Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
June 21, 2022
MRMHS Library/Zoom, Swanzey, NH

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

Administration Present: L. Witte, Superintendent via Zoom, J. Rathbun, Assistant Superintendent and J. Morin, Business Administrator.

1. CALL TO ORDER: S. Peters called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

2. Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (l): Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel. MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (l): Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel. **SECOND:** E. Stanley **VOTE:** 7.6/0/0/5.4. **Motion passes.**

3. Return to Public Session: The Board returned to Public Session.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no Public Comments:

5. #celebrate MRSD:

a. Baseball State Championship: E. Stanley reported that the Boy's baseball team won the State Championship. He also mentioned that the baseball championship team and T. Cote as Coach of the Year were mentioned during a Red Sox game at Fenway. Congratulations!! **MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to award the members of the State Championship Baseball Team $100.00 each to select an item of MRSD swag. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **VOTE:** 7.6/0/0/5.4. **Motion passes.**

Eighth Grader Payton Joslyn came in 4th in the Country in the 800 meter. Congratulations!!! **MOTION:** E.Stanley **MOVED** to ask the administration to send a Board Letter of Congratulations and to find an appropriate way to recognize the student Payton Joslyn for his National winning achievement. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 7.6/0/0/5.4. **Motion passes.**

6. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. May 3, 2022 SEALED Minutes: The SEALED Minutes are not present at this meeting to review.

b. Board Investigation Results: MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** to seal the June 21, 2022, 6:30 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes until May 2, 2032 and to authorize the Board Chair to speak with the Superintendent and any absent Board Member regarding the content of the SEALED Non-Public Meeting Minutes. **SECOND:** M. Connor. **VOTE:** 7.6/0/0/5.4. **Motion passes.**

c. June 7, 2022 Minutes: MOTION: C. Toomey **MOVED** to accept the June 7, 2022 School Board Public and Non-Public Meeting Minutes with edits. **SECOND:** M. Connor. **DISCUSSION:** K. Noonan had 2 corrections to the minutes. **VOTE:** 6.468/0/1.132/5.4. **Motion passes.**

d. Motion on the Manifest: MOTION: C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of $ 2,420,396.73 as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** K. Noonan **VOTE:** 7.6/0/0/5.4 **Motion passes.**

e. Budget Transfers: J. Morin presented two budget transfers to the Board. The first budget transfer was requested by L. Spencer in the amount of $32,600 for new cameras for MRMHS. The funds will be transferred from the Regular Instruction Health Insurance line and will be moved to the Security line. The second transfer is being requested by J. Morin in the amount of $26,900 for transportation to support student testing and fuel surcharge. The funds will be transferred from the Property Liability Line and the Workman's Comp Insurance line to the Student Transportation line. **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve the budget transfers presented by J. Morin. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 7.6/0/0/5.4. **Motion passes.**

f. Encumbrance Request(s): J. Morin brought 2 encumbrance requests to the Board. She explained they have already been committed to but she is here due to scheduling and the arrival of the items. The first request is for $10,311.82 for the phone system for this campus. ***B. Tatro arrives via Zoom.*** **MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to encumber $10,311.82 to support the completion of a new phone system in the Swanzey Center Campus. Work to be completed after 6/30/22. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **VOTE:** 8.731/0/0/4.269. **Motion passes.** The second request to encumber funds is a requisition purchase order for heated cabinets for all of the schools. The cost is $15,475.00 and the cabinets will not be delivered until after 6/30/2022 due to supply chain issues. **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to encumber $15,475.00 to purchase heated food cabinets. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **VOTE:** 8.731/0/0/4.269. **Motion passes.**

g. Outdoor Basketball Work: J. Morin explained the Board had voted to use the funds from the old Student Activity Fund for the Outdoor Basketball Court. The quote was correct when it was voted on previously but since then the contractor found an old septic tank which had to be removed and then there was a need for fill. There is an additional $12,080.00 to finish the project. She said there are sufficient funds in the School and Grounds Fund. It was suggested to withdraw the funds from the unspent FY21/22 Fund Balance. **MOTION:** C. Toomey **MOVED** to pay the balance of the services to construct the outdoor basketball court ($12,080.00) from the unspent FY 21/22 Fund Balance. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 8.731/0/0/4.269. **Motion passes.**

h. FY23 Nutrition Service Meal Prices: J. Morin explained every year when T. Walsh brings the lunch price changes forward and the Board needs to vote on it. T. Walsh presented the new increases in breakfast and lunch for the elementary and MS/HS. **MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to approve the 2022/23 meal prices as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **DISCUSSION:** K. Noonan said that she really appreciates the Nutrition Staff. The work that was done with getting free meals to all of the students. Even with little staff they worked very well. She really appreciates the work and the staff. E. Stanley asked how the District could promote signing up for Free and Reduced breakfast and lunch. T. Walsh is hoping that parents will sign up due to the fact other items are increasing in cost. J. Rathbun

explained that Free and Reduced is connected to Title One. We are losing funding because they are not filling out the forms. One way they will promote it is by wrapping the form around water bottles which will be given out to the kids. We are going to make a big deal about it. There were also people who did not qualify due to their income. T. Walsh is working with an Antioch student who will be working on a grant to purchase a lock box. The Free and Reduced forms would go directly in the lock box and it will be more confidential. Also, he said there are people who can help with the forms. L. Steadman suggested giving the forms to the town Welfare Offices to be passed out. **VOTE:** 8.731/0/0/4.269. **Motion passes.** S. Peters asked if there is a marketing plan to let people know that they will have to pay this year. T. Walsh said we have not charged anyone for lunch since March of 2020.

i. Approval of Elementary Renovation Building Aid Application: S. Peters explained that the School Building Application needs to be filed by June 30, 2022. K. Barker, T. Breen and J. Morin presented to the Fin/Fac. Committee. The application is very long. K. Barker is working on it. The application will need to contain Board Minutes that state that the Board supports and authorizes the administration to file the School Building Application for the Elementary School Renovation Project estimated at $35,247,000.00. **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** for the MRSD School Board to authorize the administration to file an application to the State of NH for Building Aid to support the proposed Elementary School Renovation Project with the current value of the project at $35,247,000.00. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **DISCUSSION:** J. Morin explained we will not have the GMP from the Construction Manager until fall. This is the most current estimate and the State understands it is an estimate. **VOTE:** 8.731/0/0/04.269. **Motion passes.**

i. SAU Manual: L. Witte explained there are not many changes to the SAU Manual. There are two procedural changes, page 17 related to when an employee can use a mobile device to punch in and out and page 20 the number of bereavement days allowed. It tends to mirror MDEA. She also said there is clean up of language and updates on the current policies and links. **MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to approve the revised SAU Procedure Manual as presented. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **VOTE:** 8.731/0/0/4.269. **Motion passes.**

7. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

a. Staffing Update and Staffing Changes (in packet): L. Witte reported the District continues to advertise and interview for the vacant staffing positions. She will update the Board throughout the summer.

b. Elementary Classroom Configuration for 2022/23: J. Rathbun reported and presented the configuration of classrooms for the 5 elementary schools. He said it is very similar to last year. The three smallest schools have both multi-aged and straight grades. Cutler and MTC are straight grades. K. Noonan commented that she strongly dislikes the split grades. L. Stevens did receive that feedback and took it back, discussed it, she reported the staff feels good about the configuration and there was no other feedback. It is not only the principals making this choice. It is the educators and the community. K. Noonan said it is nothing against the administration. She hears feedback and people feel they can not change it. B. Tatro asked about class size. J. Rathbun explained the classes are under 20 students. Cutler has the largest classes.

c. Summer Program: E. Stanley reported that F. Ashworth the Director of the

Afterschool and Summer Program attended the ECC Meeting and reported that the District will be receiving 3.3 million dollars over 5 years from a grant she applied for. There will now be a Middle School Program, which will look very different from the elementary school programs. E. Stanley also reported that the District received the highest score in the State. He would like to applaud F. Ashworth and her staff. S. Peters would like F. Ashworth at some point to present to the Board regarding the expanded program. M. Connor commented that they are wonderful at Beyond the Bell.

d. CRC Advisory Invitation: C. McDaniel-Thomas and S. Peters are sending out invites for volunteers to sit on the Advisory Committee and would like to have a response possibly by the end of July.

e. NHSBA Resolutions: L. Steadman asked if the Board had any resolutions that they would like to propose. She said she would like to propose a resolution for all School Districts to consider unique bonus programs, salary structures and retention efforts. Due to the fact the Board will be meeting after the deadline it is possible that a proposed resolution could come from the floor. She would like to ask the Board to authorize herself and maybe two other Board Members to come up with a resolution and submit it before the deadline. **MOTION:** L.Steadman **MOVED** to authorize L. Steadman, S. Peters and B. Tatro to draft a proposed NHSBA resolution related to creative hiring practices. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** K. Noonan would like to skip the resolutions this year. C. Toomey is not comfortable with not reviewing it before being presented. B. Tatro said it would be a good helpful tool with the Unions. C. McDaniel-Thomas said unless negotiated or an MOU she is not in favor. **VOTE:** 2.126/0/6.605/4.269. **Motion fails.** There is still an opportunity for the Board to propose a resolution from the floor. This will be a standing agenda item.

8. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

- **a. Board Goals**
- **b. Superintendent Goals**
- **c. State Building Application**
- **d. Education Growth Report**
- **e. Update on Advisory Committee**
- **f. Proposed Resolutions**

9. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

10. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 PM PM. **SECOND:** C. Toomey **VOTE:** 8.731/0/0/4.269. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY: Yes/No/Abstain/Absent