

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
January 4, 2022
MRMHS Library/Zoom, Swanzey, NH

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

Administration Present: L. Witte, Superintendent, J. Rathbun, Assistant Superintendent, C. Woods, Director of Student Services and J. Morin, Business Administrator.

Also Present: E. Sheldon, Budget Committee Liaison 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: S. Peters called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS: S. Saleno of Swanzey commented that he pays taxes for his kids to go to school. He said the students have gone through heck because of COVID, the remote learning was terrible. *C. Toomey arrives.* He is very happy with the school. He would like his children to learn Math, English and Social Studies. He looks around the school and feels like ideology is being pushed on the students. He also commented on the fact that there were 2 homecoming queens and a queens’ court. He said his sons are uncomfortable but will not say anything. He also said he had spoken to Superintendent Witte and decided to come to the Board. There are parents who have no idea about the queen's court. S. Peters said he appreciated the comments. He said the Board may discuss this issue with the administration offline at some point.

3. CELEBRATE MRSD: L. Witte explained everyone came back from the Holiday break and things are going well.

4. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. Approve Elementary School Floor Plan: K. Barker will be presenting the Elementary School Floor Plan to the Finance/Facilities Committee next week.

b. Policies for Second Read:

i. BBB-R Weighted Vote Policy: K. Noonan explained the breakdown of the weighted vote which has changed due to the 2020 census. It does not require a vote but the Policy Committee wanted to bring it to the Board. The effective date will be January 6, 2022.

ii. IGE-Parental Objection to Specific Course Material:

iii. IHCD/LEB Advanced Coursework/AP Courses & Stem Dual

Concurrent Enrollment:

iv. IK-Earning of High School Credit:

v. IMBC-Alternative Credit Options: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy Committee to approve the policies presented for 2nd read effective January 6, 2022. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.** J. Rathbun will touch base with the Budget Committee regarding the weighted vote change.

c. December 28, 2021 Minutes: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the December 28, 2021 Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE:** 10.909/0/2.091/0. **Motion passes..**

d. Motion on the Manifest: MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of \$1,883,617.18 as presented by the administration. . **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

e. Approve/Support any new Warrant Articles: S. Peters asked if the Board Members have any new articles they would like to recommend to the Board. There were no additional articles. S. Peters explained the Budget Committee will be reviewing the warrant articles at their meeting tomorrow.

f. Approve Draft Warrant Article in Plain English: C. McDaniel-Thomas explained the CRC will be presenting the Articles in Plain English at the next Board Meeting.

5. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

a. Ed/Tech Dashboard Presentation: J. Rathbun explained the Ed/Tech Committee will be presenting the dashboard at the first meeting in February. The committee will be going with a new platform and has switched to Tableau. The State uses Tableau and it is outstanding. B. Bohannon explained at the next Ed/Tech Meeting the committee will be brainstorming ideas to draft goals for the next 5 and 10 years. He would like to invite all Board Members.

b. Operations/Superintendent's Report: L. Witte does not have a report tonight. J. Rathbun commented school is up and running and students are making the transition from the Holiday break and it feels good.

c. Presentation Ideas for Budget Hearing and Deliberative Session: S. Peters would like to open up a discussion for presentation ideas for the Budget Hearing and the Deliberative Session. Who will present and what will be presented? B. Bohannon would like to ask K. Barker to be in attendance. S. Peters would like to show the presentations from the Listening Sessions. C. Toomey asked if the PR Firm was going to do anything as far as the warrant articles. S. Peters is not sure if they are involved in this year's warrant articles. J. Morin will continue to reach out to K. Barker. K. Barker did have an idea of posters with the school designs and to have them at the Deliberative Session. L. Steadman suggested getting the plans, blowing them up and getting them out to be seen. S. Peters explained the Budget Hearing is on January 13, 2022 and asked if the Board would like to present. He asked if the Board would like

to identify members to discuss the warrant articles and the amounts. L. Steadman commented to discuss the articles at the Deliberative Session but not the Budget Hearing it is about the budget. S. Peters would ask all Board Members to make an effort to attend.

d. Board Goals and Calendar Review: The Board reviewed the upcoming meetings. January 5 the Budget Committee will be meeting, January 11 the Finance/Facilities will be meeting, January 12 the Policy Committee will be meeting, January 13 is the Budget Hearing, January 18 the Board and CRC will be meeting, the ECC will be meeting on January 19 and the Budget Committee will be meeting on January 25.

S. Peters would like to review the Board Goals. The first goal was to develop an elementary school renovation plan, which the Board did. The next step is to identify and hire a Construction Management Firm by Feb. 1, 2022. S. Peters felt the Board should start the discussion sooner than later, possibly the next meeting. We will ask K. Barker for advice. J. Morin explained she has been through this process before and does not believe there is a need for a lot of specifics. This would be a good topic for the Finance/Facilities Committee. S. Peters commented the level of effort needed to get to the June 2022 deadline would require K. Barker's guidance. B. Bohannon asked what the attendance was like at the Listening Sessions. C. McDaniel-Thomas commented less than robust. C. McDaniel-Thomas explained the website is almost done and the feedback sessions are included. B. Bohannon would suggest a virtual meeting regarding the Elementary School Renovation Project after the plans are complete and have K. Barker in attendance. He would also suggest taking out a radio ad. S. Peters would like the radio ad and the virtual meeting on the CRC agenda. B. Bohannon commented that advertising on the radio will hit all people. Another goal are the quarterly reports, trimester updates and report card updates from J. Rathbun. J. Rathbun explained not all of the reports will be available at the same time. He can give part at the February meeting and the other later. C. Toomey commented it would make sense to do all at the same time. J. Rathbun said he would have the Quarter Two reports in February if the Board wants it. C. McDaniel-Thomas was concerned with the amount of work J. Rathbun would have to do at the individual schools to gather the information. J. Rathbun said he appreciated the concerns but it is getting easier.

6 SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

- 1. Floor Plans**
- 2. Warrant Articles Plain English**
- 3. Recap Budget Hearing**
- 4. Program of Studies**
- 5. Deliberative Presentation**

7. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

8. 7:46 PM 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.

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:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

9. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 PM. **SECOND:** C. Toomey **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY:Yes/No/Abstain/Absent