

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
September 6, 2022
MRMHS Library/Zoom, Swanzey, NH

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

Administration Present: L. Witte, Superintendent, 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:** Bruce Tatro of Swanzey addressed the Board regarding safety concerns at Cutler School. He explained that he had reviewed the minutes of the Finance/Facilities Committee as well as the walk-through minutes. He has a concern with the metal fire escape from the third floor. He said in the minutes the Board's Architect states that the fire escape is not safe and not to use it. There are no fire doors or chairlift to the third floor. The minutes state does not put anyone up there but in fact there are students, teachers and paras. He commented that keeping kids in harm's way is not right. Get the students and staff out of harm's way. We need to listen to the engineer. The list of work that needs to be done is on the CIP list. There is no secure entrance, it is not ADA compliant and the third floor does not meet fire code. He has received all of this information from the engineer report. It is stated to either fix the third floor or close it. How long do we have to wait? How will we live with ourselves if the kids do not get out of a fire? He would suggest bringing the 3rd graders back to MTC. He would ask the Board to please look at this and come up with a solution for the kids.

Steve Ciolino commented that what he said in Public Comments at the last Board Meeting and what was written in the minutes was not correct. He commented on the students who are acting like "farm animals: and asking for litter boxes in the bathrooms. He would suggest not catering to them. That was the correction. Tonight, he asked why there was not a basic repair auto shop class. He knows someone that would donate a car. He asked who he would talk to. S.Peters said to talk to the MRMHS principal.

3. **#celebrate MRSD:** L. Witte explained it was a great start to the new school year. There are always a few hiccups. The administration visited all of the schools and most of the classrooms. They are glad everyone is back.

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

a. **August 23, 2022 Meeting Minutes: MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to accept the

August 23, 2022 School Board Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND: D. LeClair VOTE: 9.862/0/0/3.137. Motion passes.**

b. July 19, 2022 SEALED Non-Public Meeting Minutes: MOTION: B. Tatro MOVED to accept the July 19, 2022 SEALED Non-Public Meeting Minutes as corrected. **SECOND: M. Connor VOTE: 9.862/0/0/3.317. Motion passes.**

c. Motion on the Manifest: MOTION: C. Toomey MOVED to approve the manifest in the amount of \$ 1,348,563.36 as presented by the administration. **SECOND: E. Stanley. VOTE: 9.862/0/0/3.317. Motion passes.**

d. Budget Transfers: MOTION: M. Connor MOVED to approve the transfer requested by J. Morin in the amount of \$39,325.00 from the HR salary and benefits lines to the SRO salary line. **SECOND: B. Tatro. DISCUSSION: J. Morin** explained the District has been carrying the money for the SRO under the HR position. The District had decided not to fill the HR position. **VOTE: 9.862/0/0/3.317. Motion passes.**

e. Retain \$XXXXX of FY21/22 unassigned fund balance per RSA 198:4-b II: This will be discussed at a future meeting.

f. Sale/Disposition of District Equipment (Vans): J. Morin explained that the District has 2 older vans which are in need of work and they have them out to bid. Four bids came back for the 2012 Chevy Express 2500 and the 2011 Toyota Sienna only received one bid. The Board was presented with the bids. **MOTION: E. Stanley MOVED** to accept the bid in the amount of \$5000 from Robert Fagga for the 2012 Chevy Express 2500 and to accept the bid in the amount of \$3400 from Todd Tucker for the 2011 Toyota Sienna. **SECOND: C. Toomey. DISCUSSION: K. Noonan** asked if the District looked at fair market prices. J. Morin explained that they put an ad in the Keene Sentinel and the website. E. Stanley commented that if there is a bid take it. Policy DN was mentioned. K. Noonan commented that the Board should have known the value prior to the sale. E. Stanley said it is hard to sell a wheelchair van. S.Peters feels we are on track with the motion. **VOTE: 9.862/0/0/3.317. Motion passes.**

5. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

a. Review Parent/Student Guides (Elem. & MRMHS): The Board was given the chance to review the Parent/Student Handbooks for the Elem. and the MRMHS. L. Witte asked if there were any questions. She mentioned there are policies which have been updated. K. Noonan said that she really likes the new layout. Thank you. L. Witte explained the Parent/Student Handbooks are on the website and there are a few paper copies. S.Peters suggested any questions with the content start with the Superintendent.

b. Delegate Assembly Registration 10/1 11:00 AM:

i. Designation of Primary Delegate: L.Steadman explained that S. Peters will be in attendance on October 1, 2022 as a member of the School Board of the Year and she would like to appoint him to be the primary delegate to the assembly. **MOTION: L. Steadman MOVED** to appoint S. Peters as the primary delegate to the 2022 NHSBA Delegate Assembly. **SECOND: K. Noonan. VOTE: 8.867/0/.995/3.137. Motion passes.**

c. Beyond the Bell Programming Update: F. Ashworth, director of Beyond the Bell updated the Board on the most recent Summer Program. She presented the Board with a

flier about the program. She explained that there were 310 children in the Summer Program. A majority of the children attended at least 3 or more weeks. There were 70 mini camps and the children were able to go on 50 field trips over the 5 weeks of camp. Overall it was a great summer with a lot of success stories. M. Connor said it was an amazing summer program for her son. K. Noonan asked if the program would be at Emerson. F. Ashworth said they are currently writing the grant for Emerson. Parents need to fill out the Free and Reduced Lunch Forms. F. Ashworth explained if parents have split custody and one lives in another town out of the district but the other parent lives here the student can attend the program. She also explained the point of the grant is for students who would not be able to attend camp. There is a 3 week attendance requirement because some children attend other camps and have that opportunity. B. Tatro said she has heard good things about F. Ashworth and the entire program. This is a 21st Century Grant to help with academics and social skills. The program will receive \$660,000.00 a year for 5 years. Emerson is currently receiving \$78,000.00. She explained that there is someone helping to write the grant. B. Bohannon asked if there was anything that the program needed. F. Ashworth explained that as a requirement for the grant there is a need for an Advisory Committee. She needs to get it up and running. She feels confident about the grant but the Free and Reduced Lunch Applications need to be filled out. S. Peters asked when the advisory committee needs to meet. F. Ashworth said she has the names and it needs to be scheduled before December. S. Peters asked why 5 children were on the waiting list for the Summer Program. He asked if it was about finding. B. Tatro suggested a line in the budget. L. Witte explained it is not a funding issue. There is only so much we can do. We need to maintain the integrity of the program. J. Rathbun commented there are 310 kids in the program and the program requires custodial services and nursing services. It is huge.

d. Cheshire Career Center Programming Updates: Information was passed out to the Board regarding the students who attend the CCC and how many are in each program. The Board asked about the scheduling with Keene. Everything is going well. There is a new director Richard Towne. L. Witte explained if Monadnock is not in session and KHS is, transportation will be provided to the students in order for them to attend. J. Rathbun explained the program is offered to juniors and seniors and possibly sophomores with a recommendation. Every student at Monadnock will meet with their guidance counselor and will be informed about the CCC Program. This is a vocational program not a school program. Transportation is provided twice a day.

e. Staffing Report: L. Witte provided updated information on the staff vacancies in the Board packets. In July she did a Statewide survey to all SAUs and the vacancies are consistent across the State. The State has a mission to study the teacher shortage. L. Witte provided her survey information but the State does not believe there is a shortage. She will attend a meeting of Superintendents and discuss her findings. In the District some contracted services fell through. S. Peters still feels worrisome. L. Witte is happy that there is a committee at the State discussing this. S. Peters commented we will have to figure out ways to attract staff.

f. 2022/23 CIP Inflation Rates: S. Peters explained the Finance/Facilities Committee talked through the timing and received facts from K. Broker regarding the CIP inflation rate. The committee would like to change the CIP to a 20-year CIP due to the increase

in costs. Hutter Construction has walked through the elementary schools and they have said it is not apples to apples. Hutter Construction and K. Barker are reviewing the CIP. S.Peters gave a heads up to the Board that the cost of the renovations it is growing because of the reality of inflation.

g. ERAC Committee Progress: S.Peters provided a list of members on the ERAC. He said there are still spots open. The committee is meeting every other Thursday by Zoom. This past week the committee met with Guilfoil and discussed media production. They have created a news site link to our social media. They are working with L. Witte and J. Rathbun.

i. Approve Guilfoil Quote (Public Relations Firm): The committee is asking the Board to approve \$9500.00 for a video project to help promote the Elementary School Renovation Project but if there is anything in print that would be a cost to the District. B. Bohannon asked about the bidding process. J. Rathbun commented that we are already engaged with Guilfoil. We already did the bidding process. This is additional work no need to do the bidding process again. The District has already paid Guilfoil for the website but it is not ready to be pushed out yet. L. Witte commented that every press release from the District has come from Guilfoil. J. Morin commented that K. Barker thought that some of the \$300,000.00 which the District paid K. Barker and Associates had items built in such as Guilfoil. **MOTION:** B.Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the quote from Guilfoil (PRF) in the amount of \$9500.00 to support the Elementary School Renovation Marketing effort (to be funded from the 2021 warrant article for project blueprinting). **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 9.862/0/0/3.317. **Motion passes.**

ii. Approve CRC to Engage with District's Print Shop Service: **MOTION:** S.Peters **MOVED** to approve the CRC to engage with the District's preferred vendor for printing services and to request quotes. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 9.862/0/0/3.317. **Motion passes.**

6. Setting Next Meeting's Agenda:

- 1. Wrap up Board and Superintendent Goals**
 - 2. MCVP**
 - 3. District Safety Update**
 - 4. Unallocated Fund Balance**
 - 5. MS25 and DOE 25**
- 7. Public Comments:** There were no public comments.
- 8. Non-Public Sessions under RSA 91-A:3 II:** **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely adversely affect the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 9.862/0/0/3.317. **Motion passes.**
- 9. ADJOURNMENT:** **MOTION:** B.Tatro **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 PM PM. **SECOND:** M.Connor **VOTE:** 9.862/0/0/3.317. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY: Yes/No/Abstain/Absent