

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
January 3, 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, 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:**

a. L. Witte congratulated everyone who participated or contributed to the Holiday Festival of Music Event. Well done.

Deseree Hubbard, Special Education teacher at MRMHS was recognized at the Wasabi Fenway Bowl. This is a charitable program focusing on recognizing and thanking educators who have gone above and beyond to support their students and their communities. Congratulations.

T. Cote has completed the NIAA Master Athletic Program. Congratulations.

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

a. **Student Government Report:** There is no Student Government Report.

b. **Recap of 12/20/22 Budget Committee Meeting:** The Budget Committee made a recommendation to the Board to choose the Level Debt Bond for the Elementary School Renovation Project. They liked the even payment each year. They also recommended the Roof Warrant Article in the amount of \$385,000.00. They mentioned if it is more to find it in another account. Another recommendation is to remove Article Six and Article Eight. S. Peters mentioned that the Budget Committee feels that the Expendable Trusts are a good idea but not this year, they want the bond to pass.

5. **MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:**

a. **March 2023 Warrant Articles:** B. Tatro explained that the Fin/Fac Committee met earlier tonight with K. Barker and Hutter Construction. The committee would recommend the amount of \$41,000,000.00 for the Elementary School Renovation Project. This will allow the annual payment on the bond under 2 million and closer to the amount for the repair and renovations warrant article in previous years. **Article One: MOTION:** L.Steadman **MOVED** to approve Article One the Bond Warrant Article provided by the administration for a total project cost of \$41,000,000.00 for the Elementary School Renovation Project. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **DISCUSSION:** J. Morin explained that the language in the warrant article is language from the Bond Council. **VOTE:** 7.566/0/0/5.434. **Motion passes. Article Three Repair and**

Maintenance for the Roof: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve Article Three MRMHS Roof Replacement in the amount of \$385,000.00. **SECOND:** M. Connor. **VOTE:** 7.566/0/0/5.434. **Motion passes.** **MESSA Warrant Article:** L. Steadman reviewed the highlights of the contract. L. Steadman asked if the Board would like her present at the Public Hearing in case there were questions about the contract. S. Peters explained the Bond Hearing, which is run by the Board, is before the Public Hearing. K. Noonan would appreciate it if L. Steadman attended. **Article Five: Special Education Expendable Trust:** L. Steadman suggested removing this article to keep the ballot clean to help insure the passing of the bond. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to remove Article Five. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** L. Witte commented that we need this article to have the ability to add to it at the Deliberative Session. M. Connor is concerned with perception. First, we have the article then we remove it. L. Steadman withdrew her motion. **Article Six School Building Maintenance: MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to remove Article Six. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **DISCUSSION:** It was commented that this article is funded only if there is a surplus. It was also commented that the Budget Committee recommended this article to be removed. J. Morin explained that the Budget Committee recommended removing this article as well. **VOTE:** 6.434/1.132/0/5.434. **Motion passes.** **Article Seven Vehicle Expendable Trust:** J. Morin explained the Budget Committee agreed not to recommend removing Article Seven after she explained that there is a need for the funds. **Article Eight School Grounds Expendable Trust: MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to remove Article Eight as recommended by the Budget Committee. **SECOND:** M. Connor. **VOTE:** 6.434/1.132/0/5.434. **Motion passes.**

b. December 6, 2022 Meeting Minutes: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to accept the December 6, 2022 Public and Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **VOTE:** 6.468/0/1.098/5.434. **Motion passes.**

c. Motion on the Manifest: MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of \$1,350,441.27 dated 12/21,2022 as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** C. Toomey **VOTE:** 7.566/0/0/5.434. **Motion passes.** K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of \$1,552,023.91 dated 1/4/2023. **SECOND:** M. Connor. **VOTE:** 7.566/0/0/5.434. **Motion passes.**

d. Budget Transfer: MOTION: C. Toomey **MOVED** to approve the request from J. Morin, Business Administrator for a budget transfer in the amount of \$197,223.00. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** J. Morin explained the funds would be transferred from the health insurance and retirement lines to the security lines in the individual schools. These funds will be used to cover the projects submitted for the SAFE grant that did not get awarded. **VOTE:** 7.566/0/0/5.434. **Motion passes.**

e. Cheshire Career Center Representative: S. Peters explained the CCC has reached out to the Board to see who the representative from the Board for the CCC would be to replace W. Wright. **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to appoint K. Noonan as the CCC representative from the Board. **SECOND:** L. Steadman. **VOTE:** 7.566/0/0/5.434. **Motion passes.**

f. Senior Class Trip-Virginia Beach: The Senior Class would like to go on a trip to Virginia Beach during the week of March 15-March 19, 2023. L. Witte read the School Board Policy to the Board. The cost per student is between \$413-\$500. The Board commented on the timing of the trip and at that time the college students would be going on Spring Break.

MOTION: C.Toomey. **MOVED** to approve the Senior Trip to Virginia Beach. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **DISCUSSION:** K. Noonan felt that it would be better at the end of the school year. L. Steadman said there is a stigma about Spring Break and Virginia Beach. C. Toomey said it is up to their parents. L. Steadman said some of the students will get excluded. K. Noonan said closer to the end of the school year. J. Cesaitis would agree with K. Noonan and the timing. **VOTE:** 1.132/6.434/0/5.434. **Motion fails.**

g. Illustrative Mathematics K-8: J.Rathbun presented information to the Board regarding the new Math Program being presented. He explained that the committee worked on finding a program for a year and a half. The committee presented 3 programs to the teachers and parents and would recommend Illustrative Math. J. Rathbun explained this program will be fully funded for 6 years through the ESSER funds. This program aligns with the NH Standards and our curriculum. J. Rathbun gave an overview of the program. Online materials, class materials and professional development are included among others. All of the schools K-8 will be using the same materials in Math. As far as teacher feedback as expected, anything new is scary. Is anyone ready for a change? The members of the committee are excited. M. Connor had attended a Math presentation session. J. Rathbun will look to see what Professional Development Funds are available in the summer to pay the staff for attending. **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to accept the administration's recommendation to purchase 6 years of Illustrative Mathematics using ESSER Funds. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **VOTE:** 7.566/0/0/5.434. **Motion passes.** K. Noonan and M. Connor thanked the committee for the work on selecting the program.

6. Setting Next Meeting's Agenda:

- 1. Debrief Bond Hearing**
- 2. Debrief Public Hearing**
- 3. Authorization CRC for WAIFE**

7. Public Comments: S. Ciolino of Swanzey commented on certain books in which he is seeing in the school. Maybe they should be in a Town Library but not a School Library. He said that they are divisive. Who allows these books to be here? If the law is in effect then why are these books here? He also asked if the Cutler School is closing and the student will be attending MTC. S. Peters did suggest that S.Ciolino go on the website to review that Elementary School Renovation Project which will be on the Spring Ballot.

8. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: C. Toomey **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 PM. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 7.566/0/0/5.434. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY:Yes/No/Abstain/Absent