

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2023
MRMHS Library/Zoom, Swanzey, NH

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

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

1. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT will CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER: J. Rathbun called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS: L. Steadman of Troy announced that it was Down Syndrome Day. She hoped that the Down Syndrome students in the district were happy and their friends learned a lot.

S. Ciolino of Swanzey congratulated the new Board Members. He hopes that they focus on the students learning Math, English and History. He said shame on those Board Members who voted for the sexism course. He would like to know if he is able to see who voted for this course. He asked if he was able to see the vote. He spoke of the non-public sessions, which he called secret meetings. He said if the Board does not reply to his comments what is the point of coming to the meeting. L. Steadman commented that there currently is no Chair at this point and members of the community speaking are at a disadvantage. Tonight, the Chair is elected.

3. #celebrate MRSD: J. Rathbun explained 39 students attended the Senior Trip and had a great time.

Congratulations for all of the hard work to pass Article One the Bond for the Elementary School Renovation Project.

4. BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING-Policies BDA, BDA-R (in packet):

a. Election of School Board & SAU Officers:

i. Board Chair and Vice Chair: MOTION: D. LeClair **MOVED** to nominate S. Peters as the Board Chair. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 11.098/0/.995/.908.

Motion passes. MOTION: D. LeClair **MOVED** to nominate L. Steadman as the Vice Chair. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 11.098/0/.995/.908. **Motion passes.**

ii. Board Treasurer and Secretary: MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** to nominate K. Noonan as the treasurer/secretary. **SECOND:** J. Cesaitis. **VOTE:** 12.092/0/0/.908. **Motion passes.**

b. Recap of District Votes from March 14th: S. Peters informed the Board that every article passed in every town. It is a vote of confidence from the towns. There was less attendance at the poles due to the storm. The Board would like to applaud the efforts of the District Clerk Lillian Sutton. Great job!!! S. Peters feels the number one reason for everything passing is due to the unity of the Board and the Budget Committee as well as the select boards.

c. Welcome New Board Members: Stephanie Lawlor and Edmund LaPlante are the newly elected School Board Members.

d. Board Member Documentation:

i. Contact Sheet (handout): There is a contact sheet to update Board Member information. S. Peters mentioned that Board Members cannot email each other because it would look like a meeting. This also includes texting and meeting outside of this meeting. This goes for the committee meetings as well.

ii. BCA/BCA-R (Ethics Commitment Form) S.Peters would like the members to review and sign the Ethics Commitment Form for the next meeting. It was mentioned that there is a link for new Board Orientation through the NHSBA. K. Noonan will please send the link to S. Lawlor, E. LaPlante and J. Cesaitis.

iii. Review 2022/23 Board-Evaluation: S. Peters explained every year at the last meeting of the Board's cycle the members are surveyed and tonight the results are reviewed. At the next meetings the Board will set goals for the committees, Superintendent and the Board. There were 10 responses out of 13 Board Members for the survey. Setting policies was a topic. C. McDaniel-Thomas felt the committee was doing well going through the policies. K. Noonan explained that there is a backlog of policies but the committee is working very hard on. S. Peters commented that the Board has come to trust the Policy Committee and have not read the policies prior to the meetings. He would like a presentation of the policies at the next meeting. The Superintendent was a topic. The scores were down from last year due possibly to her health. The Superintendent is the Board's only employee. Everything goes through the Superintendent. S. Lawlor asked about input from the public. S. Peters said it could be a possibility in the future. E. LaPlante explained that members of his community have approached him about students. S. Peters explained that names of students, staff and parents should not be discussed in public sessions. If there are specific concerns contact the teacher, principal or Superintendent. Board Meetings have been going very well. B. Bohannon commented that the last 2 meetings have had the best discussions in a long time. B.Tatro commented that they are more productive when more people attend. S. Peters said the Board Members are respectful and considerate. Communication with the public this past year was focused on the Elementary School Renovation Project. What should the focus be this year? The Public Comment section of the Board Meetings were mentioned in the survey. S. Peters explained that the Board cannot answer the public's questions

because they are not prepared. The public could ask the administration to research it. L. Steadman mentioned that the public will be looking at the CRC to know what steps are being taken for their children during the renovations. E. Stanley would like to hear from the teachers. S. Peters explained that the QCC will be rolled out to the staff by the administration. The Strategic Plan focused on the physical building and finances. Now we can focus on education. The Board's overall goals are Capital Improvement, Communication and Education. We will have to be specific. S. Peters explained he asked L. Sutton to keep track of the attendance of the Board Members for Board Meetings and committee meetings. The numbers include Zoom but we need to have a physical quorum to vote. S. Peters will be attending the National School Board Association Conference in Florida on Friday.

e. Evaluate Standing Committees (Policy BDE)

i. Committee Assignments and Schedule: The Board Members volunteered for the individual committees to the Board. The Board discussed having an Education Committee. K. Noonan commented that education is discussed at the full Board. B. Bohannon commented that the Education Committee had 3 members and 2 discussing the education of the District he was not happy with. E. Laplante would like to have a conversation with the teachers and the administration to ask how to improve education and what is needed. S. Peters explained the process of the committee meetings. The committee will make a recommendation to the Board. B. Tatro would like to create an Education Committee but not to micromanage. It was commented that the requests for reports from the administration were extensive. The administration is not in the classroom. Think big on the Education goals. S. Peters will take the list of volunteers and bring an assignment draft to the next meeting. If there are any changes send them to S. Peters. **Proposed Committee Assignments: Policy**-K. Noonan, S. Lawlor, L. Steadman **ECC**-E. Stanley, D. LeClair, J. Cesaitis **Education**-B. Bohannon, E. Laplante **Legislative-Advisory** L. Steadman, E. Laplante, C. McDaniel-Thomas **Wellness**-K. Noonan **CRC**- B. Tatro, J. Cesaitis, S. Lawlor **Fin/Fac**-B. Tatro, C. McDaniel-Thomas, N. Mosher **Negotiations**-L. Steadman, C. McDaniel-Thomas, B. Tatro **Budget Committee Liaison**-B. Tatro **CCC**- K. Noonan **NHSBA Delegate**-S. Peters **Joint Loss Management Committee**- L. Steadman, B. Bohannon.

f. Proposed Board Meeting Time/Date/Standard Snow Dates: The proposed Board Meeting dates were given to the Board. S. Peters asked if anyone was interested in changing the time or day for the Board Meeting. Most members agreed that it should stay at 7:00 PM on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. **MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to accept the proposed Board Meeting Schedule as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 12.092/0/0/.908

g. Budget Committee Meetings

- i. Spring Joint Meeting: May 16, 2023**
- ii. Fall Joint Meeting: November 18, 2023**
- iii. Budget Hearing: January 11, 2024, Deliberative February 3, 2024.**

5. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. Policies for 2nd Read:

i. IC/ICA-School Year and School Year Calendar:

ii. KFA-Conduct on School Property:

iii. EBCF-Confined Spaces or Pandemic/Epidemic Emergencies: K.

Noonan explained the policy change process to the new members. **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve the policy changes proposed by the Policy Committee. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **VOTE:** 12.092/0/0/.908. **Motion passes.**

b. Science Donation: J. Morin explained the Science teacher at MRMHS Susan Deasy had been contacted about receiving free new science equipment. She received the equipment from the Innovation Liquidation in Derry, NH. She estimated the equipment to be at about \$11,474.00 which means the Board has to vote to receive this donation. **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to accept the Science equipment donation as described by the administration. **SECOND:** L. Steadman **VOTE:** 12.092/0/0/.908. **Motion passes.** K. Noonan would like to thank Susan Deasy for her initiative.

c. Emerson Window Bids: J. Morin explained that in March of 2020 the passing of the Repair and Maintenance Warrant Article included windows for the Emerson School. We lost sight of this due to COVID. She spoke to K. Barker and he said it makes sense to do the windows even with the Elementary School Renovation Project. There was a walk through and there were 2 bids. Level Up Construction came in at \$46,390 and Cheshire Builders came in at \$67,921. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to accept the bid from Level Up Construction in the amount of \$46,390.00 for the windows at Emerson as described by the administration. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** D. LeClair asked if it was the same quality window. J. Morin explained the specifications included the type of window for that space in both bids. K. Barker was very impressed. They are Marvin windows. **VOTE:** 11.098/0/.995/.908. **Motion passes.**

d. Truck Bids for Buildings and Grounds-Take 2: J. Morin explained that the truck the Board voted on was ordered but did not come in and is not going to. We received 3 new bids for another truck. The administration would recommend the 2023 GMC Sierra 3500HD in the amount of \$52,030 from Fairfields. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to accept the bid in the amount of \$52,030 for the 2023 GMC Sierra 3500 HD from Fairfields. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 12.092/0/0/.908. **Motion passes.**

e. March 7, 2023 Meeting Minutes: **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the March 7, 2023 Public and Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** J. Cesaitis **VOTE:** 12.092/0/0/.908. **Motion passes.**

f. Manifest: **MOTION:** D. LeClair **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of \$992,370.81 as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE:** 12.092/0/0/.908. **Motion passes.**

g. Budget Transfer: There are no budget transfers.

6. **Setting Next Meeting's Agenda:**
 1. **Committee Appointments**
 2. **Board Membership Stipends**
 3. **Committee Calendar**
 4. **Certified Staff Nomination**
 5. **Board Ethics Policy Signature**
7. **Public Comments:** There were no Public Comments.
8. **9:24 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:** B. Bohannon **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:** 12.092/0/0/.908. **Motion passes.**
9. **9:28 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:** L. Steadman. **VOTE:** 12.092/0/0/.908. **Motion passes.**
10. **ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 PM. **SECOND: VOTE:** 10.737/0/0/2.263. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY:Yes/No/Abstain/Absent