

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2024 (corrected 3.19.2024)
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 and Jeff Cesaitis. **Absent:** Dan LeClair, Kristen Noonan, Gina Carraro and Brian Bohannon.

Administration Present: J. Rathbun, Superintendent.

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS: S. Lawlor read a letter from Lisa Stewart, a parent in Swanzey who was not able to attend the Board Meeting. L.Stewart expressed her concern regarding a book her Middle School child was reading. It was about Jeffrey Dahmer and she gave graphic details of what is included in the book. She does not believe that this book was appropriate. She said the book should not be in the school. J.Rathbun explained he is aware of the situation. He has not read the book but there are policies and procedures in place. It will go through the proper channels to have it reviewed.

3. Celebrate # MRSD: Congratulations, Gavin Lombara, an 11th grader who won the 55-meter hurdle at the DII State Championship. Congratulations to the Girls Varsity Basketball Team and Coach Condap on a terrific season. Congratulations to 3 students who participated in sports outside of school: Andrew Hopkins for winning the Air Rifle Championship, Noah Steadman for winning the NH Way Wrestling State Championship and Seth Adams for coming in 3rd. Congratulations. **MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to award swag to the athletes mentioned in Celebrate # MRSD. **SECOND:** S. Lawlor. **VOTE:** 8.439/0/.995/3.567. **Motion passes.**

4. MATTERS FOR SCHOOL BOARD INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

a. Student Government Report: Owen Higgins explained there are no developments from the Student Government since the last meeting. The committee will be meeting tomorrow. S.Peters explained the Board will be forming new committees and would like to take input from the Student Government regarding the Board Goals. Owen Higgins did mention that there has been conversation regarding AP Classes. There are some AP Classes available at KHS and not at Monadnock and some available at Monadnock and not KHS. It might be great if we could take the courses not available here at KHS and vice versa. S.Peters commented that sounds like a great idea. He would ask the Student Government to bring their ideas to the next meeting. Owen Higgins mentioned the students have brought this issue to Guidance.

- b. **2023/24 School Board Goals:** The Board reviewed the list of Board Goals.
 - i. **Hire New Superintendent:** MRSD has a new Superintendent Jeremy Rathbun. Congratulations!!! This goal is complete.
 - ii. **Document Educational Philosophy:** The Education Committee has completed this process and the Board voted on it.
 - iii. **Propose First Educational Strategy:** J.Rathbun is working with the principals and the education committee.
 - iv. **Complete Annual CIP:** The Finance and Facilities Committee completed the Annual CIP and it was approved by the Board.
 - v. **Propose Project-Specific Warrant Articles:** There are no project specific warrant articles being proposed.
 - vi. **Cohort Study:** The study continues and is regularly reported out by J.Rathbun.
- c. **Board Self-Evaluations:** S.Peters explained that there were 7 responses for the Board Self-Evaluation. The Board decided to give the members more time to participate. S.Peters will again tally results for the next meeting.
- d. **Cohort Study Final Review:** This study continues and is regularly presented by J. Rathbun to the Board. The Board has not gone through Wellness-Nutrition, Competency-Growth-Achievement and Ready to Launch. We did not get through them. We are 70% complete. The hope is to put this in one big slide deck and continue with it for future years.

5. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. **Approve 24-25 School Calendar: MOTION:** S.Lawlor **MOVED** to approve the 2024-2025 School Calendar as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** S.Peters **MOVED** to amend the calendar to include a 2 week break in December. **SECOND:** L. Steadman **DISCUSSION:** S.Lawlor commented that extending the break is not in the best interest of the students. C.McDaniel-Thomas asked who has asked for this and why are we interested. S.Peters said students, staff and parents have commented on having 2 weeks. It was commented that the challenge is child care. C.McDaniel-Thomas commented on a 12 day to a 16 day break. B.Tatro asked how many people are asking for the extra time. S.Peters said he is not sure. There were comments in his circle of friends. The Board discussed the fact that some students may not get fed if they are not at school. J. Strimbeck commented that the food banks are very generous at the holidays. E.LaPlante asked how much learning will the students get coming back on a Thursday and Friday? **VOTE on the amendment:** 3.823/2.263/0/3.567. **Motion passes. VOTE on amended motion:** 8.302/1.132/0/3.567. **Motion passes.**

- b. **Approve the Consent Agenda:**
 - i. **February 6, 2024 Minutes**
 - ii. **Manifest:**
 - iii. **Budget Transfer: MOTION:** S.Lawlor **MOVED** to approve February 6, 2024 School Board Meeting Minutes, the manifest in amount of \$1,075,962.37 and the budget transfer requested by J. Morin in the amount of \$79,380.00 from Assistant Superintendent Salary

and benefit lines to the Superintendent Salary and benefit lines. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 9.434/0/0/3.567. **Motion passes.**

6. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA

a. Annual Board Organizational Meeting March 19th: S.Peters would like to have the committees of the Board formed at the next meeting so they can move forward and begin the work of the committee. The committees will be able to get a lot of work done in April and May.

7. Public Comments: E. Stanley commented on a recent basketball game against Kearsarge High School. The Monadnock students showed sportsmanship.

The MRMHS SpongeBob Musical will be held March 7, 8 and 9th.

The Board Members are being asked to go to the SAU and sign the manifest because the Board will not be meeting for 3 weeks.

8. 7:46 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: J. Cesaitis **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:** 9.434/0/0/3.567. **Motion passes.**

9. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: J.Cesaitis **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 PM. **SECOND:** S.Lawlor **VOTE:** 9.434/0/0/3.567. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY:Yes/No/Abstain/Absent