

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2023
Troy Elementary School, Troy, NH

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

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

Also Present: K. Barker, Architect and Owen Higgins, Student Government Representative

1. **Tour of the Troy School:** Members of the Board walked through the building with K. Barker the architect for the new renovations.
2. **CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER at 7:03 PM.** L. Steadman called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** K. Barker brought members of the Board on a tour of the Troy School. He identified areas that would be renovated with the Elementary School Renovation Project. Members discussed carpet versus tile. K. Barker felt half tile and half 24 X 24 inch carpet tiles would be a great solution, much cleaner and easier to keep up. Owen Higgins was very excited to know that there will be a bathroom on every floor with the new renovations. When he attended Troy Elementary School they had to go to the bottom floor for the bathrooms. There were comments made about the fire escape.

K. Stone welcomed the Board to the Troy School. K. Stone mentioned that the Fire Dept. says the fire escape is fine. L. Steadman said it is grandfathered in. This is his 9th year as principal here and they have accomplished a lot. The teachers and staff have a great relationship with the students and their families. An all school cookout was held and students and their families attended. America Reads volunteers are back. We are doing a lot of great things in Troy. They held a Lantern Walk and had smores and hot chocolate. It was well attended.

4. **#CelebrateMRSD:**
 - a. Celebrating the Special Olympics! Josh Rabassa received 3rd place in a bowling division without supports or bumpers. Trentin Stevens received 1st place honors for his bowling efforts. Maxwell Steadman received 2nd in his division for bowling. Congratulations!!!
 - b. The MRMHS will be holding their Holiday Show on December 15 and December 16. This will be the last year for Director Mark Polifrone who will be retiring at the end of the

year. The performance should be well attended.

c. The MTC staff thanked the Board with a card which was passed around for the treats that they received for Staff Appreciation Day.

d. S.Lawlor thanked the staff in all of the schools for their donations of toys and clothes for the families in need.

5. MATTERS FOR SCHOOL BOARD INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

a. **Feedback from Legal Counsel on Sports field signage & sponsorship:** It was explained that the NHSBA does not have a policy on this item but did give information.

b. **Cheshire Career Center Update:** K.Noonan attended the Semi-Annual Meeting at the CCC. She mentioned the simulator for a forklift and bulldozer. She said the number of students from Keene is large. She hopes that there will be more Monadnock students in attendance. It is a great resource for the district. They are working on the draft agreement. The DOE is making the rules stricter but with less guidance. Keene has 50% of the students at the CCC, Monadnock 25% and Fall Mnt. 25%. If home school students were to go to the CCC that would come out of the percentage of that sending district. K. Noonan would like homeschooler to know the CCC is available to them.

c. **2023/24 School Board Goals:**

i. **Superintendent Search Update:** C.McDaniel-Thomas will address the Superintendent Search in non-public session.

d. **Staffing Update:** J.Rathbun explained that the staffing update is pretty much the same. They are hopeful for a contracted service nurse. They will still advertise for the nurse position but hopefully the contracted nurse can start in a few weeks. They also have hired a para in Troy.

e. **Student Government Report:** O. Higgins reported that he had met with S.Peters and J. Rathbun on how he will report to the Board. He said that all of the students are excited for Christmas break. There is a lot of disagreement regarding graduation. The Student Government is taking on a new recycling initiative. They will also be planning themes for the basketball games.

f. **Joint Session Recep:** L. Steadman reported that the Joint Meeting moved very quickly. The Board did not have a quorum. The Budget Committee would like to know the date for the negotiated contract when it is complete.

g. **Proposed Budget Q & A:** There were no questions or answers.

h. **Working Session: Begin Draft Warrant Articles:** It was mentioned to add \$1.00 to the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund. J.Morin mentioned that the district is in a good place regarding the Vehicle Expendable Trust. There is over \$100,000 in the School Grounds Expendable Trust. The tennis courts came in at about \$300,000 to \$360,000. It was mentioned that the Budget Committee is not in favor of any additional warrant articles with the proposed budget increase. J. Morin explained that an infrared study was done on the roofs at the MRMHS. There is an immediate need over the girl's locker room for a repair. In March there was a warrant article for the roofs at the MRMHS and the work came under budget. There is about \$70,000 remaining and the Board could take the additional \$17,000 from the School Building Maintenance Fund to do the repairs. This would not require a warrant article. J. Morin mentioned that some Budget Members said do not add to the Expendable Trust Funds. L. Steadman said to think about the Special Education Expendable

Trust and the Maintenance Expendable Trust. The funds will be from the unallocated fund balance. J. Morin reminded the Board that the budget is a lot tighter than last year.

6. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. Approve 2024/25 Capital Improvement Plan: The Board will approve at the next meeting.

b. Update 23-24 Calendar-Election Day 1/23/2024: The MRMHS is being used for the voting on January 23, 2024. The staff have a workshop on January 24, 2024. The administration would recommend changing the workshop day to January 23, 2024. **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to accept the recommendation of the administration and move the workshop day to January 23, 2023. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 6.791/0/0/6.210. **Motion passes.** The district will update the calendar on the website and let families know.

c. Policies for 2nd Read:

i. ACN- Mothers Accommodations

ii. BEDG-Meeting Minutes

iii. BEDC-Quorum/Voting for Full School Board Meetings

iv. EBCC-False Alarms, Bombs, Active Shooter and Other Such Threats:

MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve the four policies as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 6.791/0/0/6.210. **Motion passes.**

d. Approve the Consent Agenda:

i. November 7, 2023 Meeting Minutes (public and non-public)

ii. 2023 Manifest

iii. Budget Transfers: MOTION: J. Cesaitis **MOVED** to approve the

consent agenda: November 7, 2023 School Board Meeting Minutes public and non-public, the November 21, 2023 Manifest in the amount of \$ 1,386,927.00, \$1,513,074.17 from the current manifest, a budget transfer requested by C. Woods in the amount of \$48,750 from the Special Ed.Para salaries and benefits lines to the DW Contracted Services line and a budget transfer requested by J. Morin in the amount of \$6000.00 from the Enriching Students Software line to the DW IT Equipment line. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 6.791/0/0/6.210. **Motion passes.**

7. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

a. Signage

b. CIP

8. Public Comments: S. Lawlor would like to ask the Policy Committee to take a look at a cell phone policy.

9. 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 and under RSA 91-A:3, II (b) Hiring of any person as a public employee: 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 and under RSA 91-A:3,II (b) Hiring of any person as a public employee. SECOND: C.McDaniel-Thomas VOTE: 6.791/0/0/6.210. Motion passes.

10. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: K. Noonan MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 PM. SECOND: J. Cesaitis VOTE: 6.791/0/0/6.210. Motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

**Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary**

VOTING KEY:Yes/No/Abstain/Absent