

**Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**April 18, 2023 (corrected)**  
**MRMHS Library/Zoom, Swanzey, NH**

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

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

1. **CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:** L. Steadman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no public comments.
3. **#CelebrateMRSD:** J. Rathbun mentioned there will be a MRMHS Career Fair on April 20, 2023 from 8:30 AM-11:10 AM. H. Stanley and J. Leclerc are sending an invite to the Board.

J. Rathbun reported he attended the Ecology School as he has done for many years. There were 103 6th graders from the District. This is an opportunity for the students and teachers to get together. He would like to thank the Board for supporting this activity.

Career Awards Night at Pappagallos is coming up and if Board Members would like to attend please RSVP.

4. **MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:**
  - a. **Q3 Education Report:** J. Rathbun will report on the Q3 data at the next meeting.
  - b. **FY22 Audit Recap:** J. Morin is not in attendance. The Board will review the audit at the next meeting. (J. Morin arrived later in this meeting and will explain the Audit at the next meeting.)
  - c. **Superintendent Performance Evaluation:** L. Steadman commented that it is important for all of the Board Members to weigh in on the evaluation. She would ask the members who have not responded to do so.
  - d. **Superintendent Search Process:** L. Steadman reported that the NHSBA has offered their services for the Superintendent Search Process. The proposal is available, please review and bring any suggested edits to the next meeting. The Board will be asked to vote on the proposed draft at the next meeting.
  - e. **2023/24 Budget Calendar (Draft in packet):** The calendar was reviewed. The

Board and the Budget Committee have agreed on a Spring Joint Meeting. The meeting will be held on May 16, 2023.

**f. Board Member Stipends:** L. Steadman explained that the Board stipends had been brought up a few times. Currently each member receives a \$1000.00 stipend and the Chair receives a \$1200.00 stipend. She mentioned that there are other boards who receive \$500.00 stipends. She asked if there was any discussion. B. Tatro asked if participation should be a factor. S. Lawlor said yes. We are in attendance. L. Steadman asked if there was a proposal. E. Stanley commented on the reason for missing the meetings. He commented that if you are at a school function you should not be penalized. K. Noonan said it is tricky with some members at school functions and others who do not participate at all. She commented on the amount of work to determine the stipend based on being present at Board Meetings and committee meetings. J. Cesaitis said he does not feel that this is a big deal since we have the information on attendance. We could ask for more information. It was suggested to change the stipend payment date. B. Tatro suggested paying an amount for each Board Meeting but maybe not the committee meetings. L. Steadman said she would entertain a motion to increase the Chairs stipend while he is not in attendance. **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to increase the stipend amount for the Board Chair from \$1200.00 to \$1500.00. **SECOND:** S. Lawlor. **VOTE:** 5.487/0/1.098/6.415. **Motion passes.** The Board Chair will receive his new stipend amount of \$1500.00 in December of 2023. This issue will be on the next meeting's agenda.

**g. Rules for Board Member Remote Participation:** K. Noonan commented that if a member would like to participate on the phone or remote they should have a good reason and be allowed to vote. It should be up to the Chair in order to allow privacy. J. Cesaitis said that is a slippery slope. E. Stanley said it should not be the discretion of the Board. There should be a 24-hour notice to the Chair. If the person does not like the Chair's decision go to the Board. L. Steadman asked if the reason for their absence and remote or phone is approved can they vote and discuss. E. Stanley commented we are trying to avoid people from staying home because it is easier. J. Cesaitis said this is personal privacy. We should not hear the reason and the Chair should not know either. E. Stanley said no one is saying that. There are people who have not been here multiple times and we do not have a quorum. Give the Chair the discretion and allow members to actively participate remotely. It was commented that if the Board Member does not like the decision of the Chair they may appeal at the beginning of the next meeting. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** that Board Members who are remote cannot vote or discuss unless the Chair approves their in-person absence. **SECOND:** S. Lawlor. **DISCUSSION:** J. Cesaitis does not agree. B. Tatro commented that the State requires a quorum. It was commented that there is a legislature that will allow Board Meetings to be remote. **J. Morin arrives.** L. Steadman said that the resolution did pass and if it comes up to the Legislature they will support it. **VOTE:** 4.356/2.229/6.415. **Motion passes.**

**h. Assurance Documents:** L. Witte emailed the General Assurances to the Board. There is no vote. This is a required notification. The General Assurances and the Grant Assurances were reviewed by the Board. J. Rathbun explained the federal grants to the Board.

**5. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:**

**a. April 4, 2023 Meeting Minutes: MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve the April 4, 2023 Public Meeting Minutes as edited. **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:** 5.453/0/1.132/6.415. **Motion passes. MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve the April 4, 2023 Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** S. Lawlor. **VOTE:** 5.590/0.995/6.415. **Motion passes.**

**b. Manifest: MOTION:** E.Stanley **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of \$1,162,999.18 as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** J. Cesaitis **VOTE:** 6.585/0/0/6.415. **Motion passes.**

**c. Budget Transfer: MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve the budget transfer in the amount of \$44,385.00 as requested by L. Spencer and presented by administration to upgrade PC's in CAD Lab to support updated curriculum. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 6.585/0/0/6.415. **Motion passes.**

**d. Teacher Appreciation Week:** It was mentioned to cater a meal for the entire staff at all of the school for Staff Appreciation. K. Noonan committed that you would need an amount for the motion. L. Steadman suggested stating an amount and making a motion. J. Rathbun explained that it would be more than what is normally spent. He also mentioned that the kitchen staff will not be able to do anything for Staff Appreciation Week because they are short staffed. J. Morin explained there is \$3483.00 in the School Board line in which this comes out of. The Board usually spends \$3000.00. S. Lawlor suggested swag and a dessert. J. Rathbun said it would not be possible for the kitchen staff to help with that. K. Noonan suggested the Board Members in each town help with the dessert. J. Rathbun explained the PTOs and principals are very helpful and appreciative of their staff. J. Rathbun commented that Staff Appreciation Week is very big here. **MOTION:** K.Noonan **MOVED** to ask the administration to provide appropriate swag for all staff for Staff Appreciation Week. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** K. Noonan commented that she wished the Board could do more. She really appreciates the staff. **VOTE:** 6.585/0/0/6.415. **Motion passes.**

**e. FY24 MRMHS Roof Bids:** J. Morin presented 3 bids to the Board for the repair of the roof at the MS/HS. **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve the bid in the amount of \$317,345.00 presented by Melanson Company for the repair of the roof over the old section of the tech ed.room, the kitchen and the classrooms that butt the auditorium. **SECOND:** J. Cesaitis. **VOTE:** 6.585/0/0/6.415. **Motion passes.**

**f. Charter & Goals: Finance/Facilities:** The Finance/Facilities did not meet.

**g. Charter & Goals: Policy:** The Policy Committee did not meet.

**h. Charter & Goals: Extracurricular:** The ECC did meet and presented their Charter and Goals to the Board for approval. **MOTION:** E.Stanley **MOVED** to accept the ECC Charter as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 6.585/0/0/6.415. **Motion passes.** E. Stanley

read the ECC Goals to the Board. S.Lawlor asked if there were any Special Ed. PE or clubs for the students. E. Stanley said he was not sure but anyone can propose a club. We will look at any club. J. Morin explained there are Special Olympics. E. Stanley also mentioned our students participate in unified sports with other districts.

**6. Setting Next Meeting's Agenda:**

- 1. Board Stipends**
- 2. Q3 Report**
- 3. Policy Charter-Goals**
- 4. Finance/Facilities Charter-Goals**
- 5. Superintendent's Search Committee**
- 6. Superintendent's Evaluation**
- 7. Update Report on Active Shooting/Training with students and teachers. J.**

Rathbun explained that would have to be discussed in a non-public session.

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

**8. 8:01 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:** J. Cesaitis **VOTE:** 6.585/0/0/6.415. **Motion passes.**

**9. 8:06 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:** 6.585/0/0/6.415. **Motion passes.**

**10. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 PM. **SECOND:** S. Lawlor **VOTE:** 6.585/0/0/6.415. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

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

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