Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
November 5, 2020
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: M. Divens commented on the help she has received from J. Rathbun and R. Schafer regarding her daughter's schooling. Her daughter has 3 out of 5 VLACS classes. She has spoken to parents about remote learning and they have said they feel washed away and have not heard from their child's teacher. She would ask to have the remote plan reevaluated, she is not sure it is working.

L. Doubleday has a 3rd grader and no VLACS classes. There is no guidance from the State and the schools do whatever they want. The teachers are not familiar with the platform. She wanted to do a presentation but was told this is not the correct avenue. She had to quit her job to teach her child. There is no guidance. The Friday meetings are great.

3. Operations/Superintendent's Report:

i. MRMHS schedule: L.Witte reported this schedule had been discussed at a previous meeting. She spoke with L. Spencer who in turn surveyed her staff and the student government regarding this issue. The students did not want to change the schedule but suggested reincorporating the WIN Block back. WIN schedule is time for the teachers to meet with the students.

ii. Update on Live Streaming: J. Rathbun informed the Board that after a Board vote on live streaming, the administration has started a pilot on what it would look like in the classroom environment. Cameras have been purchased, three teachers have volunteered and have been doing it in small classrooms. It is going well. He is happy on how it is set up. It is posted on the classroom doors. We have been reaching out to parents. So far so good. We are using Title One in the 4 elementary schools.N. Mosher commented looking at other districts remote students have 4-5 hours a day with teachers. He has heard from parents that the

remote support is different. He hopes it gets better. J. Rathbun explained he is in communication with other districts. He did hear from a district who would like to go back fully and they may not have enough teachers.

B. Tatro asked J. Rathbun how long it would be for the PSAT scores. J. Rathbun said it would be a bit.

ii. Snow days: L. Witte explained the Board approved the 2020-2021 school calendar and it absorbs 5 snow days and meets the minimum requirements. If conditions warrant a snow day will be called.

iv. Winter Sports: L. Witte explained the Board had received a set of guidelines in their Board packets. If the Board were to hold Winter Sports this is how it will look like. Alot of the information mirrors the NHIAA recommendations. E. Stanley reviewed the proposal. He would like to add Open gym and to have it start on November 16, 2020. L. Witte explained we cannot have Open gym that early. November 30, 2020 is the start date for open gym per the NHIAA. E. Stanley said for years it had been open in September. **MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to adopt the Winter Sports Plan with options to review the players wearing masks at the games at a later date. **SECOND:** D. LeClair **DISCUSSION:**N. Mosher said he is not in favor of this. He will vote against it. E. Stanley commented if we do not allow the students to play here they will play elsewhere. Here we have control. C. Toomey would agree with N. Mosher. M. Connor agrees just because one school does it we do not have to. K. Wheeler agrees with MC. **VOTE:** K. Noonan-yes, W. Wright-no, K. Wheeler-no, M. Connor-no, N. Mosher-no, B. Bohannon-yes, D. LeClair-yes, C. McDaniel-Thomas-no, E. Stanley-yes, B. Tatro-no, C.Toomey-no, S. Peters-yes and L. Steadman-no. **VOTE:** 5.478/7.522/0/0. **Motion fails.**

MOTION: E. Stanley **MOVED** to award a jacket or an equivalent to our Cross Country Championship Team. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

K. Noonan asked if the Board needs a motion on Winter Sports. L. Witte explained the motion failed, there are no Winter Sports. D. LeClair commented the Board has let these students down due to their own fears.

B. Tatro asked if we still do plaques for teams to be put in the glass cabinet. L. Witte explained the plague was given the day of the championship.

L. Witte informed the Board there is also an update on the air quality in the packets.

4. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. Transportation Contract: J. Morin explained the administration and the Bus Company has reached a tentative agreement. The contract is for 5 years with an option to extend an additional 2 years. The increase in the first year of the contract is 8.29% and then each year after about a 3% increase. There was another bid out of Vermont with a 19.27% increase. This is the best we are going to get. The bus company wanted to increase the wages of their employees in order to retain them. The buses will have 3 cameras and GPS. Overall we are happy with the proposal. J. Morin explained the Board will need to approve the amount and the terms of the contract. B. Tatro asked if there is any flexibility due to the buses running four days instead of 5

days. J. Morin explained in the Spring we continued to pay. We have been receiving support with the CCC runs on Friday. We are paying for 4 days and a reduction on Friday as far as fuel. The first 2 weeks of this school year the company did not bill us. She explained the total cost of the 5-year contract with the 2-year option is $10,231,027.80. The increase in the first year is due to increased wages, additional cameras and GPS. There is a requirement that the buses cannot be over 5 years old. This is an individual contract for our district. We approached the bus company together with other districts and have our own individual contracts. **MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to approve the new transportation (bus) contract, 8.29% increase in year one, 3% increase each year thereafter, 5-year total cost $7,088,833.17, 2-year option to extend. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes. (D. LeClair missing from vote)**

b. Proposed NHSBA Resolutions: L. Steadman presented a proposal to the Board. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to propose a resolution at the NHSBA Annual Meeting to support promotion of equity based inclusive education. **SECOND:** K. Noonan **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher hopes it does not remove services the students may need when it comes to budgeting. L. Steadman commented that our district is very good about equity based inclusive education. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes. (D. LeClair missing from vote)**

MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to propose a resolution at the NHSBA Annual Meeting to support development of a standard calculation for tuition rates. **SECOND:** W. Wright **DISCUSSION:** S. Peters explained he has reached out to the other districts and they are all doing it differently. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes. (D. LeClair missing from vote)**

c. October 20, 2020 Minutes: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to accept the October 20, 2020 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.112. **Motion passes. (D. LeClair missing from vote)**

d. Manifest: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of $1,574,747.51 as presented. **SECOND:** L.Steadman **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes.**

e. Bargaining Unit Contract(s): L.Steadman reported there was a non-meeting to discuss the 2 contracts. **MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to approve the global TA already ratified by the Specialists Unit. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION: MOTION:** K. Wheeler **MOVED** to table the motion until next week on a date to be determined for the Board to meet. **SECOND:** N. Mosher **VOTE:** K. Noonan-no, W. Wright-no, K. Wheeler-yes, M. Connor-no, N. Mosher-yes, B. Bohannon-no, C. McDaniel-Thomas-no, D. LeClair-abstain, E. Stanley-no, B. Tatro-no, C. Toomey-no, S. Peters-no and L. Steadman-no. .970/10.909/1.122/0. **Motion to table fails. DISCUSSION on original motion:** N. Mosher said he will not vote because he has not had time to review the contract. K. Wheeler would agree. She has not had time to review the contract. It is unfortunate that we only had a few hours to read the contract. **VOTE:** K. Noonan-yes, W. Wright-yes, K. Wheeler-no, M. Connor-yes, N. Mosher-no, B. Bohannon-yes, D. L. Clair-yes, C. McDaniel-Thomas-yes, E. Stanley-yes, B. Tatro-yes, C. Toomey-yes, S. Peters-yes, L. Steadman-yes. 12.030/.970/0/0. **Motion passes. DISCUSSION:**

MOTION: K. Wheeler **MOVED** to table the motion until next week on a date to be determined for the Board to meet. **SECOND:** N.Mosher **VOTE:** K. Noonan-no, W. Wright-no, K. Wheeler-yes, M. Connor-no, N. Mosher-yes, B. Bohannon-yes, D. L. Clair-yes, C. McDaniel-Thomas-no, E. Stanley-yes, B. Tatro-no, C. Toomey-no, S. Peters-recused, L. Steadman-no. 3.213/8.789/0/.998. **Motion fails. MOTION:** M. Connor **MOVED** to approve the MDEA contract as presented. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** S. Peters said it was okay not having a motion prior to the motion to table. **VOTE:** K. Noonan-yes, W. Wright-yes, K. Wheeler-no, M. Connor-yes, N. Mosher-no, B. Bohannon-yes, D. L. Clair-yes, C. McDaniel-Thomas-yes, E. Stanley-yes, B. Tatro-yes, C. Toomey-yes, S. Peters-recused, L. Steadman-yes. 11.032/.970/0/.998. **Motion passes.** It was commented that they would anticipate the MESSA Unit will ratify their contract. We may have to have a special meeting for the Board on November 10, 2020 in order for the information to get into the budget books.

f. Warrant Articles: S. Peters presented the warrant article draft to the Board. K. Wheeler said she is concerned about not having the budget books and discussing the warrant articles. S. Peters explained the Board already voted on Article Two and Article Three. There are no petitioned warrant articles as of yet.

g. CRC presentation of Communications Timeline: The CRC presentation will be put on hold for now.

5. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

a. Board Goals Review:

i. Debrief from Budget Committee presentation: S. Peters thanked the Board Members who attended the Budget Committee Meeting. B. Bohannon appreciates it when we get organized in a timely manner. S. Peters said the Public Hearing is in January and we have a lot to do.

ii. Calendar Review:

b. Policies for First Read:

i. IJO/KA-School Family and Community Partnerships
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
vi. EBBD-Indoor Air Quality

6. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

a. November 17, 2020
b. Complete Warrant Articles
c. CRC presentation
d. Alternative Winter Sports Plan
e. Create a policy for presenting contracts to the Board in advance to voting
f. Policy of rescind or reconsider

L. Witte would like clarification regarding the Winter Sports Alternative Plan. B. Bohannon commented on a plan that meets the concerns but our responsibility for a safe environment for the students. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to direct the administration to develop an alternative Winter Sports Plan that allows our students an acceptable means of safe participation in Winter Sports working towards competitive play. **SECOND:** E. Stanley **DISCUSSION:** M. Connor commented that guidelines are missing from the motion. E. Stanley said it will be in the plan. L.Steadman commented we are in the middle of setting the agenda. S.Peters said it is in order. We are discussing a motion requested by the administration. K. Noonan commented the plan followed the guidelines. She will vote against this motion. B. Bohannon said there are guidelines in the plan from DHHS and NHIAA. There is flexibility to see some kind of common ground. It is a choice for the kids. Be creative they will figure it out. D. LeClair commented that many students are unhappy. They will play at other places. The Board will be getting emails and calls. Our students need something to do. So much has been taken away from them. Give them an option. N. Mosher commented the Board voted on a plan and out of caution made a wise decision. B. Tatro would like to add guidelines but did not make the motion. C. Toomey was happy with the original plan but masks are important. W. Wright would like to reconsider the motion. L. Steadman said not tonight but could be done at the next meeting per policy. K. Noonan believes the policy has changed. S.Peters said it has to be this meeting. **MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to rescind the motion. **No Second.** L.Steadman explained that someone can make a fresh motion. **B. Bohannon and E. Stanley withdrew their motion.** In S. Peters' opinion a fresh motion without a clause would be fine. **MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to adopt the Winter Sports Plan as presented. **SECOND:** L.Steadman. **DISCUSSION:** E. Stanley said he had added the mask issue because it wasn't not to but to visit it just in case things got better. We have kids being looked at for scholarships. Hockey blew up because students were coming from NY. B. Bohannon said to be safe and give the kids the opportunity. N. Mosher said to minimize the risk and get the kids back to normal. L. Witte commented in the proposal it contains the most current guidelines. Close contact is not advisable. S.Peters commented not everyone is in alignment, each district needs to use their own guidelines. He said we are fighting about sports and there are other things being taken away. E. Stanley asked for an update on extracurricular and got a piece of paper. What did we do to explore the band show and the concerts? We need to look at ways to do this. We cannot say no because that is easy. K. Wheeler asked how many students are using sports as a PE credit. L. Witte said not many. **VOTE:** K. Noonan-yes, W. Wright-yes, K. Wheeler-no, M. Connor-no, N. Mosher-no, B. Bohannon-yes, D. LeClair-yes, C. McDaniel-Thomas-no, E. Stanley-yes, B. Tatro-no, C. Toomey-yes, S. Peters-yes and L. Steadman-yes. 8.712/4.288/0/0. **Motion passes.** K. Wheeler does not agree with this vote. Even the Superintendent does not agree with it. L.Steadman said the Board approved the plan as proposed by the administration. L.Witte said we brought the plan in anticipation of what the Board might want. This has the most current guidance. L.Witte commented that the administration has discussed extracurricular. We have not said no. We need to follow the guidelines. We could not safely do things. The decision had to be made. The students are not staying after school. People are out of the building after school. We have had this conversation and researched it. The focus is getting kids into school, academics and providing as many opportunities as possible.

7. Public Comments: M. Divens asked about the attendance policy. She commented about being on the waiting list for VLACS.

D. Coffman appreciated the School Board reconsidering the Winter Sports. Academics and sports are equivalent to one another. Nothing has zero risk. There were 2 cases across the district. He asked where the sports proposal was posted.

Yvonne Peters gave a shout out to the kitchen staff. They are working very hard. Thank you to T. Walsh and his team. L. Witte explained at the administrative meeting T. Walsh reported over 150,000 meals have been served since COVID.

N. Mosher would like to thank the families who made sacrifices and went with remote support. This is to maintain the risk for our families.

8. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: W. Wright **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 PM. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY: Yes/No/Abstain/Absent