

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
May 2, 2023
MRMHS Library/Zoom, Swanzey, NH

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

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

1. **CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER at 6:30 PM.** The Board did not have a quorum.
2. **Non-Public RSA 91-A:3, II (c) Manifest Hardship Hearing:** The family did not arrive for the manifest hardship hearing.
3. **CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER at 6:45 PM.** S. Peters called the meeting to order.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no public comments.
5. **#CelebrateMRSD:**
 - a. S. Peters reminded the Board Members who would be attending the Retirement/Awards Dinner to RSVP to L.Sutton.
 - b. J. Rathbun reported that MTC will be holding the NHDI Residency Program as well as a Kindergarten Ice Cream Social. The Senior Class will hold Breakfast with Pando. With the use of the CARES Funds Cutler students were able to visit the Seacoast Center and the Boston Museum of Science. **B. Bohannon arrives via Zoom.**
 - c. **Staff Appreciation Week:** J. Rathbun explained that swag has been ordered for all of the staff and it will be delivered next week.
6. **MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:**
 - a. **Q3 Education Report:** J. Rathbun would like to present the Q3 Education Report at the joint meeting with the Budget Committee. He will also talk about where we are district - wide not only academics but plans and concerns.

J. Rathbun explained that we need to look at the health and wellness of the students. Things are different NH has expectations. Currently the guidance special is done by a school counselor every week. The administration would like to propose creating a specialist guidance position. This proposed position will give opportunity to focus on the new expectations from the State and free up the school counselors. **J. Morin arrives.**
 - b. **Federal Funds General Assurance:** J. Rathbun explained that this was reviewed

at the last meeting but L. Steadman and S.Peters did not sign and date the document on a School Board Meeting day. It needs to be signed tonight. The Assurance is to accept the Federal funds and all of the DAF Policies, to comply with the policies and to follow all federal laws.

c. FY22 Audit Recap: S. Peters explained that the FY22 Audit was in the packet. J. Morin explained the audit is received each year. She explained there is a letter in the packet that gives the highlights. She said everything they found is normal in the course of a school district. She mentioned the manifest not having a quorum signing it and comments on the disbursement of student activity funds. It is a matter of getting into the new process. The school year is almost over. It is too late to implement new changes. J.Morin commented that the Business office did a great job following procedure and the schools did great with the changes asked of them. **D.**

LeClair arrives.

d. CCC Regional Agreement: The draft of the CCC Regional Agreement was in the packet. It was explained that the State will only allow 10 conflicting calendar days. It was mentioned that Keene, Fall Mtn.and Monadnock need to work together to form the calendar. The CCC follows the Keene High School Calendar. J. Rathbun explained there are 5 conflicting days due to Keene's early release days. It was mentioned that the number of Monadnock students has increased but Keene has a larger number of students. The CCC representative was in attendance at Career Day. J. Rathbun explained Monadnock is not a receiving district. He would like to provide a welding class, forest management and ATV Repair for the students and have students from other districts attend Monadnock, such as the CCC. K. Noonan explained that students can earn up to 12 credits through the LNA Program at the CCC. B.Tatro mentioned that N. Carney from the Budget Committee teaches a course at the CCC

e. Preparing for Joint Meeting with BudgetCommittee on 5/16/23: S.Peters explained that the Board and the Budget Committee will be having an extra joint meeting on May 16, 2023 and also hold the joint meeting in November. S.Peters said that he and A. Hopkins have connected and started working on an agenda. The Board reviewed the proposed agenda. J. Morin explained that there will be a first interest only payment on the bond and then a full one to follow. She does not feel there will be a year in which there is no payment. S. Peters proposed adding an Education Committee overview to the agenda. It was commented that the committee needs to discuss attendance, behavior and parent participation not only proficiency. The whole package. It was suggested that the Budget Committee attend the Board Meetings regarding the test results. B. Tatro commented that the Budget Committee would like an executive summary. J. Rathbun explained that the test was created by a company to make money. It is only one test. The Budget Committee is looking for proficiency. B.Tatro explained that the Budget Committee feels that they should be equal to the Board and not a subcommittee. S. Peters commented that they have been excellent partners. K. Noonan commented that she hopes that the Budget Committee knows that we cannot talk specifics regarding the negotiations.

f. Overview of Critical Staffing Shortage (State of NH Definition +MRSD Current Status): The Board received information from the administration regarding the critical staffing shortage. J. Rathbun commented that the administration is feeling much better than last

year. There are 44 vacancies for next year. J. Rathbun explained that the critical staffing shortage list comes from the State. The State asks districts to share the vacancy list and they decide the shortage and identify alternative hiring. Certified staff are the only group on the critical shortage list. J. Rathbun explained Alternative 4 and Alternative 5.

7. MATTERS THAT BOARD ACTION:

a. Rules for Board Member Remote Participation: S. Peters explained that Policy BBAB states that if the Board Member is attending the meeting remotely the member has to state the reason why and it needs to be stated in the meeting minutes. Policy BEDDA Rules for Remote Participation was presented to the Board. S.Peters presented edits to the policy referring to remote participation. **MOTION:** S.Peters **MOVED** to refer the proposed remote participation changes to the Policy Committee. **SECOND:** S. Lawlor. **VOTE:** 8.731/0/0/4.269. **Motion passes.**

b. April 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes: **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve the April 18, 2023 Public and Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented with an addition to 5.a. Describing the question asked about the waiting list and to have non-public "1" be relabeled as non-public b. **SECOND:** S.Lawlor **DISCUSSION:** L. Steadman asked for clarity regarding the April 4, 2023 Minutes because she was not present. She asked if the students on the Preschool waiting list are regular ed. Students or Special ed. Students. **VOTE:** 8.605/0/1.126/4.269. **Motion passes.**

c. Manifest: **MOTION:** L.Steadman **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of \$1,381,713.06 as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** . **Motion passes.**

d. Budget Transfer: J. Morin presented 5 budget transfers to the Board. L. Spencer has requested a budget transfer in the amount of \$29,400 from the Regular Instruction Salaries line to the Other Purchased Property Services line to purchase and installation of Air Quality Sensors at MRMHS, L.Stevens and J. Morin have requested a budget transfer in the amount of \$20,659 from multiple Special Ed. salary and benefits lines and multiple Regular Ed. salary and benefits line to hire a paraprofessional to support Kindergarten, not related to Special Ed., J. Morin has requested a budget transfer in the amount of \$11,100 from the Special Education Health Ins. line to the Building and Grounds Health Ins.line for a change in position/staffing, needs to move benefits with the person, T. Givetz has requested a budget transfer in the amount of \$8250 from the Regular Instruction Salaries line to the Replacement Furn/Equipment line to purchase 2 tables, 2 Art tables and chair replacement and a budget transfer request from K. Stone in the amount of \$11,360 from the Regular Instruction Health Insurance line to the Replacement Furn/Equipment line to purchase 4 cafeteria tables. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to approve the budget transfers as presented by J. Morin. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **DISCUSSION:** J. Morin explained that the staff making the request obtain a quote and the items are not ordered until the School Board approves the budget transfer. The amount being transferred between lines may not be the entire amount of the purchase. If the District had a default budget the amount

would be pre-budget transfers. **VOTE:** 8.731/0/0/4.269. **Motion passes. D. LeClair arrives.**

e. Superintendent Search: The Board received a boilerplate from the NHSBA. This proposal is not for the current year and has not been updated. J. Rathbun suggested NESDEC to help with the search. S. Peters commented that the Board should be ready in a month to start the process. B. Bohannon and S. Lawlor suggested a national search. S.Peters said he has not asked the NHSBA how wide their search would be. J. Rathbun explained the candidate must have NH credentials. K. Noonan said that she is comfortable with the NHSBA. We have a great working relationship with them. K. Noonan, B. Bohannon, L.Steadman, B. Tatro and S. Lawlor volunteered to be on the Search Committee. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to create documentation describing the desired attributes of a Superintendent. **SECOND:** S. Lawlor. **VOTE:** 9.863/0/0/3.317. **Motion passes.** S.Peters suggested a deadline of June 30, 2023.

f. Charter & Goals: Finance/Facilities: B.Tatro explained that Chart and Goals will be in the next Board packet.

g. Charter & Goals: Policy: Policy has not met.

h. Charter & Goals: Education: S. Lawlor reported that the committee met and had a great discussion. The committee has a number of questions to ask the administration in order to proceed. The next step is to have an interview with the administration. The committee presented the Committee Charter to the Board. **MOTION:** S. Lawlor **MOVED** to approve the Ed/Tech Committee Charter as presented. **SECOND:** Tatro. **VOTE:** 9.863/0/0/3.137. **Motion passes.** The Ed/Tech Goals were presented to the committee. The committee explained that they had a healthy conversation regarding the goals. The committee needs questions answered before they answer what the strategy is. B.Tatro suggested it may be an approach instead of a strategy. **MOTION:** S. Lawlor **MOVED** to approve the Ed/Tech Goals as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 9.863/0/0/3.137. **Motion passes.** L.Steadman would like to edit Charter #3. The tech plan is maintained by the staff. She would like to delete “maintain”. S.Peters explained any changes can be done at the committee level.

8. SETTING NEXT MEETING’S AGENDA:

- a. RSVP Graduation**
- b. Non-Meeting**
- c. Policy Goals and Charter**
- d. Fin/Fac. Goals and Charter**
- e. Superintendent Performance Evaluation**
- f. Non-Certified Staff pay increase**
- g. Authorize Manifest Signatures**
- h. Encumbrance (if any)**
- i. Completed May 16, 2023 Joint Meeting Agenda**

The Board asked if there are still Senior Project Presentations to attend. J. Rathbun explained some of the Senior Projects are electives. There are reasons why it is not a Senior requirement

such as scheduling and staffing.

9. Public Comments: There were no Public Comments.

10. 8:58 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: L. Steadman **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee. **SECOND:** K. Noonan **VOTE:** 9.863/0/0/3.317. **Motion passes.**

11. 9:02 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:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 9.863/0/0/3.137. **Motion passes.**

12. 9:16 PM: Motion to Enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (i) Consideration of matters relating to the preparation for and the carrying out of emergency functions: MOTION: L.Steadman **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (i) Consideration of matters relating to the preparation for and the carrying out of emergency functions. **SECOND:** K. Noonan **VOTE:** 9.863/0/0/3.317. **Motion passes.**

13. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 PM. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 9.863/0/0/3.317. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY:Yes/No/Abstain/Absent