

**Non-Public Minutes
School Board Non-Public Minutes
October 19,2021
MRMHS Library/Zoom, Swanzey, NH**

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

Administration Present: L. Witte, Superintendent, J. Rathbun, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment and J. Morin, Business Administrator.

Also Present: L. Aivaliotis, MRSD Recording Secretary

8:56 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:

Issue #1: S.Peters explained during some of the elementary school walk-throughs K. Barker commented that he was frustrated and appalled regarding safety issues that the fire chiefs are letting pass. In the State Building Aid Application, the Fire Marshal will need to review it. There is a risk that after a review of some of the buildings that part of the building may be closed. It is a recommendation for action. Engage with the Fire Marshal, go to the fire chiefs and go through the schools together. Explain we want to work together. N. Mosher commented that if we have safety issues told by K. Barker they need to be taken care of. K. Wheeler asked if the Board should discuss with the Fire Chiefs. K. Barker would like to have the discussion with the chiefs. S. Peters said the next step is to take a vote and have K. Barker talk directly with the chiefs or should we proactively engage in a letter or a phone call to the chiefs. He said to first look at the minutes of the walk-throughs. There is a focus on a lot of projects in the minutes. S. Peters explained the conditions in question are either rooms or levels in the schools. D. LeClair asked if we have someplace for the children to go if the rooms, level or school is closed. S. Peters said things have let go and we need to fix the issues. N. Mosher said the Fire Marshall makes sense. K. Wheeler would suggest sending the letter as a Board. **MOTION:** K. Wheeler **MOVED** to send a letter on behalf of the Board to each local fire chief explaining our project and the intent

requesting support to engage with Barker Associates and the State Fire Marshal. **SECOND:** M. Connor **DISCUSSION:** M. Connor commented that some of the fire issues need to be discussed in the Input Sessions. We need to address life safety issues. N. Mosher is not in favor of discussing this topic in a non-public session. C. McDaniel-Thomas commented K. Barker is not the Fire Marshal and we need to be reactive until he comes in. S. Peters said we cannot delay the issues. We need the work done. W. Wright said the Fire Chief should be doing an inspection before school opens each year. It was explained that the inspections are done each year. **VOTE:** 12.787/0/.213/0. **Motion passes.** K. Wheeler would like to have a copy of the letter to the fire chiefs and the letter regarding remote learning which was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Issue #2: L. Witte responded to the Board asking about the mental status of the staff. She said the vacancies have taken the toll. There are 12 staff members who were vaccinated and 10 have COVID. Everyone is on edge. We are doing our best to support the administration, staff and principals. It has taken a toll on the SAU staff as well. She is worried for everyone and it is increasing every day. L. Witte commented that we understand we are here for education and to learn. COVID takes away from that. We have financial resources but we need staff. S. Peters explained we are talking about the mental status of the staff and that is why we are in a non-public session. D. LeClair would like to volunteer to cover a class. L. Witte explained it is the same process as a volunteer. It is doable.

MOTION: M. Connor **MOVED** to leave Non-Public Session. **SECOND:** W. Wright **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis

MRSD Recording Secretary