

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2022 (Corrected 6.7.2022)
MRMHS Library/Zoom, Swanzey, NH

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

Administration Present: There were no administrators present.

Also Present: L. Aivaliotis, Recording Secretary

“We collaborate not just to teach, but also to engage and educate every student in our district in an environment that is challenging, caring and safe, while fostering life-long learning.”

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** S. Peters called the meeting to order.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no Public Comments.

3. **#celebrate MRSD:**

a. **GSA: NH State Science Fair:** Students from Gilsum STEAM Academy won the Water Science Fair schoolwide and then at the State Level. The Water Science Fair was part of the library as well as Maker Space. The State Government sets standards and expectations. It was student driven. The students did a water cycle project and explained it to the Board. The students won \$200.00 and tee shirts. **MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to approve the purchase of championship swag for the students. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 9.434/0/0/3.566. **Motion passes.**

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

a. **May 3, 2022 Minutes:** **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to approve the May 3, 2022 School Board Public and Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** M. Connor **VOTE:** 8.3/0/1.13/3.566. **Motion passes.**

b. **Motion on the Manifest:** **MOTION:** C. Toomey **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of \$ 749,603.83 as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 9.4/0/0/3.566. **Motion passes.**

c. **Budget Transfers:** Three budget transfers were in the Board packet being presented by J. Morin. Budget transfer in the amount of \$6,896 requested by L. Spencer and C. Czifrik from the Regular Instruction Health Ins. line to the Security line. Budget transfer in the amount of \$7,900 requested by J. Morin from the MRMHS Spec. Ed. Health Ins. line to Summer School Salaries and Benefits line. Budget transfer in the amount of \$21,500 requested by J. Morin from the Regular Instruction Health Ins. line to the MRMHS Custodial Salaries and MRMHS Custodial Health Ins. line. **MOTION:** C. Toomey **MOVED** to approve the budget transfers as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 10.5/0/0/2.4. **Motion passes. (B. Bohannon arrives)**

d. **FY22 Audit Engagement:** **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to approve hiring of Plodzick and Sanderson for the FY22 Audit. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon **DISCUSSION:** L. Steadman is very comfortable with Plodzick and Sanderson. **VOTE:** 10.5/0/0/2.4. **Motion passes.**

5. **MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:**

a. **Basketball Court Update:** S. Peters explained they have broken ground for the new outside basketball court and there are no issues with septic or dig safe.

b. **Overview of NHSBA Resolutions:** L. Steadman explained the NHSBA Resolutions were in the Board packets as well as the October 21, 2021 Delegate Assembly Minutes. She explained the School Board can come up with an idea for a topic of focus for next year. The NHSBA Board has 10 School Board Members from all over the State. They will review the proposed resolutions. All of the proposed resolutions are seen by the Delegate Assembly for review. Our School Board will take a position on the resolutions and the representative from this Board will go and vote the way the Board feels. L. Steadman reviewed the process of a proposed resolution by this Board. Two years ago, this Board had a resolution passed by the Delegate Assembly and it eventually was voted a permanent resolution. S. Peters asked the Board to put any proposed resolutions in writing to be placed on an agenda.

c. **Policy Committee Annual Review:** K. Noonan explained the committee likes to notify the Board and let them know what they have been doing. She explained the priority and importance of certain policies to be reviewed by the Policy Committee. She pointed out the backlog which was created by S. Peters. It contains all of the policies that have been completed, outdated, required by law and contain compliance issues. There are times that the administration or another committee may need to review a policy. She presented the work that the Policy Committee accomplished over the past year. We are at a much better place than 5-10 years ago. S. Peters showed the Board how to get to the policies on the MRSD website. S. Peters mentioned the primary objective of the Board is Policy.

d. Policies for 1st Read:

i. EBBC-R First Aid Directions (retire)

ii. EFCA/EFAA School Lunch Policy:

iii. GCD Contract Work Leave K. Noonan explained the policies being

presented tonight are for first read. These policies were reviewed by the Policy Committee but there was a need for the administration to give a recommendation. S. Peters would like the Board to review and understand the policies before approving them. S. Peters thanked the committee for the fine work. K. Noonan would like the Board to review the School Lunch Policy which is for a first read. The current policy was created by a committee but the NHSBA policy is partly required by law. **B. Bohannon leaves the meeting.**

e. CRC Advisory Committee: C. McDaniel-Thomas explained the committee met tonight and have created goals for the Board's approval. B. Tatro said they are similar to last year but expanded. The committee would like to propose an Ad hoc Committee to help with the Elementary School Renovation Project. There is a website being worked on but not completed. This will be shared shortly. The committee is asking the Board for approval for an Ad hoc Committee. This will be an extension of the CRC. L. Steadman suggested the committee be an Advisory Committee not an Ad hoc. **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve a CRC Advisory Committee with their main focus being the Elementary School Renovation Project. **SECOND:** L. Steadman **VOTE:** 9.4/0/0/3.5. **Motion passes.** The CRC presented the CRC Goals to the Board. **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the CRC Goals as written. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 9.4/0/0/3.5. **Motion passes.**

f. 3Q/2nd Trimester Education Report: J. Rathbun is not in attendance tonight.

g. Board Member Emails: S. Peters passed out an email that was sent from a Board Member to the rest of the committee. He explained that there are certain things the Board can and cannot do. If the Superintendent sends out an email as an announcement it is fine from her. To send an email to the entire Board from one member is not legal. S. Peters explained the emails that went out to the entire Board from different members will have to be approved as minutes and posted. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to approve the email "MRMHS FYI" dated May 12, 2022 at 1:25 PM. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **DISCUSSION:** D. LeClair said he did not respond to the email but made a new email. He wanted this issue to be an agenda item and it would have been best if not on an email with all of the Board. S. Peters commented that the Board should not have conversation outside of the Board Meeting. **VOTE:** 5.3/0/4.09/3.5. **Motion passes.** The Board was presented with another email "Today's Walkout" for approval. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to approve the email "Today's Walkout" dated May 13, 2022 at 7:15 AM. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 5.3/0/4.9/3.5. **Motion passes.** The last email for approval is "Walkout" dated May 16, 2022 at 12:54

PM. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to approve the “Walkout” email dated May 16, 2022 at 12:54 PM. **SECOND:** M. Connor. **DISCUSSION:** L. Steadman commented that she has an issue with this conversation not being in non-public. These minutes should be sealed. We do not weigh in on the behavior of the students unless it is brought to us. K. Noonan said if we know of this information we may have to recuse ourselves if it comes to us. We are the judge and jury. D. LeClair said bullying has been a huge issue. J. Strimbeck said the administration needs to be more transparent. By what she knows there is trouble with the students. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to amend the motion and strike the video link so the student is not identifiable. **SECOND:** M. Connor. **DISCUSSION:** L. Steadman is curious if anyone spoke to D. LeClair after the May 13, 2022 email about not emailing other members. K. Noonan is concerned. Does D. LeClair know the suspension was for a specific reason stated. L. Steadman would like to take out the words after “they were suspended” M. Connor commented this is hearsay. C. Toomey would like the entire second paragraph taken out. S. Peters would like to add the following to the bottom of the emails which were discussed tonight: “This email contains communication that one member of the MRSB sent to at least the majority of the other members of the School Board. Such communication may be deemed “meetings” under RSA 91-A:2, the so-called Right-to-Know Law. The law requires that all meetings be conducted in open session, and expressly prohibits communications like this email because they circumvent the legal requirement. The School Board has posted this email on the District’s website for public inspection in an effort to maintain transparency and to conform to the spirit of the law. School Board Members have received training and information on compliance with the law with the intention of preventing these email communications in the future. Thank you for your interest in the School District and the work of the School Board, as well as for your understanding in this matter. “ **VOTE:** 5.3/0/4.09/3.56. **Motion passes.** L. Witte had given a Superintendent Report dated May 17, 2022 to S. Peters to hand out to the Board Members. B. Tatro commented on the point of contact. The point of contact is the Superintendent. When you contact the principal about your student you are not a School Board Member you are a parent. S. Peters said to make sure that the letter from the Superintendent is part of the approved email minutes. He reminded the Board not to exercise more authority than you have.

h. May 3, 2022 SEALED NON-PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES: S. Peters explained that the information from the May 3, 2022 Non-Public Meeting was disclosed by a Board Member to a student. After finding out this information the Board has contacted their attorney. S. Peters has asked the administration for an investigation on who spoke about this matter. This is a breach of confidentiality and the person should be

dismissed. There was a concern about speaking in Public Session but S. Peters said we are not talking about specific names. L. Witte is not in attendance because she is not feeling well and she is not sure she can speak in non-public due to her lack of trust in the Board.

i. 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. 3Q/2nd Trimester Education Report

b. Education Goals

c. Ed/Tech

7. Public Comments: There are no public comments.

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

a. 9:02 PM Personnel Changes: MOTION: K. Noonan **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:** 9.4/0/0/3.5 **Motion passes.**

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

a. 9:06 PM MOTION: K. Noonan **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:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 9.4/0/0/3.5. **Motion passes.**

10. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: M. Connor **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 PM PM. **SECOND:** K. Noonan **VOTE:** 9.4/0/0/3.5. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY: Yes/No/Abstain/Absent