

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
April 5, 2022
MRMHS Library/Zoom, Swanzey, NH

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

Administration Present: L. Witte, Superintendent, J. Rathbun, Assistant Superintendent, C. Woods, Director of Student Services 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 Patty Bell who was a Kindergarten Teacher at MTC and recently passed away.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** D. LeClair of Swanzey does not agree with identity politics. He does not care about a person’s gender or race but cares on how they act. He believes that students are being pushed to other’s beliefs. He said the word hate is being thrown around. It is being used in school. An English Teacher has a pyramid of hate in her classroom. Beliefs are being pushed on to the students and if you do not agree you need to be hateful.

3. **#celebrate MRSD: *W. Wright arrives.***

a. **Destination Imagination:** J. Kuhn the DI Coach explained that he has been coaching DI Teams for 30 years. He introduced the members of the Team: N. Allison, J. Bauer, A. Cavanaugh, J. Robinson, X. Tisdale and M. Cardine. This team will be traveling to Kansas City, Missouri to compete in Globals. The students explained their presentations to the Board. B.Tatro asked how much the students have raised so far for the trip. J. Kuhn explained the group has \$11,000.00. There is a need for \$5000.00 for registration as well as the cost of getting to Boston. **MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to support the DI Trip to Kansas City, Missouri in the amount of \$6000.00 to be transferred from the Legal Expenses Budget Line. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **DISCUSSION:** K. Noonan congratulated the team on a great job raising the funds. **VOTE:** 11.868/0/0/1.132. **Motion passes.**

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

a. **March 15, 2022 Minutes:** **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the March

15, 2022 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas
VOTE: 9.4/0/2.469/1.132. **Motion passes.**

b. Motion on the Manifest: MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of \$ 2,410,730.35 as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE:** 11.868/0/0/1.132 **Motion passes.**

c. Budget Transfers: J. Morin presented 4 budget transfers to the Board. These are the following transfers: \$ 7800.00 from IT Print Service Contract to Software, \$70,100 from Psych benefits to Spec.Ed. Contracted Services, \$70,500 from Elementary Social Worker Salary and health to Spec.Ed. Contracted Services and \$77,000 from Troy Spec. Ed.Salary and benefits to Contracted Services. **MOTION:** D. LeClair **MOVED** to approve the 4 transfers as presented by J. Morin. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 11.868/0/0/1.132. **Motion passes.**

d. Teacher Appreciation Week (May 2-6): L. Witte informed the Board that the District will be planning a luncheon for all staff for Teacher Appreciation Week. S. Peters would like to send a thank you to all of the staff.

e. Policies for 2nd Read:

i. JF-Student Admission:

ii. JFAA-Admission of Resident Students:

iii. JG-Assignment of Students to Classes and Grade Level: K. Noonan explained the process on which policies. The committee will review and bring the policy to the full Board for a vote. She also explained she puts in a lot of time preparing for the Policy Committee Meeting. If she is voted in as the Policy Chair she would like to continue presenting the policies as the committee currently does for a first read. **MOTION:** W. Wright. **MOVED** to accept the Policy recommendations as presented by the Policy Committee. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 11.663/0/.206/1.132. **Motion passes.**

5. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

a. School Board 2022/23 Goal Setting Process: S. Peters asked the committees to check their Charters and draft goals and to bring them to the Board for a vote. Facilities did meet and identified key goals for the year. All of the committees will present their goals to the Board. There will be a non-public tonight regarding the Superintendent's evaluation. It is not necessary to have a Charter for the Negotiations Committee. The Budget Committee has agreed to have a Joint Meeting with the Board on May 24, 2022. At the April Budget Committee Meeting S. Peters will present the Listening Session materials. The Budget Committee would also like to be part of the project. They would like to work with the Board in unity. Please ask L. Sutton to notify all of the Board Members regarding the May 24, 2022 Joint Meeting. .

b. NHSAS/SAT Opt-Out Information: J. Rathbun explained in the State of NH if students opt out of the test and the rate is below 95% participation the scores will be counted as zeros. He said the District does not advertise the opt out option but we do send out an information paper. There are no more waivers from the State. If we do not hit the 95% we do not

know the true numbers for the test. L. Witte explained if the number is below 95% it is pretty slim that funding would be lost. This information is because the administration did not want this to be a surprise. This is a direct result of the low participation, mostly because parents opt out. There was a rebound this year but still opt outs. K. Noonan asked if we can let parents know what happens if we get below 95%. L. Witte explained we have to be careful. We have a policy to give parents the right to opt out. J. Rathbun explained when we accept funding we have to follow all of the rules. It was explained that we will not lose funding. We are trying to follow protocol and expectations.

c. Overview of MRSD Special Education: C. Woods presented the Board with an overview of Special Education in the District. She explained IDEA with a purpose of allowing children with disabilities into the buildings and now access to general education. Kids with IEP participate in the 95% for the State Testing. She explained the process on how the student receives an IEP. The committee makes the decision and the parent is part of the decision. C. Woods explained LEA and IDEA. She explained that they have noticed there are schools with a higher number of audio and visual impaired students. She explained the related services which are provided to the students. She explained the difference between the 504 and an IEP. The 504 is accommodation changes on how something is taught. Modification of what is taught. She explained the staffing in the Special Ed. Dept. Compliance, the District is responsible for 14 indicators and the State has added more. We are currently at a good place in regards to the indicators. L. Steadman would like to have a copy of the presentation. C. Woods explained it is the expectation and the law to have the students taught by qualified teachers as well as a para. The goal is for the student to be independent. K. Noonan told C. Woods, it was a great presentation. She also said that she had asked for this information and to make sure parents do not have to fight for the services. L. Witte explained there is a need for staff at Troy and MRMS is the most challenging with the lack of paraprofessionals. She also presented the critical shortage list and said it is not only this district. C. Woods explained the paras have been short for 2 years at the high school. It was commented that some paras are leaving for better pay. *N. Mosher leaves the meeting.* J. Rathbun explained when you become a teacher you teach to all of the students. C. Woods explained most of the teachers have had exposure. They had experiences and that is a gift. It is part of the gift of inclusion. The law is clear that the Spec.Ed. students are included with peers provided it is not disrupted to the learning of others. She said having the kids leave if being disrupted causes the most disruption. This event is made on a case by case issue. We do not have a padded room. We have a calming space in the general ed. area. S. Peters thanked C. Woods for the presentation.

d. Revised budget timeline (in packet): L. Witte reviewed the revised budget timeline which was in the Board packet.

e. Update on Construction Manager Bid Process: S. Peters explained the Fac/Fin Committee met with K. Barker and reviewed the RFP for the Construction Manager. He said that this is not the typical bidding process. K. Barker has a list of qualified companies that know schools. B. Tatro explained that the Board needs to have a company to put on the State Building Aid Application. S. Peters said the administration will review the bids with K. Barker, bring a

few names to the Board and interview. This is not a three bid process.

f. FY23 Health Insurance Rates: J. Morin reported the District had received the GMR in the amount of 5.6%.

6. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

- a. Overview of End of Year Activities**
- b. Trimester Q3 Report**
- c. Committee Charter and Goals**

7. Public Comments: Steve of Swanzey explained that there are students who would like to form a Ski and Snowboard club. He is asking the Board how he could start the process. He commented that his child is not doing well in English due to the topics and what the teacher is pushing on the students. The child has chosen to fail rather than listen. He said he called the principal with no response. E. Stanley explained that the ECC would be the committee to hear the proposal on the Ski and Snowboard Club. S. Peters explained if there is no response from the principal then reach out to the Superintendent.

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

a. 9:15 PM Certified Staff Nominations: MOTION: C. Toomey **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:** 11.663/0/0/1.337. **Motion passes.**

9. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION: MOTION: C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to Seal the April 5, 2022, 9:15 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes for 10 years. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 11.663/0/0/1.337. **Motion passes.**

10. ENTER INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION under RSA 91-A:3-II

a. 9:37 PM Non-Public under (c): MOTION: C. McDaniel-Thomas **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. Toomey. **VOTE:** 11.663/0/0/1.337. **Motion passes.**

11. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: C. Toomey **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 PM. **SECOND:** W. Wright **VOTE:** 11.663/0/0/1.337. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY: Yes/No/Abstain/Absent