

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
EMERGENCY MEETING
School Board Meeting Minutes
December 19, 2023
MRMHS Library, Swanzey, NH

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

Administration Present: L. Walker, Superintendent, J. Rathbun, Assistant Superintendent via Zoom and J. Morin, Business Administrator.

Also Present: Owen Higgins, Student Government Representative.

1. No Quorum: S.Peters explained that the Board does not have a quorum. Some of the members are ill or out of town. He can call an Emergency Meeting. There will not be any action taken tonight. After the public comments the Board will discuss with the administration and they in turn may provide a recommendation.

2. Public Comments: Heather Dean of Swanzey has a concern regarding the date of the graduation. She is a member of Project Grad and it was brought to their attention that Keene and Monadnock have set the same date for graduation. Students and families have members at Monadnock and Keene and would like to have the opportunity to attend the both graduations. She is also concerned that the vendors may be overwhelmed by both schools asking for donations and will there be enough event items to go around. Graduation has always been on Saturday and we are not sure why there was the change. They have a petition with 230 signatures to keep graduation on Saturday morning.

Sarah Tatro of Swanzey also had concerns with changing the day of graduation. She is disappointed that there was not a survey or the community was not asked. She is also asking about a rain date. She understands the athletic side but there are families in Keene and in Swanzey that need to go to both. She asked if there was a sub committee to review this.

Kevan Dean of Swanzey is an alumni of Swanzey and feels that project grad will be impacted by both Keene and Swanzey. There is no great answer. This decision will affect more people and vendors. Saturday graduation has worked in the past and we have dealt with the sports. He would like the Board to revisit this and find a good solution.

Alyvia Davis a senior at MRMHS has a dad who would like to attend both Graduations due to circumstances. It is very difficult for families and it is disappointing.

Jess Hat of Swanzey is a Monadnock graduate and asked why the decision was made. There are families that overlap. They have to choose and it is not fair. Coordinate with Keene for another weekend. Prom is also on the same night but another issue. Will the vendors have enough supply or will someone lose out. Put it back on Saturday.

Sarah Tatro of Swanzey commented that this class was not able to start their Freshman year due to COVID. Send the students on a positive note.

3. Call the Emergency Meeting to Order: S. Peters called the Emergency Meeting to order. He explained to the public that the Board will not debate the graduation issue in this meeting. This will be heard by the administration and there may or may not be a resolution by the next meeting. You are welcome to attend the next meeting.

4. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. Board Deadline for Proposed Warrant Articles: J. Morin explained that the Budget Hearing is on January 11, 2024 and the Board warrant Articles should be ready by then. January 25, 2024 is the last day for the Budget Committee to deliver their numbers. S. Peters explained that the January 2, 2024 meeting is critical to go through the budget and warrant articles. There are items in the proposed budget that are higher than in the default. We need to be ready. S. Peters would suggest an extra meeting between Dec. 26 and Dec. 29 as long as there is a quorum. We need to have J. Morin present. She is going on vacation Jan. 2, 2024. J. Morin explained petitioned warrant articles are due by Jan. 9, 2024. S. Peters said there is a draft warrant article but there is no quorum.

S. Peters would ask the Board to review the Program of Studies for the next meeting.

5. Approval of the Consent Agenda:

a. December 5, 2023 Public and Non-Public Meeting Minutes
b. Manifest MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to approve the consent agenda which includes the December 5, 2023 Public and Non-Public Meeting Minutes and the manifest in the amount of \$1,416,756.24. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 7.6/0/0/5.4. **Motion passes.**

6. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

The Board will enter into a Non-Meeting to discuss negotiations.

7. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM. **SECOND:** S. Lawlor **VOTE:** 7.6/0/0/5.4. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY: Yes/No/Abstain/Absent