



December 19, 2019

MCS would like to thank everyone who participated in the Special Meeting last evening. These are challenging times with very complex topics, and together we can create outcomes that will help us move forward.

We would like to thank the presenters for providing valuable education to the board and to the community. Unfortunately, the gender identity presentation was not specific to the fears related to gender diverse students as we requested. The board and the community received this information at the same time as conducive to a transparent work session; however, it did not reflect current instructional practices of Manchester Community Schools.

We would like to thank the patrons who spoke publicly, and with minor exceptions, were respectful in all of their comments. We received valuable feedback and potential outcomes from the small group discussions that will move towards our next steps. This information will be compiled by the administration and shared with the board and the community in the near future.

We teach our students that when conflicts arise, it is important to stand up for what you believe, and also to listen respectfully to others' views and opinions, even if they differ from their own. The small group activity modeled this for our students and we thank those individuals who participated and assisted us in the process of working together on possible outcomes.

As a recap of our Special Meeting, Title IX is statutory law that protects people from discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities that receive Federal funding. Federal case law has interpreted such protection to extend to transgender students, including access to restrooms and locker rooms that aligns with a student's gender identity. Manchester Community Schools follows what is required by the law, both statutory law and case law, and will operate in a nondiscriminatory manner.

Thank you for choosing Manchester Community Schools!

