

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2022
MRMHS Library/Zoom, Swanzey, NH

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

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:** Superintendent Witte opened the meeting.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no public comments.
3. **BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING-Policies BDA, BDA-R:**
 - a. **Recap of District Votes from March 8th:** L. Witte explained the recap of the district vote is in the Board packet. All of the articles passed.
 - b. **Welcome New Board Member:** L. Witte introduced and welcomed Jennifer Strimbeck to the Board.
 - c. **Election of School Board Officers:**
 - i. **Board Chair and Vice-Chair:** L. Witte asked for nomination for the Board Chair. **MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to nominate S. Peters as the Board Chair. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 8.611/0/.995/3.395. **Motion passes. S. Peters will now run the meeting.** S. Peters asked for nominations for Vice Chair. **MOTION:** W.Wright **MOVED** to nominate L. Steadman as the Board Vice Chair. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 8.611/0/.995/3.395. **Motion passes.**
 - ii. **Board Treasurer and Secretary:** **MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to nominate W. Wright as the Board Treasurer. **SECOND:** L. Steadman **VOTE:** 9.065/0/0/3.395. **Motion passes. MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to nominate K. Noonan as the Board Secretary. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **VOTE:** 8.507/0/1.098/3.395. **Motion passes.**
 - d. **Board Member Documentation:**

i. **Contact Sheet:** S. Peters asked the Board Member to update their contact sheets and return them back to L. Sutton.

ii. **BCA/BCA-R (Ethics Commitment Form):** S. Peters explained that in past years the Board had been asked to sign the Ethics Commitment Form. This form had been revised by a vote of the Board last year. There is no need to sign. Just a notice for the Board.

e. **Evaluate Standing Committees (Policy BDE):** S. Peters and the Board did an exercise to assign members of the Board to specific committees. Negotiations Committee, Policy Committee, Education/Technology Committee, Finance/Facilities Committee and Community Relations Committee. The Legislative Committee will be an advisory committee. A member from the Board will sit on the Budget Committee, Wellness Committee and Cheshire Career Center. S. Peters explained what each committee does throughout the year. The committees will start by electing a chair for each committee, review charter and develop goals.

f. **Committee Assignments and Schedule (White Board):** The members to each committee and the schedule are as follows: **Negotiations**, W. Wright, B. Tatro, L. Steadman and M. Connor, meet when necessary, **Policy**, K. Noonan, C. Toomey, W. Wright and J. Strimbeck, 1st Wednesday of the month, **Ed/Tech**, B. Bohannon, D. LeClair and E. Stanley, 1st Monday, **Finance/Facilities**, B. Tatro, C. Toomey, D. LeClair, W. Wright and J. Strimbeck, 2nd Tuesday, **CRC**, C. McDaniel-Thomas, B. Tatro and D. LeClair, 3rd Tuesday, **ECC**, E. Stanley, D. LeClair and B. Bohannon, 2nd Thursday, **CRC**, S. Peters will represent the Board on the **Budget Committee**, K. Noonan will represent the Board on the **Wellness Committee** and W. Wright will represent the Board on the **CCC**. **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to accept the committee appointments as set. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 9.605/0/0/3.395. **Motion passes.** S. Peters explained K. Barker had asked for the Finance/Facilities Committee to meet this month to discuss issues.

g. **Budget Committee Meetings**

i. **Proposed Addition of a Spring Joint Meeting:** S. Peters explained at the last joint meeting with the Budget Committee there was discussion about another joint meeting in late May. The Board Members agreed.

h. **Proposed Board Meeting Time/Date/Standard Snow Dates:** The Board was presented with a list of meeting dates. The Joint Meeting with the Budget Committee is proposed for May 24, July 19 School Board Meeting, August 16 School Board Meeting, November 19 Fall Joint Meeting along with the normal Board Meetings scheduled on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to accept the Board Meeting schedule as presented. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** L. Steadman mentioned moving the Joint Meeting with the Budget Committee in order to have all of the contract information available to the committee. **VOTE:** 9.605/0/0/3.395. **Motion passes.**

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

a. **March 1, 2022 Minutes:** **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the March 1, 2022 School Board Meeting Public and Non-Public Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** E. Stanley **VOTE:** 8.302/0/1.303/3.395. **Motion passes.**

b. Motion on the Manifest: MOTION: W. Wright **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of \$ 1,267,747.61 as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** C. Toomey **VOTE:** 9.605/0/0/3.395. **Motion passes.**

c. Bids for Removal of MRMHS Temporary Classrooms: J. Morin explained T. Breen had obtained 3 bids for the removal of the MRMHS temporary classrooms. The administration would like to recommend Holman Contracting in the amount of \$75,000.00. J. Morin explained the bidding process. She also mentioned it does not include the doors. The doors are under \$10,000.00 and there is no need for approval from the Board for that amount according to Policy. The removal of the temporary classrooms will be done during the summer when there are no students in the building. L. Steadman thought the bidding process had to go out to the public. She would like to have the Policy Committee review Policy DJE. It is a lot of money going out to bid. **MOTION:** C. Toomey **MOVED** to accept the bid in the amount of \$75,000.00 from Holman Contracting for the removal of the temporary classrooms at the MRMHS. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **VOTE:** 9.605/0/0/3.395. **Motion passes.**

d. Superintendent Performance Evaluation Process: A survey was put out to the Board Members as input for the Superintendent Performance Evaluation. S. Peters will keep this open until April 1, 2022. He explained half of the Board Members have participated.

e. Destination Imagination: MOTION: E. Stanley **MOVED** to have the District purchase swag for the Destination Imagination Team for coming in first place in the Structural Engineering Competition and moving to the DI Globals. **SECOND:** K. Noonan **DISCUSSION:** J. Morin explained the amount for each student is \$100.00. N. Mosher commented that there are a lot of students winning competitions and asked about the amount in the account. J. Morin explained that the administration will really have to look at that. **VOTE:** 9.605/0/0/3.395. **Motion passes.** E. Stanley would like to see what the Board can do to support the student for the Global Competition trip. L. Witte will let J. Kuhn know that the Board would like to support the group.

5. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

a. Policies for 1st Read:

i. JF-Student Admission:

ii. JFAA-Admission of Resident Students:

iii. JG-Assignment of Students to Classes and Grade Level: K. Noonan asked the Board to review the policies and email her with any questions. L. Steadman would like the packets to include the old and revised policy as well as the red lines.

b. School Education Reports: J. Rathbun explained an idea which came out of the Education Committee to have the principals attend the Board Meeting and give a short presentation on what they are seeing after the Remote Learning and what they are doing to address the issues and the next steps they are taking. He explained after the principals are finished he has the data from the iReady Report. L. Spencer reported on the 7th/8th grade and the

9th-12th grades. She explained the strengths and the weaknesses and how they will be making improvements. They will be using PLC Protocols. She has reached out to the KSC guidance for stronger PLC. She explained they are giving students engaging choices but we cannot give additional work to our teachers. We need to find time. M. Suarez reported on the Kindergarten-grade 2 at MTC. She reported on the strengths and the weaknesses. She explained that there are 4 or 5 teachers at every grade level and they work together. We need to capitalize more on working with all staff at grade levels. She explained the next steps such as the PLC, identifying student bench marks and spending more time with students. L. Stephens reported on the students from Emerson grades Pre K-6th. She reported on the strengths and weaknesses and said that she would like to work on PLCs. The staff will be working a lot over the summer with the new members. There is help available for small learning groups thanks to Title I. K. Stone commented on smaller classrooms and how they are very beneficial to his teachers. He explained there are about 13-18 students per class. He explained the weaknesses and strengths in each group. PLC, experienced teachers and Title One will help with improvements. Teachers will continue to monitor student progress with the appropriate tools. T. Givetz explained the strengths and weaknesses of the Gilsum students. To make the improvements the staff will be working on PLCs, focusing on data, analyzing data, having students work in small groups focusing on skills, benchmark assessments and having Math Centers. A. Salzmänn explained the strengths and weaknesses of her students at Cutler. She said there is a need to focus on phonics, vocabulary and Math facts. The response is that the PLC schedule has changed to have time to work with other staff. PLC by grade level and we are prepared and have an action plan to come to discuss with other staff. We also have Reading Specialists and Title I to help and support the students. They will be offering after school tutoring. There has been a very positive response based on the Special Ed. Students but possibly to all students. A. Salzmänn explained that the second grade teams from the other schools meet with the Cutler team to discuss all of the students individually. All of the schools do talk to all of the other teachers in the district. All teachers discuss with the other teachers the students they will be passing to the next grade. L. Witte explained she had not reviewed the slide deck presented but it was easy to follow. It was a great presentation. N. Mosher also said it was great and thanked the principals. He also asked if there were recommendations from the State Board on different ways to address the issues after COVID. J. Rathbun explained PLCs are very widely recommended by the State Board. Federal Education is also a proponent for PLCs. M. Connor asked for a copy of the slide show. S. Peters would hope the administration will let the Board know if there is anything they might need. L. Witte commented moving forward she does not see anything but will ask if there is a need. J. Morin explained we do have CARES funds available.

J. Rathbun explained the information he has provided to the Board. He said the Diagnostic Results had a 90% participation rate. The green area is good, yellow the students need help and red the students are at risk. The information provided are the overall trends. It is not a growth report but it is where the students fall in the current year. Students in K-4 had a bigger jump than grades 5-8. There were bigger jumps in Math than ELA based on the National Level. The principals are digging deeper into the individual students. S. Peters thanked J.

Rathbun and the administrative team for the presentations and follow up.

c. Elementary School Renovations: S. Peters reviewed the timeline for the Elementary School Renovation Project. Currently, working on the detailed design, filing the Building Aid Application and hiring a Construction Manager. B. Tatro asked who will be doing the interview for the Construction Manager. J. Morin, T. Breen and K. Barker will do the interviewing.

d. Review of 2021/22 Board Self-Evaluation: The Board self-evaluations are in the Board packet. This is done annually.

e. 2022/23 Goal Setting Process: Each committee will update their Charter and draft goals.

6. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

- a. Review End of Year Activities**
- b. Overview of Special Education**
- c. Certified Staff Nominations**

7. Public Comments: Y. Peters of Troy commented that she had seen the Fine Arts Musical and it was great. She mentioned that the Student Government has hung framed pictures of students doing activities. She would like to give a shout out to the staff and students for doing a lot of great art work in the 800 Wing. There is a Women's History Bulletin Board on our walls. There are a lot of great things to draw your attention to.

E. Stanley commented that this year the students were not able to see the musical performance. He hopes that they might next year. He would like the District to encourage the students at the elementary school level. He does not want to lose them.

8. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: C. Toomey **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 PM. **SECOND:** W. Wright **VOTE:** 8.487/0/0/4.513. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY: Yes/No/Abstain/Absent