

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2021
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 and Dan LeClair **Absent:** Nick Mosher

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: S. Peters opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS: D. Sepolova of Swanzey complimented the Board on the brochure regarding the elementary school renovations. He would have wished it had come out earlier. He said it is unclear if there is routine scheduled maintenance on the buildings. He asked if there is a contingency plan if the warrant article fails. He said this is a valuable warrant and we should support it. He asked why the CIP would have to be voted on and is the surplus used for that. He would like to know where he would be able to find out what was actually spent per school. He said it was a great job getting the information out. S. Peters thanked Dan for his comments. He would suggest emailing the Superintendent and she would be able to get his questions answered.

Dorothy Kapen of Swanzey is a bus driver in the MRSD. She commented on how social distancing is difficult currently on the buses. She asked if the School Board was going to stay with the hybrid. S. Peters thanked Dorothy for her service and comments. B. Tatro commented that D. Kapen drives a small bus.

K. Tilton of Troy said she was in favor of the hybrid model. She is not sure social distancing will work at all of the schools.

D. Coffman strongly believes the kids need to get back to full classes. He said it states social distancing is recommended when masks are not worn. Keep that in mind. The teachers and the administration have done a great job with the masks, recognizing that kids are being undereducated. The best place for students is in school, wear masks. Full time, full school please consider.

L. Stewart of Swaney would agree with D. Coffman. It is time to get the kids back to school. If parents want to send their kids let them and if not, they have a choice to stay home. Things are opening up. The students are playing athletics.

3. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. February 16, 2021 Minutes: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the February 16, 2021 Public Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 12.787/0/0/.213. **Motion passes.**

b. February 2, 2021 Minutes: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the February 2, 2021 Public Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **VOTE:** 12.030/0/.757/.213. **Motion passes.**

c. Manifest: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of \$1,782,482.95. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **VOTE:** 12.757/0/0/.213. **Motion passes.**

d. Policies: (2nd Read)

i. EBCG

ii. JCA

iii. JEC

iv. JLA

v. JICD: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy Committee to approve and adopt the policy changes recommended by the Policy Committee. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **VOTE:** 12.787/0/0/.213. **Motion passes.**

4. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

a. Operations/Superintendent's Report:

i. Follow-Up on Q2 Smart Goal, 8th Grade ELA: J. Rathbun explained the administration wanted to follow up on the report from the last meeting. The report was on the information from the report cards for the 8th grade in ELA and we fell short. He had reached out to L. Spencer, working with teachers, teams and kids and realized the curriculum had holes in it. The message is not the same at all of the teams. The English team is aligning the teams to move them forward and still have time to upgrade for the next quarter. B. Bohannon thanked J. Rathbun for the report. He asked about a thorough review across the district, possibly a different style of checking.

ii. Summer Academic Programming (ESY, Title 1, 9-12, Beyond the Bell): J. Rathbun explained the different programs offered throughout the summer. ESY is for Special Ed. Students. This is similar to last year. It will be 1:1. Title One services will be offered to Emerson, Troy, Cutler, MTC and the Middle School students. There are already 50 families asking about what is being offered for this summer. Typically, 9-12 will be doing credit recovery and that is open to all of the students. Beyond the Bell is fantastic. The program will be connected with Camp Takodah. This will be free to all Fitzwilliam and Troy students as grant funds come available. K. Wheeler asked about expanding it to all of the students. J. Rathbun explained the high school and Gilsum cannot use the Title One funds. He did say he is confident that the district will be able to expand it to all students through a grant. M. Connor asked if the 1:1 will be Zoom or face to face for ESY. J. Rathbun explained we will work with the parents to

see what is best for them. B. Bohannon asked what it would cost for Gilsum and the high school to receive support. J. Rathbun explained it is not a huge percentage of students. He will come back with a budget if he needs to.

iii. Update on CARES Funds: L. Witte explained there is no new information on the CARES funds. She explained there are no documents or final rules for the funds. She does not know what it will look like.

iv. Hybrid/Remote Update: 83.61% for hybrid students and 16.39% for remote students.

v. Plans for Returning from Hybrid-Survey results: L. Witte reviewed the survey results with the Board. She also mentioned the CDC recommended masks even with social distancing. The vaccines were a topic on the survey. It was explained the 1st dose of the vaccine will be going to teachers by the end of this month. The Johnson and Johnson vaccine is a game changer. It was suggested to stay the course with what we are doing currently, it is not great but it works. A look at what a full return would look like will be discussed at the next meeting. The parents would like a full return to school sooner than later. Employees are in favor of a full return in the Fall. The full survey is in the packet. This information will be available on the website. B. Bohannon would like to know if additional spacing is needed and S. Peters would like to know if additional staff are needed. S. Peters asked L. Witte to bring any information to the next meeting. M. Connor would like information on the bussing as well.

vi. Superintendent Goals: L. Witte screen shared her goals with the Board and how she has achieved them. She explained every administrator sets 3 goals. She explained her enrollment in the National Superintendent Certification Program and her capstone project which is on a building project.

b. Board Chair Report:

i. Superintendent Evaluation: S. Peters explained he has only received 5 responses from the Board Members regarding the Superintendent's evaluation. The evaluation is a sample which the Board uses from the American Association of School Administrators. The Board will be reviewing the results in non-public at the next School Board Meeting. The deadline on the evaluations is March 9, 2021.

ii. Plans for Hybrid Board Meeting: S. Peters mentioned during the Zoom Meetings we reviewed the documents on the screen and he would like to continue even if we have the face to face meetings. He presented a laundry list of what needs to happen and where the seating will be as well if the Board meets face to face. He said the library will not work or the auditorium or the gym. He will be asking J. Rathbun to look at the IT and AT to see if it is sustainable. B. Bohannon said he does enjoy seeing everything on the screen. The Board has a choice. We have never had this kind of attendance with the regular meetings. S. Peters would agree. K. Noonan would like to go back to full meetings but is concerned about the cleaning for the students. K. Wheeler would like to continue with Zoom, the attendance is high. S. Peters is not sure when a change may happen but they are working on options.

iii. Board Stipends: E. Stanley explained there was an increase in Board stipends years ago. The reason for the increase was to attract people to serve. L. Steadman explained there was another meeting where it was suggested to reduce pay for Board Members when they did not attend the meetings. It was mentioned there is no policy for this but an RSA. S. Peters would suggest giving the Policy Committee direction for this issue. He presented stipend amounts from other districts. He does not like the payment in December. The payment should be tied to performance and participation. He would say to pool money and distribute based on meeting attendance. He would like to feel out the Board before going to Policy. K.

Wheeler is not sure of the right way to move forward but we need to consider the mileage. Look at attendance and mileage. M. Connor did not know there was a stipend either did C. Toomey and K. Noonan. K. Noonan does not agree with the pool and we should consider the mileage. S. Peters said if mileage is a concern look at it instead of stipends. D. LeClair said to lower the stipends and that would be extra money for the kids. K. Wheeler does not want people to feel over extended about being on a committee. S. Peters said no one is doing this for the money, get a policy in place.

iv. Closing of the Board Year: S. Peters screen shared and reviewed the Board self-assessment results. S. Peters thanked L. Steadman for creating the questions. He explained 12 members have responded. He reviewed the relationship with the Superintendent, effective Board Meetings, Strategic Plan, Annual Goals and Smart Goals. Reflections, a Superintendent and administrative team who have worked hard and effective. We are a trend setter regarding the Zoom Meetings and the participation. They are productive meetings.

He would love to see all School Board Members participate in one committee. The Negotiations Committee are the unsung heroes. W. Wright commented we have gone from ridiculous to a great working Board and administration. The Board has made progress. The goal is to get the Board closer to the Budget Committee. B. Bohannon said we have come a long way in a few years, effective and efficient. We need to work on furthering education for all students. Help with above level and needs of students. Encourage students to be engaged. What is available? M. Connor said parents are stretched to the limits. We need to know what is happening in the community as well as the schools. D. LeClair thanked S. Peters for this time and a great job. He is the biggest reason we have accomplished so much due to his leadership and skills, thank you.

MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the 2020/2021 Board's Self-Assessment.

SECOND: W. Wright. **VOTE:** 11.665/0/0/1.335. **Motion passes.** (B. Tatro not in attendance)

The Board reviewed the members who are up for re-election: C. McDaniel-Thomas, K. Noonan and S. Peters. N. Mosher's term is up but he has not signed up to run again. K. Wheeler thanked the members who are up for re-election.

C. McDaniel-Thomas would like to check in on those who said they would pick up yard signs. They are available at the SAU. She will send out a google sheet for those who wish to sign up to stand at the polls and hand out brochures. The CRC met tonight and discussed what was effective in regards to the campaign for Article Three. How did we do and use the response for next year's strategy.

5. SETTING MEETING'S AGENDA:

- a. Restructure of Board**
- b. Hybrid/Remote**
- c. CARES**

6. Public Comments: Lena Doubleday does not have audio and is not able to get into the Zoom Meeting.

7. 9:04 PM Motion to enter into a Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II(c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any

person: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to enter into a non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE:** 12.787/0/0/.213. **Motion passes.**

8. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 PM. **SECOND:** M. Connor **VOTE:** 12.787/0/0/.213. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY:Yes/No/Abstain/Absent