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2 Oct 12

Mr. Dana Argo, Chair
Hooksett School Board
90 Farmer Road
Hooksett, NH 03106

Re: 2003 High School Maintenance Agreement/Manchester and Hooksett

Dear Mr. Argo and Members of the Hooksett School Board:

The Manchester Board of School Committee has directed me to send this correspondence in reference to the letter you sent on September 6, 2012 regarding the 2003 High School Maintenance Agreement/Manchester and Hooksett.

In response to the statements from some of your parents (Page 2, Paragraph 2), I provide the following:

- “Parents have informed the Hooksett School Board that class sizes are typically in the mid to high 30’s and that some classes have as many as 44 students enrolled.”
 - At the beginning of the school year, there were classes in the mid to high thirties, as well as, three math classes above 40. Since the addition of teaching staff, we anticipate that there will be a significant reduction in the number of classes with thirty or more students and all math classes will be below 30 students. I will provide an update to you on 4 Oct 12 this will allow time for the student schedules to be finalized.
- “What is more, it has been reported that some students do not have desks or a seat these over crowded classrooms...”
 - This is not an accurate statement. The administration has been monitoring the classrooms and continues to do so to ensure that there are enough desks and seats. There may have been some delay in responding to requests when students had been reassigned due to schedule changes but these were immediately resolved.

Chairman Argo

2 Oct 12

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- ...some students do not have text books for the classes in which they were enrolled.”
 - This is true; however, all the text books have been ordered to meet the student's needs and are arriving daily.
- “Furthermore, it has been reported that lunch schedules for students start as early as 9:30 a.m. and go as late as 2:30 p.m.”
 - The cafeteria opens its doors at 9:30 am for students to have snacks. The first scheduled lunch begins at 10:30 am and the last lunch period ends at 1:45 pm.
- “Level 4 students are enrolled in blended classes with Level 2 and 3 students because of a lack of space in Level 4 classes.”
 - At no time were three levels blended into one class. There may be a blending of two levels (i.e. Spanish Level 4-5). There are very few classes that have two blended levels

I have been constant contact with the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner regarding class size and meet with them on a regular basis to update them on the Manchester School District's compliance with school approval requirements.

The Board of School Committee has asked that a meeting be established with your Board to review your concerns, the steps we have taken to date, remedies, and future options we can explore to maintain our relationship with the Hooksett School District. Specifically, the Board of School Committee would like to determine the level of interest your Board may have in respect to Manchester High School West.

The Board of School Committee looks forward to an earnest discussion relative to your letter of 6 Sep 12 and the potential of resolving your concerns.

For the Board of School Committee,


Thomas J. Brennan, Jr., EdD

Superintendent of Schools
Manchester School District

Copies to:

Members of the Manchester Board of School Committee

Dr. Charles P. Littlefield, Superintendent SAU #15

Dr. Virginia Barry, Commissioner of Education