

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2023
MRMHS Library/Zoom, Swanzey, NH

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

Administration Present: L. Witte, Superintendent, J. Rathbun, Assistant Superintendent, C. Woods, Director of Student Services and J. Morin, Business Administrator.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** S. Peters called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no Public Comments.
3. **#celebrate MRSD:** Gabe Hill and Bree Lawrence have been recognized with the Jack Ford Award for their accomplishment in athletics, academics and community service.
Congratulations Gabe and Bree!!

MRMHS will be performing Mean Girls this coming weekend.

M. Connor commented on a wonderful performance by the students of NHDI. N. Mosher was also present and said it was great. The director thanked the Board and the Budget Committee for the opportunity. *L. Steadman arrives.*

4. **MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:**

a. **Policies for 1st Read:**

- i. **IC/ICA-School Year and School Year Calendar:**
- ii. **KFA-Conduct on School Property:**
- iii. **EBCF-Confined Spaces or Pandemic/Epidemic Emergencies**

b. **Winter i-Ready Results:** J. Rathbun emailed the results of the Winter i-Ready Test to the Board. He explained it is broken down by school and then by grade. It is not broken down by school and grade together in order for the school to be disclosed. In ELA there is growth reported. In ELA there is a 65% increase in medium growth. We are showing high levels of growth. In Cutler 72% made med growth, 42% already made mid-year growth and 15% hit the year end growth. With this report we know that what we are doing is working. We can drill down to individual teachers and students. *J. Strembeck arrives via Zoom.* I-Ready is a nationally used program ELA has promising data. The 7th and 8th grade students are at 71% growth, this is positive data. Gilsum is the highest percentage of green. B. Bohannon thanked J. Rathbun for

this report. He asked how this will be communicated to the parents. J. Rathbun explained that educators use this information internally. There may be some teachers that use this to report at conferences. There is no standard yet. We are using it as an internal measure to show the Board growth. I-Ready recommends 15-30 minutes a week on the program. They do not want students on the computer too much. The Growth reports focus on the beginning of the year to the end of the year. N. Mosher asked about proficiency. J. Rathbun explained the elementary has increased in proficiency but not so much with the MRMHS students. J. Rathbun explained they will test for the i-Ready in the Fall and in the Winter. In the Spring they have NHSASS, National Report Card, SAT and PSAT. He commented that there is a lot taken out of academics if there are so many assessments. Testing is mandated by the State and if we opt out we lose federal funds. This i-Ready Program is beneficial. Math is increasing but not as much as ELA. The Middle School made big jumps, very promising. Forty-three percent made year end targets. B. Bohannon asked if all of the schools are using this program. J. Rathbun said yes. Branching Minds Program is used to collect data on behavior, can analyze attendance, testing and class data. PLC Models identify those that need extra help. Each school has WIN time to look and work on different skills. Trying to focus on the skills needed. The students need to make more than typical. B. Bohannon asked what is going on in the conversation of the students not making growth. J. Rathbun explained teaching is an art. We have looked at the high level. We might not be able to give you the details. Each kid is different, there may be home issues. B. Bohannon would disagree you should have the ability to look at any data. There has got to be a way, a common theme on the students not making growth. J. Rathbun said reaching into the classroom is not his job. Principals are the academic leaders. This is teacher data. S. Peters commented we need to let the teachers teach, they may not be able to do so if we keep asking for data. We need teachers to teach. J. Rathbun commented that results have a lot to do with making it to class and parent involvement. B. Bohannon asked what we would do if they did not go to school. L. Witte explained student attendance, lack of authority. There are no longer excused and unexcused absences. There is little support for truancy through the court system. We have made efforts about truancy through the CARES Funds. The high school is credit based. To stay back a year for an elementary student 2nd-6th grade is socially and emotionally damaging. J. Rathbun has attendance data that he would love to bring to the Board. It was asked to ask the administration to bring goals for the year and resources needed. N. Mosher would like information on the top 3 obstacles, how it is connected to the data, the problem and how to address it. S. Peters asked if there is any compromise due to lack of resources and if so where is help needed.

c. School Board Evaluation Survey: S. Peters made it his personal goal to have every Board Member complete the School Board Survey Evaluation. He has received 7 out of 13. The Board has until March 16, 2023 to respond.

5. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. Bids for MRMHS 700s/800s Renovation Project: J. Morin explained that the administration put out a full bid advertisement for the 700 and 800 Wings. K. Barker also put the advertisement on the Construction Platform. There were a few that responded but only 2 did the mandatory walk through. The administration would recommend the District going with Hutter

Construction. The cost is \$885,023 for Hutter Construction and \$688,215 from the ESSER Funds for the mechanical. This project should be completed by the end of summer 2023. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to accept the bid from Hutter Construction for the 700 and 800 wings renovations. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **DISCUSSION:** J. Morin would suggest signing the contract soon in order to get the items that may take a longer lead time. The total warrant approved by the voters was for \$1,130,000 including the \$885,023.00 for the 700 and 800 wing renovations. J. Morin commented that the 4 new completed classrooms came within budget. **VOTE:** 10.373/0/0/2.263. **Motion passes.**

b. February 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes: **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the February 21, 2023 Public and Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** E. Stanley **VOTE:** 8.302/0/2,435/2.263. **Motion passes.**

c. Manifest: **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of \$1,927,789.26 as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** E. Stanley **VOTE:** 10.737/0/0/2.263. **Motion passes.**

d. Budget Transfer: J. Morin presented two budget transfers to the Board. The first budget transfer is a request from L. Spencer in the amount of \$7000.00 to provide new classroom furniture to the MRMHS. Some of the rooms have new furniture and L. Spenser would like to continue to update the rooms. The other budget transfer is a request from C. Woods in the amount of \$460,000.00. This transfer is to cover the increase in Out-of-District Placements. **MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to approve the two budget transfers as presented by the Business Administrator. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 10.737/0/0/2.263. **Motion passes.**

6. Setting Next Meeting's Agenda:

- 1. Policies for 2nd read**
- 2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair**
- 3. Board Organization**
- 4. Committee Assignments**
- 5. April-Overview of out of district placement**

F. Ashworth asked J. Rathbun to mention that the Emerson Before and After Program 5-year grant cycle is up and the new grant application will be submitted next Friday.

7. Public Comments: There were no Public Comments.

8. 8:10 PM: Motion to Enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (I) Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel. **MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3,II (I) Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel. **SECOND:** L. Steadman. **VOTE:** 10.737/0/0/2.263. **Motion passes.**

9. Return to Public Session: **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to seal the #1 issue section of the 8:10 PM March 7, 2023 Non-Public Meeting Minutes until the MDEA has a completed ratification vote. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **VOTE:** 10.737/0/0/2.263. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: E. Stanley **MOVED** to seal the #2 Issue section of the 8:10 PM March 7, 2023 Non-Public Meeting Minutes until March 2033. **SECOND:** M. Connor. **VOTE:** 10.737/0/0/2.263. **Motion passes.**

10. 8:39 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: E. Stanley **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:** 10.737/0/0/2.263. **Motion passes.**

11. Return to Public Session: MOTION: S.Peters **MOVED** to seal the 8:39 PM March 7, 2023 Non-Public Meeting Minutes until June 30, 2023. **SECOND:** J. Cesaitis. **VOTE:** 10.737/0/0/2.263. **Motion passes.**

12. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: C. Toomey **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 PM. **SECOND:** M. Connor **VOTE:** 10.737/0/0/2.263. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY:Yes/No/Abstain/Absen