

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
December 28, 2021
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 and Kristin Noonan. **Absent:** Dan LeClair, Karen Wheeler and Nick Mosher.

Administration Present: L. Witte, 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: S. Peters called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS: S. Peters thanked the employees attending the Board Meeting via Zoom during their vacation.

3. CELEBRATE MRSD:

a. NH Superintendent of the Year: L. Witte has been named NH Superintendent of the Year. She will be traveling to Nashville in February to represent NH and receive an award. In November of 2022 she will travel to DC to attend a Superintendent of the Year gala and in June she will attend a Statewide conference and receive an award. She is also being asked to do a KeyNote Speech. She is very honored and humble to receive this award. Congratulations Superintendent Witte!!

4. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

a. Policies for First Read:

i. BBB-R Weighted Vote Policy

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: The Policy Committee is presenting 5 policies as a first read. There will be discussion on the policies at the next meeting if needed.

b. CRC Update: C. McDaniel-Thomas explained the committee met last Tuesday and looked at the link on the website regarding the Elementary School Renovation/Building Project. It is a rough draft. It is a model after a Massachusetts school district and some of the

information will need to come off. The title is also not clear. She is scheduled to meet with the PR firm to work through what we feel needs to be tweaked. We will need more photos of the schools. S. Peters has that information and will provide it to the PR Firm.

c. Operations/Superintendent's Report:

i. COVID-19 Testing Update: L. Witte explained that the symptomatic COVID testing has started. There have been 72 people tested and 3 positive cases. We are trying to identify a vendor for antigen testing. This will allow parents to schedule an appointment for their child who is at home to come and be tested. Currently the testing is done for students and staff in school who have symptoms. The SASS grant will not cover testing for students and staff at home. Trained administration, paras, principals and teachers are testing the students and staff. It is going smoothly.

5. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. Revised Reopening Plan: L. Witte explained in the Board packet is a draft of the revisions of the reopening plan. To review and update the plan is required every 6 months in order to receive the funds. She has updated the information on the report such as times and people on the committee. She has inserted words to have clean language. She took out the votes from last year and took a close look at the contact piece. She would recommend the daily letters from the principals continue as weekly letters. This will free up the principles. If there is a cluster, they will notify the families and if there is an outbreak they will notify the schools. K. Noonan would like to continue with the daily letters. L. Witte explained the tracker is for folks to stay on track. K. Noonan said there will be a lot of upset families. M. Connor would agree with a weekly letter. S. Peters would suggest sending a letter and saying "See Tracker". B. Tatro commented COVID will be with us for a while and we want to move toward normal. This weekly letter will be beneficial. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the revised school reopening plan as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 9.794/1.115/0/2.091. **Motion passes.**

b. Edits to October 19, 2021 Minutes: **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to amend the October 19, 2021 School Board Meeting Minutes. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE:** 10.909/0/0/2.091. **Motion passes.**

c. December 7, 2021 Minutes: **MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to approve the December 7, 2021 Public and Non-Public Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 9.787/0/1.122/2.091. **Motion passes.**

d. Motion on the Manifest: **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of \$1,307,740.36 as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE:** 10.909/0/0/2.091. **Motion passes.**

e. Set Proposed Operating Budget Figure-Administration Proposed Budget \$32,356,507 (33,326,507): **MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to approve the proposed budget in the amount of \$33,326,507.00 inclusive of the \$970,000 for Food and Nutrition Grants. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 10.909/0/0/2.091. **Motion passes.**

f. MDEA Contract & Warrant Articles: The Board held a non-meeting earlier this evening and discussed the proposed contract. **MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to ratify the proposed 3 year MDEA Contract as presented. **SECOND:** L. Steadman. **DISCUSSION:** B. Tatro asked if the teachers had ratified. L. Witte explained they had. **VOTE:** 9.911/0/.998/2.091. **Motion passes.** J. Morin explained she will have to send all of the warrant articles to DRA for language approval.

g. Board Deadline for Warrant Articles and Warrant Articles in Plain English:
Article One Proposed Budget: **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to support Article One as written. **SECOND:** W. Wright **VOTE:** 10.909/0/0/2.091. **Motion passes.** **Article Four 3 year MDEA Contract:** **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to support the 3 year MDEA Contract as written, sequence on the warrant TBD. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 10.909/0/0/2.091. **Motion passes.** **Article Two is in the amount of \$325,000:** It was explained Article Two is to upgrade the fire panel at Gilsum, fix the roof at MRMHS and remove the temporary classrooms at the MRMHS. In an effort to get solid numbers they reviewed the HL Turner report and realized the upgrade to the fire panel is needed at Emerson not Gilsum. The fire panel at Gilsum is in working order and is not in need of repairs. It has been confirmed from K. Barker and his engineers that the Emerson Fire Panel is in need of an upgrade. It is possible that the removal of the temporary classrooms may come in at a lower price. J. Morin explained there have been many opinions on the repair of the roof at the MRMHS. The district would like to do an infrared study to find out where the leaks are and how to fix them. The cost of the roof repair is unknown until the infrared study is complete. The health insurance refund after the teachers and staff have received their refund is at \$421,000. It is recommended to eliminate Article Two and use the health insurance refund to cover the items in Article Two. C. McDaniel-Thomas is in support of this. She does not want to wait for a vote to upgrade the fire panel at Emerson. She would say use the health insurance refund for these items. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to apply the district's portion of the health insurance refund to remove the portable classrooms-\$100,000, upgrade the Emerson fire panel-\$75,000, perform an infrared study on the MRMHS roof-\$15,000, repair the MRMHS roof if work can be done within the remaining \$231,325 and return the unspent balance to taxpayers (unallocated funds). **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **DISCUSSION:** It was commented that the price of labor will increase. We are going against giving the funds back to the voters and we are removing the choice from the voters. L. Witte commented the Board had given back the additional adequacy funds to the voters. L. Steadman said this is the responsible thing to do for the taxpayers in town. **VOTE:** 10.909/0/0/2.091. **Motion passes.** **The Board will remove Article Two in the amount of \$325,000 due to the fact they will be using the health insurance refund to pay for the items in that article.** **Warrant Article for repairs and renovations to the 700 and 800 wings.** S. Peters explained the district had applied for the use of the CARES funds for heating and ventilation in the 700 and 800 wings and it was approved. The recommendation is to do the heating and ventilation but in order to do that dry wall, insulation, cabinets, trim, 2 classrooms in the 800 wing as well as 2 bathrooms will need to be repaired and upgraded. It makes sense to do it at the same time. The

cost for the 700 wing renovations is \$497,000 and the cost for the renovations in the 800 wing is \$696,000. **DISCUSSION:** C. Toomey asked if the 700 and 800 wings were for middle school students or high school. L. Witte explained primarily high school the 700 for Math and Social Studies and the 800 for English, Art and Science. B. Bohannon commented that the 700 and 800 wings were the last to be renovated and why now. S. Peters explained K. Barker did a walk through and the materials used in those 2 wings was not commercial grade. K. Noonan would suggest doing both of the wings at the same time. We are going to do a huge elementary project. This is what happens. She is not sure it will pass but put it on the ballot. B. Bohannon does support this and let the taxpayers know the savings. S. Peters said we can explain the inflation rate if we wait. L. Steadman said to address the warrant in plain English. C. Toomey would like two separate articles. B. Tatro asked how long does the district have to spend the grant money. It was explained the district has until 2024 to spend the funds. S. Peters did mention the grant money covers drywall but only the area taken off for the heating and ventilation systems to be installed. L. Steadman said the other classrooms had been done years ago with window trim and upgrades. S. Peters suggested a tour of MRMHS. The total warrant article amount for both the 700 and 800 wings is \$1,193,000. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to support Article Two for the MRMHS renovations as written for the 700 wing and the 800 wing in the amount of \$1,193,000. **SECOND:** L. Steadman. **VOTE:** 9.794/1.115/0/2.091. **Motion passes. Article Three will now be the MDEA Contract.** J. Morin explained she and T. Breen spoke about using the funds in the Vehicle Expendable Trust to purchase a vehicle. They are asking to replenish the funds. **Article Four is to dissolve the Health Trust Expendable Fund:** L. Steadman would like to discuss all of the remaining articles as a whole and vote on them as a whole. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to support the proposed Warrant Articles 4-9, column D amounts as follows: Article Four Dissolve Health Expendable Trust—63,347, Article Five Maintenance Expendable Trust \$63,347, Article Six Special Education Expendable Trust \$1, Article Seven Before & After School Expendable Trust \$1, Article Eight Vehicle Expendable Trust \$50,000 and Article Nine Grounds Expendable Trust \$40,000. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **DISCUSSION:** J. Morin explained one of the articles will dissolve an Expendable Trust and the remaining articles will be funded by an unallocated fund balance. K. Noonan commented that it makes sense this year. She hopes for a short ballot next year. C. McDaniel-Thomas commented if the article states the funds are from the unallocated fund balance that will be sufficient. **VOTE:** 10.909/0/0/2.091. **Motion passes.**

C. McDaniel-Thomas will be preparing a draft of the Warrant Articles in Plain English.

6. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

- 1. Policies for Second Read**
- 2. Warrants in Plain English**
- 3. Ed/Tech may have dashboard presentation**
- 4. K. Barker-Blueprints**

S. Peters commented on the challenge of having a physical quorum. The Board Members need to be here. That being said, S. Peters will be away for a few of the meetings due to his work.

7. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments.

8. **ADJOURNMENT: MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 PM.
SECOND: C. Toomey **VOTE:** 10.909/0/0/2.91. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY:Yes/No/Abstain/Absent