

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

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

Administration Present: L. Witte, Superintendent via Zoom, J. Rathbun, Assistant Superintendent and J. Morin, Business Administrator.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** S. Peters called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Donna Bogdzewic, member of the MESSA Union presented the Board with a gift card on behalf of the entire MESSA Union. Thanking the Board from the bottom of their hearts for the work they do. It is greatly appreciated.

3. **#celebrate MRSD:** The National District Administration Newsletter mentioned L. Witte was one of three Superintendents to watch. Congratulations Superintendent Witte!!!

4. **MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:**
 - a. **Student Government Report:** There is no Student Government Report.
 - b. **2023-2024 School Year Calendar First Read:** J. Rathbun presented the proposed calendar for 2023-2024. He said that it meets the expectations and is in line with the CCC. The scheduling due to the CCC is very difficult. The law states that we can only have 10 days of scheduling conflict when in fact we have scheduled only 4 days. KHS is days based and MRMHS is hours based. We have scheduled the voting days and workshops days the same as KHS. There is an extra workshop day at the beginning of the year for training with the new Math Program. New hires will receive on demand training from the Math Company. Graduation is on Friday night instead of a Saturday morning. The change is due to the fact students had to choose to either attend their graduation or sporting event which was either a championship or the Meet of Champions. Friday will also give a chance for a rain date. We have a sufficient amount of snow days built in and we have plenty of hours to cover.
 - c. **Policies for 1st Read:**
 - i. **DBJ-Transfer of Appropriation:**
 - ii. **IMBA-Distance Education:**
 - iii. **IKFC-Alternative Diploma for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities:**
 - iv. **EBCD-School or District Closings:** K. Noonan reviewed the policies being presented for a first read. She said if there are any questions to email her prior to the next meeting.

d. Debrief from Deliberative: S. Peters commented that it was pleasant for W. Hutwelker to say that this was the first memory that both the School Board and the Budget Committee are in agreement with all of the warrant articles. S.Peters shared the Warrant Articles in Plain English with the Board on the screen. J. Morin explained that the January rate at the Bond Bank was 3.44%. The rate they gave us was very conservative. If that sort of rate continues it could mean a savings of over \$300,000.00 a year in interest for the District. The CRC will need a list of the proposed items in the proposed budget for Article Two. The Special Education Expendable Trust will need to have the updated current balance in the article. *E. Stanley arrives.* L. Steadman asked that the Board change Warrant Articles in Plain English to Warrant Articles in Plain Language.

5. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. March 2023 Warrant Articles: S. Peters explained the warrant articles have been submitted and there is no need for review.

b. Policies for 2nd Read:

i. EB-Joint Loss Management Committee:

ii. JLCB-Immunization of Students:

iii. JLCF-Wellness:

iv. IICA/IICA-E/IICA-R-Field Trip and Excursions: MOTION:

K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve the policy changes in Policy EB-Joint Loss Management Committee, JLCB-Immunization of Students, JLCF-Wellness and IICA/IICA-E/IICA-R-Field Trip and Excursions as presented in the packet. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **VOTE:** 11.663/0/0/1.337. **Motion passes.**

c. 2023-2024 MRMHS Program of Studies: J. Rathbun presented the Board with a copy of the Program of Studies. He explained there are no additional classes. There has been a small change. The students are taking Earth Science but are still required to take a physical science. The Program of Studies has added Topics of Chemistry and Topics of Physics. This will meet the minimum standards. The English Capstone will now be an ELO. The Senior Project has been done for 25-30 years. It is a wonderful project. The idea is to stop and take a break. The Senior Project takes over and the other classes are slighted. It is not required to graduate. K. Noonan said she is disappointed about the Senior Project not being done. L. Steadman asked if another language was going to be offered to the students. J. Rathbun said it is due to class size. S.Peters asked if the parents and students are surveyed to see if they would like another language offered. J.Rathbun will contact L. Spencer, he is not sure of the answer. The Program of Studies presented in paper copy was not complete. The Board will vote on it at the next meeting.

d. January 12, 2022 Bond Hearing Meeting Minutes: MOTION: M. Connor **MOVED** to accept the January 12, 2023 Bond Hearing Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B.Tatro **VOTE:** 8.268/0/3.395/1.337. **Motion passes.**

e. January 17, 2022 School Board Meeting Minutes: MOTION: C. Toomey **MOVED** to accept the January 17, 2023 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** M. Connor **VOTE:** 8.268/0/3.395/1.337. **Motion passes.**

f. Motion on the Manifest: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the manifest

in the amount of \$2,937,714.51 as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** K. Noonan **VOTE:** 11.663/0/0/1.337. **Motion passes.**

g. Budget Transfer: MOTION: D.LeClair **MOVED** to approve the transfer request from J. Rathbun in the amount of \$23,600.00 from multiple lines in the budget to the School Board Contracted Service line and to approve a transfer request from M. Suarez in the amount of \$7,000.00 from the Special Ed. Health Ins. to the Regular Instruction Furn/Equipment line. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **DISCUSSION:** The first transfer was to cover the cost of the Guilfoil Firm. K. Noonan would like to review the invoice provided by Guilfoil. **VOTE:** 11.663/0/0/1.337. **Motion passes.**

6. Setting Next Meeting's Agenda:

- 1. Policies for 2nd Read**
- 2. Board Evaluation Survey**
- 3. Superintendent Evaluation Process**
- 4. Listening Session Debrief**
- 5. Approve Calendar**
- 6. Program of Studies**

7. Public Comments: S. Ciolino of Swanzey commented that he would agree with L. Steadman about another language. He said his children came from a school that offered Chinese and there were many students who took the course. There are a lot of Chinese students who speak English but not a lot of Americans speaking Chinese.

8. 7:42 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:** M. Connor. **VOTE:** 11.663/0/0/1.337. **Motion passes.**

9. Return to Public Session: The Board appreciated the gift cards from the MESSA Union but D. LeClair asked if it was okay to take gifts as Board Members. S. Peters will do a little more research on this topic. Thank you MESSA. *M. Connor leaves the meeting.*

10. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: C. Toomey **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE:** 10.545/0/0/2.445. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY:Yes/No/Abstain/Absen