

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
March 19, 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, Jennifer Strimbeck, Jeff Cesaitis, Dan LeClair, Kristen Noonan, Gina Carraro and Brian Bohannon.

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

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER at 7:00 PM by Superintendent Rathbun: J. Rathbun called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS: E.LaPlante is part of the Constitution Party in NH and has been asked to run for Governor. He wanted to be transparent to the Board. He did not want to hide anything.

3. Celebrate # MRSD: J. Rathbun spoke on behalf of the staff to congratulate S.Peters, B. Bohannon, K. Noonan and C.McDaniel-Thomas as re-elected members of the School Board. Congratulations to everyone who participated in the SpongeBob Musical. The performance was outstanding.

Title One, Beyond the Bell, Mt.Caesar Union Library and the Swanzey Rec Dept. will have a pre Solar Eclipse Party.

4. BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING:

a. Recap of District Votes from March 12th: Great news all of the warrant articles passed.

b. Welcome New Board Members: The previous Board Members were re-elected and sworn in by L. Sutton. There are a few new Budget Committee Members.

c. Election of School Board and SAU officers:

i. Board Chair: MOTION: D. LeClair **MOVED** to nominate S. Peters as the Board Chair. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **MOTION:** S. Lawlor **MOVED** to nominate L.Steadman as the Board Chair. **SECOND:** K. Noonan **L.Steadman declined. VOTE for S.Peters as Chair.** 12.005/0/.995/0. **Motion passes. S.Peters takes over the meeting.**

ii. Board Vice Chair: MOTION: D.LeClair **MOVED** to nominate L.Steadman as Vice Board Chair. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 12.005/0/.995/0. **Motion passes.**

iii. Board Treasurer and Secretary: MOTION: S.Peters **MOVED** to nominate C. McDaniel-Thomas as the Board Treasurer/Secretary. **SECOND:** D.LeClair. **VOTE:**11.868/0/1.132/0. **Motion passes.**

d. Board Member Documentation:

i. Contact Sheet: The contact sheet was passed out to the Board Members. Any corrections or updates should be handed back to the Chair.

ii. BCA/BCA-R (Ethics Commitment Form): S.Peters asked the Board Members to sign the Ethics Commitment Form and return it to him tonight.

iii. Review 2023/24 Board Self-Evaluation: S.Peters explained 9 people had returned the Board Self-Evaluation. S.Peters reviewed the evaluation. In Policy there is a great committee commitment. S.Peters would like an update on the status of the policies. The relationship of the Superintendent was confusing to some; they were not sure if the question was referring to L.Witte or J. Rathbun. Effective Board Meetings are scheduled for every other week every month. The Board needs to be considerate of the administration regarding the amount of information being requested. It was commented that at times there may be a need for an extra meeting for important issues. K.Noonan mentioned that there were canceled meetings due to snow. Communication with the Public the members felt the Board did a great job. The voters were very supportive regarding the votes on the warrant articles and Board Members. Strategic Planning is going well. The District is in the second year of the Elementary School Renovation Project. There are no plans for the SAU and the Board is not finished with the MRMHS. Working also on the Strategic Plan is the Education/Technology Committee. The committee is taking a look at the Marzano Plan.

iv. Board Goal Setting Process:The Annual Goals of the Board are being worked on the CIP for the SAU and MRMHS have not been completed. K. Barker has been very busy with the Elementary School Renovation Project. The Board will need a concrete plan from the Finance/Facilities. The Education Philosophy was not completely done due to running out of time. L.Sutton created a chart to keep track of the participation of Board Members at committee meetings and Board Meetings. S.Peters commented on the steady improvement in administration. The more positive the School Board is for our kids the happier the staff is. The Board was 100% aligned with the Budget Committee. He feels it is due to the representative on the Budget Committee and the 2 joint meetings that were held. He would suggest the Board Members work on meeting participation. He would like the Board to work on Policy, budget process, timing and earlier goal results. The Board Members discussed ways to communicate and ways to get feedback from the students, staff and public. J.Rathbun explained that he and L.Witte developed a digital form. The employee feedback would go to the Superintendent and then brought to the Board. B. Bohannon commented listen to the issue, review the issue and let the staff know the solution. S.Peters commented we did not have a CRC. The Board spoke about

town newsletters and the website as a means of communication.

e. Evaluate Standing Committees (Policy BDE)

i. Committee Assignments and Schedule and Proposed Board &

Committee Goal: K. Noonan will be the representative from the Board to the CCC. The Policy Committee Members will be L.Steadman, K.Noonan and C.McDaniel-Thomas. S.Peters would like the Policy Committee to look at the Policies related to Students. This will help the Education Committee with what they will be looking for regarding their Strategic Educational Plan. K. Noonan commented that the 3 members are very busy and at times can not meet. K. Noonan will be the only member on the Wellness Committee. The members on Negotiations will be L.Steadman, B.Tatro and C. McDaniel-Thomas. The MDEA Contract will be negotiated this year. Extra-Curricular Committee will be E.Stanley, B. Bohannon and D. LeClair. S.Peters would like the committee to work on the stipends. E.Stanley commented that the committee can not be successful unless there is support by the administration. The committee does not get feedback from the building. People are invited to attend and do not. The Education/Tech Committee members are S.Lawlor, E. LaPlante and G. Carraro. The Finance/Facilities Members are B. Tatro, C.McDaniel-Thomas, E. Stanley and J. Cesaitis. S.Peters would like the committee to work on revising the Budget process, the MRMHS and SAU CIP and SAU non-bargaining compensation analysis. L.Steadman suggested the Finance and Facilities Committee break into 2 committees. J.Rathbun commented that the administration attends the construction meeting once a week and an administrator attends the committee meetings. Members would like to be more involved in the everyday issues of the Elementary School Renovation Project. J. Rathbun commented that with a project this size the School Board cannot be asked to make day to day decisions. There are people in place. E.Stanley agrees with L.Steadman. The committee should separate out. J.Morin commented that the finance part of the meeting is about 15 minutes long. The Elementary School Renovations are discussed and there are no other big items as promised going to the voters. We are limited in the discussion. E.Stanley commented that way back the Facilities Committee met with the Building and Grounds Director not the administrators. B.Tatro will be the Budget Committee representative and L.Steadman will be the Legislative liaison. S.Peters would like the Finance Committee to revise the budget process, complete the CIP and the SAU compensation analysis. J. Rathbun commented that an administrator will be present at the committee meetings. S.Peters decided to leave the Finance and Facilities Committee as one committee and give homework.

f. Proposed Board Meeting Time/Date/Standard Snow Dates: The Board will meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. The Policy Committee will meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. The Finance/Facilities Committee will meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. CRC will meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month prior to the Board meeting. Ed/Tech will meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month. S.Peters would ask the committees to review their Charters, goals and present a schedule and plan for the year.

g. Budget Committee Meetings: The Budget Committee will meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month.

5. MATTERS FOR SCHOOL BOARD INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

a. Student Government Report: O.Higgins is not present tonight.

6. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. Use of Building and Grounds Trust Funds (\$25,000) for Wilcox moisture remediation: It was explained that the administration would like to use \$25,000.00 from the School Building Maintenance Trust Fund to take care of the mold, mildew and damaged carpet in the downstairs of the Wilcox Building. They wanted to use the ESSER funds but there were issues. **MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to approve the use of up to \$25,000.00 from the School Building Maintenance Trust Fund as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** S. Lawlor. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

b. MRMHS Roofing Project Bids: J. Morin explained that there was a warrant article to repair portions of the MRMHS roof. There was a remaining balance of unused funds and the administration would like to use those funds to repair the roof over the girl's locker room. The District received 3 bids and they would recommend the bid in the amount of \$46,895 from A.L. Johnson & Sons Roofing to repair the roof over the girl's locker room. **MOTION:** J. Cesaitis. **MOVED** to approve the use of the remaining funds from the 2023 Roof Repair Warrant Article to fund the remaining roof work and to accept the bid from A.L. Johnson & Sons Roofing in the amount of \$46,895. **SECOND:** D. LeClair. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

c. Long-Term Sub Rate-Paraprofessional: The Board will discuss this issue at the next meeting.

d. Field Trip Request: The 10th grade English Class is asking the Board to approve a field trip out of New England. The students are asking to go on a field trip to New York. They are doing research on 9/11. This is a one-day trip. **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the request from the 10th grade English Class to attend a field trip in NY. **SECOND:** D.LeClair. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

e. High Reliability School Book: J. Rathbun and the elementary school principals attended the Marzano Summit and will be working with the Education Committee on this information that they received. There is a book for each Board Member to help while they go through the process.

f. Approve the Consent Agenda:

i. February 27, 2024 Minutes

ii. Manifest:

iii. Budget Transfer: MOTION: J. Strimbeck **MOVED** to approve the February 27, 2024 School Board Meeting Minutes as edited, the manifest in amount of \$2,954,386.45, a budget transfer requested by J. Morin in the amount of \$57,300 from Cutler Reading Improvement Salary and benefit lines to the Cutler Regular Instruction Salary and benefit lines, a budget transfer requested by J. Morin in the amount of \$18,449 from the MRMHS Reg. Instruction Health Insurance lines to the Summer School-High School Salary and benefits lines and a budget transfer requested by J. Morin in the amount of \$9857 from the MRMHS Reg. Inst. Salary and benefits lines to the SRO reimbursement line. **SECOND:** S.Lawlor. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve the committee appointments as presented tonight. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

7. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

- a. MS22 Report and Signatures**
- b. Board Calendar**
- c. IReady Report**
- d. Special Education Overview**
- e. Audit Report Q & A**
- f. Policies first read**

8. Public Comments: E. Stanley mentioned a previous discussion about naming part of the Emerson library project in Winston Wright's name. A dedication to Winston Wright. The Board will ask K. Barker for suggestions.

Hayden Burge, a student at Monadnock commented on the discussion the Board had regarding ways to communicate to the public. He suggested an email mailing list. He also said that a suggestion box is a great idea. He was also jealous that he was not able to attend the field trip in 10th grade due to COVID.

9. 9:20 PM Motion to Enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (k) Consideration by a School Board of entering into a student or pupil tuition contract authorized by RSA 194 or RSA 195-A. MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to Enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (k) Consideration by a School Board of entering into a student or pupil tuition contract authorized by RSA 194 or RSA 195-A. **SECOND:** J. Strimbeck. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

10. 9:31 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** 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.

SECOND: S.Lawlor VOTE: 13/0/0/0. Motion passes.

11. 9:39 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: 13/0/0/0. Motion passes.

12. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: K. Noonan MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:59 PM. SECOND: S.Peters VOTE: 13/0/0/0. Motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

**Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary**

VOTING KEY: Yes/No/Abstain/Absent