

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2022
MRMHS Library/Zoom, Swanzey, NH

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

Administration Present: J. Rathbun, Assistant Superintendent and J. Morin, Business Administrator.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** L. Steadman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Steve Ciolino mentioned that he talked to L. Spencer about an Auto Shop class.
3. **#celebrate MRSD:**
 - a. **Modern Governance 100:** L. Witte had nominated S. Peters the School Board Chair for the Modern Governance 100 in the compliance and ethics leader category and he has won. Congratulations Scott!!!
 - b. **MCVP Annual Partner in Prevention:** Congratulations to J. Leclerc for taking the lead and helping Monadnock to be recognized as a partner in prevention by the MCVP. All of the credit goes to J. Leclerc who has been working very closely and going through the lessons to make it the best for the kids.
 - c. **Education Official Delegation in Israel:** J. Rathbun explained that L. Witte is hospitalized after emergency surgery. He explained the situation and we all wish L. Witte a speedy recovery. L. Witte has been given an opportunity to travel to Israel with the School Superintendents Association. It was explained that this will be professional development experience. The trip will take place on November 12, 2022 until November 20, 2022. The cost is \$1250.00 and the funds are from the professional development line in the budget. She will not be attending the National Superintendent Conference this year. There are no out of pocket expenses to L. Witte.
4. **MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:**
 - a. **MCVP Attendance on 10/3/2022:** It was mentioned that J. Leclerc will be in attendance at the MCVP Awards and anyone else who would like to attend notify J. Rathbun.
 - b. **September 6, 2022 Meeting Minutes: MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to accept the September 6, 2022 School Board Public and Non-Public Meeting Minutes as

presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 8.439/0/0/4.561. **Motion passes.**

c. **Motion on the Manifest: MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of \$ 1,452,498.21 as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** C. Toomey **VOTE:** 9.862/0/0/4.561. **Motion passes.**

d. **Renovation Project Print Service Quote(s):** The Board had authorized the CRC to engage with a print shop for materials for the Renovation Project. The CRC chose Silver Direct. The quote was in the \$7000.00 range. FYI.

e. **Budget Transfers:** There are no transfers.

f. **Retain \$XXXXX of FY21/22 unassigned fund balance per RSA 198:4-b II:** J. Morin explained the fund balance breakdown. She explained that the expenditures were \$886,465 but there were unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$744,919 which increased the unassigned fund balance. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** not to retain any of the unassigned fund balance per RSA 198:4-b II. **SECOND:** C. Toomey **DISCUSSION:** J. Morin would recommend not retaining any portion of the unassigned fund balance. The Board will retain zero to offset the renovation project. **VOTE:** 8.439/0/0/4.561. **Motion passes.**

g. **DOE-25 and MS-25 Signatures:** J. Morin explained the forms are in the binder to be signed.

h. **SB 420 Funds:** J. Morin explained there has been an increase in the Adequacy Funds in the amount of \$288,863. The District had met the criteria. There are two options: one is to accept the funds and prepare an accountability plan for the needs to be addressed. It is a big project. The other option is to let the funds go back to the voters. We currently have CARES funds, ESSER Funds and additional funds. She would recommend giving the funds back to the taxpayers. **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to give the additional SB 420 Funds, Adequacy Funds back to the taxpayers. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **VOTE:** 8.439/0/0/4.561. **Motion passes.**

5. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

a. **Planning for Proposed Budget:** The Board will discuss this item at the next meeting.

b. **Staffing Report:** It was explained that there are 23 openings Districtwide. There are 4 Special Ed. positions. There are mostly paraprofessional vacancies. This list will continue to be updated. J. Rathbun explained that the number of openings will go down during non-public session. B. Bohannon asked if the District is thinking out of the box to hire staff. J. Rathbun explained that L. Witte has formed a Think Tank. This is a group of staff members coming up with fun ideas to attract new staff.

c. **District Safety Update:** J. Rathbun explained the District Safety Updates are in the Board packets. The new template will come from Homeland Security and Emergency Management, it will no longer be submitted to the DOE, we will be adopting the template, it is due by October 15 of each year and the principals are taking the lead. He explained that the schools had a culture of not ensuring the door policy. L. Witte has made it crystal clear that there will not be a written warning this is a must all exterior doors will be closed and locked. The staff

have the control keys. We are using the CARES Funds to update the doors, the interior doors as well need to be locked. Most doors are locked and the keys are being changed. This practice will be enforced. The District will be applying for SAFE Funds. They would use the funds for cameras, 2-way radios and door alarms. There will be monitoring systems at all doors at the MRMHS. J. Rathbun explained that during the first round of applications we did not have the quotes yet but we are now waiting. They are updating the film on the windows and will be placing numbers on all doors and windows for emergency personnel. There is a Homeland Security and Emergency Management Plan but it is not to be viewed by anyone else but the agencies.

d. MRSD Project Website: J. Rathbun explained that the MRSD Project Website will be released shortly. L. Sutton and S. Peters will be updating the website regularly. The ERAC Committee will be meeting via Zoom on Thursday at 7:00 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

e. Enrollment as of 9/15/2022: J. Rathbun explained that the enrollment number is not an official number as of yet, not until the second meeting in October. Today the enrollment number is 1653 and that is up by 30 students. It is level across the board but MRMHS and Cutler had a decent jump.

6. Setting Next Meeting's Agenda:

- 1. Proposed Budget**
- 2. States Dashboard**

7. Public Comments: Steve Ciolino commented on the fact that he feels safe sending his daughter to school and that her teacher is very good. He mentioned that the Librarian is out and he and his family were trying to get on the Library website to review books that are in the library with no luck. He commented that there are some books that do not need to be in the school library. They are not appropriate. The kids and teachers are great. They need to feel safe.

8. 7:40 PM Non-Public Sessions under RSA 91-A:3 II: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 8.439/0/0/4.561. **Motion passes.**

9. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: C. Toomey **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 PM. **SECOND:** M.Connor **VOTE:** 8.439/0/0/4.561. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY: Yes/No/Abstain/Absent