

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2022
MRMHS Library/Zoom, Swanzey, NH

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

Administration Present: L. Witte, Superintendent via Zoom, 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: L. Steadman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS: S. Saleno of Swanzey explained he read in the minutes a discussion regarding reading materials in the schools. He suggested reading “The History of Swanzey.” He said it is really good reading. He asked about the signs on the classroom doors that say “safe space” and pictures of rainbows. He also mentioned teachers being banned from certain topics. He would like his children to learn Math, English and History.

A. Hopkins, Budget Committee Chair summarized the Budget Hearing. He said there were about 7-8 people in attendance either in person or via Zoom. There was no discussion on the articles and the Budget Committee supported 8 of the 9 proposed articles. There were comments from L. Steadman regarding the contract.

D. Coffman explained that he is going to stick around for any comments or questions regarding the contract. He is happy to speak as an individual. He had reasons not to support the contract.

3. CELEBRATE MRSD: L. Steadman saw as she walked through the halls “Celebrate one another” give a pat on the back. She would encourage the members to take a look.

4. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. Approve 2022/23 Program of Studies: J. Rathbun explained that the Program of Studies was just finished today. It is similar to last year’s. There is a new Art Course and Photography Course. Math for Laughs is a Senior Math elective. It is an everything Math Course. The only big change is in the Science Dept. For the last 15 years Physical Science was

offered in the 9th grade. The Science Dept. would like to change to Earth Science in the 9th grade. This is a more hands on course and a lot more interesting. We have a Physical Science teacher retiring. The student will take the Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry and Physics or Physical Science in that order. Some Board Members would like to have time to read the 2022-2023 Program of Studies. C. McDaniel-Thomas is comfortable approving the Program of Studies. It has gone in front of the Ed/Tech Committee. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the 2022-2023 Program of Studies as presented by Assistant Supt. Rathbun. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **DISCUSSION:** D. LeClair will not vote in favor only because he would like more time to read it. **VOTE:** 7.703/1.132/1.183/2.332. **Motion passes.**

b. Approve Elementary School Floor Plan: K. Barker would like to explain the Elementary School Floor Plans with the Board but is not able to be here tonight. The Board will review the plans at their next meeting.

c. Update COVID Leave Policy: L. Witte presented the updated MRSD COVID Leave Policy to the Board. Some of the fully vaccinated information and some of the guidelines have changed. She red lined the new information in the policy. L. Witte would recommend the 10 days of quarantine for the remainder of the year. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the updated MRSD COVID-19 Leave Policy with updated guidelines and recommendations by the Superintendent. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 10.668/0/0/2.332. **Motion passes.**

d. January 4, 2022 Minutes: **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE:** 8.68/0/1.800/2.332. **Motion passes.**

e. Motion on the Manifest: **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of \$1,124,536.40 as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** K. Noonan **VOTE:** 10.668/0/0/2.332. **Motion passes.**

f. Approve Draft Warrant Article in Plain English: C. McDaniel-Thomas explained that the attempt of the committee was to explain each article but not to be too formal. To be neutral and reinstate. The Board reviewed Article One, Proposed Budget and was satisfied except the committee will have to insert the Default Budget number. Article Two, MRMHS renovations. The committee would like to have a number regarding the savings if the District were to do the renovations at the same time as the heating and ventilation systems which are paid for by a grant. J. Morin explained K. Barker had said at this time it is too much of a shot in the dark to estimate. Article Three is the MDEA Contract. The committee will recapture the broad strokes in the MDEA and explain the insurance. J. Morin explained it is currently 81%-19% with no movement. Leave time is prohibited before and after a weekend or vacation and the MDEA cannot use leave time on professional development days. This language was added to the explanation. This is a high priority. The committee would like to have the members covered in the MDEA listed on the green sheet. Article Four is to discontinue the Health and Dental

Expendable Trust. J. Morin is not comfortable with the \$63,000.00 figure being listed on the green sheet. She said the number will change due to interest. The committee will print \$63,347 as of June 30, 2021. Article Five, School Building Maintenance Expendable Trust language in Plain English was explained and agreed to by the Board. The balance in the account will be stated and “as of June 30, 2021” will be added. Article Six, Special Education Expendable Trust is explained with the same language as previous years. The balance in the account will be stated and “as of June 30, 2021” will be added. Article Seven, Before and After School Expendable Trust is fine. The balance in the account will be stated and “as of June 30, 2021” will be added” The current name of the program is Beyond the Bell. Article Eight, District Vehicle Expendable Trust. The balance in the account will be stated and “as of June 30, 2021” will be added. J. Morin suggested language giving the District the ability to set funds aside to meet the District’s vehicle needs. Article Nine, School Grounds Expendable Trust explanation will include “adjacent practice fields” and the balance in the account will be stated and “as of June 30, 2021” will be added. C. McDaniel-Thomas will make the changes to the draft and forward to the Board. **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve the Warrant Articles in Plain English as provided by the CRC and edits made by the Board. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **VOTE:** 9.966/0/.702/2.332. **Motion passes.** C. McDaniel-Thomas explained Silver Direct will be printing the Warrant Articles in Plain English and they will go out with Monadnock Education Matters. C. McDaniel-Thomas mentioned a date of January 27, 2022. L. Witte explained L. Sutton would like the bulk of the language in Plain English and then make the changes after the Deliberative Session. J. Morin explained the Warrant Article Language has been sent to DRA. She will coordinate with C. McDaniel-Thomas and then ask a majority of the School Board to sign the Warrant. It will be at the SAU and needs to be signed by Thursday. J. Morin will send out an email when it is ready to be signed. L. Witte would ask either the CRC or the Board to finalize the Plain English that day after the Deliberative Session.

5. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

a. Recap of Budget Hearing: A. Hopkins explained there was a lot of discussion on getting the information in a timely manner regarding the MDEA contract. The committee asked for additional information a week prior and received it at 6:00 PM for a 7:00 PM meeting. This happens each year. There should be more effort from the Negotiating Committee. We need information to make a determination. There are some members who will not vote in support if the information is not provided. There were questions on the pay for covering a class. The cost over the 3 years went from \$30 to \$45 a class. We asked for the comparisons. We had asked for clarification on the steps. There was no information given until the meeting. We need the information earlier. We are not going to say yes to the contract without our requests. L. Steadman mentioned there was a motion to table at the Budget Hearing. She asked if a little more time might have helped. A. Hopkins said yes but the vote had already started to take place. K. Noonan asked if the Budget Committee had the red lined contract. A. Hopkins explained the Budget Committee had the contract and asked for answers on January 5, 2022 but received the answers on January 13, 2022 at 6:15 PM. L. Steadman asked if the Budget Committee feels that they now have the information they need. L. Steadman asked if the conversation was to change would the Budget Committee support the contract. L. Witte explained the Budget Committee

voted not to support the contract and that cannot change. At the Deliberative Session the contract cannot change. The other articles can only change by the dollar amount. A. Hopkins thanked J. Morin for the Default Budget information.

b. Assign Presenters for Deliberative Session: L. Steadman would like to assign Board Members a Warrant Article to move at the Deliberative Session. She also asked who will be attending in person. L. Witte explained that masks will not be required. K. Wheeler is concerned with not wearing masks. L. Witte was concerned about the situation last year regarding the masks. Last year during the Deliberative we were under an Emergency order. We are not in that situation this year. **S. Peters arrives.** K. Wheeler would like to discuss masks at the Deliberative at the next Board Meeting. Board Members volunteered to move the warrant articles. S. Peters is not sure he will be able to attend the Deliberative Session but a physical quorum is required.

6 SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

- 1. Floor Plans**
- 2. MRMHS**
- 3. Budget Transfer**
- 4. Masks at Deliberative**

7. Public Comments: S. Saleno of Swanzey explained he has 3 children in the district. He is a concerned parent. He would encourage the district to teach the students regular subjects like Math, English and History.

D. Coffman of Swanzey explained the reason he is agitated. He is pro-teacher. The teachers are the key to his family and development of the kids' success. It is common decency to receive the contracts on time. They were late out of the gate. Not having the summary available is a problem. What is the reason for not getting it on time? He voted not to support. He hopes to do his own work and he might change his mind. His no vote was all based on principle and lack of facts.

8. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: C. Toomey **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 PM. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE:** 11.663/0/0/1.337. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY:Yes/No/Abstain/Absent