

Monadnock Regional School District (MRS D)
School Board Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2023 (corrected 4.18.2023)
MRMHS Library/Zoom, Swanzey, NH

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

Administration Present: L. Witte, Superintendent and J. Morin, Business Administrator.

1. **CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:** S. Peters called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** D. Coffman of Swanzey was trying to connect to hear the Board Meeting but was not able to find the phone number. He would like to know where he can find it for the next meeting. He recently heard the results of the IReady and heard concerns for growth in the students but not proficiency. Proficiency matters and he was bothered by the conversation. He would urge the Board to concentrate on proficiency and competency. He does not believe the kids have caught up from the pandemic. Going forward as part of the education work, make sure there is accountability for proficiency. Delivery of results. An Education Committee of 2 members and an administrator is a group not a committee. Why not a majority of the Board and place it as an agenda item.

Dr. E. Kaplan of Gilsum commented on the previous minutes in which racism and sexism were mentioned in the curriculum. He said the course is an elective and parents can say no to allowing their child to have this course. There are also library books in which the parents can say no. He is glad this course was approved and made available to the students.

3. **#CelebrateMRS D:** L. Witte and S. Peters just returned from the National School Board Association National Conference in Florida. They did a presentation on Policy and CIP.

L. Witte had just returned from Israel and had a great time. She had a fantastic time, learned about the culture and education.

Ecology School is next week.

Emerson students did job shadowing in the school and outside of the school. The students then did a presentation. K. Noonan said the presentations were amazing and she was very proud. The 5th and 6th grade students were very well spoken.

May 8, 2023 will be the Annual Retirement and Career Awards Night at Papagallos.

The MS-22 Report which is a State required report is being passed around along with the manifest.

4. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

a. MRSD Special Education Overview : C. Woods presented an overview of Special Education. She said in 1975 districts were legally obligated to provide services. The district has to legally provide a program for the students in the least restrictive atmosphere. The decision making for each student is based on a team of staff and parents. FERPA is a confidentiality law that protects the information of all students. C. Woods provided information on the number of special ed. students in each school. There are 25 out of district students. She then broke the students out by grade. There are 59 students in the Preschool Program, 34 with IEPs which is 57.6%. There are also 10 new referrals. There are children on a waiting list. Are the students regular ed. Students or special ed. students. The ideal preschool would be 50% regular ed. and 50% special ed. Currently we are over in numbers and need to be concerned with staffing. She provided the Board with a list of out of district facilities and the number of students that attend each one. She said if you look at the out of district data over the past ten years we are average. We currently do not have an Autism Program, it was not working. S. Lawlor inquired about other specialized programs in the district. C. Woods said that they were not working. S. Lawler asked C. Woods why they were not working and did she want to share. C. Woods said no not really. The total dollar amount for out of district services is \$2,622,557.00 which includes facilities, related services and transportation. The District does receive funding from taxes, Medicaid, Special Ed. Aid, Chapter 402 and court placements. Also there is additional Adequacy Aid for those students with IEPs. C. Woods reviewed the Special Ed. staffing and the vacancies. She commented that the challenges are the staffing and the increase in the Preschoolers. The report from the State has come back and C. Woods reported that the District regarding the Special Ed. is In Need of Assistance mainly around assessment data. L. Witte explained that assessment is not just in performance but participation of students. Some students did not participate. We get penalized when parents opt out. She also explained that the State will provide additional services to help us get removed from the In Need of Assistance status. The Board thanked C. Woods for her presentation.

b. 2023/24 Calendar: This will be discussed at the next Board Meeting.

c. Budget Committee: Spring Joint Meeting: B. Tatro reported that she had attended the most recent Budget Committee Meeting. The Budget Committee would like to have a Spring Joint Meeting with the Board. The committee discussed writing a letter of support to the local Legislature regarding the Building Aid funding. L. Witte suggested a letter sooner than later. J. Morin explained she has been meeting with K. Barker every other week and the letter should be done soon. **MOTION:** McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to authorize the draft of a letter to the Legislators requesting the support for the Biennium Funding of the Building Aid Program and to collect signatures from both the Board Members and the Budget Committee. **VOTE:** 10.185/0/0/2.815. **Motion passes.**

d. 2023/24 Health Insurance rate increase: J. Morin explained that she had received the GMR which came in at 6.6%. K. Noonan commented that it is a good thing that the

District budgets for the GMR.

5. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. BCA/BCA-R Collect Board Ethics Policy Signature: S.Peters explained he has received 10 signed forms. N. Mosher, E. LaPlante and D. LeClair have not responded.

b. Committee Appointments and Schedule: At the last Board Meeting members volunteered to be on certain committees. The Board reviewed the committees and decided that the Fin/Fac Committee will take on the CRC work. The Board discussed the Education Committee. S. Peters would like the Board to have the ability to discuss the current education items and the Education Committee to discuss what about 10 years from now in certain areas. It was explained that the committees make recommendations and the Board makes the decisions. The committee membership was changed slightly from the last meeting. N. Mosher asked when the Board will hire a project manager. S. Peters said he is not sure when. N. Mosher said he feels it is an important position. S. Peters explained that is a task of the construction firm. S. Peters confirmed the dates in which the committees will meet. *J. Strimbeck leaves the meeting.*

MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the committee schedule and the committee appointments as discussed. **SECOND:** D. LeClair. **DISCUSSION:** S. Peters would ask that the committees review their Charter and Goals at their first meeting. **VOTE:** 9.980/0/.206/2.815.

Motion passes. J.Strimbeck leaves the meeting.

c. Board Member Stipends: L. Steadman had asked to put this on the agenda. She is not in attendance tonight. S. Peters will put this on the next Board agenda.

d. March 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes: MOTION: E.Stanley **MOVED** to approve the March 21, 2023 Public and Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B.Tatro **VOTE:** 9.980/0/.206/2.815. **Motion passes. N. Mosher leaves the meeting.**

e. Manifest: MOTION: D.LeClair **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of \$2,053,950.05 as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE:** 9.980/0/0/3.020. **Motion passes.**

f. Budget Transfer: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the budget transfer from A. Salzman in the amount of \$8700.00 from Reading Improvement Health line to the Regular Instruction Furn/Equip. as presented by the Business Administrator. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 9.980/0/0/3.020. **Motion passes.**

D. LeClair would like to have a discussion on Board Members missing Board Meetings. S.Peters explained the Board did not take a stand on what should happen. D. LeClair said it has to be a good reason to miss a meeting. There are School Board Members who do not ever attend a meeting.

S.Peters explained the Board Meeting Schedule Policy BDA-R on the screen.

6. Setting Next Meeting's Agenda:

1. Teacher Appreciation

2. Trimester Report?

3. **Non-Meeting for Negotiations Team**
4. **Fin/Fac, Policy, ECC Goals and Charter**
5. **Budget Calendar**
6. **Board Member Stipends**
7. **Rules for Board Member Participation**
8. **FY 2022 Audit**
9. **Superintendent Survey**

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

8. **8:45 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:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 9.980/0/0/3.020 **Motion passes.**

9. **8:56 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:** 9.980/0/0/3.020 **Motion passes.**

10. **RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION: MOTION:**K. Noonan **MOVED** to seal Issue #3 of the April 4, 2023, 8:56 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes. **SECOND:** J. Cesaitis. **VOTE:** 9.980/0/0/3.020. **Motion passes.**

11. **ADJOURNMENT: MOTION:** D. LeClair **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 PM. **SECOND:** J. Cesaitis **VOTE:** 9.980/0/0/3.020. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY:Yes/No/Abstain/Absen