

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
April 2, 2024
Monadnock Regional Middle/High School, Swanzey, NH

Members Present: Scott Peters, Edmond LaPlante, Lisa Steadman, Stephanie Lawlor, Betty Tatro, Cheryl McDaniel-Thomas, Eric Stanley, Jeff Cesaitis, Dan LeClair, Kristen Noonan, Gina Carraro and Brian Bohannon. **Absent:** 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 at 7:00 PM.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no public comments.
3. **Celebrate # MRSD:** On April 13, 2024 the MRMHS Band will be hosting a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser. There are over 130 6th grade students attending the Ecology School this year. Registration is closed for summer camp. There are 254 students signed up. Title One will offer tutoring for the MRMHS students over the summer. K. Noonan reported that Beyond the Bell held a 5th grade/6th grade dance at Cutler. It was well attended and a nice time.
4. **MATTERS FOR SCHOOL BOARD INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:**
 - a. **Recap from First Budget Committee Meeting:** E. Sheldon was voted in as the Chair of the Budget Committee and N.Carney was voted in as the Vice Chair. The next meeting is on April 23, 2024. The committee has asked for a presentation from J. Morin regarding the information on the documents she supplies to the committee. The Budget Committee will discuss the joint meeting coming up in May. S. Peters let the Board know that Richie HKS Thackston has given his resignation from the Budget Committee. *L.Steadman arrives. D. LeClair arrives.*
 - b. **Board Meeting Calendar Update:** The CRC met this evening. The Board reviewed the calendar of committee meetings.
 - c. **Student Government Report:** O. Higgins reported that the Student Government is working on electing a president for the next school year. The committee is still pursuing AP Class opportunities that are not available at Monadnock. O. Higgins had spoken to the principal at Hinsdale regarding the AP Classes that they have. O.Higgins will be speaking to L. Spencer regarding this issue. J.Rathbun explained that the classes in question will be available next year.
 - d. **Educational Report: Annual Spec. Education State of the District:** C.Woods explained the history of Special Education. She explained what an IEP is and explained that there is parent involvement in the team meetings. The meetings are based on data to determine if an

IEP is needed. She then listed all of the educational disabilities that would allow an IEP. The district is required to provide special education to children with disabilities from Pre K to age 22. C. Woods presented the total students by disabilities at all schools. Out of District placement is a team decision and reviewed and approved by C. Woods. Some of the placements are due to unsafe behavior. There are no out of district placements due to poor academic behavior. S. Peters asked if there was more staff could we keep the kids here. C. Woods said she is not sure. The district had them stay but then had to leave. She is not sure that there was proper training. Some of the students had dangerous behaviors. S. Lawlor would like to look at the cost to keep the students in the district. C. Woods said it would depend on the placement. J. Rathbun said there are too many unique needs. There would be a need for a separate building. C. Woods said in the coming year currently there are two new out of district students, some will graduate and some will leave the placement. They are hopeful that it will even out. C. Woods presented a list of placement sites. The NH rates are set by the State. The district does provide the transportation to the out of district placements. We are obligated to provide transportation. C. Woods explained that the district has received a letter from the State that says the district meets their requirements for IDEA. B. Tatro thanked C. Woods for the presentation. C. Woods said that continued training will help with making sure the district is in compliance. J. Rathbun mentioned that the administration is in the process of starting to write the district's internal monitoring procedures. C. Woods explained that transportation is an issue for the district as well as staffing. In preschool we need to discuss spacing. This is a growing population. J. Rathbun explained the administration has been brainstorming and will give ideas at the next meeting.

e. Educational Report: IReady Trimester 2: J. Rathbun explained that IReady is one of the many vendors that offer growth data through the CARES funds. It shows intervention and intervention components. You can not compare it year to year and can not look at student growth. Our kids are growing throughout the year. They are staying at the same level of growth each year but not with a big improvement. This is only one test. The principals and teachers review the data. The PLCs will review the data at each grade level. It was explained that there are very few students that opt out of this test. More information on student improvement was asked for by Board Members. J. Rathbun will prepare a report on the report card information. He reported that there is improvement in grades K-4 but there is concern in the middle school. The SAT and PSAT results will not be back until the summer. J. Rathbun will follow up on the absenteeism and behavior report at a future meeting.

f. FY2025 Federal Funds & General Assurance Notification: J. Rathbun explained that every year the district will receive Federal Funds. Title 1 Funds, Title 2 Funds, Title 3 Funds, Title 4 Funds, 4a and 4b and Title 5 Funds. J. Rathbun explained each of the amounts of each fund that the district will be receiving as well as where the funds are used. J. Rathbun and S. Peters will sign off to indicate that we have federal compliance policies.

g. Policies for First Read:

- i. JLF-Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect:**
- ii. IKL-Academic Honesty & Integrity:**

iii. **KCD-Public Gifts?Donations:** K. Noonan explained that the committee would like to have the administration review the cell phone policy. The committee does not believe that it is being followed. The committee would like to send Policy JICJ back to the Education Committee. They would also like to send the stipend policy back to the Board.

h. **Q & A of the Auditor's Annual Report:** C.McDaniel-Thomas commented that this was a favorable report. J. Morin commented on the new GASB Accounting Methods. She said there is no change and all districts will follow this. There are new standards. The district does not have to adopt but will follow. J. Morin commented that the report cited the Gilsum and MRMHS Student Activity Account. *E.Stanley leaves the meeting.* J. Morin explained that the Business Office does not oversee the student activity accounts, the schools do. She said it is not a finding. They were reaching. We do not need to make improvements. S.Peters asked J. Morin a few questions about the auditor's report.

5. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. **MS-22 Signatures:** The MS-22 was passed to the Board Members to be signed.

b. **Long-Term Sub Rate-Paraprofessional: MOTION:** S.Lawlor **MOVED** to set the paraprofessional sub-rate pay to \$125.00 a day. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

c. **Eclipse:** L.Steadman suggested an early release day on April 8, 2024 due to the Eclipse. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to have an early release day on April 8, 2024. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **DISCUSSION:** K. Noonan felt that it would be a hardship to the parents. C. McDaniel-Thomas said that it was a better notice than a snow day. S. Lawlor agreed with K. Noonan. C. McDaniel-Thomas said the students should not be on the buses because they may look into the sun. **VOTE:** 2.126/9.040/0/ 1.834. **Motion fails.**

d. **Approve the Consent Agenda:**

i. **March 19, 2024 Minutes**

ii. **Manifest: MOTION:** S.Peters **MOVED** to approve the Consent Agenda:March 19, 2024 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented and the manifest in amount of \$1,240,309.89. **SECOND:** B.Tatro. **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.834. **Motion passes.**

e. **MOTION:**S.Lawlor **MOVED** to approve the March 19, 2024 Sealed Non-Public Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.834. **Motion passes.**

6. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

a. **Non-compete clause in Superintendent Contracts during window of payout.**

b. **Overview of Fine Arts Program**

c. **Policy BID Board Stipends**

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

8. **9:29 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:** S. Lawlor **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.834. **Motion passes.**

9. 9:34 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:** 11.166/0/0/1.834. **Motion passes.**

10. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:39 PM. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.834. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY:Yes/No/Abstain/Absent