

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(SCHOOL BUDGET)**

June 5, 2008

Immediately Following Joint Session

Mayor Guinta called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen M. Roy, Gatsas, Sullivan, J. Roy, Osborne, Pinard,
O'Neil, Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Ouellette, Domaingue

Mayor Guinta stated thank you very much. The School Board I hope will stay. We should only be here for a few minutes to finalize the budget process. The public is more than welcome to stay as well.

Alderman Lopez stated at this time I would like to call on the City Clerk to lead us in the Resolution Amendments that are before the Aldermen.

City Clerk Carol Johnson stated if I am understanding correctly, Alderman Lopez is referring to Resolutions dealing with various expendable trusts? Is that correct?

Alderman Lopez replied that is correct.

City Clerk Johnson replied we have five resolutions, and I would ask at this time if the Board wishes to make a motion to read by title only.

***Alderman M. Roy** moved to have the Resolutions read by title only. **Alderman J. Roy** duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.*

Resolutions:

“Amending a Resolution establishing a Manchester School District Health Maintenance Expendable Trust”;

Amending a Resolution establishing a Manchester School District Capital Project Expendable Trust”;

Amending a Resolution establishing a Manchester School District Special Education Expendable Trust”;

“Amending a Resolution establishing a Manchester School District Facilities Maintenance and Repair Projects Expendable Trust”;

“Amending a Resolution establishing a Manchester School District Athletic Equipment Expendable Trust.”

City Clerk Johnson stated Your Honor, the Clerk would note that in each of these items that have been presented there are changes specifically to Section 4. In the instance of the first Resolution it is stating that ‘no expenditure shall cause the Manchester School District Health Maintenance Expendable trust to have a balance of less than five thousand dollars.’ That would be the amendment that is occurring to the Resolution at this time. In Section 4 of the second Resolution it deletes all of the current language and states ‘no expenditures shall cause the Manchester School District Capital Projects Expendable Trust to have a balance of less than five thousand dollars.’

Alderman Sullivan stated I guess this question would be directed to Alderman Gatsas or Alderman Lopez; either one of you can take this if you can answer it. Under the new language the minimum balance would be \$5,000; under the existing language it is no more than 50 percent of the trust should be expended. What is the actual change in the amount of money that can be spent? I guess another way of putting it is: \$5,000 is what percentage of the expendable trust right now?

Alderman Gatsas replied those would be the balances of the expendable trusts, the \$5,000. I think what we've attempted to do is leave money in those trust so that they can in future years build them back again and change those percentages as those amounts increase.

Alderman Sullivan replied okay, I see where you are going. I guess what I am looking for is a percentage. What would \$5,000 be as a percentage as it stands today? Does anyone have an answer for that?

Mayor Guinta replied I think the balances are different in each account.

Alderman Sullivan replied let me clarify. I should have clarified that I am looking at special education specifically.

Mayor Guinta replied that's probably less than five percent.

Alderman Lopez stated there are three more to be read.

City Clerk Johnson continued the third makes changes to Section 3 which refers to prior fiscal year and whichever is higher; those terms have been removed. Section 4 has been eliminated and replaced with 'no expenditure shall cause the Manchester School District Special Education Expendable Trust to have a balance of less than \$5,000.' The fourth Resolution changes Section 3, with similar language removing 'prior and whichever is higher' and replacing Section 4 with 'no expenditure shall cause the Manchester School District Facilities Maintenance and Repair Expendable Trust to have a balance of less than \$5,000.' The last one dealing with the Athletic Equipment again removes 'prior or whichever is higher'

and replaces Section 4 with ‘no expenditure shall cause the Manchester School Athletic Equipment Expendable Trust to have a balance of less than \$5,000.’ Your Honor, if the Board wishes to adopt these we would suggest a motion to adopt the Resolutions as presented and repeal previous Resolutions.

Alderman Ouellette moved to adopt the Resolutions as presented and repeal previous Resolutions. Alderman Shea duly seconded the motion. The motion carried, with Alderman Sullivan duly recorded in opposition.

TABLED ITEMS

Alderman Lopez moved to remove all items from the table. Alderman Gatsas duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

3. Appropriating Resolution:

“A Resolution appropriating to the Manchester School District the sum of \$140,000,000 for the Fiscal Year 2009.”

(Note: A copy of the School District Budget Proposal for FY2009, presented at the Board of Mayor & Aldermen meeting on June 3,2008, is attached.)

Alderman M. Roy moved to read the Resolution by title only. Alderman O’Neil duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed the motion carried.

Appropriating Resolution:

“A Resolution appropriating to the Manchester School District the sum of \$140,000,000 for the Fiscal Year 2009.”

Alderman Lopez stated I would like at this time on behalf of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to amend the Resolution to \$146,056,839. The motion was duly seconded by Alderman Ouellette. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Gatsas stated clarity from the Clerk...we also have the expendable trust. Do we need to put that in the motion to include that?

City Clerk Johnson stated the expendable trusts have just been adopted; all five Resolutions were adopted.

Alderman Gatsas stated the expenditure that was part of that.

Mayor Guinta asked is that a separate two-thirds vote by both Boards?

Alderman Gatsas replied not the expendable trust but the expendable trust expenditures that we had on page 3 the other night. I want to make sure that there is clarity that the \$1 million also goes with this package.

City Clerk Johnson stated it is my understanding that the Board of School Committee has the authority to expend it by vote of the School Board. I would ask the City Solicitor to weigh in on that.

Mayor Guinta stated Section 6 of each Resolution requires a two-thirds vote of the Board of School Committee.

Mr. Tom Clark, City Solicitor, stated I guess you are directing your question to the School Board as to whether or not they agreed to both.

Alderman Gatsas stated I'm sure they have because the document they signed is part of the expendable trust that was the discussion we had today. I just want to make sure it's clear, that it's on the record in the budget, that the additional \$1 million goes for items that were talked about so that there is no misunderstanding that it is \$146,056,839 and these funds are not included. I just want to make sure that there is clarity.

Alderman Lopez stated I think it is a very good point. Maybe the City Clerk...in passing the Resolution, we are talking about passing the Resolution with the budget pages 1, 2, and 3 that are attached to the agenda. Is that correct?

City Clerk Johnson stated if I am understanding correctly, the Board has outlined the conditions upon which they are comfortable passing the \$146 million budget. It is my understanding that in a previous meeting just held the School Board has advised that they have accepted, at least in concept, what was presented to them as, more or less, a contract from the City.

Alderman Lopez stated we don't want to use the word 'contract.'

Alderman Gatsas stated it is not a contract.

City Clerk Johnson stated my understanding is that the City charter or law does not allow us to do anything other than appropriate a bottom line appropriation to the School Department, so to place it as a condition of the Resolution I do not believe we can. I believe that there has been a record on file that the School Department has said they have agreed to this.

Mayor Guinta stated let me make this easy. Who has the authority to vote on the specific items of the \$1 million, according to these Resolutions?

Mr. Clark responded Board of School Committee.

Mayor Guinta stated thank you.

Alderman Lopez stated we just wanted to clear that up so that there is no question.

City Clerk Johnson replied it is my understanding that the \$1 million is contained within the budget.

Alderman O'Neil moved to pass and Enroll the Appropriating Resolution as amended. Alderman DeVries duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

4. Appropriating Resolution:

“A Resolution appropriating to the Manchester School Food and Nutrition Services Program the sum of \$5,826,500 from School Food and Nutrition Services Revenues for Fiscal Year 2009.”

Alderman M. Roy moved to read the Resolution by title only. Alderman Pinard duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Appropriating Resolution:

“A Resolution appropriating to the Manchester School Food and Nutrition Services Program the sum of \$5,826,500 from School Food and Nutrition Services Revenues for Fiscal Year 2009.”

Alderman O'Neil moved to pass and Enroll the Appropriating Resolution.

Alderman Domaingue duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Lopez stated for the record, the Central Business District is not here. Can you explain that?

Mayor Guinta stated I think that the expectation was to take that final piece of the budget up on Tuesday.

*Alderman Gatsas made a motion relating to the expendable trust on page 3 of the document previously presented, that even though it cannot be part of the Resolution, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen votes that they understand that 'they will replace old computers, computer notebooks, restore math resources, supplies and textbooks and student information' is part of that \$1 million expendable trust so that we all will understand that that was what was discussed and that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen will take a vote. **Alderman Lopez** duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.*

*There being no further business, on motion of **Alderman Smith**, duly seconded by **Alderman Pinard**, it was voted to adjourn.*

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk