

**Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**September 19, 2023**  
**MRMHS Library, Swanzey, NH**

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

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

1. **CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER at 7:00 PM.** L. Steadman called the meeting to order.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no public comments.
3. **#CelebrateMRSD:**
  - a. L. Walker explained that the students are back and everything is continuing to go well.
  - b. L. Steadman explained that the Middle School Football Team will be playing on Saturday for Homecoming.
4. **MATTERS THAT BOARD ACTION:**
  - a. **September 5, 2023 Meeting Minutes: MOTION:** B.Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the September 5, 2023 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE:** 7.177/0/0/5.5.283. **Motion passes.**
  - b. **Manifest: MOTION:** S.Lawlor **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of \$1,824,342.28 as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 7.717/0/0/5.283 **Motion passes.**
  - c. **Budget Transfers: MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to accept the budget transfer request from C. Woods in the amount \$122,000.00 from Speech Services Salaries and benefits lines to the Contracted Service line for a Speech and Language Pathologist and an Assistant Speech and Language Pathologist. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **DISCUSSION:** It was explained that the District is not able to fill the positions so it will be covered by a contracted service position. **VOTE:** 7.717/0/0/5.283. **Motion passes.**
  - d. **DOE 25/MS 25 Signatures:** J. Morin asked the Board Members to sign the DOE 25 and the MS 25. She also asked L. Steadman to sign under the Board Chair spot

e. **NHSBA Resolutions: MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** not to support the Proposed Resolution # 8 submitted by the Oyster River Cooperative School Board. **SECOND:** J. Cesaitis. **DISCUSSION:** The Board agrees with the NHSBA to not support. **VOTE:** 7.717/0/0/5.238. **Motion passes. MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to support the Proposed Alternative Resolution submitted by the NHSBA for the original Proposed Resolution #9 submitted by the Dover School District. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 7.717/0/0/5.328. **Motion passes. MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** not to support the Proposed Resolution #10 submitted by the Raymond School Board. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 7.717/0/0/5.328. **Motion passes. MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to support the Proposed Alternative Resolution submitted by the NHSBA for the original Proposed Resolution #11 submitted by the Monadnock School Board. The Proposed Alternative Resolution is in regards to any legislation that intends to streamline the recruiting, credentialing and hiring of certified teachers and other licensed school staff from other states. **SECOND:** K. Noonan **VOTE:** 7.717/0/0/5.328. **Motion passes. MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to support the Proposed Alternative Resolution submitted by the NHSBA for the original Proposed Resolution #12 submitted by the Monadnock School Board. The Proposed Alternative Resolution is in regards to urging the NH Legislature and DOE to clarify the responsibilities, obligations and rights of school boards and school districts when students do not attend school on a regular basis; are habitually truant; and otherwise do not conform to the rules and regulations of the district. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **DISCUSSION:** K. Noonan commented that this is not exactly the proposed resolution. J. Cesaitis said he likes this alternative resolution better. **VOTE:** 7.717/0/0/5.328. **Motion passes. MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to support the Proposed Resolution #13 submitted by the Monadnock School Board as follows: The NHSBA will support legislation that creates flexibility for town moderators and moderators of cooperative school districts to postpone school district elections in the event of inclement weather. **SECOND:** K. Noonan **VOTE:** 6.619/0/1.098/5.238. **Motion passes. MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to support the Proposed Resolution # 14 submitted from the Manchester Board of School Committee. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 7.717/0/0/5.328. **Motion passes. MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to support the Proposed Alternative Resolution as submitted by the NHSBA for the original Proposed Resolution # 15 as presented by the Manchester Board of School Committee. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 7.717/0/0/5.328. **Motion passes. MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to support the recommendation of the NHSBA not support the Proposed Resolution #16 as submitted by the Manchester Board of School Committees. **SECOND:** J. Cesaitis. **VOTE:** 7.717/0/0/5.328. **Motion passes. MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to support the Proposed Alternative Resolution as submitted by the NHSBA for the original Proposed Resolution #17 as presented by the Manchester Board of School Committees. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **DISCUSSION:** J. Rathbun explained it should not say “guidance counsel but school counselor”. **VOTE:** 6.619/0/1.098/5.238. **Motion passes. MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to support the recommendation of the NHSBA to delete and remove Resolution IX:D. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **DISCUSSION:** The

NHSBA does not believe that it is needed. **VOTE:** 7.717/0/0/5.328. **Motion passes. MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to ask S.Peters to listen to this Proposed Resolution #19 on the floor at the Delegate Assembly. **SECOND:** S. Lawlor. **VOTE:** 7.717/0/0/5.328. **Motion passes. MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to ask S. Peters to vote in support of the Proposed Resolution # 19 submitted by the Concord School Board. **SECOND:** K. Noonan **VOTE:** 7.717/0/0/5.328. **Motion passes.**

**5. MATTERS FOR SCHOOL BOARD INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:**

**a. Staffing Update:** L. Walker reported that there is not much of a change in the number of vacancies. She will give an updated report at the first Board Meeting of the month.

**b. Softball Field Update:** The softball field is ready to be put out to bid. They are waiting for the field hockey season to be done. There was concern regarding the field hockey field and the soccer fields across the street on the MTC side. J. Rathbun assured the members that the new fields will be completely up to regulation specifications.

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

**i. Cohort Review #1: “Ready for School”:** J. Rathbun explained that the Education/Tech Committee had asked him to speak on Ready for School. He presented the Board with a packet to follow. Ready for School is part of the philosophy of the Ed/Tech Committee. Once a month he will present a topic which is part of the philosophy statement. This report is not just about academics but things we do not have control of. In order for the students to learn there are needs that should be met. Basic needs that we do not have control of such as food, clothing, heat, a place to live etc.. Parent involvement and support, what are the attitudes of the parents toward education. How do they feel and are they involved in education through their children? What is their attitude toward education? If the parents do not respect school their children won’t. Early childhood education. Did the students go to preschool? This is a huge indicator with future success. It is reported that children that went to Pre-K do better. Do the students have access to the internet and transportation? There is a study that shows if a student does not feel like they belong in school they do not go to school. Kids need social skills, making friendships, participating in extracurricular activities and a sense of identity. Homelessness is an issue. These are the big things there are so much more than academics. There are some things we can measure socioeconomics, Free and Reduced lunch, Pre K or Kindergarten and parent involvement. There are some challenges that are not reported. J. Rathbun will bring a topic which is part of the Ed/Tech Philosophy to the Board once a month.

**ii. Superintendent Search Update:** C. McDaniel-Thomas reported that the committee met with the Bryant Group. There are 3 other districts looking for a superintendent. Their ads have already gone out. Monadnock has sent out a “Save the Date” The response on the 14 Box was not great. The committee will leave it open until Wed. night. J. Morin asked what is preventing us from putting the ad out for our Superintendent position. The committee will be coming up with attributes for the posting. C. McDaniel-Thomas said the next meeting is on Sept. 25, 2023. B. Tatro

feels that the committee can determine when the ad goes out.

**6. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:**

- a. Superintendent Search**
- b. Policies for first read**

**7. Public Comments:** Deb Gove thanked J. Rathbun for the presentation on Ready for School. She said that is the base of everything.

**8. 7:57PM NON-PUBLIC SESSION under RSA 91-A:3 II: 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: 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: B. Tatro. VOTE: 7.717/0/0/5.283. Motion passes.**

**9. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: K. Noonan MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 PM. **SECOND: J. Cesaitis VOTE: 7.717/0/0/5.283. Motion passes.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Laura L. Aivaliotis**  
**Recording Secretary**

**VOTING KEY: Yes/No/Abstain/Absent**