

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
October 20, 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: N. Tommila from Fitzwilliam is concerned with going to a full return on Nov. 2, 2020. She said the hybrid is working well for most people. She is concerned with social distancing as well. The full return scares her. She would like to continue as is through the new year.

Henry Sokol would agree with N. Tommila. The hybrid has been working well. He is concerned with the colder weather and the crowded spaces. He is also concerned with what is going on in the country and would like to keep the hybrid model.

D. Sepulveda suggested going all hybrid. The remote is not as supported as she would have liked. She did mention the School District is doing well with controlling the spread of the virus. S. Peters explained it is okay for remote students to change to the hybrid.

Bethany Guion is a para at Monadnock and is concerned with the rise of positive Covid cases in Cheshire County. There are students who are not wearing masks. If the school is more crowded it will be a worse situation. It does not seem that there are enough bathrooms, only one person at a time.

Michelle Walters watches the news and they are saying there will be a second wave of Covid. The air circulation is not great in the schools. It is okay now with the windows open. Wait until after the holidays to go back full return. Consider the health and safety of everyone.

K. Tilton agrees with the speakers, remain with the hybrid model. The live education model will lead to crowded classrooms. *W. Wright and D. LeClair arrived.*

3. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

a. Board Goals Review:

i. Budget Committee Presentation Planned 10/27/20: S. Peters brought up the slide for the calendar of events regarding the Board goals. Tonight the Board will hear from the CRC. Next Tuesday the Fin/Fac Committee will meet with the Budget Committee to present the CIP and the proposed warrant articles.

S. Peters reminded the Board at the next Board Meeting they will be reviewing proposed resolutions presented by the Board Members. If there are any being brought forward he would ask to notify him prior to the meeting. **K.Wheeler arrives.**

b. Operations/Superintendent's Report:

i. Extracurricular Activities: L. Witte reported there is no update on the Extracurricular activities.

ii. Substitute Teacher/Nurses: J. Rathbun explained the administration had hoped to have a floating nurse for the schools and that fell through. We were able to get a permanent substitute and that is working well so far. Troy is struggling to find a person.

ii. Preliminary Look at Educational Progress: J. Rathbun explained we are at the midpoint of the first quarter. We do not have standardized testing. He has spoken to the staff and things are going well. We are meeting the student's needs. He will have more data at the end of November. They are really seeing good things happening.

iv. Potential Impacts of Adjustments to Hybrid/Remote/Live Education Model: L. Witte reported over the last 2 weeks the principals have been reaching out to the parents to get their opinion regarding the adjustments of full return. On October 20, 2020 the administration conducted a district wide Zoom meeting regarding a full return to school. The common theme was continuity for our kids. S. Peters presented the State dashboard on the screen. L. Witte thanked R. Malay for the information.

v. GMR and NHRS Rates FY2022: J. Morin explained she had been notified and the GMR is at 4.5%. We were looking at 4% for the proposed budget. The NHRS rate is up higher than they would like. The rate was at 11.17% and it is up 14.06%. The new rates will be factored into the proposed and default budget.

4. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. Motion (if any) to Adjust Hybrid/Remote/Live Education Model: L. Witte explained the administration supports the hybrid model through January 15, 2021. It makes sense to have the best shot at continuity. **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to continue the hybrid educational model through at least January 15, 2021, the Board will re-evaluate for a possible full return to the "new normal" at the January 5, 2021 meeting. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher asked if it is possible to look at a full remote through the holidays. M. Connor said there is no continuity if we go back and forth. K. Noonan would agree not to go full remote. K. Wheeler agrees with N. Mosher. She would like to reassess after Thanksgiving. **MOTION:** K. Wheeler **MOVED** to amend the motion and to re-evaluate at the Dec. 1, 2020 meeting. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **DISCUSSION:** L. Steadman commented we may

not have enough information. She will vote against the amendment. L. Witte explained the Board voted at the last meeting to give the administration authority to make decisions with the information from the State dashboard. A vote from the Board will not be necessary at that time. She would like to keep the hybrid through the holidays so not to bounce around between ways. B. Tatro is concerned with having one model for the elementary students and one for the high school. The students at the MRMHS only see their teacher 1 day a week. J. Rathbun explained we are looking at everything and more support for the remote students and how to solve the MRMHS problem. B. Tatro would suggest M-W-F for the students one week and T-Th for the next week. S. Peters would like to discuss this at another Board Meeting. K. Noonan would like to give a definite date to help families plan. N. Mosher would like the data to speak on Dec.1, 2020. S.Peters explained we are not changing any of the administration's authority in the plan. K. Wheeler said the intent is to re-evaluate after Thanksgiving before getting into the other holidays. L. Steadman commented that anything before January 15, 2021 is too early. **VOTE on the amendment: .970/10.909/0/1.122. Motion fails. (E. Stanley missing from vote). VOTE on the original motion: 10.909/.970/0/1.122. Motion passes. (E. Stanley missing from vote)**

b. National Education Support Professionals Day 11/18/202: S. Peters explained National Education Support Professionals Day is on Nov. 18, 2020. He would like to ask the administration what they have in mind to celebrate this day. L. Witte commented the administration would need a little more time. J. Rathbun explained the district will do something for all of the employees in honor of the specific group. **MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to approve the administration to identify an appropriate way to celebrate National Education Support Professionals Day and to include all employees in the celebration. **SECOND:** M. Connor. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

L. Witte thanked everyone who attended the meeting tonight. There were 163 people in attendance. S. Peters commented there is more participation with the remote meetings.

c. CRC Presentation: C. McDaniel-Thomas presented the CRC presentation to the Board. She explained the committee looked at every possible method on how to get the word out. Some have a cost attached and some do not. The information being presented is not a complete document. This is a first run to gather global information while we look at other methods. We are planning on ways to get the slideshow out to the public as well as written copy. At the last CRC meeting we did a calendar and backed it out. The document is still in presentation mode. N. Mosher commented on information going home in the backpacks of the students. C. McDaniel-Thomas said it is not information to sway either way it is to remind people the polls are open. The information will be given out but L. Witte will govern what the information will say. S. Peters said the original content should be the work of the committee. C. McDaniel-Thomas said the video being created by K. Barker is priority one. C. Toomey said she is not a fan of the backpacks. We are missing a huge population. The information should be mailed to everyone. C. McDaniel-Thomas said this is not the sole method. There will be a mailer to every house. The committee will be preparing for the video, the green sheet in plain language and yard signs to start. S.Peters commended the committee on a great job. C. McDaniel-Thomas also said an informational letter will be going out and members will be attending select board meetings. S.Peters would suggest the CRC craft a list of talking points and allow the board members to share with the community. He would also recommend letter writing to specific select boards.

J. Morin explained there is \$10,000.00 in the Board account. There are a number of items that use these funds. She felt contracted professional service funds within the School Board budget could be used for the video.

d. October 6, 2020 Minutes: MOTION: L.Steadman **MOVED** to accept the October 6, 2020 School Board Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 12.030/0/.970/0. **Motion passes.**

e. Manifest: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of \$1,138,787.60 as presented. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

5. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

- a. Thursday, Nov. 5, 2020**
(Reminder, moved to Thursday to avoid voting day 11/3)
 - i. Update on hybrid meeting plans**
- b. Review Proposed NHSBA Resolutions (if any)**
- c. Public Voting in Schools for School Year 2021/22**
- d. Hybrid Board Meetings?**
- e. Update on Live Streaming-Proof of concept**
- f. Update on Ventilation Reports**
- g. Potential Modifications to MRMHS Hybrid schedule**
- h. Update on Extracurricular**
- i. Update on Special Ed. (if any)**
- j. Debrief from Budget Committee**

6. Public Comments: There were no public comment

7. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 PM. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 12.787/0/0/.213. (N. Mosher missing from vote) **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY: Yes/No/Abstain/Absent