

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2020 (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 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. Coffman commented that extra-curricular and academics are equally important. He said it was incorrect in the minutes. He would like the minutes to be corrected. He would urge the Board not to go too far out with consideration on remote beyond the New Year, allow flexibility.

L. Doubleday has a third grader and would like to explore what could be provided for on the online learning. She also mentioned remote learning on Fridays.

3. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. November 5, 2020 Minutes: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to accept the November 5, 2020 School Board Meeting Minutes as amended with the adjustment to Coffman’s public comments. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 10.551/0/.213/2.236. **Motion passes.**

b. Manifest: MOTION: C. Toomey **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of \$1,702,686.48 as presented. **SECOND:** K. Noonan **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes.**

c. Policies (2nd Read):

i. IJO/KA-School, Family and Community Partnership
ii. IMBA-Distance Education:
iii. JLCG-Exclusion of Students who present a Hazard:
iv. JLCA/JLCA-R-Physical Examination of Students:
v. JLCB-Immunization of Students: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to update Policy IJO/KA, Policy IMBA, Policy JLCG, Policy JLCA/JLCA-R, Policy JLCB and to retire JLCB-R as presented by the Policy Committee. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:**

The committee will take up retiring Policy KAA at their next meeting. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.122. **B. Tatro missing from vote). Motion passes.**

d. Board Letter to the Editor: L. Witte presented a letter in the Board packet. She is asking for approval from the Board to send to news media outlets as drafted. **MOTION:** K. Wheeler **MOVED** to submit the proposed letter to the editor of news media outlets as drafted. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher will be voting against this motion. D. LeClair asked if the purpose of the letter is to say we are not happy with the governor's guidance. S. Peters answered yes. D. LeClair said it is up to the community to know what is best. The government should stay out of what Swanzezy decides. He will vote no. S. Peters commented this letter is now public record but if it fails it will not go any further than this meeting. K. Wheeler said she feels this letter is asking for guidance so she is in favor of the letter. **VOTE:** 6.188/3.478/2.113/1.122. **(B. Tatro missing from vote) Motion passes.**

e. Town Voting for School Year 2021/22: MOTION: D. LeClair **MOVED** to direct the administration to factor town voting in our schools for the 2021/22 School Year Calendar and to make our school buildings available to the towns for voting events. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **DISCUSSION:** L. Witte explained it is doable but there is the issue of voters carrying firearms. She would suggest no school on voting days and to amend the motion. D. LeClair and C. Toomey agreed to a friendly amendment: **to make voting days' professional development days/non-student days.** K. Noonan asked if the towns want to use the buildings. It is hard for parents to get childcare. S. Peters said Troy had one request and Swanzezy would like a permanent shift. L. Witte said we can use those days for professional development days. **B. Tatro arrives.** K. Wheeler is concerned about disinfecting the schools. W. Wright commented calendars are subject to change. **VOTE:** 8.712/2.410/1.878/0. **Motion passes.**

f. Warrant Articles:

i. Change to BDA-R: The Board reviewed the proposed warrant articles. J. Morin explained the language for the 3 contracts should be available at the next Board Meeting. S. Peters explained we are having this conversation early because we approved Policy BDA-R. We are supposed to have the warrant article deadline at the last meeting in November. We are not able to complete this tonight. S. Peters said the legal deadline should be our deadline. K. Wheeler commented it is very hard to look at the whole picture without the budget books. She would also like to look at the order of the warrants on the ballot.

4. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

a. Board Goals Review: S. Peters informed the members that there will be a joint meeting of the Board and the Budget Committee it is scheduled for Saturday at 10:00 AM. C. McDaniel-Thomas reported the CRC continues to work on the plan. The committee also had a quick preview of the video prepared by K. Barker. It looks really good. We are working on the brochure which we will hand out and mail. It is a tool to get the word out about the project and the link to the video. The CRC will meet again on December 1, 2020. B. Tatro explained Fin/Fac. had a short meeting. Education will meet on December 2, 2020 and Policy will meet on December 2, 2020 at 6:30 PM. K. Noonan said the Board Organization Policies are on the agenda. S. Peters thanked the committees and the committee chairs for meeting the goals and their hard work. He is looking forward to the joint meeting on Saturday.

i. Q1 Educational Dashboard/Goal Check: J. Rathbun would have reported on the first quarter but had to move it back due to COVID. Over the next two meetings he will be reporting on the 8-12 grades and then report on the trimester.

b. Operations/Superintendent's Report:

i. Educational Model Update: L. Witte explained the administration has revisited the educational models just in case we have to shift to full remote. We have asked the principals to review just in case. With the remote support we have been able to do more, connect with the students with more than remote Fridays. We are being as flexible as possible with the guidance of the DHHS.

1. Areas of Shift-Building Level:

2. Hybrid/Remote Support Numbers: In the packet are the most recent hybrid numbers. As of November 10, 2020 86% of the students are hybrid and 14% are remote.

3. Full Remote Preparation: L. Witte reported the number of cases in our area are increasing. There have been a number of districts who have proactively moved from hybrid to remote until the new year. We are in a good place. There is no answer and no suggestion. We are looking at other districts. **MOTION:** K. Wheeler **MOVED** to have the district move to a full remote model on November 30, 2020 and re-evaluate after January 1, 2021. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **DISCUSSION:** K. Wheeler commented we have a lot of employees from other districts. This is what everyone is doing. B. Bohannon will not support this. The kids are safer in the schools. The main objective is to educate the kids. It is our responsibility to hold together as a community. It is best for our kids. He does not care what everyone else is doing. D. LeClair agrees with B. Bohannon. If we go full remote the kids will not have class learning. After January 1, 2021 the students will have a hard time getting back to hybrid. Kids miss being in school. How can this benefit the kids, it will lead to more problems. J. Rathbun explained the difference between full remote in the Spring and full remote now is we are much more organized and prepared. Technology is up and running. We have parent feedback and more protocol. Kids being engaged is a valid concern. It is a problem we are facing head on and we are taking it seriously. K. Noonan commented the plan in place is doing the job. It is in the student's best interest. The staff need to be supported. M. Connor would agree with B. Bohannon and K. Noonan. J. Rathbun would agree. The kids are making strides. It would be a huge set back. N. Mosher is disappointed in how the Board has gone with extracurricular and sports. The risks will increase over the holidays. L. Steadman said she is torn. She asked if there is a way to prepare for full remote but not yet. E. Stanley said he received phone calls from 2 seniors who stated they do not learn with remote. He would agree with M. Connor and continue with hybrid until there is an issue. C. Toomey would agree to stay the course. Keep kids in school. K. Wheeler would applaud the administration and the staff for being able to do remote on a drop of a dime. She feels it is important as a county and state to go in one direction together. L. Witte explained there is no face to face CCC if full remote. S. Peters feels the face to face model is greater. Families will not be able to work with schools at full remote. He will vote no. **VOTE:** .97/10.909/0/1.122. **Motion fails.** **MOTION:** K. Wheeler **MOVED** to not hold Winter Sports starting November 30, 2020 and to re-evaluate after January 1, 2021. **SECOND:** M. Connor. **DISCUSSION:** B. Bohannon commented you cannot reconsider the same motion. K. Wheeler said it is an ongoing pandemic and it is a fair motion. S. Peters said it would require a $\frac{3}{5}$ majority and it also needs to be on the agenda. It is out of order. K. Wheeler would challenge the Chair. **MOTION:** K. Wheeler **MOVED** to challenge the Chair. Challenge S. Peter's decision to say her motion is out of order. **SECOND:** M. Connor. **DISCUSSION:** S. Peters clarified voting yes means the motion is not out of order and we can move on with a discussion and voting. No

means the motion is out of order. K. Wheeler clarified and said if it passes this motion will be on the agenda without a majority vote. S. Peters said yes. **VOTE:** 3.160/6.599/2.120/1.122. **Motion fails.** M. Connor would like this to be on the next meeting's agenda. S. Peters agreed.

ii. **Support Staff Appreciation Day:** The administration will be putting plans in place for Support Staff Appreciation Day this week.

iii. **Superintendent Goals Update:**

1. **National Certificate:** L. Witte provided information regarding the National Superintendent Certification Program in which the Board voted to allow her to be a part of. There is also information on the Capstone project which is required. She said she has enjoyed being a part of this program and has learned a lot.

iv. **Administrator Goals:** In the Board packet she has included examples of the administrator's goals. They are setting their goals now.

She will be requesting information from L. Spencer regarding the Spring Band Concert. D. LeClair said this is the time to plan. Send an email to L. Spencer and cc L. Witte for collaboration and input.

MOTION: C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to accept impact bargaining MOA with the MDEA with revisions as presented by the Superintendent (confirmed acceptable revision with the MDEA). **SECOND:** K. Wheeler. **VOTE:** 9.546/0/1.335/2.120. (S. Peters recused himself). **Motion passes.**

5. **SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:**

- a. **Option of Remote Learning**
- b. **Extracurricular and Sports**
- c. **Minutes of Nov. 10, 2020, November 17, 2020 and November 21, 2020**

MOTION: K. Wheeler **MOVED** to add a second Public Comments to the agenda. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes.**

6. **Public Comments:** D. Coffman thanked the Board for a second public comment section in the meeting. He also said it was a good choice to stick with the hybrid model, education first model. He also commented the Zoom Meetings are more valuable. He would like to get back to the Zoom Meetings.

H. Dean a parent and an educator outside of the district appreciates the Board discussion. She has 2 students in the district and it is very difficult not being there to help with the student's work. There are no cases and it is in the best interest of the students to stay hybrid. If it is not broken why fix it. She is looking forward to the discussion on Winter Sports.

E. Kelley commented on going full remote. She doesn't want anything to happen to the staff or the students. We are here for education. We have a plan in place. It is not like in the Spring remote learning. She would strongly suggest the Board reconsider the hybrid decision. What if something were to happen to our community? The Board should listen to what K. Wheeler is

saying about extracurricular. Some of the Board Members are focusing only on sports. We are here to educate the students.

K. Wheeler asked if the public is able to see each other on the Webinar and if not we need another option. She would like to have the issue of the webinar on the next agenda.

E. Stanley said K. Wheeler commented about the members being influenced by the students. He said he takes their comments very seriously. You are stopping kids from playing sports. They are still playing with other students when not in school. We need to put our personal fears aside and think of the students.

L. Doubleday commented that her child has not gone to school because of dad's job. He travels outside of New England. She said she hears a lot about sports, trophies and cross country. Her student is not receiving an education. She is disappointed in no guidance, no print outs and no supplies. She is very frustrated. The discussion should be on regular education and special education.

D. Hubbard would ask the Board to reconsider the mask wearing policy. She has students who take off their masks.

K. Wheeler commented she misspoke with the comment about a couple of students. She said we are very polarized. The comment was not directed to any particular person.

B. Bohannon would like to have the mask policy on the next agenda.

7. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: W. Wright MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 PM.
SECOND: K. Noonan VOTE: 11.879/0/0/1.122. Motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY: Yes/No/Abstain/Absent