

**Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**April 19, 2022**  
**MRMHS Library/Zoom, Swanzey, NH**

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

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

**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. L. Witte asked for a moment of silence for Cathy Vaine, a staff member at the MS/HS who recently passed away.

**2. Review Policy BEDH: Public Comment and Participation at Board Meetings:** S. Peters explained he had received emails and 1 phone call regarding the previous meeting during Public Comments. The Board allows 15 minutes as part of the meeting to let the public speak. Each speaker will be allowed to speak for 3 minutes unless allowed by the Board prior to the start of the comments. He said he did not honor the policy and apologized. The public may sign up with the recording secretary to speak and it is on a first come first serve basis. The public will be asked to identify themselves and what town they are from. **B. Tatro arrives.** S. Peters also said that if the public has an issue with an individual employee they are directed to speak to the Superintendent and not discuss it in public. He did allow a conversation about an employee to continue at the previous meeting in a public session. We should have stopped it.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** D. LeClair apologized he did not know that was the rule.

**4. #celebrate MRSD:**

**a. 2022 New Hampshire School Board of the Year (School Board of Excellence):** L. Witte congratulated the MRSB for being awarded the 2022 School Board of the Year. She included her nomination letter and the supporting materials which she sent to the

NHSBA. She is proud to represent the District and it is great to have the Board Members recognized. L. Witte mentioned the number of people who have congratulated the Board on their accomplishment. L. Witte explained there will be a table at the award ceremony for the School Board Members on June 4, 2022 in Manchester. *C. Toomey leaves*. S. Peters thanked L. Witte for the nomination.

The Board took a photo of the members. Sorry to the members who were not present.

E. Stanley mentioned there were 60 businesses at the Career Fair. There was great support from the community. K. Noonan said she had attended and the students did great. It was very well done.

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

**a. April 5, 2022 Minutes: MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the April 5, 2022 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE:** 9.434/0/.206/3.361. **Motion passes.**

**b. Motion on the Manifest: MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of \$ 1,393,627.39 as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE:** 9.639/0/0/3.361 **Motion passes.**

**c. Budget Transfers:** J. Morin presented 2 budget transfers to the Board: A transfer in the amount of \$20,000 requested by the MTC Principal from regular instruction health to replacement furniture/equipment in order to replace the damaged chairs and tables from the portables. A budget transfer in the amount of \$42,500 requested by the Business Administrator from Van Driver Salaries to Late Buses. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to accept the 2 budget transfers as presented by the Business Administrator. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 9.639/0/0/3.361. **Motion passes.**

**d. Emerson Fire Panel Contractor:** J. Morin explained that the bid for the Emerson Fire Panel was placed in the paper twice and there was also a walk through. Fred Hamblet LLC was the only bid the District received. It is higher than expected and the estimate was suggested a few years ago. The bid was in the amount of \$123,135. B. Tatro commented on the good work done by Fred Hamblet LLC and J. Morin agreed they are pretty great. **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve the Fred Hamblet LLC bid in the amount of \$123,135 to replace the Emerson Fire Panel. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **DISCUSSION:** J. Morin explained it was estimated on the CIP at \$75,000.00. We had nothing to compare. This was a ballpark figure. The overage funds will come from the Health Trust. **VOTE:** 9.639/0/0/3.361. **Motion passes.**

**e. School Board Committee Charter and Goals:**

**i. Finance/Facilities Committee:** The Finance/Facilities Committee made no changes to their Charter. It will be posted as reviewed and dated April 19, 2022.

ii. **Policy Committee:** The Policy Committee Charter was presented to the Board. There were a few changes which were highlighted. K. Noonan explained at the next Policy Committee Meeting they will review the annual look through. She mentioned that a Senior at the high school did her Senior Project on a Policy and would like to be added to the list. L. Steadman would like the words “as they should” after the colon in #1. **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve the revised Policy Committee Charter as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 9.639/0/0/3.361. **Motion passes.**

iii. **Education/Technology Committee:** Ed/Tech has not met yet.

iv. **Community Relations Committee:** C. McDaniel-Thomas explained the CRC met tonight and accepted the Charter with no changes. She would ask the administration to repost the CRC Charter reviewed and dated April 19, 2022.

v. **Extra-Curricular Committee:** E. Stanley explained the ECC had reviewed the Charter and made no changes. They would ask the administration to repost the ECC Charter as reviewed and dated April 19, 2022. E. Stanley mentioned the Mission Statement document was discussed and updated at their most recent meeting. He will bring the document to the next Board Meeting.

vi. **Field Trip Approval-DI-Kansas City, Missouri:** **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the Destination Imagination Team traveling to Kansas City, Missouri for the DI Global Competition. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 9.639/0/0/3.361. **Motion passes.** **GOOD LUCK!!!!**

vii. **Basketball Court:** J. Rathbun updated the Board on the outdoor basketball court project. It has been discovered that the area in which we would like to put the court is on a leach field. There are no plans that state this but an employee who knows the history of the district notified the administration. The company who is doing the project would like to have a contingency plan. The cost would be from \$2000-\$20,000. There is no way of knowing what is under there. We do not want to see this project go away. J. Morin explained the funds for the basketball court are coming from the money market and we would like to put a fence around it as well. The additional contingency funds could come out of the property liability line. The Building and Grounds warrant article account was mentioned to take the funds for the contingency. J. Morin commented that they would like to break ground any day. In order to withdraw the funds from the Building and Grounds Account would require a special meeting. Minkler, who is the contractor, will not know what to expect until he opens the ground. He hopes the \$20,000 is the ceiling. J. Morin said we can proceed with the project.

## **6. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:**

a. **Call for input: School Board/Superintendent Annual Goals:** S. Peters commented that clearly for the past 2-3 years the Board has been working toward the Bond vote. He would ask that the committee goals be completed before the summer. C. McDaniel-Thomas commented that she was not able to find the CRC goals. S. Peters said he will find them. The Board will be reviewing the Superintendent performance in non-public tonight.

**b. School Board Meeting Calendar Updates:** A list of the upcoming Board and committee meetings are on the back of the agenda. The Finance/Facilities Committee will be meeting on April 21, 2022 to review the 3D model of Troy at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

**c. End of Year Activities Schedule:** L. Witte explained that there have been more events added to the end of the year list. The Milestone Awards will be on May 2, the graduation invite and Ecology School. There are a number of sporting events on graduation day. T. Cote has been in communication with the NHIAA and they have been very accommodating regarding graduation.

**d. Milestone & Retirement Evening May 2nd, 5:00-7:00 pm:** The Board is invited to the Milestone and Retirement Evening on May 2. Please RSVP.

**e. FY23 Federal Funds General Assurance Notification:** The administration presented the General Assurances FY 2023 to the Board. This document will be signed by L. Witte and S. Peters. This document must be signed by organizations that receive federal funds through the NHDOE. This is a notification to the Board.

**f. Education Report: Trimester 2/Quarter 3:** The Education Report will be done on May 3, 2022.

**g. Vacancies:** N. Mosher asked about the 4 vacancies at the elementary schools. L. Witte explained they are for next year. She said they have been advertised and nominations are coming through tonight.

## **7. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:**

- a. Education Report**
- b. ECC Charter**
- c. Goals**
- d. Basketball Court Update**

S. Peters mentioned the Budget Committee will be getting the recap on the Listening Sessions at their next Budget Committee Meeting on Tuesday. He would encourage everyone to attend. The Budget Committee/School Board Meeting will be on May 24, 2021.

**8. Public Comments:** Steve Ciolino of Swanzey is not happy with the way the minutes are written about his comments in previous meetings. He said his child should be taught Math, Science, English and History. The kids should have a Prom King and Prom Queen not 2 queens. Teach Math, Science, English and History. Go to college, to the service, be a productive citizen. Not a personal agenda being taught. S. Peters commented that when speaking in Public Comments do not call out a specific person. He would also suggest referring the issue of the 2 Prom Queens to L. Spencer.

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

a. **8:04 PM Nominations: MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3-11(b) The hiring of any person as a public employee. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 9.639/0/0/3.361. **Motion passes.**

**10. Return to Public Session**

**11. ENTER INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION under RSA 91-A:3-II ( c )**

a. **8:08 PM Superintendent Performance Evaluation: 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:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 9.639/0/0/3.361. **Motion passes.**

**12. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 PM. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE:** 8.937/0/0/4.063. **(J. Strimbeck missing from vote) Motion passes.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Laura L. Aivaliotis**  
**Recording Secretary**

**VOTING KEY:**Yes/No/Abstain/Absent