Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2021
MRMHS Library/Zoom, Swanzey, NH

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

Administration Present: L. Witte, Superintendent, J. Rathbun, Assistant Superintendent, C. Woods, Director of Student Services 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 7:00 PM.

2. ENTER INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED t**o 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:** 9.794/0/.97/2.236. **Motion passes.**

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS: M. Diven tried to connect with the Board via Zoom and it did not work.

4. CELEBRATE MRSD: L. Witte informed the Board M. Suarez will be traveling to Washington to be recognized for her accomplishments as Elementary Principal of the Year. Congratulations!!!

5. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

a. Overview of Construction Manager 3-Bid Hiring Process (Barker Associates); K. Barker was not available to be here tonight. He will attend the next Board Meeting.

b. Board Chair Report:

1. Board Calendar: S. Peters reviewed the Board Calendar for the upcoming weeks. Policy canceled their meeting on October 6, 2021, ECC will meet on October 7,

2021, CRC on October 11, 2021, Finance/Facilities on October 12, 2021 and Ed/Tech on October 13, 2021.

2. **Budget Committee Update:** S. Peters had attended the most recent Budget Committee meeting. The group toured the newly renovated Tech/Ed addition. There was discussion on the budget process as well as a discussion on the 2.5% the Board was authorized to withhold. There was discussion on the resources to be used for the students. The survey was discussed and 28 teachers responded. J. Morin had mentioned the budget was under due to the fact there are positions that have not been filled.

3. **Anticipates Warrant Article:** S. Peters explained we have 3 meetings until the warrant article draft is due. Article One will be the budget, Article Two will be a project article if the Finance and Facilities feels it may be necessary, Article Three the MDEA Contract, Article Four Special Education Expendable Trust and Article Five to accept the reports. J. Morin explained if the funds in the Vehicle Expendable Trust are used she would want to replenish them. S. Peters mentioned a short ballot is appealing.

c. Operations/Superintendent's Report:

1. **Update on DHHS Contact Tracing Recommendation:** S. Peters explained he sent out an email to help explain the conference call he participated in with DHHS. He said they are hearing adjustments to protocol.

2. **Staff Update:** L. Witte reported they are still searching for vacant positions to fill. There is also a turnover in the paraprofessionals. There are many open positions and it is very frustrating. We are looking for an Interpreter, School Psychologist, Elementary Spec. Ed. teacher, Social Worker, Reading Specialist and paraprofessionals. She said they will keep working on filling the positions.

3. **Update on CCC Program:** J. Rathbun explained there are 43 students attending the CCC from Monadnock, which is up from 20 last years. It is a pretty decent amount. The scheduling went well this year as well as communication. We had received a phone call from the director letting us know how well behaved the Monadnock students are and how enjoyable and happy the CCC staff is to have them attend. J. Rathbun listed the programs offered. He explained our district cannot offer the same course that our students take at the CCC. He would like to look into holding courses at Monadnock as part of the CCC. He suggested Forestry, Welding and Land Management. He would like to look into this further to see if we could be a receiving district.

4. **Schedule of Assessments and Educational Reports:** J.Rathbun explained the information from the State will be out soon and he will report on it at the first meeting in November. He will also be reporting on the Q1 grades for the MRMHS and on the district assessment IReady for 3-8. There will be a lot of data provided. The first meeting in December he will report on the 1st Trimester data and the IReady for the K-2. In February he will discuss the Q2 data and in April the Trimester 3 and Q3. The second group of IReady will be done possibly in January. In the Spring the PSAT, AP and SATs will be taken. J. Rathbun

explained the dashboard is almost up and running. He will present to Ed/Tech at their November Meeting.

5. **Substitute Fulfillment Rate:** The administration provided information as requested on the substitute fulfillment rate. The rate is 23%. The information provided the absences, vacancies not filled, when fills are not needed and needed. The information was broken down in weeks. He looked at last year's information to compare and it was the same. He explained in the MDEA contract if a class needs to be covered a teacher will cover a class even if it is not theirs. S. Peters feels the teachers should be compensated when covering a class. L. Witte had said last year there was a permanent para in the schools and were told they would support more if they could find staff. J. Rathbun spoke to the Sentinel about not being able to fill positions. It was asked if there is an opportunity to use KSC students. J. Rathbun explained we have a large group of Methods Students. We use the students as much as possible but there are restrictions. We have a good relationship with KSC. He also said there has to be coverage for the elementary classes. You cannot have a class at that level without a teacher. If there is no one to cover at the MRMHS the students end up in the Learning Labs. L. Witte said we are trying to figure this out.

6. **MRMHS Class Enrollment:** L. Witte provided the class enrollment information in the packet. She provided the classes and the number of students who attend. The Board asked questions.

7. **Carpenter Home Update:** J. Rathbun had reached out to the Town of Swanzey and was told that the State said the SAU moving to the Carpenter House was not a good fit for the Trust. It is not going to work out.

8. L. Witte provided a copy of the letter which she had received from the Troy Selectboard. The Troy Selectboard are expressing their disapproval with mandating face masks during the school day. L. Witte did respond to the Troy Selectboard. S. Peters asked DHHS point blank about contact tracing. It was explained they have dialed back their efforts. L. Witte explained we notify the entire school if there is a positive COVID case. The Board voted to adhere to the DHHS guidelines when there are changes. If there is a cluster, we reach out to the classroom and call each student. B. Bohannon is frustrated with not knowing the changes took place. S. Peters said we were all surprised. L. Witte said we have not had feedback from anyone but the Board regarding the changes. K. Wheeler would like to look at this more closely.

d. Policies for First Read:

1. **JI-Student Rights and Responsibilities:**
2. **JIA/JIC-Student Due Process/Student Conduct:**
3. **JICD-Student Discipline and Due Process:**
4. **IGA-Curriculum Development:** K. Noonan was not able to attend the meeting. She is presenting the 4 policies as a first read on behalf of the Policy Committee.

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6. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. 2021-2022 Proposed Resolutions: L. Steadman explained the resolution to modify RSA 91: A in regards to remote meetings is too late to be presented with the rest of the resolutions the Board had voted on at the last meeting but could be brought up on the floor with a ⅔ vote. She would like to give it a try. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to approve the proposed NHSBA Resolution to modify RSA 91:A. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** L. Steadman commented the modifications to RSA 91:A will make meetings more accessible to the public. The Board hopes the Assembly will realize that **VOTE:** 10.764/0/0/2.236. **Motion passes.**

b. NHSBA Delegate Assembly Assignment: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to assign L. Steadman as the delegate to the NHSBA Delegate Assembly. **SECOND:** L. Steadman **VOTE:** 10.764/0/0/2.236. **Motion passes.**

c. Information provided by J. O'Shaughnessy: The administration had been notified by J. O'Shaughnessy regarding an increase in revenues to the District from the State. The Board could hold a Public Hearing and a Special Meeting to receive the additional Adequacy Funds. The funds came in at the end of June. If you do nothing the funds will go to offset taxes. The amount of the additional funds is $843,000.00. It was asked if there are any ideas for the funds. S. Peters said we could identify items and positions which would be a one-time event. N. Mosher said there are items such as the ventilator system. J. Morin said the ventilators will be covered under the CARES funds. B. Bohannon would suggest returning the funds to the taxpayers. C. Toomey agreed to send the funds back to the taxpayers. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to take no action on the additional Adequacy Funds. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **VOTE:** 10.764/0/0/2.236. **Motion passes.**

d. Incremental Service Van Purchase: J. Morin explained the Nutritional Program is self-funded. When they were audited they were only allowed 3 months of expenditures in their budget. They have exceeded that amount and would like to purchase a van which is long overdue. She has received 3 bids. By the time this came before the Board the van the district was interested in was sold. She is presenting 3 bids and would like to use the funds to purchase a 2022 Kia in the amount of $37,009.00. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to accept the bid in the amount of $37,009.00 for the purchase of a 2022 Kia Van from Fairfield's for Nutritional Services. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **DISCUSSION:** It was explained that the State has approved this purchase. It will come out of the Nutritional Services Expense line but become a district asset. K. Wheeler is on the Wellness Committee and suggested using some of the additional funds for more refrigeration space. J. Morin explained we do have a budget for equipment. Any purchase with these funds has to be connected to the Food Service Program. **VOTE:** 10.764/0/0/2.236. **Motion passes.**

e. Motion on the Manifest: MOTION: N. Mosher **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of $1,826,803.12 as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 10.764/0/0/2.236. **Motion passes.**

f. September 21, 2021 Minutes: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the

September 21, 2021 Public and Non-Public Meeting Minutes with proposed edits. **SECOND:** M. Connor **VOTE:** 10.551/0/.213/2.236. **Motion passes.**

g. Update from CRC: C. McDaniel-Thomas explained the CRC had met last week. The postcard mailing will be going out to all of the homes in the District. The letters to the Selectboards and the Budget Committee will also be mailed. She would suggest the Board Members reach out to people in their towns. The website would have been great but it is a slow go as the representative from Gilfoil who is on vacation. The next meeting is on October 11 and October 19. She commented on the issues with Gilfoil. J. Rathbun explained he has no problem at all with Gilfoil and they are doing a great job although the website is not part of his conversation with them.

h. Other: L. Steadman mentioned that the 7th and 8th graders were not able to participate in the Ecology Trip. She would like this on the next agenda. J. Rathbun explained that it is a huge conversation. It is on the radar of the teachers and the principals.

i. SETTING MEETING'S AGENDA:

1. **NH SASS**
2. **K. Barker**
3. **National Support Staff Day**

7. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

8. 9:45 PM NON-PUBLIC SESSION: under RSA 91-A:3, II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee: MOTION: W. Wright **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:** 10.551/0/.213/2.236. **Motion passes. (N. Mosher leaves the meeting during non-public session.)**

9. Return to Public Session: During non-public session the Board was updated with staff notifications and the hiring of a Math Teacher.

10. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: C. Toomey **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 PM. **SECOND:** W. Wright **VOTE:** 10.551/0/0/2.450. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY: Yes/No/Abstain/Absent