Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2021 (corrected 3/2/2021)
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, Nick Mosher and Dan LeClair.

Administration Present: 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: There were no public comments.

3. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. Budget Transfer(s): S. Peters explained according to Board Policy DBJ, the Board must approve all transfers over $3500.00. J. Morin presented 2 transfers to the Board. A transfer in the amount of $8384.44 from the District Wide Special Education Supplies Account to District Wide Special Education Information Access Fees Account and another transfer in the amount of $4101.20 from Special Education Related Services Account to Special Education Equipment Account. These are requests from C. Woods. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the budget transfers as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.112. **Motion passes.**

b. 2021-2022 School Calendar: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve the 2021-2022 School Calendar as approved by the administration. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes.**

c. February 3, 2021 Minutes and Non-Public Minutes: MOTION: W. Wright **MOVED** to approve the February 3, 2021 Non-Public and Public Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** M. Connor. **VOTE:** 11.550/0/1.328/1.122. **Motion passes.**

d. Manifest: MOTION: C. Toomey **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of $1,187,013.70. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes.**

4. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

a. Policies: (1st Read)

i. EBCG

ii. **JCA**
iii. **JEC**
iv. **JIA**
v. **JICD:** K. Noonan suggested anyone with questions or comments on the policies for first read could reach out to her by email prior to the next Board Meeting.

b. Operations/Superintendent's Report:

i. **Public Relations Proposal:** J. Rathbun explained he had attended a meeting and met John Guilfoil of John Guilfoil Public Relations after that meeting L. Witte and J. Rathbun met with him. This is a PR firm to help keep us in touch with the community. He offers different packages which were in the Board packets. This is like a Public Information Officer which we spoke about before. J. Rathbun has spoken to other districts who have hired him. C. Toomey comments we had spoken about this sort of thing in Fin/Fac Meetings. She said it is something we could utilize. E. Stanley commented we have talked about this, try it out if it does not work, stop. K. Noonan said it is a great idea. It would be more communication with the community and that would be better. She would like to see it paid for by a grant. S. Peters reminded the Board about the 3 bid policy. N. Mosher commented to use the ala carte approach to have the administration use it as a tool. He is less excited that the Board will use it to push certain items on the warrant. J. Rathbun said J. Guilfoil is in Boston and has a lot of local connections. J.Rathbun would like to see how the Board feels before doing the work to find 3 bids. S. Peters said to pay a service firm ala carte is a baby step. It is a great idea and would ask J. Rathbun to explore with other firms. W. Wright said we need to pass the articles first; we need this person but we need it to be paid for by a grant.

ii. **Cohort Days (M/W and T/TH) Review (in packet):** J. Rathbun explained there was a concern about the students in the different cohorts not getting the same in school time due to snow days on Tuesdays. He explained because of the Monday holidays both cohorts will be even. The district has used 4 snow days so far.

iii. **Hybrid/Remote Update (in packet)** The hybrid ratio to remote ratio is 82.39% hybrid and 17.61% remote.

Transitioning to Full Return (in packet) The Board received information in the Board packets regarding the first steps to full return to school. J. Rathbun explained L. Witte has a conference call with the DOE on Thursday. S. Peters asked for the Board to bring any questions for returning to school full time to the next Board Meeting. He said full return in the Fall or sooner if the transmission is down. K. Noonan asked about the spacing for students with the return. ***B. Tatro arrives.*** M. Connor asked about social distancing. S. Peters asked at what point do we relax the School District rules as well as the masks. He suggested the Board Members send an email to L. Witte prior to Thursday.

c. Quarter 2 Education SMART Goal Benchmark (in packet) J. Rathbun explained the data is on a "C" or higher. The ELA and Math for last year's 11th graders, this year's 12th graders are on track. There is a concern for last year's 7th graders, this year's 8th graders in ELA. We will have to look at that. J. Rathbun was asked about outside measurers. J. Rathbun explained Standardized Testing in the Spring, PSAT and SAT are the outside measures.

He will be reporting out in June on the Spring Testing. Tonight this is a check on the 2nd quarter grades.

d. Board Goals Review: S. Peters explained the Board will look at each of the committee goals. He brought up the flow chart of goals on the screen.

i. Review of 20/21 Education Goals: W. Wright reported the committee has been working with J. Rathbun on a dashboard. J. Rathbun has been working with a company. He explained the committee is breaking down what they think should be reported on the dashboard. It is like taking the information on the screen and putting it under a microscope that is what will be on the dashboard.

ii. Review of 20/21 Policy Goals: K. Noonan reported the committee worked on 72 policies. It is less than last year but last year they were less substantial. Last year the committee reviewed large chunks at a time. We have been focusing on the policies required by law which are on the books with a small amount still to update. This year the NHSBA sent out 3 bulletins rather than 2. The committee has been focusing on Book J which is specific to students. The committee has the inventory of all the policies with the help of S. Peters. There are a lot of policies from the NHSBA and our policies to look at. She would like the review process to be on a 3-year cycle. B. Bohannon commented on a nice job and a plan to focus on chinks of policies. K. Noonan explained quite a few are Education policies and their goal is to have the help of the Education Committee to review. S.Peters explained K. Noonan has been doing the research on the policies prior to bringing them to the committee. Congratulations to the committee and S. Peters would applaud K. Noonan for a job well done. C. Toomey would agree.

iii. Review of 20/21 Fin/Fac Goals: B. Tatro explained the committee had been working on an article to keep schools open in the individual towns and to update all of the schools in need of work regarding the feasibility study. S. Peters mentioned a lot of new work had been done on the CIP with the help from D. LaPointe and J. Morin.

iv. Review of 20/21 CRC Goals: C. McDaniel-Thomas explained the committee has worked on brainstorming possible outlets of communication. The committee prepared the brochure for the potential renovations and construction. The committee has also been working on Warrants in Plain English. We have developed a calendar of what is ahead of us in the way of steps toward the vote. She would ask the Board Members to promote on Facebook and Twitter. On voting day have the members hold signs and pass out brochures at the polls. B. Tatro said her hope is that the committee is reaching enough people. The CRC is also considering an ad in the paper. The committee will be meeting on Feb. 22, 2021 to assemble the yard signs, distribute the signs and sort the brochures in trays for the bulk mailing. C. McDaniel-Thomas would like to invite the Board to attend, an invite will be going out. C. McDaniel-Thomas asked how many signs each member would want. There were about 55 signs claimed by members. She would also like to know who would be holding signs at the polls. The Board Members can let her know at the next meeting. S. Peters thanked the committee for their work. C. McDaniel-Thomas said it couldn't be done without S. Peters help.

v. Review of 20/21 Negotiations: L. Steadman reported the negotiations were completed ahead of time and the Budget Committee was able to review and consider the contracts. She feels it was a very successful negotiating year with the hope of the contracts passing and only negotiating one contract next year. The committee worked very hard. S. Peters said the committee did accomplish the goals of the committee and the Budget Committee received the contracts on the date they had requested.

vi. Review of 20/21 Superintendent Goals: S. Peters explained the Superintendent performance review will be done after the March vote.

vii. Progress Check on School Board Self-Assessment: S. Peters informed the Board 6 out of 13 self-assessment surveys have been returned. He would like to see all members participate.

viii. Brainstorm Discussion: Potential Goals for 21/22: S. Peters asked for brainstorming ideas for potential goals for next year. The members suggested the following: enrollment, social distancing, student needs, what do we need, pandemic impact, Budget Committee relations, hybrid/remote resources for students, input from students, get students involved, more student academics, Ad hoc Legislative Committee and possible relationship with the DOE.

J. Rathbun explained there has been no new information regarding the funds and they have not heard from the State. The DOE has not heard from the Biden Administration. There is a delay. These are multi-year funds and up to 2-3 years to spend.

S. Peters explained he has a meeting with J. Rathbun regarding the in person/Zoom Board Meetings. **N. Mosher leaves the meeting.**

5. SETTING MEETING'S AGENDA:

a. Potential Plan for Hybrid

b. Superintendent Goals

6. Public Comments: E. Stanley explained to S. Peters that D. Coffman wanted to comment about the last Board Meeting Minutes. D. Coffman had spoken during Public Comments and his comments were not in the minutes. S. Peters asked for the minutes to be corrected with D. Coffman's comments.

Sarah Tatro agreed with B. Bohannon regarding challenging academics for students. She is not sure what is available, possibly partnerships with colleges. She is asking for more awareness and partnerships for the students.

7. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: W. Wright **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 PM. **SECOND:** K. Noonan **VOTE:** 12.757/0/0/.213. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY: Yes/No/Abstain/Absent