Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2021 (corrected 12.28.2021)
MRMHS Library/Zoom, Swanzey, NH

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

Administration Present: L. Witte, Superintendent, J. Rathbun, Assistant Superintendent and J. Morin, Business Administrator.

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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 6:00 PM.

2. ENTER INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION under RSA 91-A:3 (c) for student expulsion hearing: The Board did not make a motion to enter into Non-Public Session. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA91-A:3 (c) for Student Expulsion Hearing. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 10.880/0/0/2.120. **Motion passes.**

3. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION: SEALING of the Minutes: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to seal the December 7, 2021 6:00 PM Non-public meeting minutes. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 8.789/0/0/4.221. **Motion passes.**

4. PUBLIC HEARING: Employee Health Insurance Refund (Health Trust) and access Expendable Trust Funds:

a. PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

b. Motion to accept the Refund:J. Morin explained each year the Health Trust can only retain a certain amount after the claims are paid. This year the unanticipated amount coming back to the district from the Health Trust is $565,332.65. She is asking the Board to accept that amount. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to accept the Health Insurance refund in the amount of $565,332.65 from Health Trust. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **DISCUSSION:** J. Morin explained there has been no decision on the use of the funds. The Board in previous years has given back the employee portion. The Health Trust has a breakdown for the employees. The employees will receive 18% and the retirees will receive 100%. She said the SAU is ready to pay

that out. **VOTE:** 10.124/0/.757/2.120. **Motion passes. MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the distribution of the Health Trust refund to the employees. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 10.880/0/0/2.120. **Motion passes.**

c. Motion to use Building and Grounds Expendable Trust Fund for Irrigation repair @ Softball/practice fields: J. Morin reported that Thompson Landscape works on our fields. They need the current irrigation system to work up to par. The football field is great but the softball/practice fields have issues. She would recommend $9378.00 for the needed repair to the irrigation system and the funds to come out of the Expendable Trust. The Building and Grounds staff will do the work. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the expenditure as requested in the amount of $9378.00 for the irrigation repair and the funds will come out of the Expendable Trust. **SECOND:** L. Steadman ***S. Peters arrives.*** **DISCUSSION:** K. Wheeler said this item has been on the docket for a long time. It is needed. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.112. **Motion passes.**

5. CELEBRATE MRSD:

a. Staff Appreciation: L. Witte reported the administration presented all of the staff with an owl planter. L. Sutton came up with the idea. The owl planter represents helping the students grow.

b. Holiday Show: S. Peters reported the Holiday Show will be happening. A majority of the students have never been in a Middle School performance. There is new talent. The students do everything except piano. The performances will be held on Friday and twice on Saturday.

6. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

a. Policies for Second Read:

1. DAF-with sub-categories-Administration of Federal Grant Funds:

2. EEAEA-Mandatory Drug and Alcohol Testing School Bus Drivers & Contracted Carriers:

3. GBCD-Background Investigation & Criminal History Record Checks:

4. JCA-Change of Class or School Assignment Best Interests and Manifest Hardship: K. Noonan said the committee has been working on the most recent policies from the NHSBA and the required by law policies. These policies asked to be voted on were in the Board packet previously. The Board will consider this meeting as a second read. **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy Committee to accept the policy changes recommended by the Policy Committee. **SECOND:** W. Wright **VOTE:** 11.879/0/1.122. **Motion passes.**

b. Board Chair Report:

i. Recap of 11/13/21 Joint Board and Budget Committee Meeting: S. Peters recapped the Joint Meeting between the School Board and the Budget Committee. The School Board had asked the Budget Committee for input. It started out strong but fell off. There

was a great turnout by both committees. The majority of the conversation was about long term strategy. The School Board and the Budget Committee will plan to meet in the Spring.

ii. Board Calendar: S. Peters reviewed the upcoming committee meetings. Policy will meet on Dec. 8, 2021, Finance/Facilities will meet on December 14, 2021, the Budget Committee will meet on Dec. 16, 2021 and CRC as well as the Board will meet on Dec. 21, 2021. S. Peters mentioned the Board will submit a Letter of Intent for Building Aid by the end of this year. We have a date of December 21, 2021 for approval of the blueprints.

iii. Review Previous Mask Policy Motion vs. Timing of Student Vaccination: The Board had previously voted on 2 motions regarding masks. One of the motions was to have staff and students wear the masks while in the school buildings when the County is at moderate transmission level or above. The other motion was to have the elementary students wear the masks until 3 weeks following the first opportunity for elementary age children to be fully vaccinated.

c. Operations/Superintendent's Report:

i. Employee Health and Wellness: L. Witte explained she had received a lot of feedback from the November 12, 2021 day off. The staff was very grateful.

ii. Educational Progress Report: J. Rathbun explained that he believes the NHSAS information will be available by the end of the week. It is not going to tell us a lot. When we took the test we were hybrid and a lot of students were out. Overall if you looked at it there were a lot of dips in the 8th grade. We can look at the students pre COVID and again in 2021. The kids scored worse in 2021. IReady data is an online assessment and educational program diagnostic test which can be used for intervention. 100% of the kids took the test except a few. The results are in tiers. We are more than a year behind on learning. What we found is that the IReady data in Math and ELA gave different results. He said the scores are a little low but he is pleased. The younger grades are on grade level and the trend is not surprising. The information is broken down by school and it is not surprising. Math kids are struggling overall. The teachers are analysing the data and can look at the questions. There is a lot of interaction with the teacher, not just on the computer. B. Bohannon asked how do we share what is going on at MTC and spread it to the other schools. J. Rathbun would disagree. MTC is higher because it is K-2. The teachers are using this data.

2021-22 Trimester Proficiency Report: J. Rathbun explained this is a comparison year over year. We are teaching to the standards and not the students. In the 3-year comparison in Math we are seeing a drop. Every grade dropped except for K-2.

MRMHS quarter 1 report card (C) or better not a lot of surprises. The principals have asked the teams to drill down in the data and look at trends and where they want to go. Look at individual students and individual trends. Due to COVID we have lost learning time. We will use the COVID grant funds to purchase materials and more professional development during the summer. S. Peters asked the time frame for the teachers. J. Rathbun explained the teachers can not start without the first quarter data. The final product in May. J. Rathbun talked to other

districts that are using IReady. We are all in the same boat. They feel it is most valid and accurate. The purpose of the test is to see where the kids are J. Rathbun explained the standards are taught throughout the year, not all in one semester. He also mentioned that the Math Program will need to be replaced according to the curriculum cycle and we will use the COVID funds to purchase the materials. B. Bohannon commented on the need for clearly stated goals. J. Rathbun said we need to set goals that can be reached. They need to be goals from the schools. He said he is concerned with the State mandated testing. It is not good practice. All standards are not equal. He is giving a report created for the Board. The teachers are using different information. If it is not working fine but compare it each year. L. Witte said the variable is the kids not the standard. C. McDaniel-Thomas said as a Board we are uncomfortable setting the goals. She loves that the teachers set the goals. S.Peters thanked J. Rathbun for all of the information. C. McDaniel-Thomas asked about the behavior of the students. J. Rathbun said over the last 2 weeks the behavior is slightly better. He also said last year there were no behavior problems but this year is worse than ever.

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7. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. November 2, 2021 Minutes: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the November 2, 2021 Public and Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 9.787/0/1.335/1.878**. Motion passes.**

b. November 17, 2021 Minutes: (Unposted meetings conducted through email): S. Peters explained there are unposted meeting minutes through email in the packets. This is what happened whether appropriate or not. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the November 17, 2021 straw vote email for Emerson as accurate minutes of an unposted meeting. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 7.674/1.115/2.333/1.878. **Motion passes.**

c. November 17, 2021 Minutes: (Unposted meetings conducted through email) MOTION: D. LeClair **MOVED** to approve the November 17, 2021 email titled Outbreak as accurate minutes of an unposted meeting. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** D. LeClair asked what constitutes a meeting. S. Peters said he can call an emergency meeting. K. Wheeler had called L. Witte and S. Peters and felt she was not out of order. **VOTE:** 8.431/1.115/2.333/1.122. **Motion passes.**

d. November 17, 2021 Minutes: (Unposted meetings conducted through email): MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the November 17, 2021 straw vote email for MRMHS as accurate minutes of an unposted meeting. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 8.431/1.115/2.333/1.122. **Motion passes.**

e. Motion to Censure: S. Peters commented on the emails in which K. Wheeler initiated the discussion of a straw vote. **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to censure School Board Member K. Wheeler. We did not have an emergency. It was not appropriate. K. Wheeler said she hates to put L. Steadman on the spot but she did speak to her. **The motion fails for lack of a SECOND.**

f. Additional MS Special Educator: L. Witte explained that an additional Special

Education teacher is needed at the Middle School in the Life Skills area. **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to add a Middle School Special Education position and to post the job. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **DISCUSSION:** L. Witte explained this is a position for this year and it will be paid for by the Troy position. There is a need because more students have moved into the district. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes.**

g. Basketball Court Quotes: J. Morin presented the bids for the outdoor basketball court which the Board had asked for. C. M. Minkler was the lowest bid at $38,125.00. There were 2 other bids per Board policy. **MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to approve the bid from C. M. Minkler in the amount of $38,125.00 for an outdoor paved basketball court. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes.** The location of the basketball court is by the entrance at the SAU. This amount does not include a fence.

h. Sidebar Agreement Approval: L. Witte presented the sidebar to the Board. This is for MESSA. This is to amend the collective bargaining agreement. L. Witte explained Article 7.4 of the agreement never made it in the contract. It will be included in the next contract. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the proposed sidebar agreement. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE:** 10.667/0/.213/1.122. **Motion passes.**

i. Warrant Articles Review and Approval: S. Peters reviewed the warrant articles being proposed. The Budget Committee had commented that Article Two included the fire panel, removal of the temporary classrooms and the roof at the MRMHS should be separated out. They also said not so many articles. Article Three is for the renovations to the MRMHS. The ventilation and air quality in the renovations will be paid for by a grant. J. Morin will discuss the articles with the Finance and Facilities Committee at their meeting on Tuesday.

j. Budget Transfers: There are no budget transfers.

k. Motion on the Manifest: MOTION: C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of $2,059,104.64 as presented by the administration. (This manifest is for 5 weeks) **SECOND:** M. Connor **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes.**

8. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

1. **Warrant Articles**
2. **MDEA Contract**
3. **Set Proposed Budget Number**
4. **Reapproval of ESSER**
5. **Health Insurance Warrant**
6. **CRC Update**
7. **Correction to Minutes**
8. **Debate Current Rules for Closing Due to Covid vs. Staffing**

9. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

10. 9:15 PM 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: B. Tatro **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. Bohannon **VOTE:** 10.909/0/.213/1.878**. Motion passes. (K. Wheeler missing from vote).**
N. Miosher leaves the meeting.

11. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to seal the December 7, 2021 9:15 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes until December 31, 2026. **SECOND:** D. LeClair. **VOTE:** 10.909/.757/0/1.335. **Motion passes.**

12. 9:30 PM NON-PUBLIC SESSION: under RSA 91-A:3, II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3,II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 11.665/0/0/1.335. **Motion passes.**

13. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 PM. **SECOND:** W. Wright **VOTE:** 11.665/0/0/1.335. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY: Yes/No/Abstain/Absent