

**Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**June 6, 2023**  
**MRMHS Library/Zoom, Swanzey, NH**

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

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

1. **CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER at 7:00 PM.** S. Peters introduced Gina Carraro as the newest Board Member from Roxbury. N. Mosher resigned. Gina Carraro was not sworn in yet.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no public comments.
3. **#CelebrateMRSD:**
  - a. L. Walker commented on a very nice graduation day. She also mentioned the 6th grade Step Up Day and the promotion days for all of the schools.

**The Board will enter into a number of Non-Public Sessions earlier this evening.**

Gina Carraro had not been sworn in yet. **MOTION:** L.Steadman **MOVED** to allow Gina Carraro to enter into Non-Public Session. **SECOND:** K. Noonan **VOTE:** 9.829/0/0/3.171. **Motion passes.**

4. **7:10 PM: Motion to Enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee: MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3,II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee. **SECOND:** D. LeClair. **VOTE:** 9.829/0/0/3.171. **Motion passes. G. Carraro was sworn in by L. Sutton.**

5. **7:35 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:** L. Steadman **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.834. **Motion passes.**

**6. 7:39 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** 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:** D.LeClair **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.834. **Motion passes.**

*Superintendent Walker leaves the meeting.*

**7. 7:48 PM: Motion to Enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee: MOTION:** K.Noonan **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee. **SECOND:** D.LeClair. **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.834. **Motion passes.**

**Return to Public Session: S. Peters called a 2 minute recess.**

**8. Track & Field State Championship Jacket: MOTION:** S.Peters **MOVED** to award swag to student Gavin Lombara for winning the State Championship in the 110 meter hurdles. **SECOND:** D.LeClair. **VOTE:** 9.829/0/0/3.171. **Motion passes. Congratulations Gavin.**

**9.** K. Noonan explained that the NHDI were at Emerson and thanked the School Board for their support. Monadnock is the only School District around that pays for it. It is great for the non-profit and the students.

**10. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:**

**a. 2024/25 Budget Proposals:** S.Peters would like the Board to consider items for the budget. We need to ask the administration early for the budget. He would like the Board Members to come to the next meeting with ideas. The proposals can be educational, social or financial.

**b. NHSBA Call for Resolutions:** L. Steadman explained to the new members the Call for Resolutions. This is an opportunity for our Board to craft our own resolutions in the Fall. The entire Board will have to preview the resolutions being proposed and tell the representative how to vote.

**c. Board Member Stipends:** It was commented that the stipend should be based on time. S.Peters likes the idea of getting paid for participation. The Board would have to decide the rate for the Board Meetings and the rate for the committee meetings. S.Peters would be willing to draft something for review and then send it to the Policy Committee. D. LeClair commented that Board Members should be on at least one sub-committee. S. Peters explained a physical quorum

is required by the State. There is a policy under construction regarding Zoom participation.

## **11. MATTERS THAT BOARD ACTION:**

**a. Annual Approval of Data Governance Plan:** The Data Governance Plan was presented to the Board for review. J. Rathbun explained that there are no major changes.

**MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve the Data Governance Plan as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** S.Lawlor. **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.834. **Motion passes.**

**b. May 2, 2023 Meeting Minutes:** **MOTION:** C.McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to approve the May 2, 2023 Public and Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** S.Lawlor. **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.834. **Motion passes.**

**c. May 16, 2023 Joint School Board & Budget Minutes:** **MOTION:** S.Lawlor **MOVED** to approve the May 16, 2023 Joint School Board and Budget Minutes as presented with a friendly amendment. **SECOND:** D.LeClair. **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.834. **Motion passes.**

**d. Charter & Goals: Finance/Facilities:** B. Tatro presented the Finance and Facilities Charter to the Board. **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve the Finance and Facilities Charter as presented. **SECOND:** S.Lawlor. **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.834. **Motion passes.** B. Tatro presented the Finance and Facilities Goals to the Board. S. Peters explained the CIP. **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve the Finance and Facilities Goals as presented. **SECOND:** S.Lawlor. **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.834. **Motion passes.**

**e. SOW for Superintendent Search:** The Board had received the proposal from the NHSBA and NESDEC regarding what each would do for the Superintendent Search. B.Bohannon explained that the advisory committee had met twice and would recommend accepting the proposal from The Bryan Group. He said they do international searches and multiple searches which may give us additional pools. S.Lawlor commented that the advisory committee was looking at the process for the Superintendent but stopped because that is what the company will be doing. L.Steadman said with NESDEC there are not many in NH. L. Steadman is in favor of The Bryan Group. S. Lawlor commented that it is a lot of money and there are people on the Board who are capable of doing that work. L. Steadman commented that The Bryan Group can get the candidates without getting the other districts upset. S.Peters commented that with The Bryan Group it is a guarantee to get the work done. K. Noonan asked about the surplus. J. Morin explained there is enough in the surplus but the Board would have to encumber the funds. **MOTION:** B.Tatro **MOVED** to search for a full time Superintendent using the SOW Proposal from the NHSBA/The Bryan Group. **SECOND:** C McDaniel-Thomas. **DISCUSSION:** D.LeClair asked if we have looked at doing an internal search. S. Peters explained we can post the position. J. Rathbun commented that there are a lot of Superintendents retiring and it will not be an easy process. We want to have this settled in early Spring. The District employees would like to know. C.McDaniel-Thomas said she has seen interim quality and it was not good. You are taking a risk to go it alone. If you want the best this company will help. K. Noonan is a firm believer of hiring within but we should have outside candidates with so many Superintendent positions open. It is money well spent. L.Steadman would suggest hiring the company and the

person internally could still rise to the top. **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.834. **Motion passes.**  
**MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to encumber \$18,000.00 of unexpended funds from the 2022-2023 fiscal year to fund the NHSBA SOW for the Superintendent Search. **SECOND:** G. Carraro. **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.834. **Motion passes.** S. Peters will sign the contract with the NHSBA/The Bryan Group on behalf of the Board.

**f. Principal Search Committee-Timeline and Composition:** J. Rathbun explained the Board Policy states that the Board needs to set a timeline and form a committee. He would suggest this be done as soon as the Board can. There are 7 candidates. If we do not move fast we may lose them. He would suggest the committee be formed tonight and they have a Zoom meeting soon. He would suggest the process end in July. B. Tatro is concerned with the elementary renovations regarding closing one school. S.Peters said the Board has not decided anything but we will have the same amount of kids. C. McDaniel-Thomas said the candidates need to know that the dynamics could change. S.Lawlor and L. Steadman volunteered to be on the committee. J. Rathbun will be the facilitator for the committee. L. Steadman suggested a committee of 1 SAU administrator, 3 community members, 3 teachers, 2 School Board Members, 2 Instructional Assistants or secretaries and 1 principal. **MOTION:** L.Steadman **MOVED** to direct the administration to form a Principal Search Committee that will include 1 SAU administrator, 3 community members, 2 School Board Members, 2 Instructional Assistants or secretaries and 1 Building Principal all based on availability. **VOTE:**10.068/1.098/0/1.834. **Motion passes.**

**g. Diligent Modern Governance Seminar:** The Board received information on the Seminar. S.Peters explained that the District is going through an upgrade and he would suggest L. Sutton attend and he would like to attend as well. He would propose funds from the line for Board training up to 3 people to attend with registration and travel paid. B.Bohannon would support 3 seats at the conference which would include airfare, registration and hotel. J. Rathbun suggested not directing L. Sutton to attend, she may not want to. S.Peters would like to attend or maybe someone from Policy. S. Lawlor suggested someone who will be staying in the District. J. Morin mentioned she has no idea where the funds would come from to cover this. L. Steadman and S.Lawlor were worried the seminar may get filled up and Monadnock may not be able to attend. B.Bohannon commented he does not want to commit if J. Morin is not sure where the funds are. He is willing to wait. He is willing to table this. J. Rathbun explained he is in charge of professional development and does this type of thing all the time. He asked if the Board would like him to bring the actual cost for the next meeting. J. Morin explained to encumber the funds you need the exact amount for the trip.

**h. Manifest: MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of \$1,871,095.38. **SECOND:** L. Steadman. **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.834. **Motion passes.**

**i. Authorize School Board Members to Sign Summer Manifests: MOTION:** S.Peters **MOVED** to approve any 3 signatures from these 4 Board Members, Stephanie Lawlor, Cheryl McDaniel-Thomas, Dan LeClair and Betty Tatro to sign the manifest as needed during the summer until the first Board Meeting in September 2023. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:**

11.166/0/0/1.834. **Motion passes.**

**j. Budget Transfers:** There were no budget transfers.

**k. Authorize Superintendent to hire certified staff through 9/5/2023: MOTION:** S.Peters **MOVED** to authorize the Superintendent to hire certified staff through 9/5/23 except for the open search for a new Cutler Principal. **SECOND:** S.Lawlor. **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.834.

**Motion passes.**

S.Peters explained that the Advisory Superintendent Search Committee is on pause.

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

**a. Policy Charter and Goals**

**b. Board Goals**

**c. Non-Meeting**

**d. Superintendent Goals**

**e. Educate Board on grant funded roles they do not approve for hiring or wages.**

**f. Diligent Conference**

**g. Encumbrance**

**13. Public Comments:** There were no Public Comments.

**14. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 PM. **SECOND:** S.Lawlor **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.834. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

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

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