

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

**April 4, 2000**

**7:00 PM**

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

Mayor Baines called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

**Present:** Aldermen Gatsas, Levasseur, Sysyn, Clancy, Pinard, O'Neil, Lopez, Shea, Vaillancourt, Pariseau, Cashin, Thibault, Hirschmann

**Absent:** Alderman Wihby

Mayor Baines advised that the purpose of the special meeting is 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 Baines 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.

Raymond Buckley stated:

In the six years since I have left being a member of the Manchester Board of Mayor and Aldermen I have only before you maybe once or twice before. I come today, after the reaction that the Mayor's Budget Proposal received in the press. I would like to just remind the members of the Board that we all need to work together and that it is a proposal that the Mayor has worked very hard on and meets the needs of the children which is the future of the City of Manchester. Every economic development plan I have ever seen or have heard of says that the first thing you have to do to create a sound economic base in any community or any State or region is to have quality education. It is going to be important as you work the next couple of months to tone down the rhetoric especially for those of you who fought so vociferously and strongly for the Civic Center. When you fought so hard for that did you not know that you were

going to someday have to pay for it. The chickens have come home to roost and now the bill is here. We are going to have to pay for that but do not sacrifice the children of the City of Manchester because of the decision that was made in the last couple of years. Whether it be by the people of the City of Manchester and the referendum vote or by the vote of this Board. Please try to work together, tone down your rhetoric and hopefully we can get through this so that the children of Manchester are well served, the future of Manchester is well served and that we all as a community can move forward together.

Patricia Cornell of Ward 12, 787 Montgomery Street stated:

I have been a guidance counselor at the Middle School of Parkside for twenty-three years. The last time I spoke before this Board was when we were pleading with you to put the addition onto Parkside because we had been over-crowded and under staffed for many years. We now have a beautiful new addition and thank you for that which is fully staffed with many programs and class size is below thirty. It had averaged over thirty for many years. I hope you will continue to fund the budget for the School Department so that we can continue to be fully staffed and have enough teachers to fill all of the rooms and continue to have a lot of programs and be an average class size to Middle School. We talk about increasing the tax base and enticing new businesses to come to Manchester and new families to move to Manchester. One of the first things that groups and businesses look at are schools. If our schools are not up to par then they are not going to move here. I hope you can look at our schools as an investment for the future of Manchester.

Kim Saltmarsh, 305 Pennsylvania Avenue stated:

I am a teacher at the Middle School at Parkside and I am here on behalf of our faculty to urge you to hire new teachers to staff McLaughlin School and keep the current teaching positions intact at Parkside. In the past year since the new addition, Parkside classroom size has been between twenty-two to twenty-seven students. Down from past years of forty. We do not teach in a broom closet anymore. Parkside's administration, faculty and parents hard fought your new addition. We have the Middle School concept and we have embraced it whole-heartedly. For the past eight months, our discipline problems have been much smaller than in recent years. Getting rid of eight teachers will increase our class size to thirty students or more. It is a fact that children learn best with the smaller teacher/student ratio. To cut the positions, not only sends us backwards, but it sends a clear message to these children and their tax paying parents that they are not worth the expense. Not one of you would be here today without the dedication and love of teachers. You learned at a time when Special Education was almost non-existent. The majority of parents were involved in education and violence in schools was unheard of. Today it is a very different world. If you make the good teachers of Parkside leave then you are setting up the children and the teachers for failure. I have been a life-long resident of Manchester and ever since I have been able to understand politics, I understood it that our leaders always took the position to leave the status quo. They have never had the foresight to prevent problems but instead to pick up the pieces left by someone else. I always tell my

students to be pro-active and not reactive. Let us prevent the problems that we all know will occur if these cuts happen. Please make the right decisions for our children's education. It may not be popular with the business people or the taxpayers that do not have children but you have to remember that you were students once. Our legacy is our children and we will all have failed if you put their interest last. Please vote to maintain the present teaching staff at Parkside and please vote in favor of the education portion of Mayor Baines budget. My last question is something for all of you to ponder; does Manchester really need a twelve million-dollar Riverwalk.

Jeff Kassel of Ward 3, 22 Appleton Street stated:

Unlike the previous three speakers, I wondered not withstanding the save the children when the taxpayers are going to get a break here. My personal feeling is one hundred million dollars for education is sufficient. This is a hole that we keep shoveling money into. There are ways to economize with education. I am not that impressed with the educational product here. I happened to be at Federal Express today and I had to send a FedEx item to Manila. The girl behind the counter said what State is Manila in. I said you got to be kidding. She asked the girl who was next to her and she said I think it is in California. I do not know what we are getting for one hundred million dollars. I am not that involved in the school system. That sounds like a lot of money to me. Not only that, we are going to be spending one hundred fifty million dollars on a hockey rink; seventy million plus the debt service. Twelve million for the Granite Street ramp at least. Five hundred thousand for AstroTurf on West High, is this the NFL. Twelve million for Riverwalk and a new fire station. Another five or ten million for the school system. The taxpayers need to be considered. Joe Kelly calls himself a fiscal conservative. He says Mayor Baines is Jesse James. Joe Kelly and some of his friends on the Board seem to love multi-million dollar projects themselves. I am going to implore Mayor Baines to start vetoing some of this stuff so that the people who are actually paying for it are going to get a break. Mayor Baines, you were elected to protect us. I do not know about the rest of the tax payers in this City but my butt is starting to get a little bit soar.

Jim Lawrence of Ward 1, 455 Pine Street stated:

I am here to speak on behalf of MCTV. I am a television producer. I produce a show for the Toast Masters of Manchester Club. I want to mention to the Mayor and the Aldermen that there is a negotiation going on with the cable server of Manchester. There should be some money available to increase the budget for MCTV and update some of their facilities there. I would have you do a thorough audit of the monies that you are due and give an ample amount to modernize those facilities.

Bill Whitmore of 521 Fox Hollow Way stated:

I am here this evening to express my support during the upcoming budget process for Manchester Community Television. I am currently producer and host of New Hampshire Labor Scene, which is broadcast on MCTV. The opportunity for a resident of Manchester to appear on over fifty-thousand households to promote, inform or discuss ideologies is truly a valued privilege. As appreciated by all of us. The station is formatted so there is a reflection of many different and varied opinions providing viewers with a cross section from all walks of life in Manchester. The focus on my show is on labor issues. I have been able to inform viewers of issues concerning safety and health matters, workers rights issues and a host of other subjects, which are important to working men and women of Manchester. The funding for this station should not rest upon the content or philosophy of any one show. It should not matter whether it is Republican or Democratic or Reformed Party oriented. It should not matter if it is Catholic or Jewish, Muslim or Protestant in its teachings. We all have different backgrounds and beliefs and a right to express them. Funding should be based on the enormous amount of good, quality public access television that the citizens of Manchester are receiving. So many times in the past City issues were decided solely upon what side you were on and not what is best for the community. I believe the issue of funding for MCTV should be based on what is best for the community. A recently completed report on the Manchester School System states Manchester School of Technology was called the hidden jewel in the system. I believe MCTV is the "diamond in the rough" and will shine through for citizens of Manchester for many years to come.

R.J. Norton of 21 South Elm Street stated:

I produce historic videos and I also have a show on Channel 16 every Thursday at 4:00. I videotape all around the City. I videotaped the Old Man of the Mountains, Merrimack all the way down to Newburyport. Today I was taping at Hillside English as a second language program. I was taping at the State House on the abortion issue. Taping down at Goffs Falls Village on the meeting with Mr. Dillon at the airport. I get around a bit like many of the producers do. I have been watching these Aldermanic meetings on Channel 16. I have seen about one hundred or so people come up here and request support for different projects. I would like to talk about those one hundred projects but I know I only have two minutes. I only cover a miniscule amount of the events taking place here on Channel 16. Many of you folks have your own programs. There are many other access producers here. Channel 16 is part of every single one of the programs. It is part of every school program. I did a special on the Riverwalk and ran it the last couple of weeks. It is part of everything we do here in the City. It also is a great promoter of the First in the Nation New Hampshire Primary. We covered that all over the place and gave more publicity to that Primary than the regular broadcast stations did. I do not get paid by Channel 16 I am just a volunteer. I know some programs have not had enough staff and some are very important. If someone wants to produce a program in Spanish on broadcasting on computer software and there is not help there to do that. I want to say that I hope you will give due consideration to Channel 16 because it is a part of every single one of these programs. It is the voice of the City.

Murray Onigman of 324 Walnut Street stated:

Clem Lemire and I are the oldest two here. This Board of Aldermen on account of eight to six where one of them could have dropped it to seven and seven has hijacked, stolen and taken away our children and our grandchildren's parachute. What is their parachute? A very simple thing. Returning from the State to the City the Rooms and Meals Tax. That Rooms and Meals Tax for the next thirty years during those children's time adds up to over one hundred million dollars. You have decided, at a score of eight to six (I know the name of Jesse James has come up and he had a gang and I call it a "Gang of Eight") one of you could have made it seven to seven, that is my point. We could have had a good debate about going ahead with the "up the street big dig" that is going to outdo Boston and its overrun. You have had an Alderman criticize the budget as presented to put that building up because of low bid. You have had a union march out in front saying they did not get the bid. I hope that members of all those unions and their families join the twelve thousand who on the original amendment which was not binding will join them and never step into that building that is being built. You have stolen our children's future. They have no parachute to save their taxes. By the way, coming here tonight I am going to end with this...I came up Union and Salmon Streets and there's new flowers for Spring "FOR SALE". A lot of people see the future danger of our property taxes in this town.

Skip Ashooh stated:

Murray brought up a couple points that are significant that I would like to address in my two minutes. I would like to take you back three years ago as to the reason this Board and the prior Board and Mayor considered the construction of a Civic Center. You are facing questions in this year's budget relating to schools and education and the cost of running a City. In order for you to pay those bills you have to levy your property tax. You have only been able to levy that increasing bill in one area and that is in the residential property taxpayers of this City. One very specific reason and that is commercial property in the downtown area has not carried its fair share. That burden has shifted since 1986 from 50/50 commercial and residential to 60% on the residents of this City and 40% on all commercial property in this City. The Civic Center represents an effort by this City to take a portion of the Meals and Rooms Tax less than half over the next thirty years and invested in a project to vitalize the tax base of downtown. To take the burden off the residential property tax payer. I am here tonight to say it is my pleasure to announce that initiative begins next week. You have received a press release this evening stating ground-breaking for the Manchester Civic Center is next Thursday afternoon at 4:00 April 13, 2000. We look forward to having you all there. We can all look forward, as a City, to taking this vision and making it real in the City revitalizing the tax base of our downtown and taking the burden off the residential tax payers.

Alvire Juedy of 134 Calef Road stated:

I am a member of the Haitian Community Center of New Hampshire. I am here today on behalf of MCTV. Manchester Community TV is doing a wonderful job serving the people in Manchester. The Haitian Community Center of New Hampshire is a non-profit group organization has opportunity to have the access of TV Paramis and from thousands of Haitians. With the help of this station I have the opportunity to talk to the children. When we organize events with children participating by playing instruments, singing, dancing, poetry. Or the children can have access to assist on TV and maybe they will become interested to see what all the kids are doing instead of staying in the streets not doing anything. Due to the lack of staff it is almost impossible for TV Paramis to serve everyone. They need equipment and a van. When there is basketball for girls or boys they can go cover. When they pass it on TV all the kids will look at it and then they will be interested instead of leaving home. The more we put something that will be interesting for the children on TV the more I think Manchester will be better. Instead of the kids going out and commit crimes. For now, I am urging the Board to give more funds to MCTV.

Don Welch of Ward 12 stated:

Upon the announcement of your budget I would like to make a couple comments as far as looking for money and spending money. Bob, when you were out campaigning I voted for you in the Primary and I voted for you in the General Election. You said your motto the theme of your campaign was "it's time for a change". I think it is time that you go forward with this change. Might I suggest this; you know that you inherited a lot of problems when you stepped into this office. You know when you stepped into this office you also inherited a lot of power. The Charter that the people in this community have voted upon gave this power to you. You have a lot of power on this Board. You have a lot of power to do a couple of things I want to suggest one: I suggest that you immediately put together a committee consisting of this Board and start looking at some cuts. This City, looking at it, is probably one of the most top-heavy cities I have ever seen. There is no need to be paying eighty, ninety, one hundred and one hundred ten thousand-dollar salaries in this City. We do not have the money for that. You can get accountants out of college with a couple years experience at thirty-five or forty thousand dollars not eighty thousand. I suggest that you do that immediately and you will find a few million dollars there believe it or not. Start looking at every department and seeing how top-heavy they are. While you are looking for millions...let's go back to the spending side...MCTV has been a great community service that is provided to the people. I go out to eat three or four times a day. I talk to people in the restaurants and they watch the shows. Some they like some they dislike. I would suggest that this Board take a look at funding MCTV. When you are looking for millions out there and this is in regards to the Civic Center. This is not going to end and I am not going away. The people that are against it are not going away. In the contracts, if I am not mistaken, here is one million you can pick up tomorrow if you want, in the contracts between Ogden Corporation, which was just taken over or in the process of being bought out. The contract between Ogden and Howard Baldwin, the hockey league team owner says that if

this Civic Center is not built by October 15<sup>th</sup> that Baldwin is entitled to one million dollars. Let me remind this Board that the bankrupt Pittsburgh Penguins bought AHL team that is coming to the City of Manchester for one million dollars. Howard Baldwin then sold it to himself for one hundred thousand dollars and now this thing is going to be going up on the market (this is my predication) for four million dollars because the going price is three million for an AHL team with a brand new facility, tack on the million dollars that he gets because this will not be built by October or November 15<sup>th</sup>. Look at the contract closely.

Amanda Abbott of 51 Donald Street stated:

I am the development coordinator at the Manchester Historic Association and I am here again tonight on behalf of the Board of Trustees and staff to again encourage your support of the resolution regarding the passage of Senate Bill 401 The Land and Community Heritage Investment Program. This program would be a valuable resource for anyone wanting to preserve and renovate the many historic buildings in the millyard and elsewhere in the City. The public/private partnership focus of the program along with the emphasis on community based projects make it ideal for those wishing to improve the community and boost the economy through preservation efforts.

Leona Dykstra of Ward 2, 21 Tennyson Drive stated:

I am a life-long resident and taxpayer for over thirty-five years in the City of Manchester. I did want to address the budget and taxes but before I do I just want to make a comment. I believe there was a Charter Amendment proposed by the Aldermen here concerning the school budget. As you know, I was a Charter Commissioner who served with you and I believe the way it is, is just fine. I think the Aldermen have enough problems controlling or getting dollar amounts for their own line items. I do not think I need them to be involved with the School Committee. The people elect the School Committee. The same people who elect the Aldermen of these Ward. The Aldermen have enough control with the bottom line and they should leave the rest to the Board of School Committee. During the fiscal year of 2000 budget process, we received thirty-seven million dollars from the Claremont decision. At the public hearing, I supported funding education because I believed it was important. But I also asked for a substantial tax cut because of the additional money that we received. The taxpayers got a reduction of only two dollars per thousand of assessed valuation. The proposed 2001 budget of two hundred five million dollars, you are spending eighteen million dollars more. Taking back our reduction and raising our taxes once again. I am not asking for a tax cut even though I would take one. I am asking you just simply not to raise our taxes. In a Union Leader article Mayor, you asked City Government to delineate the difference between want and needs. I believe the people should be asked and government should listen to the people. We pay the bills; we pay your salaries and thanks that some of the Aldermen did not get the pay raises they wanted because as you see, Your Honor, we simply cannot afford it. Parents need their children to be educated and they need them to be safe. The elderly need tax relief because some are on fixed income. The Mayor and Board of Aldermen need to provide for the people in a fiscally responsible way. A zero increase is all

that I am asking for. Although I question the amount of money being spent on the parks, it might be a good idea because if taxes go up a lot of us may be living there.

Craig Annis of 66 Amoskeag Place, Ward 3 stated:

I come before you tonight to address the upcoming cable negotiations. As you enter into these important deliberations, I ask that you seriously consider negotiating the following items: first and foremost we should increase our franchise fee. As you know, Federal Law allows municipalities to collect up to 5% for a franchise fee but Manchester currently only collects 4%. If the cable company were to simply pass on this cost to the consumer the increase would only be \$.20 per month but the benefits would be countless. Such an action would not only increase revenues for the City but would also allow more money to be invested in our award winning MCTV. By increasing MCTV's portion of the franchise fee from 1 to 2.5% we will increase educational opportunities for Manchester students and connect the larger portion of our residents with their community. We all know that in order for our democracy to be successful it is essential that we have a citizenry that participates not only in its government but in its community as well. Clearly the programming on MCTV has allowed such participation to become a reality. Anyone who has spent any time at MCTV knows that the equipment is outdated and the facility is inadequate for both the current and future needs. You should note that MCTV has not received an equipment grant since 1990. 2.25 million in grants paid for by the cable provider over a three-year period will enable live programming to be originated from schools, municipal buildings and athletic fields around the City. If the cable provider passed on this entire amount to the subscriber, the average increase would be \$.31 per month. Once again, a small price to pay for the benefits that Manchester would get in return. In order to address the growing needs, Manchester should require an increase in the number of access channels from two to a minimum of five. MCTV would use these five channels for public, educational, government, non-profit and religious access as well as for community bulletin board. On this note, I want to share a quote "the sound of tireless voices is the price we pay for the right to hear the music of our own opinions". When negotiating this item we must ensure that all access channels are on the basic tiers that all subscribers can watch. It is incumbent upon all of you to deliver to the residents of Manchester the best possible price while expanding the capability of Manchester Community Television. As a resident and cable subscriber, I ask for your support for these items so that Manchester Community Television can continue to provide the people of Manchester with the services they require and deserve.

Maxine Mosley of 76 Sherburne Street stated:

I am a parent of a student at Hillside Middle School. I am also a school counselor at McLaughlin Middle School and I have been employed by the City since 1980. As a taxpayer and as an employee of this City I implore you to support the Mayor's budget especially the school component. What disturbs me most is that there are many people sitting on this Board that I have not seen in the schools and yet you are making decisions about what is best for seventeen thousand of our residents, our students and two thousand of our staff, employees of

this City without coming in and seeing first-hand what is going on in the schools. The schools have been neglected and the students and staff have been neglected for as long as I have been in Manchester. It is time to stop the neglect, it is time to stop saying where the blame is, it is time to move forward. I agree with persons who have spoken before me our future is in and are the children. When we are all retiring these are the people who will be in the workforce and these are the people who will be paying into our retirement monies to support us. We need to give them the most functional highest quality educational system that we can possibly offer. We are the largest and the oldest public school system in the State of New Hampshire. We are also a major urban site with increasing numbers of immigrants and refugees increasing numbers of students with severe and complex needs and increasing numbers of people within our community with mental health issues and we are seeing that in the schools. To think that we can continue to not fund our schools at an adequate level is just not the reality of where we live in the year 2000.

Ed Wade of 720 Coral Avenue stated:

I am the principal at the Middle School at Parkside and have been for fifteen years. One knows he is getting old when he sees his former students and ball players Aldermen Gatsas and O'Neil on the Aldermanic Board. I am proud to say that this has been the best year at Parkside in terms of educating and servicing children since I was appointed in 1985. There are two reasons for my statement: Parkside now has adequate space in which to teach thanks to the recent construction of a twenty-two room addition to the school and secondly the hiring of additional staff to effectively educate our children and reduce the students per teacher ratio. For ten years, as many of you know, Parkside was overcrowded and understaffed. Children were forced to be taught in Physical Education storage rooms, coatrooms, custodial closets. The class sizes during this period ranged thirty to forty-two students. It proved to be a very difficult time for the children, teachers and administrators. However, I am now proud to say that because of adequate funding that Parkside now has sufficient space in which to teach and our students per teacher ratio is under twenty-five at all grades in our core subjects. This has been Parkside's "finest hour". The Middle School concept has proved extremely successful at Parkside because of adequate space and the improvement of the student/teacher ratio in the classrooms. The moral of the school has soared among all who learn and work in the school. Teen projects this year include studies of medieval Times, wolves, a Celebration of Cities, the study of the Holocaust and the American Revolution. Parkside now has an advanced visual arts class for students who have been identified with a special talent for art. Students art projects hang on the walls. Art murals created by the advanced art students are also visible. Teen projects are evident in the classrooms. The students are taking field trips as they culminate activity to their projects. After school activities have tripled in addition to sports activities Parkside now has Spirit Club meetings, Theatre groups, Community Caring programs to help the needy, Peer mediation group meetings and a sixth grade band and chorus. Parkside has added sixty students since September and it is interesting to note that our disciplinary interactions have decreased three hundred thirty five. This fact stands as testimonial enough as to how space and teachers/student ratios can effect the school. I come here this evening to thank the School Board and the Mayor and

Aldermen for making this wonderful year at Parkside a reality. I also ask the City fathers to adequately fund the school budget to make our reality at Parkside this school year a reality for all children. Teachers at all levels in the City of Manchester, your commitment to an educational excellence will certainly improve a lot of the children of Manchester in the future. From my experience in Manchester, as a teacher, counselor, coach, City Athletic Director and now principal, that is what the future of Manchester is all about – our children.

Frank Weaver of Ward 7, 136 Beech Street stated:

I would like to share with you a few feelings I had on the way over here. From what I have heard we should wait until the Aldermen look this budget over and make the appropriate adjustments before we all panic. This looks to me like a good starting point. I am sure we all realize how important funding for education really is. But least we forget the Aldermen are responsible for the rest of the City as well. I leave you all with this closing thought: remember it takes a big broom to clean up after a big elephant and it will not happen overnight.

Grace Sullivan of 47 Hermit Road stated:

I would like to thank the Aldermen for the support that they have showed Manchester Community Television and I would also like to thank the Mayor for his continued support but I would especially like to thank the Chairman of the Committee on Administration/Information Systems Alderman Ted Gatsas who has been at the forefront in working with Manchester Community Television. I would also like to thank all of the speakers who have come up in praise of MCTV. It continually amazes me at how many people watch MCTV and how important it has become to the community. I would like to thank all of the volunteers and the staff there. As you have heard from people before, as demand for our services have increased, we have not been able to increase the percentage of our operating costs that we receive from Media One. Currently, we are at 1% of our operating cost. We really need to address that issue and increase the operating money that comes in from Media One. We also need to look at the Capital Equipment Grant that Media One will be providing for us as part of cable negotiations. We recently distributed the MCTV future plan to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen. I was very lucky that I had the opportunity to sit down with quite a few of the Aldermen and address some of their questions and concerns about that plan. In the next few days, I am going to be calling the Aldermen that have not had the time or opportunity to talk to me about that to see if they have any concerns or questions or input into the plan. The attached letters are support from people for MCTV. There are just a few letters that I got from people of the community. If you get a chance to look at the letters, you will see the support that the community has for MCTV. I am happy to assist the Committee on Administration with cable negotiations.

Kathy Scalingi of 298 N Bay Street stated:

I am a teacher from Parkside and I am so lucky to work at the Middle School at Parkside and it really is a model Middle School here in Manchester. We have a new addition, we have adequate staff, we have fulfilled the City's mandate to become a Middle School no longer a Junior High. I am also lucky because I am a member of Parkside's Middle School Development Team. I have attended workshops for the New England League of Middle School. I have been working with the faculty to fully implement the Middle School concept. But because of the budget, what I understand is the City is trying to move teachers out of Parkside. That means we are completely undermining this Middle School concept that the City has asked us to go along with. It is going to destroy the model Middle School here in Manchester. If I still have a job it increases my class sizes and that means I am not teaching anymore all I am really doing is classroom management. What a waste of money. Spending all that money on the new addition and the new teachers and all the training and now they are going to "pull the rug out from under it". I just do not understand why.

Maureen Duval of 58 Leandre Street, Ward 10 stated:

I come here wearing three hats tonight. First of all, I am a parent of two students who are in the Manchester School System, one at West High School and one at the Middle School at Parkside. I am also a Special Education teacher at the Middle School at Parkside and I am also a taxpayer in the City of Manchester. To increase class size and to remove some of the teachers from Parkside would be a step backwards in education I feel. Not only that, as you know, if you increase the class size you also increase the number of Special Education students in each classroom. If you do that, eventually you will not be meeting State guidelines for Special Education students. You need to consider that when you are talking about increasing class size. The Middle School at Parkside is working. The concept of Middle School is working and I invite you all to come to see how it is working. I am here tonight to urge you to support the school budget as presented by Mayor Baines.

Pat Myers of 1330 Union Street stated:

I am here to urge your support of the Resolution in favor of the Land and Community Heritage Program Senate Bill 401. That would establish a voluntary public/private partnership for the conservation of open space and historic buildings. Seventy percent of it would go to municipalities and non-profit organizations. Ninety-five towns have already voted to support this Resolution. Fewer than one hundred fifteen organizations in the State are supporting it. It is not a charge on the City budget or on the general fund. It is a real opportunity. It is a sound economic development program and a sound community development program and I urge you to vote in favor of the Resolution.

Debbie Banaian of 123 South Jewett Street stated:

I am a teacher also at Parkside and a resident and taxpayer here in Manchester. We have all come up and begged you to leave things the way they are. When we say leave things the way they are, we are not being frivolous. We still pay teachers out of their own pockets for our glue. We are not being frivolous with this money. But it is working. Last year when I was hired in November there were forty kids in classes. The class that I got had thirty-five kids in it. Twenty-seven kids were "coded". For those of you who do not know what "coded" means or have not been in the schools is that those kids have a special plan. I cannot use my regular lesson plan for those children. For twenty-seven kids I have forty minutes they all have a special plan. If I spend one minute on each one of those kids with a special plan...I have thirteen minutes to take attendance and give a lesson to the other kids in my class. Do not put more kids in our classes they need those thirteen minutes.

Scott Bailey of 147 Huse Road stated:

I am also a teacher at the Middle School at Parkside. I come here tonight to tell you I came into Manchester teaching...this is my first year in Manchester, because the philosophy was there. The new school was built. There was an addition put on at Parkside and I saw a great future for Manchester. The kids are benefiting from it. The system is working at Parkside. Teachers are getting a lot more accomplished with the smaller class ratio. It would be a shame to take that away from the kids. Manchester has worked real hard to get where they are at and to come back to digress would be a real shame for these kids.

Diana Booth of 46 Patterson Street, Ward 10 stated:

I am an Educational Assistant at the Middle School at Parkside and also a parent of a seventh grader who attends the Middle School at Parkside. Tonight I am here as a parent on behalf of a terrific group of parents that fought very hard with School Administration and you to get the much-needed addition at Parkside. We thank you and it is beautiful. When I heard the rumor that there was a possibility that two teams of teachers from our school might be sent to fill the positions needed for this fall at McLaughlin Middle School, I was real angry. I thought, here we go again and pick on the West Side because they will not notice. Well we have noticed. It has taken over twenty years for our school to get to where it is today. Student numbers per class size are down. Teachers have the attentions of the students again. Teachers are happy. Students are happy. It is not perfect but it is working. Mr. Wade, Mr. Thissell, guidance counselors, teachers and parents of the West Side are tired of being picked on. We have all worked very hard to get the Middle School at Parkside to where it is today. A Middle School that the West Side is proud of. A Middle School that the City of Manchester should be proud of. We invite you to come and see it for yourself. If this rumor is true and this is your great plan to solve part of your budget deficit, please think of the children and how it will effect them. How would you feel if this were happening to your child's school. We appeal to you to allow us to

keep the quality of education at its highest at Parkside. Please let us develop our children to their fullest. Let us keep our great staff of teachers.

Mayor Baines advised that if there is no one else present wishing to speak, a motion would be in order.

On motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

Alderman Pariseau noted hearing all these comments from Parkside, I'd like to know where this rumor originated that either we are out to get Parkside, or somebody is out to get Parkside. Mayor Baines stated he did not have the answer to that. He noted there were rumors in other schools about special programs, I think people are starting some of the conversation, rumors start.

Alderman Thibault stated he and Alderman O'Neil are the ones that worked hard to make sure that you had those added rooms at Parkside, so please understand that Alderman Cashin and Hirschmann also worked hard in getting this done.

There being no further business to come before the special meeting, on motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Lopez, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk