Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
June 7, 2022 (corrected 6.21.2022)
MRMHS Library/Zoom, Swanzey, NH

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

J. Rathbun explained that the district has switched to NH One for the Zoom Meeting. That is a savings of $10,000 to $12,000 a year. The NH One is free. The webinar has gone away.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no Public Comments.

a. MRHS Band Boosters: R. Doyle the President of the Band Boosters asked the Board for an extension of the 3-minute Pubic Comments. The Board agreed. He explained that he has 2 children that are in the Band. There have been challenges and changes due to COVID in the past years but still the students perform well. The Band has lost structure in leadership. He is asking for the Board to financially support sending 7 Band students to the Drum Major Academy. The cost of this is $5040.00. This is a great benefit for the Band. He said that he has witnessed the results of this program. S. Peters said that the Board does not engage in conversation with public comments. B. Bohannon asked if there are funds in the Band line. J. Morin said this is for next year and would be coming out of the next year's budget. She has serious reservations setting precedent. It was commented that we have a lot of students that attend camps. It is an appropriate Band expense. E. Stanley asked if there are any COVID funds. L. Witte explained the items to be spent on have been submitted to the State. She is not sure they will be available.

3. #celebrate MRSD:

a. Ecology School: J. Rathbun had attended the Ecology School along with the students and everything went well. There is a new facility. It is great to continue the tradition.

b. Graduation: Graduation was well attended and it was a great day.

c. EDIE's: Emails and photos are available and the Union Leader did a full spread on the EDIE Awards for L. Witte, Superintendent of the Year, L Stevens, Principal of the Year and the MRSD, School Board of the Year.

d. Destination Imagination: It was announced that the DI Team came 3rd in Globals. Great job!!! **MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to make 6-10-22 Mr. Kuhn Day to celebrate his retirement and achieving 3rd place in the Globals. **SECOND:** C.Toomey. **DISCUSSION:** B. Bohannon asked if this was a one-time thing. S. Peters will ask the administration to hand it to Principal Spencer to please find a way to celebrate. **VOTE:** 9.434/0/.206/3.361. **Motion passes.**

e. Boys Middle School Track Championship: MOTION: E. Stanley **MOVED** to purchase swag for the Middle School Track Championship Team for their achievements. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **VOTE:**9.639/0/0/3.361. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: E. Stanley **MOVED** to award 2 high school students Lilliana and Jack swag for their 300 meter and 400 meter Varsity Championship achievements. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **VOTE:** 9.639/0/0/3.361. **Motion passes.**

E. Stanley suggested the Band Boosters borrow the funds for the Leadership Program from the district and pay them back as they fundraise. B. Tatro commented the Band has been through a lot and is still plugging away. J. Rathbun commented that there is about $5000.00 of CARES funds. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to direct the administration to fund the Marching Band Leadership Academy for up to 7 registrations, acknowledge that this is a one-time effort to support recovery from the COVID Pandemic. **SECOND:** B.Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** B. Bohannon commented that the Band has been a shining star and we should support the students and staff. S. Peters explained the DMA Program. J. Rathbun said it is not a precedent and a hardship from COVID. S. Peters said there is no student leadership due to COVID. The oldest student to attend is a junior. N. Mosher suggested a future discussion on how other groups can have equal funding. E. Stanley said the elementary students received new instruments. The DMA Leadership Camp will help with this. **VOTE:** 7.65/0/1.989/3.361. **Motion passes.** ***E. Stanley leaves the meeting.***

4. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. May 17, 2022 Minutes: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the May 17, 2022 School Board Public and Non-Public Meeting Minutes as amended. **DISCUSSION: MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to amend the minutes and strike the word "unintentionally" in Section 5 g. **SECOND:** M. Connor. **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher commented the minutes should reflect what was said. **VOTE on amendment**: 5.473/.216/.908/4.493. **Motion passes. MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to amend the minutes and change in Section 5 h. to "disclosed by a Board Member to a student". **SECOND:** B. Bohannon **DISCUSSION:** K. Noonan said she did not recall those exact words. **VOTE on amendment:** 4.239/2.932/1.337/4.493. **Motion passes. MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to amend Section 5 h. She would like to add "if she can not trust the Board." **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher commented the minutes should reflect what was said not to change the intent or what

we want to have said. **VOTE on amendment:** 7.170/0/1.337/4.493. **VOTE on amended minutes:** 8.302/0/.206/4.493. **Motion passes.**

b. Motion on the Manifest: MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of $ 3,356,953.79 as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 8.507/0/0/4.493. **Motion passes.**

c. Budget Transfers: J. Morin presented 2 budget transfers to the Board. L. Spencer is requesting $4,330 from the Regular Instruction Health Ins. line to the Athletic Dues and Fees line to cover the cost of lacrosse co-op fees and J. Morin is requesting $5400 from the DW Building Supply line to the MRMHS Custodial Supply line to cover the increase in costs in supplies. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the two budget transfers as recommended and presented by the Business Administrator. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **VOTE:** 8.507/0/0/4.493.

d. FY22 Audit Engagement: This was done at the last meeting.

e. Selection of Construction Management Firm for Elementary Project:

8:06 PM MOTION: ENTER INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION under RSA 91-A:3-II (c) S. Peters **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3-11(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:** L. Steadman **DISCUSSION:** K. Noonan is not comfortable with going into Non-Public Session while the Board is investigating a breach of confidentiality. **VOTE:** 7.410/1.198/0/4.493. **Motion passes. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION:** K. Barker the architect for the Elementary School Renovation Projects explained there were 3 construction companies who gave a bid to be awarded the Construction Management Firm. The three companies were DEW, Hutter and Eckman. He explained the process and the work of the interviewing committee. K. Barker and the Interviewing Committee would recommend to the full Board Hutter Construction for the Construction Management Firm. He explained that Hutter Construction has impeccable references and he has worked with them many times. **MOTION:** C. Toomey **MOVED** to award the bid for the Elementary School Renovation Project to Hutter Construction as the Construction Management Firm. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 8.302/0/0/4.698. **Motion passes.** ***K. Barker leaves the meeting.***

f. Authorize Weekly AP Checks & Manifest Signatures: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to authorize weekly AP checks and Manifest signatures. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **DISCUSSION:** J. Morin would like to have at least 2 signatures and signing the

manifest on Monday or Tuesday would be great. B. Tatro and C. Toomey will be the primary Board Members to volunteer. **VOTE:** 8.302/0/0/4.698. **Motion passes.**

g. Authorize Superintendent to hire certified staff through 9/5/2022: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to authorize the Superintendent to hire certified staff through 9/5/2022. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **VOTE:** 8.302/0/0/4.698. **Motion passes.**

h. Approve Revised Updated Reopening Plan (due 6/23/2022): L. Witte explained it is no longer necessary to submit a plan unless there is a substantive change. In this plan being presented there are minor edits. **MOTION:** to approve the revised updated Reopening Plan (due 6/23/2022). **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 8.302/0/0/4.698. **Motion passes.**

i. Annual Approval of Data Governance Plan: L. Witte explained that C. Czifrik has reviewed the Data Governance Plan. **MOTION:** C. Toomey **MOVED** the Annual Approval of the Data Governance Plan. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **VOTE:** 8.302/0/0/4.698. **Motion passes.**

j. Bi-Annual Approval of AC-R Plan: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** the Bi-Annual Approval of the AC-R Plan. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **DISCUSSION:** Some of the links have been updated and the Anti-Discriminating Procedure Manual. All policies have been referenced appropriately. **VOTE:** 8.302/0/0/4.698. **Motion passes.**

k. CARES ESSER Spending Plan: J. Rathbun explained the District asked the community what they would like purchased with CARES 3 and air quality improvements were suggested. There will be air quality improvements in the 700 and 800 wings in the high school. We need to consider how to use the CARES 3 funds. There are very few rules but at least 20% has to be used to improve education. The rest can be used for air quality in the buildings. There is a need for more mental help and support for students and teachers. The administration would like to use the CARES and ESSER funds for the following positions and items: a Middle School Instructional Coach, a District Mentor Coordinator to work with the new teachers, Math Curriculum Materials in the Math Cycle, District Family Liaison, 2 guidance counselors at MRMHS and a District Director of School Counseling, a Wellness Facilitator (which they have and would like to keep), Doors which will be controlled by magnets, upgraded and exits monitored (this is a big job), additional curriculum and other air quality items. J. Rathbun explained if the person is hired for a specific position they can not go to another one. We have to use the funds correctly. J. Strimbeck mentioned Bill 1263. J. Rathbun explained that there are personal business courses offered to the students. J. Strimbeck felt in that area she felt there could be improvements. J. Rathbun would like to move forward with the positions recommended by the administration, post the jobs then use the rest of the funds. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** the initial positions proposed in the CARES ESSER Spending Plan as presented by the

administration. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **VOTE:** 8.302/0/0/4.698. **Motion passes.**

l. Policies for 2nd Read:

i. EBBC-R First Aid Directions (retire):

ii. EFCA/EFAA School Lunch Policy (retire)

iii. GCD Contracted Work Leave: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the policy changes as presented. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **DISCUSSION:** The administration believes that students will have to start paying for their lunches unless they qualify for free or reduced lunch. Referring to retiring the MRSD School Lunch Policy L. Steadman asked if anyone had spoken to T. Walsh. K. Noonan explained the new lunch policy is required by law. The MRSD policy is more procedural. S. Peters explained the Board does not dictate operational procedures. **VOTE:** 8.302/0/0/4.698. **Motion passes.**

5. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

a. Staff Updating and Staffing Changes (in packet): L. Witte had provided the Board Members with information on the staffing updates and changes. She also explained there is a critical shortage and she has provided the data.

b. Education Progress (Information previously presented):

i. 3Q/2nd Trimester Progress Report (in packet-handed out previously)

ii. iReady Report (in packet-handed out previously):

iii. Principal's Presentation (in packet-from presentation in March):

iv. NH iPlatform Link:

c. School Board Educational Goal for 2022-2023

i. Cohort Tracking: This will be discussed in a future meeting.

ii. Educational Committee role/purpose: This will be discussed in a future meeting.

6. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

a. Elementary grade configuration

b. Education Committee (July or after)

c. Board Goals

d. Superintendent Goals

e. Update on Investigation

7. Public Comments: J. Morin updated the Board on the Track Meet of Champions and Joslyn and Payton won the 800 meter. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to award swag to the two Middle School students who won the 800 meter at the Meet of Champions. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **VOTE:** 8.302/0/0/4.698. **Motion passes. Congratulations!!!!**

8. ENTER INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION under RSA 91-A:3-II (b)

a. 9:42 PM : MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3-11(b) The hiring of any person as a public employee. **SECOND:** C. Toomey **VOTE:** 7.204/1.098/0/4.698. **Motion passes.**

9. ENTER INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION under RSA 91-A:3-II (a) Compensation for a Public Employee:

a. 9:45 PM MOTION: C. Toomey **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3-11(a) Compensation for a Public Employee **SECOND:** S. Peters **VOTE:** 7.204/1.098/0/4.698. **Motion passes.**

10. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: C. Toomey **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 PM PM. **SECOND:** M. Connor **VOTE:** 8.302/0/0/4.698. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY: Yes/No/Abstain/Absent