

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2023
MRMHS Library/Zoom, Swanzey, NH

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

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** S. Peters called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** A. Hopkins of Swanzey and Chair of the Budget Committee thanked the School Board for listening to the Budget Committee's recommendations regarding the roof and the other 2 expendable trusts. The Budget Committee is recommending lowering the proposed budget by \$250,000.00 which is the amount of the increase for the first year of the MESSA contract. The Budget Committee felt it is a reasonable recommendation and they hope that the Board agrees. He would suggest that the Board and the Budget Committee work together to move and second the motion on the warrant articles at the Deliberative Session. This will show a partnership and that we are all working together. A. Hopkins thanked S. Peters for his leadership.

3. **#celebrate MRSD:** There are many things to celebrate but nothing prepared tonight.

4. **MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:**
 - a. **Student Government Report:** There is no Student Government Report.
 - b. **Debrief from Bond & Budget Hearings:** S. Peters explained that the Board held the Bond Hearing, heard comments and answered questions and then closed the Bond Hearing. The Budget Committee hosted the Public Hearing, reviewed the warrant articles, heard comments and answered questions. The Budget Committee held their regular meeting after the Public Hearing and voted on all of the warrant articles except the Bond. The Bond warrant is not complete.
 - c. **Deliberative Session Prep:** The Deliberative Session will be held on February 4, 2023 at 10:00 AM. The Budget Committee, School Board, Administration and Board Attorney will meet in the teacher's room to discuss how the meeting will be run and if there are any questions. The Board and the Budget Committee will meet separately after the Deliberative Session in case there needs to be additional voting on the warrant articles.

d. Board Member Terms Up for Renewal: L. Steadman, B. Tatro, M. Connor, C. Toomey and J. Cesaitis terms will expire and are up for reelection if they choose. Anyone can register from January 25, 2023 until February 3, 2023.

e. Policies for 1st 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: K. Noonan explained that these policies being presented in the packet are for 1st read. If there are any questions please email K. Noonan prior to the next Board Meeting.

5. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. March 2023 Warrant Articles: Article One: Article One is being proposed with adjustments. The amount of the project is being proposed to change from \$41,000,000.00 to \$41,500,000.00. This increase is due to interest investment. Hutter Construction and K. Barker felt the number was closer to \$42,000,000.00. The Board will meet in the middle. J. Morin said the \$537,500.00 is the most recent bond interest quote. The NH Bond Bank is using conservative estimates on the rates. It is very unusual for the rate to be higher than that. **MOTION:** B.Tatro **MOVED** to support the revised Warrant Article One language as written. **SECOND:** K.Noonan. **DISCUSSION:** J. Morin explained that it is advisable to have J. O'Shaughnessy present for questions at the Deliberative Session. She also explained the DRA had the District swap the phrasing in the article, all of the revenue will be stated at the top of the article. J. Morin presented the revised Article One. **VOTE:** 7.566/0/0/5.434. **Motion passes. Article Two:** It was explained that the Budget Committee is recommending decreasing the proposed budget by \$250,000.00 which is the amount of the first year of the MESSA contract. It was commented that we will have to cut lines in order to find the \$250,000.00 in the proposed budget. L.Witte explained she met with J.Rathbun and J.Morin to identify lines to be cut. They identified \$42,000.00 in the insurance line and the remaining to be moved from the Special Education Tuition line. If the GMR were to come in lower we will rebuild the tuition line. **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to support Article Two as presented. **SECOND:** M. Connor. **DISCUSSION:** K.Noonan was disappointed in the Budget Committee. The Default and the proposed are too close. The voters are not getting a choice. The average voter will not know why the \$250,000.00 cut. **VOTE:** 7.566/0/0/5.434. **Motion passes.**

b. Authorize CRC to edit WAIBE after Deliberative: **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to authorize CRC to edit WAIBE after the Deliberative Session. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **VOTE:** 7.566/0/0/5.434. **Motion passes.**

c. January 3, 2022 Meeting Minutes: **MOTION:** C. Toomey **MOVED** to accept the January 3, 2023 Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B.Tato **VOTE:** 7.566/0/0/5.434. **Motion passes.**

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

in the amount of \$1,626,872.68 as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** C.Toomey
VOTE: 7.566/0/0/5.434.

e. **Budget Transfer: MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to approve the request from Audrey Salzmann in the amount of \$14,815.00 from the health insurance lines to purchase 15 additional Phonak Soundfield systems and to approve the request from C. Woods to move \$44,897.00 from Cutler to Emerson where the greatest need is. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **VOTE:** 7.566/0/0/5.434. **Motion passes.**

f. **MOA Proposal:** L. Witte explained she had received an email containing a MOA proposal. The MOA is asking for additional days when a staff member has COVID and is not able to work. L.Witte reached out to other Districts in the area and they do not do this. We did it for 2 years longer than most districts. It was commented that we do not see the need for a MOA. We do not give a flu or strep leave. COVID is just like other illnesses. The administration is not in favor of this MOA. It was explained that all of the Union reps. signed the MOA. C. Toomey said she appreciates what the staff does but will not agree with the MOA. J. Cesaitis said that Fall Mtn. gives 3 days. L.Witte said they did not respond. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to ask the Superintendent to decline the MOA proposal as written. **Motion fails for lack of a second.** S. Peters declared the Board took no action and declined it.

g. **Senior Class Trip-Virginia Beach:** L. Spencer and M. Alexander attended the Board Meeting in order to answer questions about the Senior Trip that were not included at the last Board Meeting.The Board had concerns about Spring Break for college going on at the same time, missing class time and matching with the policy regarding education. L. Spencer and M. Alexander explained that there were so many pieces as far as student involvement at the school. They tried to pick a time that students would not miss extracurricular activities. They surveyed the students and they agreed on going on the trip in March. They also chose Virginia Beach because it was the most economical price. They contacted the hotels and they said that week of March is a slower time of the year. M. Alexander explained the educational pieces of the trip. The class has raised money through fundraisers and will use \$3000.00 to help fund the trip. There are about 90-95 students in the Senior Class who are eligible to go but 40 students will attend. K. Noonan mentioned the fact that staff will attend the trip and we have an issue with getting substitutes. L. Spencer said subs are always an issue. The tickets and booking of the hotel rooms should be done soon if the Board is going to reconsider. **VOTE:** C. Toomey **MOVED** to approve the Senior Class Trip to Virginia Beach as presented. **SECOND:** J. Cesaitis. **VOTE:** 6.5/0/.995/5.434. **Motion passes.**

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

1. **Deliberative Session February 4, 2023**
2. **Listening Sessions Start February 7, 2023**
3. **Program of Studies-**J. Rathbun hopes to have the Program of Studies approved by the Board before February vacation.
4. **Policies for Second Read**

5. Fin/Fac review potentially investment policy flexibility in regards to the bond.

7. CCC Update: K. Noonan explained she had attended the CCC meeting and was served breakfast and it was very good. There was a lot of talk about the calendar. There is a legislation that the 3 attending districts cannot have more than 10 days in conflict.

8. Public Comments: There were no second public comments.

9. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: C. Toomey **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM. **SECOND:** M. Connor **VOTE:** 7.566/0/0/5.434. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY:Yes/No/Abstain/Absen