellent. It upsets me greatly that we get to the point where we can do it and we back away. I urge you to do it.

Lionel LeBlanc, 203 Belmont Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am here to let you know that the windfall profit should be applied to a tax cut result of the education bill. We have bit the bullet long enough, we taxpayers are being treated like we have a bottomless pit of monetary funds. I cannot see why we are paying three whole State school tax, we are not a donor city. These are being paid as much as the taxpayers can afford. Last year the union gave them 3 ½ percent pay raise this year, 3 percent is part of their budget. I cannot see us paying to hire 77 more teachers that could cut the size of teachers' classes considerably. Should not pay any more than the State retirement system, have a moratorium at the present time they have 2 billion dollars to invest, let's not invest any more to enrich their conference. At the present time, we are paying our fair share to run the city, go elsewhere you city fathers and get your funds elsewhere. We have done enough for the city government.

Mayor Wieczorek advised that there was no one else present wishing to Speak. On motion of Alderman Thibault seconded by Alderman Pariseau it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business could be presented, and on motion of Alderman Pariseau seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk