

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
January 19, 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, Brian Bohannon, Karen Wheeler, Dan LeClair and 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:** There were no public comments.

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

a. **Approve High School Program of Studies:** J. Rathbun explained there are no significant changes to the Program of Studies. It is similar to last year. **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the MRHS 2021-22 Program of Studies. **SECOND:** W. Wright **VOTE:** 10/0/0/3. **Motion passes.**

b. **Approve/Support Warrant Article 1:** See later in the meeting.

c. **Approve/Support of NHSBAn2021 Resolutions:**

i. **Res #7 COVID-19 Funding:** **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to support the NHSBA Resolution #7 **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** L. Steadman explained Resolution #7 is not supported by the NHSBA. **VOTE:** 0/9.787/.213/3. **Motion fails.**

ii. **Res #8 Last Mile Broadband:** **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to support the NHSBA Resolution #8. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **VOTE:** 10/0/0/3. **Motion passes.**

iii. **Res #9 Reinstate Building Aid Funding:** **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to support the NHSBA Resolution #9. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **VOTE:** 11.122/0/0/1.878. **Motion passes.**

iv. **Res #10 Support Equity Inclusion in All Aspects of Education:** **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to support the NHSBA Resolution #10. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 11.122/0/0/1.878. **Motion passes.**

v. **Res #11 Standardize Inter-District Calculation Methods:** **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to support the NHSBA Resolution #11. **SECOND:** M. Connor **DISCUSSION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas understands the rationale the State is speaking of. She will not vote in favor of this motion. **VOTE:** 6.429/4.479/.213/1.878. **Motion passes.**

vi. **Res #12 Require Video Participation by Remote Students: MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to support the recommendation of the NHSBA which is not to support. **SECOND:** M. Connor. **VOTE:** 10.909/0/.213/1.878. **Motion passes.**

vii. **Res # 13 Oppose Change in IDEA Allocation: MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to support the NHSBA Resolution #13. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **DISCUSSION:** L. Steadman explained this was presented after the deadline. L. Witte said she cannot comment. There is not enough information. She also said this does not directly impact us. **VOTE:** 1.122/9.787/.213/1.878. **Motion fails.**

viii. **Res # 14 Base Differentiated Aid on FY 2019-20 Metrics: MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to support the NHSBA Resolution #14. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **DISCUSSION:** This was presented after the deadline. **VOTE:** 3.111/4.486/3.525/1.878. **Motion fails.** S. Peters thanked L. Steadman for giving up her weekend, she will be attending the Delegate Assembly.

d. **Fitzwilliam Town Meeting Request:** L. Witte would suggest the Town of Fitzwilliam follow the same parameters as Troy for the departure time in regards to the use of Emerson School. **D. LeClair arrives.** L. Stevens said seating would be provided by the school and cleaning done by the custodians. **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the Town of Fitzwilliam's request with the following conditions: The town must vacate the building by 10:00 PM to allow time for the chemical disinfectant process to be completed before the end of the evening. **SECOND:** W. Wright **DISCUSSION:** L. Steadman asked why the Town of Troy has to clean and bring their own chairs and the Town of Fitzwilliam is not required. L. Witte explained the Town of Troy offered and we accepted. **VOTE:** 9.834/2.410/0/.757. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to relieve the Town of Troy from the requirement to provide their own seating for their 2021 town meeting. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 10.909/1.122/.213/.757. **Motion passes.**

e. **Approve Release of Elementary Project Videos: MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the release of 3 videos produced by Barker Associates. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** C. Toomey explained the CRC discussed moving the order of the videos. They would like to have video number 3 first which is the meat and potatoes. The other videos explain where we have been. **Friendly amendment:** To move video #3 "Future Options" to become video #1 in the series. **DISCUSSION:** W. Wright and M. Connor agree to move the order of the videos. S. Peters would like to create a code in the pamphlet on where to find the videos and hopes K. Barker is able to change the order of the videos. We would like the pamphlet links by the end of the week. **VOTE:** 12.030/0/.213/7.57. **Motion passes.**

f. **Revise Option 10 Gilsum Project List and Pamphlet Values:** S. Peters thanked J. Morin and D. LaPointe for the values for Gilsum. K. Barker's number includes the Turner Report and addition for the secure vestibule at a cost of 1.5 million which totals 4.437 million. The administration has a revised number which is 1.942 million. It was explained the secure vestibule can be done for about \$300,000.00. **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to revise the Option 10 Project Values for Gilsum STEAM Academy as presented. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** K. Noonan thanked the committee for getting the correct number. She appreciates the work. It was asked if the Budget Committee knows the new number. S. Peters said no not until the vote tonight. J. Morin commented there is a significant adjustment to the project estimate. S. Peters said Article Four determines if we can do the design fees. **VOTE:** 10.909/0/.213/1.878. **Motion passes.** (B. Tatro and K. Wheeler missing from vote)

g. **December 15, 2020 Minutes: MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to approve the Edit to the December 15, 2020 Public Meeting Minutes. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 12.243/0/0/.757. **Motion passes.**

h. **January 5, 2021 Minutes: MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to accept the January 5, 2021 Public Meeting Minutes, 2 sets of Non-Public Meeting Minutes and the Public Hearing Meeting Minutes for the Health Trust. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 10.909/0/1.335/.757. **Motion passes.**

i. **Manifest: MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of \$1,465,634.00. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 11.122/0/1.122/.757. **Motion passes.**

4. **MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:**

a. **Policies: (1st Read)**

i. **IKE/IKE-R**

ii. **BHA**

iii. **BHE**

iv. **BEAB:** The Policy Committee is presenting the 4 policies as a first read.

Any questions or comments can be emailed to K. Noonan.

b. **Board Goals and Calendar Review:** S. Peters explained the Finance/Facilities have been pretty busy with the CIP and K. Barker's information. The CRC is busy with the pamphlet. The different committees are doing different things.

c. **Feedback/Recap of Budget Hearing:** S. Peters would like to review the Budget Committee's Public Hearing. He said during Public Comments there were comments on Cutler, Troy and the MDEA contract. Maybe the warrant articles in plain language will explain. He said there were healthy questions from the public. He said the Budget Committee accepted J. Morin's default budget number. The administration's proposed budget number was moved but failed for a lack of a second. There was a motion to amend the proposed budget by reducing it by \$855,000.00. L. Witte explained the proposed budget was \$33,307,289.00 which is a .17% increase over the current operating budget. It includes \$685,000.00 of uncontrollable costs. She explained the GMR and the fact the budget is prepared for the worst case scenario. S. Peters reviewed the comments of the Budget Committee Members. Not all of the members were present.

d. **Approve/Support Warrant Article 1:** L. Witte explained the Board's proposed budget is \$257,469.00 less than the default. **MOTION:** D. LeCLair **MOVED** to support Article One as presented. (\$32,452,289.00 for the Budget Committee's Proposed Budget and \$33,564,758.00 as the Default Budget.) **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** L. Witte explained the surplus was 1.5 million but $\frac{1}{3}$ of it is attributed to COVID. L. Witte explained how the proposal from the Budget Committee would affect the district. She also said there is no way it would not affect programs and people. There is a list the administrative team reviewed but not cast in stone. This exercise is to make the Board aware. The Special Ed. Expendable Trust and the Emergency Fuel Fund can be obtained only if there is a deficit. K. Noonan said the reason for the unallocated fund balance is not because of budgeting incorrectly. **K. Wheeler arrives.** **VOTE:** 1.122/10.757/1.122/0. **Motion fails.** S. Peters continued to outline the happenings of the Budget Committee's Public Hearing. He felt the Budget Committee did not remember what was presented. We met with them 4 times. They commented on the projects. The Budget Committee

said they felt we needed to finish work on the current projects before starting more projects. The Budget Committee did not support the renovation projects to Gilsum and the MRMHS or the engineering and design article for the elementary school renovations. S. Peters said there is a 2-year cycle for State Funding. C. McDaniel-Thomas said they spoke of the bond and said it would not pass. C. McDaniel-Thomas and B. Tatro attended a Selectmen meeting and they said bonding would be good. It was commented regarding the MDEA Contract the Budget Committee would like performance factors in the contract and multiple year contracts. They also asked the percentage of increase for each contract. It was said overall it was a bit disheartening. S. Peters said they would not support much of anything. Ask people to attend the Deliberative Session. He also commented that having the School Board rep. at the meeting might have changed the outcome. The motion passed or failed by a very slim margin.

e. Operations/Superintendent's Report:

i. Hybrid/Remote/Covid Update: L. Witte reported that Cutler is back in the hybrid model. The MRMHS will be back in hybrid on January 25, 2021. There are 81% of students in the hybrid model and 19% remote. L. Witte explained the process to notify students and families if someone contacts COVID and those in close contact with others. We have been working with DHHS and the nurses have done an outstanding job. C. Toomey thanked the administration, teachers and students for being able to stay in school and keep athletics going. Everyone has done a pretty good job.

ii. Classroom Live Stream Pilot: J. Rathbun explained there are 2 classrooms at the MRMHS and 1 at the elementary school doing live streaming. So far no negative feedback. No one else has expressed interest. C. Czifrik and J. Rathbun will be looking at a new camera. Going well but not taking off. Not much interest.

iii. Deliberative Session Logistics Update: L. Witte explained the moderators and attorney's plans are well underway. L. Witte explained the process at each location. They will have a practice run on January 29, 2021. There will be tech support at each location.

5. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

a. Thursday, January 28, 2021 (Pre-Deliberative joint meeting with Budget Committee) L. Witte explained she will invite B. Hutwelker to the pre-deliberative session.

b. Saturday, January 30, 2021 (Deliberative Session and Post Deliberative)

c. Tuesday, February 2, 2021 (Next regular Board Meeting) February 2, 2021 the School Board will debrief regarding the Deliberative Session.

The School Board Members will sign the warrant this week by means of panda docs.

6. Public Comments: A. Hopkins said he is concerned about how the Budget Committee Members were characterized tonight on how decisions were made. He commented that we have been told that programs and staff have to be cut with the proposed budget cuts. Our official task of the Budget Committee is to weigh in on the contracts and look at the warrant articles as a whole and the impact. If the budget stays as proposed by the Budget Committee The articles may be reconsidered. We look at it as a whole. The information on the members is on the website.

D. Coffman reduced the proposed budget number. The surplus was over 2 million in 2019/2020. We will not have to cut staff. In regards to the Budget Committee Public Hearing there was

dialogue which was left out. Listen to the tape. S. Peters left out the information. On average there is a 1.7-million-dollar surplus. We owe it to reduce the surplus. Personally, he has a problem, we did not forget the presentation. We have asked for information and have not gotten it. *L. Steadman and N. Mosher leave.*

7. 9:24 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: B. Tatro **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:** K. Wheeler **VOTE:** 11.789/0/0/1.211. **Motion passes.**

8. 9:35 PM Motion to enter into a Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property: MOTION: W. Wright **MOVED** to enter into a Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 10.667/0/0/2.333. **Motion passes.**

9. Sealing of Minutes: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to seal the January 19, 2021 9:35PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes until January 19, 2026. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 8.796/0/1.872/2.333. **Motion passes.**

L. Witte thanked the School Board for being so supportive coming up to a year of the pandemic. All of the employees appreciate the support. It is very much appreciated. The teachers have received calls and emails of support. They would like to thank the entire community.

10. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 PM. **SECOND:** E. Stanley **VOTE:** 10.667/0/0/2.333. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY: Yes/No/Abstain/Absent