Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
November 1, 2022
MRMHS Library/Zoom, Swanzey, NH

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

Administration Present: 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. Beyond the Bell started the Middle School Program today. The students are able to sign up for different clubs and the late buses can be used for the students. The turnout was great.

b. The Monadnock Girls Cross Country Team will be attending the Meet of Champions.

c. A Blood Drive will be held at Monadnock MS/HS.

4. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. National School Board Conference: S. Peters explained that because of the presentation in Concord to the NHSBA he and the Superintendent have been invited to Florida to attend the National School Board Association Conference in April. L. Steadman would support the trip but would like to gather information on the cost. Congratulations Scott!!! **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to support the expenses of travel and lodging to the National School Board Association Conference in April of 2023 for 1 Board Member and one administrator. **SECOND:** D. LeClair. **DISCUSSION:** M. Connor would like to get the expense cost first. B. Bohannon commented are we really going to say no. Let's do it. J. Rathbun commented that he has attended conferences and the cost for each person is about $2000.00. K. Noonan would echo what B. Bohannon said, this is a proud invitation. Congratulations!!! Happy to let them go. **VOTE:** 8.439/0/.995/3.567. **Motion passes.**

b. October 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to accept the October 18, 2022 School Board Public as amended. **SECOND:** 9.434/0/0/3.567 **VOTE: Motion passes.**

c. Motion on the Manifest: MOTION: C. Toomey **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of $ 1,634,615.76 presented by the administration. **SECOND:** M. Connor

VOTE: 9.434/0/0/3.567. **Motion passes.**

d. Bi-Annual Approval of Suicide Prevention Plan: J. Rathbun would like to put the vote for the approval of the Suicide Prevention Plan off until the next meeting. There is an item required by law that needs to be updated. He would like to have the team look at this. The change is to have the suicide contact number on the student IDs. The staff will be having a two-hour refresher course from members of UNH regarding suicide prevention on November 8, 2022. J. Rathbun will present the polished plan at the next meeting.

e. MESSA Contract: The Negotiating Committee explained that both sides have come to an agreement. They have presented the Board the final PDF, the red line items and the changes summary. L.Steadman commented that the Board can discuss the contract or make a motion to ratify at this time. If the Board would like more discussion it should be done in a non-public session. **MOTION:** C. Toomey **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91:3 II (l) Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, for the purpose of discussing the proposed MESSA Contract. **SECOND:** D. LeClair **VOTE:** 9.434/0/0/3.567. **Motion passes.**

5. Return to Public Session: MOTION: B.Bohannon **MOVED** to ratify the MESSA Contract as presented by the Negotiating Committee. **SECOND:** C.Toomey. **VOTE:** 8.439/0/.995/3.567. **Motion passes.** S. Peters would like the Negotiating Committee to send the contract to the Budget Committee. Nice work Negotiating Committee.

6. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

a. Policies for 1st Read:

i. GCO-Evaluation of Administrative Staff

ii. JH-Student Absences, Absenteeism and Truancy

iii. JICA-Student Dress Code

iv. EBBD-Indoor Air Quality and Water Quality

v. IGF-Athletics and Extracurricular Contacts: K. Noonan explained that the Policy Committee is presenting these policies for the first read and any questions please contact her.

b. Student Government Report: The Student Government rep. is not present tonight but the Board would like her thoughts on the dress code policy. It is outlined in the handbook and the individual schools will enforce it. There is also information on the MRMHS website.

c. Follow-Up on Social Media Push, Select Board Meetings, Stanchion Sign Placements: J. Rathbun explained that he has followed up with Guilfoil. He has provided the information and the website did get up and running but not connected. He will contact Guilfoil tomorrow. The ERAC Committee will be meeting on Thursday via Zoom. M. Connor said that the Richmond Library does not have room for the stanchion but there are pamphlets on the desk. S. Peters will deliver stanchion to the recreation center and the library in Troy. E. Stanley mentioned an interview on the radio with Chris Cotes. S. Peters will be in contact. K. Noonan explained the stanchion sign is at the Fitzwilliam Library. She would like help presenting at the

Select Board Meeting when she asks permission to speak. S. Peters will be happy to help. S. Peters mentioned that the Board Members should follow up and reload the pamphlets and stanchions in their towns.

d. BOY: J. Rathbun explained that the BOY verified by the District is 1637. The State has not verified this number.

e. Staffing Update: J. Rathbun explained that the staff update list was in the packet. There is not much change from the last meeting. They have been hiring Before and After school staff. The District has gone from 64 vacancies to 24. That is an improvement. There has been interest and applications on School Spring. The District will be changing from School Spring. The new application process will be much bigger. He also explained the many ways they are letting people know about the job opportunities. He said that there are a lot of staff that are doing double duty. The Special Education department is working really hard to keep up with the demands. The elementary classes are bigger for this District but not as far as the State numbers. He again explained that it would not be advisable to bring in a teacher and separate the students. What they will do is have two certified teachers in the classroom. This is what is best for the students. They do not want to disrupt the students. He mentioned that there are a lot of student teachers that will be finishing up in December and may possibly fill a vacancy.

7. Setting Next Meeting's Agenda:

1. **Policies for 2nd read**
2. **Suicide Prevention Plan**
3. **Proposed Budget**
4. **Project Sequence**
5. **COVID Status Update** J. Rathbun explained that the District cannot ask a staff member or student to take a COVID test to return to school after the 5 days of quarantine. We can recommend that they wear a mask.

8. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

9. 8:08 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:

10. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: C. Toomey **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 9.434/0/0/3.567 **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY: Yes/No/Abstain/Absent