Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
October 4, 2022 (corrected 10.18.2022)
MRMHS Library/Zoom, Swanzey, NH

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

Administration Present: J. Rathbun, Assistant Superintendent 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. In the Keene BEST Magazine Emerson received GOLD, MTC received SILVER, Middle School received GOLD and the High School received GOLD. Congratulations to all !!! The high school did a food drive and collected 442 pounds of food which will be donated to the Helping Hands Center in Troy and Fitzwilliam. Nice Job. Subaru of Keene donated school supplies to the District. Thank You Subaru of Keene. The Board looked at the thank you notes from the students and new Band Teacher who attended the Drum Major Academy.

4. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. September 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to accept the September 20, 2022 School Board Public and Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** E. Stanley **VOTE:** 6.639/0/2.332/4.030. **Motion passes.**

b. Board Requests for Proposed Budget: S. Peters asked what the Board Members were hoping to see on the proposed ballot. S. Peters mentioned the Stipends. E. Stanley said the ECC committee is looking at that. ***J. Strimbeck arrives via Zoom.*** Other ideas were staff recruitment, compensation analysis for non-union employees, proactive educational initiatives and position to get the word out, communication. S. Peters said that we will ask the administration to give a rough cost for the proposed items. J. Rathbun said the district is in the curriculum cycle and we are using the CARES funds. The committee is narrowing down their selection and making a decision in either January or February. This will allow us to be up and running for September. J. Rathbun mentioned the district is very successful with the class size. We are significantly smaller with some bumps with certain classrooms but with staffing there are some larger classrooms in the 22-24 range. We do not need to do any big initiatives, we have

done it. We are absolutely good, we are meeting the needs of the students. It was mentioned to look at the School Board Line for marketing and staffing for the MS/HS Band as proposed items. J. Rathbun said that Taylor, the new Band Teacher, has items on his radar but he is not planning on bringing anything forward. B. Bohannon asked if there is anything that was purchased with CARES funds that we want to continue. J. Rathbun explained the IReady Assessment is paid for until 2023/24. After that to use it to the full potential which we are doing now with the CARES funds it will cost $50,000.00. It is not in this budget cycle. After much discussion the Board would like the administration to look into the following items for the proposed budget: Stipend pack, Staff recruitment, compensation study, Proactive positions e.g. communication, Extra-curricular Management, Academic Analyst/Dashboard Tools, School Board Marketing, Expansion of Music Educators and any grant funded initiative we want. **MOTION:** L.Steadman **MOVED** to request the administration to evaluate the need for the options previously suggested by the Board for the proposed budget. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 9.673/0/0/3.327. **Motion passes.**

c. Motion on the Manifest: MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of $ 2,211,242.88 presented by the administration. **SECOND:** B.Tatro **VOTE:** 9.673/0/0/3.327. **Motion passes.**

d. Budget Transfers: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the following budget transfers as presented by J. Morin: a request from C. Woods from Social Work Salaries and benefits line to Contracted Services line in the amount of $106,910.00, a request from C. Woods from Psychologist Salary and benefits line to the Contracted Service line in the amount of $110,473 and a request from J. Morin from MRMHS Nurse Benefits line to the Troy Nurse Benefits line in the amount of $10,000. **SECOND:** D. LeClair **VOTE:** 9.673/0/0/3.327. **Motion passes.**

e. Primex Contribution Assurance Program (CAP): J. Morin would recommend the Board accept the Primez CAP, Worker's Compensation at 10% and Property Liability at 9%. She explained if the Board accepts the CAP if Primex has a lower rate the District will receive it. She would recommend that the Board accept the resolution. J. Morin mentioned that Primex is great with communication and overall they are very happy with Primex. We are locked in for 3 years. B. Bohannon asked if we put this out for bid. J. Morin explained that there are not a lot of companies for this. They are very limited. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to adopt the resolution to accept the Primex CAP of 9% Property Liability and 10% Worker's Compensation. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 9.673/0/0/3.327. **Motion passes.**

5. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

a. Education Support Prof. Day (11/16): J. Rathbun explained that the District will be presenting the staff with a token of appreciation. S. Peters would like a preview on what the staff will receive.

b. Preview of Elementary Project Marketing: S. Peters explained that he and L. Sutton will be picking up the fliers at the printers for the Elementary School Renovation Project.

There will be a flier for each elementary school. S. Peters would ask members of the Board to hand out fliers and answer questions about the project if there are any at the Parent/Teacher Conferences.

c. MRSD Project Website: S. Peters presented a viewing of the website to the Board. B. Bohannon thanked the group that prepared the website and fliers.

d. Schedule of Parent Teacher Conference Tables: Members of the Board signed up to hand out information at the Parent/Teacher Conferences in their towns. E. Stanley suggested getting some of this information on the Alumni Website.

` **e. Town Select Board Meeting Schedule and Elementary Project Presentations:** S. Peters would ask the Board Members from the individual towns to attend the town select board meetings and also ask if the members would be able to set up the stanchions and do a little presentation on the Elementary Renovation Project. ***N. Mosher and D. LeClair leave the meeting.***

f. 10/1 Delegate Assembly Recap: L. Steadman and S. Peters attended the Delegate Assembly. There were about 70 people in attendance. S. Peters did a presentation to the Delegate Assembly on the efforts of the Board over the years. It was well received and excellent. S. Peters gave kudos to L. Steadman for paving the way on the Board. L. Steadman explained the resolution presented by this Board for Remote Meetings is still on the agenda. The NHSBA are advocating for remote for only committee and advisory meetings.

g. 9/27 CRCRecap: The CRC Meeting Minutes are posted on the website. C. McDaniel-Thomas asked to step down from committee activity. B. Tatro was nominated as the new Chair and will oversee anything dealing with the fliers and she will also be the contact on the website.

h. 9/27 Budget Committee Meeting Notes: The Budget Committee asked for the BOY but it is not out yet. The committee asked about the audit which should be available in January or February. There was a staffing update, update on the elementary project and the value of the project. The unallocated fund balance was discussed.

i. First Look at March 2023 Warrant Articles: S. Peters explained that the Bond and the Budget will be first on the ballot. The Board would like to have an article in case the bond fails. The Budget Committee said to have only the bond. An article for the MESSA contract, a health and safety article for MRMHS. B. Bohannon mentioned the Trust Funds. He also said to have the Bond Article and the Budget Article and call it a day. J. Morin mentioned that the first year of the bond will be the interest payment. She also said the School Board and the Budget Committee do not want a lot of articles but if there is only a bond article and a budget article that will spike the tax rate. S. Peters would like to have the Board Members think about this for the next meeting.

j. Staffing Update: J. Rathbun updated the committee on the vacancies. The District hired 3 new paras and then hired one in an administrative assistant position. C. Toomey would like to get rid of contracted services. S. Peters would agree. B. Bohannon said that the positions need to be covered. J. Rathbun commented that we are not the only district in the area

to have staffing problems.

k. Superintendent's Update:

i. NHED Dashboard Review: J. Rathbun presented the State Dashboard to the Board. They looked at specific indicators. The dashboard is a pretty robust dashboard. The State has not released the State Data, maybe in December. We will have solid back to back years to compare. It is a federal requirement. There is no comparison outside of NH. He asked what we want to put on our dashboard that the State does not do. B. Bohannon asked what our academic goals are and how do we want to use it? He would like to be able to understand each student making progress. He does not feel that we talk about education often. J. Rathbun explained there were 2 presentations, one from J. Rathbun and one from the principals and unfortunately B. Bohannon was not present. He said that he and B. Bohannon have gone around and around with this conversation. It is not appropriate to bring granular data to the Board Meeting. He said the dashboard has a lot of data but now it is parent friendly.S. Peters suggested a progress presentation method. B. Bohannon would suggest funneling the State Dashboard to specific areas on our website. B. Tatro would suggest 1 or 2 reports. It is a lot to compare and to present. It is a level of trust. B. Bohannon would like to have the entire Board discuss education, not a subcommittee.

6. Setting Next Meeting's Agenda:

1. **Superintendent Goals**
2. **Board Goals**
3. **MRMHS Grading Practices**
4. **Reedback/Update onALMA**
5. **Recap Parent/Teacher Conferences**

J. Morin commented that the motion regarding Primex should have stated the CAP. S. Peters said the Board will correct the motion at the next Board Meeting.

7. Public Comments: There are no public comments.

8. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: C. Toomey **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 PM PM. **SECOND:** M.Connor **VOTE:** 8.336/0/4.664. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY: Yes/No/Abstain/Absent