

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2021 (Not Yet Approved)
Zoom Virtual Meeting, Swanzey, NH

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

Administration Present: L. Witte, Superintendent, J. Rathbun, Director of Curriculum and Student Assessment 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 6:15 PM.

2. 6:15 PM 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. MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** 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. Wheeler. **VOTE:** 9.759/0/0/3.241. **Motion passes. (Absent members enter non-public)**

3. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION. S. Peters called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS: M Divens of Swanzey asked that the masks still be enforced. She said with a full return the students will not be able to social distance the 6’.

5. CELEBRATE MRSD:

a. Destination Imagination: G. Kuhn, coordinator for MRMHS Destination Imagination explained the process that was used for the competition due to COVID. It was all virtually submitted. There were 4 students, Jaden Bauer, Emma Loudermilk, Amelia Tatro and Martin Cardine. The students won their competition and were invited to the Global Competition to compete. G. Kuhn explained there are enough funds for the students to attend. **MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to provide the DI Team with jackets or alternate swag of their choice with a limit of up to \$75.00 for earning first place in the DI Competition. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler. **DISCUSSION:** G. Kuhn explained there was a benefactor donation to the group so there is enough money to attend the Global competition. B. Bohannon thanked G. Kuhn and the students for a job well done. He also thanks G. Kuhn and the staff for their time. **VOTE:** 11.885/0/0/1.115. **Motion passes.**

b. Principal of the Year Award: L. Witte announced M. Suarez, MTC Principal had been named Principal of the Year. S. Peters asked if there are awards for staff such as the principal of the year. L. Witte explained there is a process to recognize the great things that happen. She explained there are awards done in many other capacities. S. Peters stated on behalf of the Board we are proud and happy for M. Suarez.

6. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

a. Operations/Superintendent's Report:

i. Education Report:

1. Elementary Trimester 2 & MRMHS Q3: J. Rathbun provided information in the Board packets regarding the trimester 2 and quarter 3 grades. He explained when reviewing the trimester 2 grades they are seeing growth. In some places we see a drop but have taught twice as many standards. Compared to pre-COVID the 4th grade Math and ELA are up. There was a concern at the last meeting regarding the 8th grade. We worked with the team and have moved support in areas not meeting the goals. We went from 67% to 78% in ELA and are happy with the progress. The 12th grade is doing very well and is ahead of last year. J. Rathbun explained we are in line with the State regarding the standards, we picked the most important and we have not scaled back to what we are doing. He does not have a last year to compare it due to COVID. The assessment will show where kids are. We are focusing on prioritizing the most important piece. B. Bohannon commented we have the ability to trend over time from quarter to quarter. B. Bohannon asked if there was a conversation with the staff regarding the data. J. Rathbun explained he will share the data with the principals and they will share with the staff. There are a lot of positive outcomes. J. Rathbun explained he can collect information for the next meeting.

2. Elementary Band: J. Rathbun is asking for the Board's blessing on the band proposal. The band and music teachers have been working on the proposal. They wondered why the band numbers were going down. They felt it was due to confidence, time and space. These issues will be fixed; the principals will work them out. The team would like to focus on the 5th and 6th grades and not offer band to the 4th grade. They will be using the CARES funds and pay for the rentals. We will start building a loaning library for the future. D. LeClair said it is a great idea. **MOTION:** D. LeClair **MOVED** to support the administration's proposal for an elementary band. **SECOND:** L. Steadman. **DISCUSSION:** It was explained the students will still use recorders in the lower grades. J. Rathbun explained they will be getting 3 quotes because it will be over \$10,000.00 but closer to \$50,000.00. The parents will rent the instruments but the district will pay the bill. The parents are responsible for the instrument. K. Noonan said the explanation makes sense, supports the use of CARES funds and it is a good use of funds. J. Rathbun explained how the staff will be scheduled. E. Stanley asked if there are any staff members with a band or music background who could help. J. Rathbun will check and bring back information to the next meeting. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

3. Professional Development Update: J. Rathbun reported the staff will be attending 2 Responsive Classroom Workshops. They will focus on proactive not reactive. This will take place in Turners Falls. Kim Bohannon is on sabbatical from KSC and will offer 2 sections of a course offering, Differentiating Instruction. The response is overwhelming to attend. Funds from the Title 2 Grant will pay for this workshop. B. Bohannon would like an update on the spending of the CARES funds. B. Tatro applauded the administration for the responsive classroom training. She said it is very valuable.

4. **May 3rd Update:** L. Witte explained the plan for the return to 5 days of school starting on May 3, 2021. On March 16, 2021 L. Witte shared a walk through. We had included a potential for additional staff to maintain remote learning through the end of the school year. We did moving and shuffling. We will still need to hire a para. There is a good response on the coming back survey. Everyone seems to be excited to come back on May 3, 2021.

5. **Mask Mandate Update:** L. Witte explained the masks will continue. The guidance from DHHS has not changed about the masks either. **MOTION:** K. Wheeler **MOVED** to continue the current mask policy through the end of the school year, for all students, staff and visitors. **SECOND:** M. Connor. **DISCUSSION:** L. Steadman asked if there is 6' there is no reason for the masks. N. Mosher said there may be 6' but there are a lot of people in a closed room. You need to consider that. L. Witte said there has been no change to the school guidance. M. Connor said the masks should stay. L. Steadman said she is concerned that it locks us into the end of the school and it is inappropriate. L. Witte said Dr. Chan is not recommending relaxing the guidance. It was recommended to look at this issue at each meeting. B. Bohannon said the mask mandate has helped parents send their kids back to school. L. Witte said it was part of the plan and part of the survey. **VOTE:** 10.880/2.120/0/0. **Motion passes.**

ii. **Website Changes:** S. Peters reviewed the website changes with the Board.

iii. **Policies 1st Read:** The Policy Committee presented Policy IKFA/IKFA-R-Early Graduation and Policy IHCA-Summer Activities to the Board for a first read.

7. **MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:**

a. **Teacher Appreciation Week:** L. Witte explained this year the district will not be able to provide lunches. It is not feasible. The administration has ordered gifts for all of the staff. The cost is about \$3000.00. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to provide an appreciation gift to employees in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week, budget of \$3000.00. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

b. **Co-op Boy's Ice Hockey (Monadnock, ConVal, Fall Mtn.)/Dissolve the previous co-op:** **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to dissolve the current Boys Ice Hockey Co-op in favor of the revised/new co-op. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 12.787/0/.213/0. **Motion passes.**

c. **Budget Transfers:** J. Morin presented 3 budget transfers to the Board for approval. A transfer in the amount of \$15,011.00 from the District-Wide Telephone to the District Technology Equipment line to purchase Touch screen TVs/Chromebooks for the new classrooms being constructed at MRMHS. A transfer in the amount of \$44,000.00 from the District-Wide Telephone line and the MRMHS Telephone line to the District Technology Equipment line to purchase an updated security camera system at MRMHS. A transfer in the amount of \$45,855.00 from the Technical Education budget line, Repair and Maintenance line and the Teacher Substitute line for the purchase of replacement and new Tech Ed. equipment for the Tech/Ed addition project at MRMHS. **MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to support the budget transfers as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** B. Bohannon would caution the Board the Budget Committee would like the funds to go to the voters. J. Morin explained the Board has the ability to make budget transfers in the default

budget. A lot of times there is movement. This is typical. N. Mosher said the funds are in the tech line and moving to another line to support the kids. **VOTE: 10.757/2.243/0/0. Motion passes. MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to accept the recommendation for Verkada & Connection for the technology bids as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** K. Noonan asked why the administration did not go with the lowest bid. L. Witte explained our needs were met by going with Verkada & Connection. **VOTE: 11.879/0/1.122/0. Motion passes.**

J. Morin updated the Board on the construction project. A contractor has been selected for the Tech/Ed. Addition and the materials have been ordered. We will not have to move the equipment until the end of the school year. There will be no disruption to the students. We will break ground the last week in May. The project will be complete by the start of school. Regarding the 4 classrooms, K. Barker is working on the soil work and the bids will go out at the end of this week.

- d. **Motion to adjust Policy BCA:** Discussed later in the meeting.
- e. **2021/22 Policy Charter & Goals:** Discussion for next meeting.
- f. **2021/22 Extracurricular Charter & Goals:** Discussion for next meeting.
- g. **2021/22 Legislative Charter & Goals:** Discussion for next meeting.
- h. **2021/22 Finance/Facilities Charter & Goals:** Discussion for next meeting.
- i. **2021/22 Education Charter & Goals:** Discussion for next meeting.
- j. **2021/22 Community Relations Charter & Goals: MOTION:** L. Steadman

MOVED to accept all Committee Charters and Goals as presented. **Motion fails for a lack of a second.** S. Peters said there are still committees who have not completed their charter and goals. E. Stanley said the ECC will need another meeting. We have asked J. Rathbun for additional information.

- k. **2021/22 Superintendent's Goals:** Discussion for next meeting.
- l. **2021/22 Full Board Goals:** Discussion for next meeting.
- m. **April 6, 2021 Minutes and Non-Public Minutes: MOTION:** W. Wright

MOVED to approve the April 6, 2021 School Board Public Meeting Minutes and Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** C. Toomey **VOTE: 11.879/0/1.122/0. Motion passes.**

n. **March 16, 2021 Minutes of Article 2 Recount: MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve the March 16, 2021 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE: 9.787/0/3.213/0. Motion passes.**

o. **Manifest: MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of \$1,284,451.01. **SECOND:** W. Wright **VOTE: 13/0/0/0. Motion passes.**

p. **SEALING OF THE 6:15 PM Employee Portion of the April 20, 2021 Non-Public Meeting Minutes. MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to seal the employee portion of the April 20, 2021 6:15 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes until April 20, 2022. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE: 13/0/0/0. Motion passes.**

q. **Motion to adjust Policy BCA:** N. Mosher presented edits to Policy BCA. He explained they are more in line with the NHSBA. S. Peters explained we have a policy and we are asking to have the School Board Members sign it. He would not be asking anyone to step

down if they have not signed it. **MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to replace #6 from Policy BCA with the NHSBA recommended language. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler. **DISCUSSION:** K. Noonan said this is the NHSBA policy except for #15. It was recommended to change the phase to “encourage” and then he would be able to sign. **Friendly amendment:** Update Item #6 from Policy BCA to include the phase “encourage”. N. Mosher and K. Wheeler agreed. **DISCUSSION:** K. Noonan said we try to keep in line with the NHSBA otherwise it makes it difficult. K. Wheeler explained why she wanted the changes. **VOTE:** 5.409/6.476/1.115/0. **Motion fails.** **MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to remove # 3 and strike the phase #13. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler. **DISCUSSION:** K. Noonan does not agree. We are the Superintendent's employer. It is very unethical to complain about other staff. It may damage the staff member's reputation. Ethically we should not criticize them. L. Steadman commented that criticizing in public is an awful decision. K. Wheeler said what is being asked for is covered in the oath. N. Mosher said he could comment on how every member violated the policy. **VOTE:** 2.085/10/915/0/0. **Motion fails.**

8. SETTING MEETING'S AGENDA:

- a. Charter and Goals
- b. Update on May 3, 2021 Return

9. Public Comments: There are no public comments.

10. 9:10 PM Non-Public Session Under RSA 91-A:3-II (b): **MOTION:** C. Toomey **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3-II (b): Hiring of a Public Employee:. **SECOND:** K.Noonan. **VOTE:** 11.665/0/0/1.335. **Motion passes.**

11. ADJOURNMENT: **MOTION:** C. Toomey **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 PM. **SECOND:** K. Noonan **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY: Yes/No/Abstain/Absent