

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2021
Zoom Virtual Meeting, Swanzey, NH

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

Administration Present: L. Witte, Superintendent, J. Rathbun, Director of Curriculum and Student Assessment, C. Woods, Director of Student Services 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 at 7:00 PM:** S. Peters called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Hayden Verge asked if there was time at the end of the meeting to comment. S. Peters said there is a second Public Comment section.
3. **CELEBRATE MRSD:**
 - a. L. Witte shared some photos from Facebook showing how great it is to have everyone back to school. S. Peters said it is good to see a lot of smiling faces.
4. **MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:**
 - a. **Budget Committee Update:** S. Peters explained he attended the most recent Budget Committee Meeting. The Board had asked the committee to discuss and give input on the CIP inflation rate and the MDEA contract. Regarding the CIP inflation rate the committee elected not to make any recommendations but they did give input on the upcoming MDEA contract. S. Peters showed the recommendations on the screen.
Bullets from Budget Committee: **Wellness leave carry over**-too many days allowed. Pay out more regularly so not to carry days to retirement-mirror non-affiliated staff wellness day payoffs. Year-end payout not end of career payout. **Keep bond year warrant** as clean as possible-structure contracts to go past that year. **Health Insurance**-more to be paid by MDEA members. **Performance based**- reviews/raises-stipends or financial incentives for students' test success. S. Peters explained these will be given to the Negotiating Committee. S. Peters would like to thank the Budget Committee for discussing these topics as requested by the Board.

b. Operations/Superintendent's Report:

i. Update on Retaining Up to 2.5% of Unallocated Balance (2020

Warrant): L. Witte explained the district had a warrant article to retain funds which would be for emergency situations and to be withdrawn only by the School Board. J. Morin explained the Board will have to have this warrant article on the ballot each year. She explained the amount to be retained is based on apportionment and unallocated fund balance. We will not know the unallocated fund balance until the audit. She explained she will be bringing this information to the Budget Committee on May 27, 2021.

ii. Return to In-Person Learning: L. Witte explained they welcomed back everyone this past Monday. Things went very well. Kids and families were very happy. We are looking at a few things to trouble shoot, traffic at MTC. We are thrilled to see everyone. She explained if there is a positive COVID case the School Board will not be notified. It is on the State dashboard. The parents will be notified. B. Tatro thanked the administration and staff for the work with the parking lot at MTC.

iii. GSA Teaching Principal (Policy CFA-R-1): J. Rathbun explained we would like to begin the process to find a teaching principal for Gilsum. They looked at the makes up of the committee. K. Wheeler would like to be on the committee. J. Rathbun said he will set up meetings with the committee members to review the applicants, name 2 finalists, visit the school and have a community evening meet and greet. The final step is for the Superintendent to make a recommendation to the Board. It was commented, the Policy GSA references SAU 38. This will be sent to the Policy Committee.

5. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. Budget Transfers: The Board reviewed 2 budget transfer requests from C. Woods. J. Morin explained there is a transfer in the amount of \$54,361.00 from Psychologist Services to contracted services and a transfer in the amount of \$9,980.00 from multiple lines in Student Services to Info Access Fees. L. Witte explained transfers from budget line to budget line are standard practice. We are in a default and the School Board is allowed to do the transfers. **MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to approve the budget transfers as presented. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes.**

b. Boys Lacrosse Co-op with Keene: **MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to approve the Boys Lacrosse Co-op with Keene. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes.**

c. Outdoor Basketball Court at MRMHS: J. Rathbun explained we have identified where we can find the funds which will be under \$50,000.00 for an outdoor basketball

court. We are asking the Board to approve this request so we can get started with the process, permission to pay and build. This will be going out to bid. J. Morin explained years ago a number of student activity accounts had been moved into a money market account. The administration would like to use these funds for the outdoor basketball court. The funds should be used to support the kids. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to support the administration's request to identify the funds and location for an outdoor basketball court. **SECOND:** 11.665/0/.213/1.122. **Motion passes.** J. Morin and J. Rathbun will bring the quotes when available.

d. Outdoor Pavilions (Phase 1-MTC and Wilcox): J. Rathbun explained the administration would like to have outdoor pavilions for the elementary schools similar to the one at the MRMHS. The funds will come from the CARES grant. It is in line on how the CARES funds should be spent. They would like to begin at Wilcox and MTC due to the summer school and tutoring that will take place at those locations. **MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to support the administration's request to identify the funds and locations for outdoor pavilions at MTC and Wilcox. **SECOND:** M. Connor. **DISCUSSION:** J. Rathbun explained the pavilions will be the same size as the one at the MRMHS. They will be done by the summer.

e. Policies for 2nd Read:

i. Update Policy IKFA (early graduation) with NHSBA sample and retire appendix IKFA-R: **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to update Policy IKFA with the NHSBA sample policy and to retire IKFA-R. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes.**

f. April 20, 2021 Minutes: **MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to approve the April 20, 2021 School Board Meeting Minutes and Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **VOTE:** 11.665/0/.213/1.122. **Motion passes.**

g. Manifest: **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of \$1,934,742.11. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes.**

h. 2021/22 Policy Charter & Goals: K. Noonan explained the Policy Committee did not have a charter. This being presented is what we already do. **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve the Policy Committee Charter as presented. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes.**

i. 2021/22 Extracurricular Charter & Goals: The Extracurricular Committee has not completed their goals and charter.

j. 2021/22 Legislative Charter & Goals: S. Peters may have the Legislative Committee on the agenda once a month. **MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to approve

the Legislative Charter as presented. **SECOND:** M. Connor. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes.**

k. 2021/22 Finance/Facilities Charter & Goals: MOTION: W. Wright **MOVED** to approve the Finance/Facilities Committee Charter as presented. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes.** N. Mosher commented on the Goals of the Finance/Facilities Committee. He said they were well organized. S. Peters said September 9, 2021 this will be the hit list for the elementary schools. B. Tatro said the Policy Committee and the Fin/Fac. Committee will work together to get through Book D and Book F. She will connect with K. Noonan. Due to the elementary school project, this is a lower priority. **MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to approve the Finance/Facilities Committee Goals as presented. **SECOND:** M. Connor. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes.**

l. 2021/22 Education Charter & Goals: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the Education Committee Goals as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes.**

m. 2021/22 Community Relations Charter & Goals: C. McDaniel-Thomas explained the committee kept some of the same goals but added financial and budget items. **MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to approve the CRC goals as presented. **SECOND:** D. LeClair. **DISCUSSION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas explained we have the PR Firm that we would like to connect with. Their guidance will be valuable while we enter this big year. S. Peters commented the CRC will not go it alone. **VOTE:** 11.665/0/.213/1.122. **Motion passes.** The CRC will bring their charter to the next Board Meeting. The Board reviewed the dates and times for the committee meetings.

n. 2021/22 Superintendent's Goals:

o. 2021/22 Full Board Goals: S. Peters presented the Board Goals from last year on the screen. K. Noonan said the CIP was well done and she would suggest keeping it updated. N. Mosher said if we have items as goals we focus on them more. We should have something around the CIP. S. Peters would agree. We need to make the blueprinting deadlines the focus. S. Peters will come to the next meeting with a goal. He said last year the Strategic Goals and the committee goals were aligned. We may not want to wait until January to communicate our project. It would be ideal for the members to participate in the Listening Session. He would like to ask C. McDaniel-Thomas to come to the next meeting with a full blown goal from the CRC. B. Tatro said the goal does not follow the Smart Goal format. It was explained the CRC will make a recommendation. J. Rathbun asked about an education goal. if we keep changing the data we do not have anything to compare to. More than one year of data would be great. L. Witte would agree. J. Rathbun explained we are not using the same cohorts. C. McDaniel-Thomas said

she is struggling. Goal 1 and Goal 2 we do as a Board. Goal 3 how are we affecting this. How are we setting a goal other people do? What action do we as a Board Member do? M. Connor would agree 100% with C. McDaniel-Thomas. She said this is someone else's goal, it is fuzzy. We want it for kids in our district. B. Tatro said a lot of the students have moved and the cohort has changed. B. Bohannon said we have talked about this and we are making progress. We need goals to understand performance data and to be able to have a conversation. J. Rathbun said the goal is good and the data is different from the State. It is a localized report. Having this goal is very helpful. N. Mosher said we are directly involved and we let the administration know what we think is important and we support resources. S. Peters said this goal is setting strategy for the administration. We still feel passionate about this but it becomes a Superintendent goal or a Board goal. We should not get hung up. C. McDaniel-Thomas said this tracking is falling into place, keeping this goal but suggested a change. K. Noonan suggested keeping the goal but changing the wording. S. Peters asked J. Rathbun to take the wording suggested, do the wordsmithing and bring it back to the Board for review. S. Peters said no more than 3 goals. L. Steadman suggested a goal around recovering from COVID. It is not necessarily education but cultural. It should be a goal. S. Peters said it is a great conversation for the next meeting.

6. SETTING MEETING'S AGENDA:

- a. MRMHS Report Card**
- b. EC Charter/Goals**
- c. CRC Charter**
- d. Superintendent Goals**
- e. Full Board Goals**
- g. Board attendance at Graduation**

7. Public Comments: Hayden Verge, a student at MRMHS asked if he would be able to use half of the school parking lot to practice driving. S. Peters said he appreciates H. Verge speaking at the meeting but this is not the group to address. S. Peters suggested speaking to L. Spencer. The request may eventually come to the Board but L. Spencer is the first step. H. Verge also suggested the basketball courts should be constructed by the tennis courts.

Yvonne Peters explained staff from the MRSD have been nominated as the Keene Sentinel's Everyday Heroes. The Everyday Heroes are Adam Hopkins, Deb Wilson, Melanie Doyle, Lisa Witte, Taylene Givetz and Wendy Chamberlain. Y. Peters said she was so excited and impressed to see so many great staff.

L. Steadman said she is so grateful to all the teachers. She said they had done an amazing job.

B. Tatro commented that the JV softball team's sports schedule was restricted compared to the Varsity schedule. She would ask that next year the JV have more games and play more teams.

N. Mosher leaves the meeting.

8. 8:49 PM Non-Public Session Under RSA 91-A:3-II (b): MOTION: B. Bohannon **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:** K.Noonan. **VOTE:** 11.665/0/0/1.335. **Motion passes.**

9. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 PM. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 11.665/0/0/1.335. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY:Yes/No/Abstain/Absent