

**Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2024 (Not Yet Approved)
Monadnock Regional Middle/High School, Swanzey, NH**

School Board Members Present: Scott Peters, Edmond LaPlante, Lisa Steadman, Betty Tatro, Cheryl McDaniel-Thomas, Eric Stanley, Dan LeClair, Hannah Blood, Kristen Noonan, Jeff Cesaitis and Gina Carraro, **Absent:** Brian Bohannon and Jennifer Strimbeck.

Administration Present: J. Rathbun, Superintendent and J. Morin, Business Administrator.

1. **CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER at 7:00 PM:** S. Peters called the meeting to order.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no public comments.

3. **Celebrate # MRSD:**

a. **Powerlifting Club Medal Swag:** Congratulations to Asia Rajaniemi, Damien Marcinkiewz, Gabe MacMaster and Tyler Wilforth for taking first place in their Powerlifting weight class.

Congratulations to the Monadnock Varsity Baseball Team for winning the D3 Championship. E. Stanley commented on the awesome parade that followed when the boys returned home.

MOTION: E. Stanley **MOVED** to award swag to both the Powerlifting Champions and the Varsity Baseball Team. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.834. **Motion passes.**

b. **Graduation:** J.Rathbun mentioned that the High School Graduation went very well. Everyone was very happy.

c. **Night Graduation:** J. Rathbun explained that there were 7 students who participated in the Night Graduation which is similar to the regular graduation but smaller.

d. **MTC Ground Breaking Ceremony:** J. Rathbun explained that the District had the groundbreaking ceremony for MTC. It is a totally different world at MTC now. It is bittersweet and the site is huge. They are still hunting for the time capsule.

4. **MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION**

a. **Deliver Instructional Plan to Board:** J. Rathbun explained the Instructional Plan to the Board. The District is moving forward with the New MATH Program. The program will be put in place for 2024-2025. A team is being put together to concentrate on the ELA. There is a real need to switch how we teach reading. It is an outstanding team of

teachers and specialists. They will go through the materials and figure on what is best for the students and it will be funded with CARES Funds. Whitten Wisdom is a complex reading program, very challenging and will take 2 years to implement. There will be a lot of professional development available. Next year there will be a focus on the Arts. This will be a major focus for the Assistant Superintendent to focus on these areas. This is realistic and not much of a cost. There will be CARES funds available.

b. NHSBA Call for Resolutions: It was explained that each district who is part of the NHSBA is able to submit a number of resolutions to the assembly. The NHSBA will take a stance on what the Board comes up with and support or not support. S. Peters is asking the Board Members to bring a resolution to the full Board and they will vote on it to see if they would like it to go forward to the Assembly. L. Steadman has an idea for a resolution that she will be forwarding to S. Peters.

c. Policy Committee Annual Review: K. Noonan presented the Policy Committee's Annual Review which was in the April 16, 2024 Board packet. She commented on the policy log which lists all of the policies. The committee will look at policies required by law and in the bulletin that comes out twice a year first. This year the committee has been reviewing more difficult policies. One of the goals is to train the policy committee members on the upgrades for BoardDocs and to inform the public on the policy process. E. LaPlante commented on Policy AC. Please send any questions to K. Noonan prior to the next meeting regarding policies for first read.

d. Policies 1st Read:

i. JICD: Student Discipline & Due Process

ii. JICG, ADC, GBED: Prohibitions Regarding Use & Possession of Tobacco Products

iii. JKAA: Use of Restraints & Seclusion

iv. IHBA: Programs for Pupils w/Disabilities

v. IHBA-R: Procedural Safeguards for Children w/Disabilities

vi. GBCD-R-RD: Professional/Staff Positions (Criminal Records)

vii. JJJ-Access to Public School Programs by Nonpublic, Charter & Home-Educated

viii. JLCJ - Concussions and Head Injuries

ix. AC- Non-Discrimination, Equal Opportunity Employment & District Anti-Discrimination

x. ACE- Procedural Safeguards: Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Handicap/Disability

xi. ACF- Food Nutrition Services: Non-Discrimination & Civil Rights Complaints

xii. ADB/GBEC - Drug-Free Workplace & Drug-Free Schools

xiii. DAFB - Equivalence in Instructional Staff & Materials e.

Standing agenda:

e. Student Government Report: There is no Student Government Report.

f. Standing agenda: Board Meeting Calendar & Goals Update: The Board reviewed the committee dates for future meetings. The committees reviewed their goals to make sure they are on track. S. Peters appointed D. LeClair to the CRC. They will meet on July 2, 2024. J. Rathbun will send the survey the administration is doing to J. Cesaitis so he can compare it with the surveys of the CRC.

5. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION

a. * Capital Improvement Plan for MRMHS (Motion from Finance)

MOTION: C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to delay a programming study of the MRMHS to add detail to the Capital Improvement Plan until after 2024. **SECOND:** B. Tatro.

DISCUSSION: C. McDaniel-Thomas explained that the elementary school renovation project is going on and if there are items that need to be fixed they will get done. It is not saying that there may not be a warrant article proposed in the Fall. It was commented that the architect and the administration would be needed to do the study. It would delay the focus on the elementary school renovations if the Board agreed on the study. It is suggested to let it ride for a year.

VOTE: 11.166/0/0/1.834. **Motion passes.**

b. * Multi-Age Classroom Study: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to direct the Superintendent to research and report on multi-age classrooms in the district looking at the budget impact, principal/staff and parent/guardian input. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** K. Noonan said that she has had feedback from parents saying that the multi-age classrooms are not going well. She would like to hear from the teachers, staff and parents. She would like to look at all of the schools. C. McDaniel-Thomas asked why this motion is directing the Superintendent and not a building level issue. L. Steadman asked if this should go to the Education Committee. J. Rathbun said that he will not personally do the research. It is a good opportunity to see if it still works and look at the numbers in the budget. He is welcoming the study. **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.834. **Motion passes.**

c. * Superintendent Goals for 2024/25: S. Peters passed out the Superintendent goals for the Board to review. K. Noonan questioned the goal regarding the Elementary School Renovation Project. J. Rathbun explained that he has a voice to make it clear of the situations that might arise. He will advocate for the Board and present the monthly reports to keep the Board updated. E. Stanley commented that nobody cares. There is no participation from the staff or Board. There were only 4 Board Members in attendance at Graduation and 2 at the Boy's Championship baseball game. S. Peters said the principal should be setting the tone for the culture at the schools. J. Rathbun commented that there are too few people doing too many jobs. There is a survey conducted by Marzano. K. Noonan commented that the elementary schools have very engaged staff. They go above and beyond. E. Stanley commented that people are doing their job but not getting involved. J. Rathbun commented that it is not that they do not

care, they need to have time. What is the incentive to free up their time? They do care. S.Peters suggested the next meeting the goals of the principals. J. Rathbun said they would have to be depersonalized. S.Peters said it would be great to hear from the building principals. E.Stanley said the issue is at the MRMHS. **MOTION:** S.Peters **MOVED** to approve the 2024/25 Superintendent Goals as presented. **SECOND:** J. Cesaitis. **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.184. **Motion passes.** The Board discussed ways to get everyone involved.

d. * Motion to empower the Superintendent to Hire: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to empower the Superintendent to hire certified staff without the Board approval until the 2nd Board Meeting in September. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.184. **Motion passes.**

e. * Motion to approve Data Governance Plan: This item will be moved to the next agenda.

f. * Motions to encumber funds, if any: J.Morin explained that the Board did vote to retain funds and could use those funds for the warrant articles.

g. * Manifest signatures during Summer Approve the Consent Agenda

i. May 21st, 2024 Minutes

ii. June 4th, 2024 Minutes

iii. Manifest MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the consent agenda: to approve the May 21, 2024 School Board/Budget Committee Joint Meeting Minutes, the June 4, 2024 Emergency Meeting and the Manifest in the amount of \$ 3,385,832.01. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.184. (L. Steadman Zoom) **Motion passes.**

J. Rathbun passed out the vacancy sheets which were presented to the Budget Committee last night. He mentioned that they were very happy with the sheets. There are now only 20 vacancies. There are about 4 or 5 applicants going through the process. We are in great shape. The Budget Committee also had asked for information on the steps and lanes of the MESSA Group which they received.

MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to assign 3 Board Members to visit the SAU to sign the manifest throughout the summer. C. McDaniel-Thomas, J. Cesaitis and B. Tatro have volunteered. (Other Board Members may sign as alternates as needed.) **SECOND:** J. Cesaitis. **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.184. **Motion passes.**

6. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

- a. Non-Meeting**
- b. Policy 2nd Read**
- c. Policy DFA and Policy JLDBB**
- d. Instructional Plan**
- e. Student Tuition Rate**

- f. **Proposed Budget Items**
- g. **Data Governance Approval**
- h. **Overview of Fine Arts Program**

MOTION: C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to hire Plodzick & Sanderson as the individual auditor for the 2023-2024 fiscal audit. **SECOND:** E. LaPlante **DISCUSSION:** K. Noonan would ask that the administration look at another firm for the next fiscal year. **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.184. **Motion passes.**

7. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments.

8. **9:16 PM Motion to Enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (b) The Hiring of any person as a Public Employee:** **MOTION:** K.Noonan **MOVED** to Enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (b) The Hiring of any person as a Public Employee **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.184. **Motion passes.**

L.Steadman leaves Zoom.

9. **9:23 PM Motion to Enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely adversely affect the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting.** **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to Enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely adversely affect the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. **SECOND:** C.McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE:** 10.172/0/0/2.829. **Motion passes.**

10. **ADJOURNMENT:** **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 PM. **SECOND:** **VOTE:** 10.172/0/0/2.829. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY:Yes/No/Abstain/Absent