

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2022
MRMHS Library/Zoom, Swanzey, NH

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

Administration Present: L. Witte, Superintendent, J. Rathbun, Assistant Superintendent, C. Woods, Director of Student Services, and J. Morin, Business Administrator.

Also Present: Alyvia Davis, Student Government Representative and L. Aivaliotis, MRSD Recording Secretary via Zoom.

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. S. Peters acknowledged the passing of Winston Wright and his time on the Board as an important mentor and his patient focus on the students. He asked for a moment of silence for the great things that he has done for this community. E. Stanley would like the Board to think of the idea of naming something in the District after Winston for his contribution to the community. S. Peters mentioned that he had visited Winston and he understood everything he said. Winston was smiling while S. Peters explained the Elementary Renovation Project.

L. Witte said that she will be returning to work on the 24th. She thanked all who reached out to her, for the gifts and thoughtfulness. She is looking forward to getting back and being part of Monadnock. She said that Winston was the person that suggested the Monadnock School Board be nominated for NHSBA School Board of the Year. S. Peters would like to look back at the minutes and see how long he has been a member of the Board. L. Steadman was amazed at what Winston had done through his life in addition to the Board.

J. Rathbun informed the Board that MTC had a fun pumpkin carving event. The pumpkins were donated. Thank you. Cutler students kicked off their yearlong NHDI program. Emerson will be having their Harvest Night on October 20, 2022.

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

a. **October 4, 2022 Meeting Minutes: MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to accept

the October 4, 2022 School Board Public as amended. **SECOND: M. Connor VOTE: 8.336/0/1.09/3.567. Motion passes.**

b. Motion on the Manifest: MOTION: C. Toomey MOVED to approve the manifest in the amount of \$ 1,922,085.32 presented by the administration. **SECOND: B.Tatro VOTE: 9.434/0/0/3.567. Motion passes.**

c. Vehicle Purchase: J. Morin explained that the District has received 3 bids for a 2023 Chevy truck with a plow. There is an expendable trust in which the funds will be withdrawn from. The District would like to go with Walier Chevrolet. They feel very comfortable with Waliers and have done business with them in the past. K.Noonan said it is good to stay local. **MOTION: E. Stanley MOVED** to accept the bid in the amount of \$53,647.00 from Walier Chevrolet for a 2023 Chevy with a plow truck. The funds will be withdrawn from the Vehicle Expendable Trust. **SECOND: C. Toomey. VOTE: 9.434/0/0/3.567. Motion passes.**

d. Budget Transfers: There were no budget transfers.

5. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

a. Recap from Parent/Teacher Conference/ERAC Marketing Effort: S. Peters, B. Tatro, J. Strimbeck, L. Steadman, D. LeClair and Budget Committee Member B. Audette attended the Parent/Teacher Conferences and handed out pamphlets and spoke to parents about the Elementary Renovation Project. They all felt that it was positive. The staff members were very interested. D. LeClair, B. Taro, S. Peters and E. Stanley will be attending the Swanzey Selectboard Meeting tomorrow and will be bringing the stanchions.

b. GMR% & NH Retirement Rates: J. Morin explained that the Health Trust Rate will be 6.6% and the NH Retirement Rate for certified teachers is 19.64% and non-certified 13.5%. She explained that both rates are a significant part of the budget. The GMR allows us to build the budget. We know that no matter the rate will not be more than 6.6%.

c. Staffing Update: J. Rathbun explained that there is no movement on the staffing. At Cutler there are 2 positions not filled. If the District were to hire a teacher mid-year the District would pair the newer teacher with a classroom teacher. The administration feels that this is best for the students. The classroom will have 2 teachers for the students instead of disrupting the students. J. Rathbun mentioned that the District has a significant number of student teachers from KSC.

d. Overview of MRMHS Grading Practices: J. Rathbun had been asked to explain the grading practices of the MRMHS. The District has moved away from individual teachers using their own grading practices. He explained formative assessment is instruction such as practice, homework and in class participation. Summative assessment is test scores, projects and showing understanding of competencies. Formative assessment is 80% of the grade and summative assessment is 20% of the grade. Alyvia Davis said that she felt that the formative and summative assessment is a good method and it allows you to learn and not only get a good grade. J. Rathbun explained that the information on the grading practices is in the handbook.

e. Feedback/Update on Alma conversion from PowerSchool: J. Rathbun explained that the District started using ALMA in April. B.Therrien is working with the program. The State also uses ALMA. It has not been a super easy time trying to get the

information out of Powerschool. It is very messy but he gives credit to B. Therrien for her hard work. The teachers have been amazing. We have not heard feedback from parents or students. It is not all perfect but now we are in a good place. The progress reports should be out soon. The ALMA people are wonderful to work with. ALMA makes the database quick and easy to read.

6. Setting Next Meeting's Agenda:

- 1. Wrap up the Board and Superintendent Goals**
- 2. Policies for first read**
- 3. Look at MESSA Contract**
- 4. Suicide Prevention Plan**
- 5. BOY Number**

7. Recap of Finance/Facilities Meeting: At the most recent meeting K. Barker met with the committee and discussed the sequence of the work to be done on the elementary schools. K. Barker and the committee would like to hold a workshop with the administration and principals to discuss the sequence of schools. They would like to get the input from the educators and to make this process go smoothly for everyone.

8. Public Comments: S. Ciolino commented on the risk of fentanyl which looks like candy and the fact that Halloween is coming. He hopes that everyone is careful. He asked about the dress code at Cutler. He said that there is a person with colored hair and piercings. He asked if the District is so short staffed and these are people being hired. He said his son attends Cutler and is afraid.

9. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: C. Toomey **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 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