

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
April 16 2024
Monadnock Regional Middle/High School, Swanzey, NH

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

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 at 7:00 PM.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

3. Celebrate # MRSD: J. Rathbun had just attended the Middle School Track Meet. He said it was great to see everyone enjoying the great weather and the meet. Beyond the Bell is taking charge of the Husky House during the events. Monadnock Sports Analytics students will be attending a Fisher Cats baseball game and using the stats from the game to come up with answers for the class. Holocaust through Humanities Class will be going to see the Auschwitz exhibit in Boston. Monadnock students have won 5 medals at the NH/VT Championship Powerlifting Competition. Congratulations!!!
May 6-10 is Teacher Appreciation Week.
May 11, 2024 is the Monadnock Prom at Stonewall Farm.
May 23, 2024 is Night School Graduation.
June 8, 2024 is Graduation.
There were about 40-50 people in attendance at the Spaghetti Dinner put on by the Band Program. The Jazz Band gave a great performance.
Two students were chosen for All-State. Congratulations!! **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to award swag to the students who attended the All-State Music Festival. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **DISCUSSION:** The Board discussed the issue. **VOTE:** 11.868/0/0/1.132. **Motion passes.**

4. MATTERS FOR SCHOOL BOARD INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

a. Standing Agenda: Student Government Report: O. Higgins is not in attendance tonight.

b. Career Milestones & Retirement Celebration: Those wishing to attend the Career Milestone and Retirement Celebration please RSVP L.Sutton.

c. Update on Principal Search Committee: The committee will be following policy regarding the principal search. The first meeting of the committee was today. There are

candidates but accepting applications is still going on. The committee will be developing questions for the April 29, 2024 meeting. S. Nikiforakis said the committee expects a recommendation by the end of May. J. Rathbun commented that the nomination for the new MRMHS Principal will be at the first meeting in June.

d. Superintendent Contract Discussion: B. Bohannon commented that the former superintendent is now being paid in another district as a part time superintendent while still being paid from this district. He said we pay out, she double dips and he fears trade secrets. This is an opportunity to discuss the issue. S.Peters would caution the Board regarding reputation. B. Bohannon is discussing contract language. K. Noonan commented that the payout was due to the new hire and the Board agreed to the release. B. Bohannon would like to discuss contract language stating not to allow any job opportunities at the same level until the end of the payout. **MOTION:** S.Nikiforakis **MOVED** to have the Board Chair/Vice Chair engage with legal counsel to research options and to add a non-compete clause to the SAU administration contracts. **SECOND:** E. LaPlante **VOTE:** 4.513/6.361/.995/1.132. **Motion fails.**

e. NHSBA Website & Seminar Updates: S.Peters explained that there are a lot of good seminars and information on the website from the NHSBA. He would suggest the new members sign up for New School Board Orientation.

f. Standing agenda: Board Meeting Calendar and Goals Update: S.Peters reviewed the Board Meeting Calendar for the upcoming weeks.

g. Teacher Appreciation Week: J.Rathbun explained there is no need to vote to fund Teacher Appreciation Week because it is part of the operating budget. K. Noonan would like to know what the district will be doing for the staff prior to the delivering of the gifts. It was commented that it is a matter of secrecy. The administration does not want the surprise ruined. Maybe a private email. S.Peters commented that it might be a great idea during that week to have the Board Members visit their town schools.

h. Policies for First Read:

i. BID-Stipend Policy: K.Noonan explained that the committee reviewed the proposed Policy BID provided by S. Peters and tweaked it. The committee provided the amount of funds that would be required with the new proposed policy to pay the members. There is an increase from the current policy. Please review the policy prior to the next meeting.

ii. FF-Naming New Facilities: K. Noonan asked that the Board Members please read the Policy FF prior to the next meeting.

5. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. Approve Committee Charters and Goals:

i. Policy: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to accept the Policy Charter as revised by the Policy Committee. **SECOND:** S. Nikiforakis. **VOTE:** 11.686/0/0/1.132. **Motion passes. MOTION:** K.Noonan **MOVED** to accept the Policy Committee Goals as presented. **SECOND:** S. Nikiforakis. **VOTE:** 11.868/0/0/1.132. **Motion passes.**

ii. Extracurricular: The Extra Curricular Committee has not met. E. Stanley, J. Rathbun and S.Peters will meet to discuss the committee.

iii. CRC: MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** to accept the modified CRC

Charter as presented. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **VOTE:** 11.868/0/0/1.132. **Motion passes.** The committee explained the goals for the CRC to the Board. The goals of the committee involved surveys. J. Rathbun explained that you can not send out a student survey. The students need to opt in. He explained that he has spoken to legal counsel. He also said that this time of year is hard. He would say the best time for a survey is early September or October. J. Cesaitis would like to get them in the moment. J. Rathbun commented that he is looking out for the staff and students. Do not make decisions on one survey. K. Noonan would like to review the survey. She mentioned that members of the committee can not share on google doc. She is not happy about a lot of surveys. S. Peters is not saying no to the survey but maybe the timing. J. Rathbun explained the district has a survey going out that the district is paying for. We have people designing the survey and it may have the information you are looking for. J. Rathbun mentioned Goal #5 which refers to mailers, publications and newsletters regarding the Elementary Renovation Project. He explained that he is discussing with the PR firm to do a lot of that work. J. Morin and K. Barker will be attending a Planning Board Meeting to provide updates. He asked if the Board would want a groundbreaking ceremony. It was commented on to figure out how to tune the goals. **MOTION:** S. Nikiforakis **MOVED** to approve the CRC goals as presented. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE:** 11.868/0/0/1.132. **Motion passes.**

iv. **Finance/Facilities:** There are no changes to the Finance Charter. There is no vote required. The Finance/Facilities Committee presented their goals to the Board. The Board reviewed the goals. **MOTION:** S. Nikiforakis **MOVED** to accept the Finance/Facilities Goals for 2024/25 as presented. **SECOND:** J. Cesaitis. **VOTE:** 11.868/0/0/1.132. **Motion passes.**

v. **Education:** There were no changes to the Education/Technology Charter. There is no vote required. G. Carraro, Chair of the Ed/Tech read the goals to the Board. The Board had a conversation on the Cell Phone Policy. J. Rathbun explained that the handbook is complete. The cell phones are not the kids, it is the parents who want the kids to have their phones. J. Rathbun commented if the Board is going with an aggressive policy it should be done early. The struggle is with the parents. B. Tatro feels that the full Board should work on this first. J. Rathbun would suggest that the principals attend a meeting and discuss the issue with the Ed/Tech Committee. **MOTION:** S. Nikiforakis **MOVED** to accept the Education/Technology Committee Goals for 2024/25 as presented. **SECOND:** J. Cesaitis. **VOTE:** 11.868/0/0/1.132. **Motion passes.**

b. **Pre-K-Troy School:** J. Rathbun explained Title One schools in the district can not be used to supplant socioeconomic students. There is a test to make sure that it is done correctly and we failed at Troy. There are too few students to adults. The simple fix is to go down a classroom in Troy. The District has already budgeted for that teacher. It was suggested to reopen the Troy Pre K program. We have a need and Troy is the only place that makes sense. It is suggested to reopen the Pre K rather than reducing staff. There is no budget impact. **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to reopen the Pre K at the Troy School for 2024/25. **SECOND:** L. Steadman. **DISCUSSION:** J. Rathbun mentioned that the outdoor space is an issue. **VOTE:** 11.868/0/0/1.132. **Motion passes.**

c. **Policies for 2nd Read:**

i. **JLF-Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect:**
ii. **IKL-Academic Honesty & Integrity:**
iii. **KCD-Public Gifts?Donations: MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to accept Policy JLF and Policy KCD as presented. **SECOND:** S. Nikiforakis. **VOTE:** 11.868/0/0/1.132. **Motion passes.** The hope is to vote on Policy IKL at the next meeting.

d. **Approve the Consent Agenda:**
i. **April 2, 2024 Minutes**
ii. **Manifest: MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to approve the Consent Agenda:April 2, 2024 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented and the manifest in amount of \$1,964,350.66. **SECOND:** S. Nikiforakis. **VOTE:** 11.868/0/0/1.132. **Motion passes.**

6. SETTING NEXT MEETING’S AGENDA:

- a. **Elementary Renovation Ceremonies**
- b. **Cell Phone Policy**
- c. **Organizational Chart Overview**
- d. **Marzano Overview**
- e. **Overview of Fine Arts Program**
- f. **Policy BID Board Stipends**
- g. **Powerlifting Medal Swag**

7. **Public Comments:** It was asked if there is any new information regarding the idea of the Winchester students coming to Monadnock. J. Rathbun explained the Winchester Board is forming a committee to study this. There is no new information.

8. **9:00 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:** S. Nikiforakis. **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:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 11.868/0/0/1.132. **Motion passes.**

9. **ADJOURNMENT: MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 PM. **SECOND:** J. Cesaitis **VOTE:** 11.868/0/0/1.132. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY: Yes/No/Abstain/Absent