Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2022 (Not Yet Approved)
MRMHS Library/Zoom, Swanzey, NH

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

Administration Present: L. Witte, Superintendent via Zoom, J. Rathbun, Assistant Superintendent, C. Woods, Director of Student Services and J. Morin, Business Administrator.
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Also Present: K. Barker via Zoom and 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: L.Steadman called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

3. CELEBRATE MRSD: The Board recognized the winners of the Spelling Bee, Teagan Bohannon, Reily Brennan and Sage Fox. They were asked what word they correctly spelled to win the Spelling Bee. Veronica Skol was recognized for winning the American Democracy Essay contest.

4. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. January 18, 2022 Minutes: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the January 18, 2022 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE:** 11.303/0/0/1.697. **Motion passes.**

b. Motion on the Manifest: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of $2,014,842.43 as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** W. Wright **VOTE:** 11.303/0/0/1.697. **Motion passes.**

c. Budget Transfer: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the budget transfer in the amount of $33,494.00 from the Troy Special Education Para salary and benefits to the MTC Special Education Para Salary and benefits. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **DISCUSSION:** J. Morin explained the para will be moving with the students from the Troy School to MTC.

VOTE: 11.303/0/0/1.697. **Motion passes.**

5. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

a. Policies for 1st Read:

i. KEC/KEC-R Reconsideration of Instructional Materials

ii. EEAG-Use of Private Vehicles to Transport Students

iii. BBBC-Board Member of District Office Resignation

iv. BBBE-Vacancies and Unexpired Term Fulfillment

v. BEC-Non-Public Sessions

vi. BEDG-Meeting Minutes: K. Noonan explained these policies are for first read and if there are any questions to email her. B. Bohannon asked if the book review in Policy KEC was at the school level. J. Rathbun said it was at the school level. He explained the principals put a committee together to review. K. Noonan said it is pretty much the same in the new policy as in the old policy.

b. Deliberative Session: L. Witte explained she has provided a hand out to the Board. The sign is in regards to the wearing of masks and social distancing at the Deliberative Session. This topic was asked to be on this agenda. L. Witte explained this year is different from last year. There is no executive order or emergency order in regards to COVID. The masks were very problematic last year. There will be no Zoom or remote. People are encouraged to wear the masks and social distance. An area will be marked off for those that choose not to wear masks. The signs will be displayed largely and frequently throughout the auditorium. C. McDaniel-Thomas asked about a quorum of the Board at the Deliberative. L. Witte explained there will be a need for a physical quorum only if action is taken. The Board will still have a meeting with no quorum and if there is a need for a meeting to vote an emergency meeting can be called. M. Connor asked if it would be possible to have a masked area instead of an unmasked area. L. Witte explained masks will be available. She will look at the map of the auditorium. There has to be an area for non-voters. She is not anticipating more people than last year. J. Rathbun commented we need to allow people who chose to wear masks to not sit by people that are unmasked. The Pre-Deliberative Meeting is at 9:00 AM on Saturday. Deliberative at 10:00 AM.

c. 7-12 Q2 Academic Report: J. Rathbun had provided the grades report in the Board packets. He said it is pretty much what they thought. English and Math are pretty steady, no significant swing and well within what we expect. He did see a lot of incompletes due to illness. He said he would rather see that than failures. The teachers help the student to get the incompletes done. B. Bohannon asked if there was any feedback from the staff with a C or better. J. Rathbun said they cannot pinpoint the problem but truancy is something we are dealing with and students are sick as well. It is not only the C. It is a tough year for kids also.To engage in the last 2 years of craziness and it is still crazy. That is the feedback. We cannot pinpoint it. B. Bohannon would like to pinpoint 2 or 3 items that are consistent, make a plan and address it. If

the pandemic does not go away, figure out how to adapt. J. Rathbun said the staff are professional educators who dedicate their lives to education. Truancy is one issue and we are not getting help from the parents. The plan is to get the kids in school and have them want to stay in school. We are discussing truancy as a group. We have started to take all of the tools to get kids to school. B. Bohannon suggested advertising what we are trying to do and letting them know the steps we are taking. J. Rathbun explained we now know what we can do to let the parents know there will be consequences. The message needs to get out there. B. Tatro asked if the CARES funds can be used to get the grades up. J. Rathbun explained we are currently and have been using the funds for that reason. We need to motivate the whole culture. N. Mosher asked if there was any elementary school truancy. J. Rathbun said it is at the MRMHS. N. Mosher asked who is tracking and contacting the families. J. Rathbun explained the assistant principal's office and the SSO. C. Toomey asked if students were held back last year. J. Rathbun explained when you fail in high school you retake the class.

d. Kyle Barker-Elementary Floor Plans: K. Barker explained that he has been working on the school designs. He had previously created videos about the renovation projects and will create similar videos regarding the designs. He hopes to have it completed by the Deliberative Session and the link could be given out to the public. This is an easy way to get it out to the crowd. He has a power point and demonstration of the floor plans. The power point begins with the phases of the study, the listening sessions, listening to the staff, listening to Monadnock, the Building Aid Application, Recap building needs, a sentence or 2 on the needs and why is space needed. It will include the core facilities and arrangement of the buildings. He mentioned that closing Cutler has a huge impact on MTC. He listed the 10 options and the choice the Board made after listening to the public. He will review each of the schools in the PowerPoint. **Emerson** was reviewed first. There will be an addition to the main office and renovations. Art and Music will have their own rooms. Like grades will be placed together. He has not developed site plans. K. Barker did explain that doors to the outside in each individual classroom are not required with a sprinkler system. **Gilsum** will have a secure front entrance with a conference room, nurse's office and main office. This will be attached to the cafeteria and allow parts of the school to be closed to the public. The courtyard will have better drainage, the oil tank will be removed and soil will be put down. This could be used for outdoor classrooms. The boiler will be moved to the basement. **MTC** is a little more complicated. It will double in size. We will be reconfiguring the driveway beside the building and there will be a large turnaround in the back. The entrance to the building will be moved to the back. The core facilities such as the cafeteria, gym and library will be in the back to allow the public to use them. The courtyards will be landscaped, easy to maintain and secure. The Marker Space will be at the other end of the building and can be shared by other schools. This area will be similar to the Discovery Center at the MRMHS. **Troy School** is a bit more complicated. The office is in a terrible location. The new entrance will be in the front of the building and will be secure. The boiler room will be moved to the basement and move maintenance. He realized that some of the

walls are not barring and he will reconfigure the classrooms. B. Bohannon commented that he liked what K. Barker did with the flow of the schools despite the challenges. K. Barker said he tried to keep the same grades together in order for the teachers to work collaboratively together. The nurse and the principal's office will be beside each other N. Mosher asked about the thought process with the courtyards. K. Barker explained all of the buildings grew up organically. There are 5 additions to MTC. Without doing the courtyards there would be windows that would be blocked. The courtyard helps maintain those windows. J. Rathbun said the teachers are excited about the outdoor learning space. He will design for low maintenance. J. Rathbun and D. LeClair asked about turf. K. Barker also mentioned patio blocks. K. Barker asked if there were questions and to email him for the answers. He mentioned that the softball field will need to be moved to the back. He is not sure about the playground equipment. B. Tatro said the playground equipment was designed to be removed. K. Barker said he will continue to update the space by going on the State website regarding the birth rate and other factors. He is making sure there is room for the projections. During his video he recaps the issues going on in all of the schools. We have building issues, program needs and safety issues. He mentioned that the voters need to realize that this district has a good chance to rank high to receive School Building Aid. He will try hard to make the application tops. The bond rates are very low. The inflation rate is high and not coming down. The hope is when you are ready it is steady. He is afraid if inflation increases so will the bond rates. The voters need to understand this. K. Barker will continue to work with J. Rathbun and work with the principals. He is always taking feedback. This is not a done deal. K. Barker explained there is space for staff who do not have their own classroom. Each grouping of classrooms has their own work area and a Special Ed. area. ***K. Barker leaves the meeting. C. McDaniel-Thomas leaves the meeting.***

e. Committee Reports: E. Stanley informed the Board that the Student Government along with the ECC will be holding a Club Fair on March 15, 16 and 17. B. Tatro explained the CRC is working on promoting the facility project. She explained the committee is working with Gilfoil on the website and the committee is working on the Warrants in Plain English. L.Steadman said there is a hearing currently regarding reforming education saving accounts. There is also a Bill to allow Special Education students to be educated until their 22nd birthday. C. Woods is asking what problem this is trying to solve. She is not sure of the problem. She said in the next few years there is no impact on our district. In the future there may be more students and then it takes a turn down after that. We do have an out of district student who is closer and one not for a few years. She said this Bill could affect our out of district students. L. Steadman mentioned a Bill to dissolve cooperative school districts by 2025. She is not asking the Board for an opinion at this time.

6 SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

1. **L. Witte will not be in attendance at the next Board Meeting on Feb.15.**
2. **2022-2023 School Calendar**
3. **Recap Deliberative Session**
4. **Green Sheet Plain English**

7. Public Comments: S. Saleno of Swanzey commented that he would suggest the masks be optional and not mandatory. He said that is one reason kids do not want to go to school. Regarding the culture of the school boys do not feel like they are part of the school with 2 Homecoming queens. This is feminizing boys in the school. Boys do not feel masculine and they do not feel welcome. Talk to the kids.

8. 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.

9. Enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3-II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee.

10. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: C. Toomey **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM. **SECOND:** K.Noonan **VOTE:** 9.966/0/0/3.034. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY: Yes/No/Abstain/Absent