

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
August 23, 2022
MRMHS Library/Zoom, Swanzey, NH

Members Present: Colleen Toomey, Michelle Connor, Lisa Steadman, Kristen Noonan, Scott Peters, Cheryl McDaniel-Thomas, Betty Tatro, Eric Stanley via Zoom, Nick Mosher via Zoom Jennifer Strimbeck, Dan LeClair. **Absent:** Brian Bohannon 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: S. Saleno of Swanzey commented about the students who are acting like “farm animals” and that there are litter boxes going into the bathrooms. He said there are 2 genders male and female. He would suggest not catering to their needs. He would like his children to learn Math, Science and History. His tax dollars are paying for education. He also mentioned that cell phones are becoming an issue. He had commented at a different meeting about forming a Ski Club. He asked if anything became of that. D. LeClair suggested he attend the ECC Meeting on Sept.15, 2022.

It was discussed that people in the community commented on how valuable Beyond the Bell has become. It was also commented that there is a waiting list because it is so popular.

3. #celebrate MRSD:

a. L. Witte reported that today was Welcome Back Day for the staff. She informed the Board that this coming school year she will be in the classrooms helping with lessons. She is very excited. She is also rejuvenating the Recognition Program. If you recognize someone you will also be recognized for being awesome. They are also adding the hashtag to the website. Today they celebrated the Superintendent’s Club picnic. There was a pretty good turnout. The classrooms are open and look great. The portables are gone and the views are much brighter.

S. Peters informed the Board that A. Kuster sent a letter to the Board congratulating them on the NHSBA Excellence Award.

L. Steadman explained that she had received thank you notes from the March Band because the Board and District had financially supported them and allowed them to attend the Leadership Program.

4. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. July 19, 2022 Minutes: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to accept the July 19, 2022 School Board Public and Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE:** 9.639/0/1.132/2.229. **Motion passes.**

b. Update on Board Investigation: S. Peters updated the public on the situation that was investigated by the attorney. S. Peters said that the Board wishes to apologize to the employee. The Sealed Minutes should not have been discussed. The Board has been advised by their attorney. The Board hopes that this does not affect their relationship with the employees. He mentioned that the situation described is very vague but we need to protect those involved. **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to censure J. Strimbeck for violation of RSA 91A:3 and RSA 42:1, divulging details from the May 3, 2022 Sealed Non-Public Meeting Minutes, Employee Hearing. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** D. LeClair said he will vote against the motion. He said we are human, it is a big error but we are only human. We are also only 3 or 4 meetings in as a new Board. K. Noonan would disagree. To not protect that information is a huge thing. This could have gone to court. J. Strimbeck voted to seal the minutes. There were also 2 different stories. To censure is the least. This involves an employee. The Union feels that they do not have confidence in us. L. Steadman said it is a good lesson and to protect the information. This motion is appropriate. B. Tatro commented that this action sets precedent and standards for what is expected of a Board Member. **VOTE:** 6.468/2.263/2.039/2.229. **Motion passes.**

c. Board Committee Re-Appointments: S. Peters explained that he would like the Board to refresh the committees. A number of committees have been struggling with quorum and are not able to complete their tasks. L. Steadman would like to know if a member might want to join Negotiations because W. Wright has not been able to attend. The committee assignments are as follows: Negotiations: L. Steadman, B. Tatro and M. Connor. CRC: D. LeClair, B. Tatro and C. McDaniel-Thomas. Fin/Fac: B. Tatro, C. Toomey and J. Strimbeck. Policy: C. Toomey, J. Strimbeck and K. Noonan. Ed/Tech: Not an active committee. ECC: E. Stanley and D. LeClair. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to support the recommendations for committee assignments as listed by S. Peters. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **DISCUSSION:** The Board discussed the CCC representative which was W. Wright. The administration is not sure of any upcoming meetings at the CCC. N. Mosher would like an update on the CCC Schedule and if the participation from the Monadnock students is any better. **VOTE:** 10.565/0/.206/2.229. **Motion passes.**

d. Motion on the Manifest: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of \$ 996,942.62 as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE:** 10.771/0/0/2.229 **Motion passes.**

e. Budget Transfers: There are no transfers.

f. Board Finance Audit Survey: J. Morin had sent out a survey to the Board Members which is part of the audit. She would ask the Board Members to fill it out and return it by the end of the week.

g. Motion to Waive 2nd Read Adoption Process for Policy BEDH (2/3 Vote Required per BGB):

1. Policy Update BEDH Public Comment (minimum of 30 minutes of opportunity): MOTION: K.Noonan **MOVED** Waive 2nd Read Adoption Process for Policy BEDH **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **VOTE:** 10.565/0/.206/2.229. **Motion passes.** K. Noonan explained that there was a Special Bulletin from the NHSBA regarding Policy BEDH and that it will be going into effect September 6, 2022. The change is to allow a minimum of 30 minutes for Public Comments. This is for Board Meetings not committee meetings. K.Noonan has provided the Policy. **MOTION:** K.Noonan **MOVED** to accept the NHSBA Sample Policy BEDH with edits to #4 (Specify 3 minutes) and to remove #6 and #7. Also strike the last 2 sentences in #3 and keep #5. **VOTE:** 9.434/0/1.337/2.229. **Motion passes.**

5. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

a. Staffing Report: L. Witte reported that the vacancies have already changed since her report. There has been a lot of internal movement. We have made significant progress and are still actively searching to fill the vacancies. She has also provided the hires from over the summer. L. Witte provided a survey to 79 SAUs in NH regarding vacancies in their districts. There are 916 vacancies for paraprofessionals in NH. She said one thing going for us are the small class sizes.

The Board recessed for a fire alarm.

6. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: C.Toomey **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM PM. **SECOND:** K. Noonan **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY:Yes/No/Abstain/Absent