

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2022
MRMHS Library/Zoom, Swanzey, NH

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

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

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. **State Building Aid:** L. Witte explained that the State Board of Education has awarded the MRSD State Building Aid for the Elementary School Renovation Project. The District received third place. Congratulations MRSD!!!

b. **State Championship:** The Varsity Cheerleading Team has won the State Championship. Congratulations Team!!!! **Motion:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to award the Varsity Cheerleading Team Husky Swag for winning the State Championship. **SECOND:** C. Toomey **VOTE:** 10/068/0/0/2.932. **Motion passes.**

c. **Special Olympics Bowling Tournament:** Current students and Alumni competed in a Special Olympics Bowling Tournament this past weekend. Isaac Cormier came in 2nd place and Josh Rabassa came in 3rd place. Congratulations everyone!!! **MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to award the Special Olympic Bowling Participants Monadnock Swag for their placements. **SECOND:** M. Connor. **VOTE:** 10.068/0/0/2.932. **Motion passes.**

d. **Math Night:** The elementary school students will participate in Math Night. It will be held on Thursday Night at the Wilcox Building.

e. **ESSA List:** L. Witte reported that Cutler, MTC and Gilsum have been taken off the ESSA List. Congratulations!!!

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

a. **Elementary Project Sequence & Financial Outlook:** K. Barker, architect, explained that he has been working for the District since 2018. He explained that the District had just received notification that the State Board of Education has ranked MRSD third place to be awarded State Building Aid. There were 17 districts who filed, Rochester and Colbrook were awarded first and second place. The District should be receiving 19.3 million dollars depending on the final cost of the Elementary School Renovation Project. The Legislature needs to pass the budget in order for the district to receive the funds. There is a new system now and it is a good

chance the funds will be available. K. Barker explained there are things that can be done prior to the arrival of the funds. The idea is to do the site work, move the fields at MTC, move the playground and do the septic. Construction will begin in 2024. The MTC addition should be completed first in order to accommodate the students from Troy due to the construction at Troy and the fact that the work would disrupt the student's learning. The completion of the entire project of all of the elementary schools should be in 2026. K. Barker commented if the bond does not pass the first time the Ste Building Aid funds will be available for a second vote the following year. S. Peters commented about bond rates and the number of options the Finance and Facilities Committee looked at. K. Barker mentioned that it is not possible at this time to have Hutter give the District a GMP due to inflation. S. Peters mentioned that the next step is the bond. ***K. Barker leaves the meeting.***

b. Preparation for Joint Meeting with the Budget Committee: The Board and the Budget Committee will be meeting on Saturday November 19, 2022 for their Joint Meeting. The meeting will be to discuss the proposed budget, the MESSA Contract and the Elementary School Renovation Project. J. Morin explained that the budget books are available for the members who have not picked them up at the SAU.

c Student Government Report: The Student Government Representative is not present tonight at this meeting.

d. Student Holiday Performances:

i. Cutler-12/13 (6:30 pm)

ii. MRMHS-12/16 (7pm) 12/17 (2pm & 7 pm)

e. Staffing Update:

f. Policies for First Read:

i. EHAB-Data Governance and Security:

ii. EHB-Data/Records retention and Destruction:

iii. IHBA-R-Evaluation Requirements for Children with Specific

Learning Disabilities:

iv. JJJ-Access to Public School Programs by Nonpublic, Charter and Home Educated Pupils:

v. JLDBB- Suicide Prevention and Response: K. Noonan would like the Board to subtract Policy JJJ. She also asked J. Rathbun what number would be going on the back of the students IDs. J. Rathbun explained both numbers will be on the student IDs to contact help regarding suicide.

5. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. Proposed Budget: L. Witte explained that the proposed budget has no real asks from the administration. They are not looking to add positions. There are increases in out of district placement in the amount of \$200,000, the MDEA Contract, contractual lane changes, increase in the Health insurance GMR, increase in transportation and decrease in the NHRS. The proposed budget is up 1.99% which is \$649,954.00. The total proposed budget is \$34,361,157.00. S. Peters commented that with the Elementary School Renovation Project we do not have a MRMHS Renovation Project. D. LeClair would like to suggest fixing the sidewalk near the cafeteria. K. Noonan suggested some sort of project for the warrant. S. Peters said that

the Budget Committee said to keep the warrant simple. B. Tatro explained the Finance and Facilities Committee discussed a new roof at the MRMHS. The roof is a priority. The Finance/Facilities Committee would like to hold a meeting on November 29, 2022 to discuss this warrant article. S. Peters explained that the Board had asked the administration to look into a few new positions the Board had requested for possible proposed warrant articles. J. Rathbun said he was not sure about the estimates. He was not sure the Board was asking for the administration to look into those. S. Peters asked if the administration believes that the Board should go with the list discussed on October 4, 2022. L. Witte commented that the administration wanted a budget not too high due to the bond. There was nothing she felt she wanted to put in the budget. She wanted a reasonable budget for the bond. **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to accept the proposed budget for 2023/24 in the amount of \$34,361,157.00 (including the \$970,000 for Nutrition Grants) as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** D. LeClair. **VOTE:** 10.068/0/0/2.932. **Motion passes.**

b. Policies for 2nd Read:

i. GCO-Evaluation of Administrative Staff:

ii. JH-Student Absences, Absenteeism and Truancy:

iv. EBBB-Indoor Air Quality and Water Quality:

v. IGF-Athletics and Extracurricular Contacts: MOTION: K. Noonan

MOVED to accept the proposed Policy changes as recommended by the Policy Committee.

SECOND: C. Toomey. **DISCUSSION:** D. LeClair asked if a teacher has the authority to throw a student out of class if the clothing is not appropriate. It was commented that the administration will make the final decision. D. LeClair commented that a teacher asked a student to leave because of the clothing and not return. S. Peters said it is up to the principals in each school.

VOTE: 8.731/0/1.337/2.932. **Motion passes.**

c. November 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes: MOTION: E. Stanley **MOVED** to accept the November 1, 2022 School Board Public and Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented.

SECOND: M. Connor **VOTE:** 8.731/0/1.337/2.932. **Motion passes.**

d. Motion on the Manifest: MOTION: C. Toomey **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of \$ 1,585,847.34 as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 8.937/0/1.337/2.932. **Motion passes.**

e. Bi-Annual Approval of Suicide Prevention Plan: J. Rathbun explained that the Suicide Prevention Plan was reviewed by the social workers, counselors and mental health people. It was mainly unchanged except for the required changes. The phone numbers are required to be on the student IDs and the resources were updated. The District was given Suicide Prevention Training by the staff at UNH. It is required by law to have 2 hours of suicide training. **MOTION:** C. Toomey **MOVED** to adopt the revised Suicide Prevention Plan as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 10.068/0/0/2.932. **Motion passes.**

6. Setting Next Meeting's Agenda:

1. Wrap up Board and Superintendent Goals

2. IReady Reports

3. Warrants

7. **Public Comments:** Steve Ciolino would hope that the teachers and staff will be held at a higher level in regards to the dress code. What is the recourse if a teacher is dressed inappropriately? S. Peters said there is a professional dress code Policy for staff. L. Witte said if there is a question, take the concerns to the building principal.

8. **8:11 PM Enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91:3 II (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would adversely affect the reputation of any person:**
MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** Enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91:3 II (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would adversely affect the reputation of any person. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **VOTE:** 9.863/0/.2306/2.932. **Motion passes.**

9. **ADJOURNMENT: MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 PM. **SECOND:** M. Connor **VOTE:** 10.068/0/0/2.932. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY:Yes/No/Abstain/Absent