Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
September 15, 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, Instruction and 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. Murray commented on Phase 3. She said it is very important for the students to play sports for the future of athletics in the district. There have been no issues so far regarding sports at this moment.

3. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. Phase 3 Athletics: L. Witte provided an update to the Board on the number of students playing athletics in the district. There are 99 students at the high school level and 82 at the Middle School level. She explained the DHHS recommends not close and physical activities, face covering and 6' minimum of social distancing. They do recommend some skill building. **MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to begin NHIAA recommended Phase 3 athletics and resume competition in all aspects of sports this year. **SECOND:** D. LeClair **DISCUSSION:** It was mentioned that some Board Members had received emails from students. It was commented that the AD is very passionate and can do this. E. Stanley said there have been no problems with Phase 2. E. Stanley said he received information and 54 out of the 58 schools are playing football. N. Mosher said safety is the most important aspect. We need to minimize exposure. The School Board needs to provide a safe environment. He will vote no on the motion. D. LeCLair commented we have a responsibility to the students as a whole. The decisions need to be made by the parents. You are taking away opportunities for their futures. Let the parents decide. B. Bohannon commented if the numbers stay the same he would entertain going back 100%. Let the parents make the decisions. B. Tatro said she is conflicted but she will probably vote in favor of the motion. C. Toomey thanked all of the students, faculty and parents for reaching out. She works in a medical facility and she cannot vote yes. If the students are playing other teams they could infect the other student body. The sports teams do not outweigh the entire student body. M. Connor said safety first. We have to remember the kids have only been back for 2 days. We need to take small steps. She appreciated the emails from the parents and students but she cannot agree in good faith. E. Stanley said we have more than 50% of our students in sports and in extra-curricular activities. The kids do better because of sports. They need to play. They need to be able to play. D. LeClair commented if kids are not playing here they are playing somewhere

else. We have better control if they play here. They will be under the control of T. Cote. The students have been following Phase 2 guidelines. L. Steadman said if a player gets Covid then suspend Phase 3. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** if a confirmed case of Covid 19 is traced to a sports related activity then Phase 3 of sports shall be suspended in favor of Phase 2. **SECOND:** M. Connor. **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher is not in favor of this. It is too high risk. L. Witte explained DHHS recommends that any person identified by the other students would be quarantined as well. E. Stanley said setting sports at a higher standard is not fair. Phase 3 to Phase 2, suspend every sport when 1 person on a specific team. B. Bohannon would agree with L. Witte. The problem is assuming it is related to sports. This motion targets athletes. There are other school districts with higher numbers going to school. L. Steadman commented this puts pressure on the AD to do this appropriately, so there will not be any cases. She is in agreement with Phase 3. **VOTE on amendment:** 3.951/7.714/1.355/0. **Amendment fails. VOTE on original motion:** K. Noonan-yes, W. Wright-yes, K. Wheeler-no, M. Connor-no, N. Mosher-no, B. Bohannon-yes, D. LeClair-yes, E. Stanley-yes, C. McDaniel-Thomas-no, B. Tatro-yes, C. Toomey-no, S. Peters-yes and L. Steadman-yes. 8.712/4.288/0/0. **Motion passes.**

b. Motion to Explore Live Streaming of Classes: MOTION: N. Mosher **MOVED** to direct the administration to prepare and implement streaming of classes for students engaged in the full time remote support, as well as students quarantined on a temporary basis. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** L. Witte explained the administration has looked into this. There are equipment needs with a cost. The bandwidth is $3000.00 which is $36,000.00 a year and we need class cameras at a cost of $23,000.00 and they are currently out of stock. It is difficult to get them. We would also have an increase in the erates. The Board asked the administration to have a plan and we did that with a robust group, there was lots of opportunity for feedback. The team did explore this option but did not move forward for obvious reasons. The plan was approved by the Board. It does have potential with caveats. There is an issue of student privacy. The employees are implementing the plan the Board approved. It is unfair to ask the employees to do this. We are in the second day of school. This would be a year-long process. Student privacy is a concern. N. Mosher said the cameras would be focused on the teachers and he would hope all teachers would do this. It is good in case we have to go full remote. It is not as expensive as sports and all the students benefit. B. Bohannon said it is a burden on the staff. It should be a plan for the future but he is concerned in this stage of the game. L. Witte said there are privacy issues with the audio and video. We have a plan if we have to go full remote learning. There is a misconception about live streaming: it is live uncontrolled video and audio of events. It is complicated to watch a live streaming video. It is not the same as in the class. Teachers are trained as classroom teachers. Some have volunteered to pilot this and not everyone is happy. The numbers look good and hopefully we will go back full time in November. The impact on the teachers is a concern. D. LeClair said we need to move forward with this. L. Witte did speak to the attorney. It is legal but we need to be concerned with the student issues. It is not providing instruction. Our teachers are not trained to do this. She is not opposed but we need a pilot for this year. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to amend the motion to pilot a concept of live streaming classes with willing/interested teachers, maximum 10. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher would not agree to make it a friendly amendment. K. Noonan said it was a great idea as a pilot. It is too much for all of the teachers. The elementary teachers use the outdoor space. L. Witte explained that with remote learning the parents are in control and log in. Students in the classroom have no opportunity to opt out. E. Stanley said to do this when kids are not in the classrooms. Have students ask questions in the classroom when they return. J. Rathbun explained we cannot record students in the classroom. We need expressed written consent for every

student. N. Mosher does not feel this is the best solution. It is better than what we have, nothing. L. Witte explained we do want to explore. We have built in great supports. Title One is reaching out to the students and teachers are using Zoom to reach the students on Fridays. We are only 2 days into the year. At the MS/HS levels we are going above and beyond to find solutions for those students. We are digging down to the individual levels. Because of the lack of the VLACS courses we have gone to Plateau which was not part of the plan. We need to honor the work done by the teachers. K. Wheeler said a pilot is a good idea but there are people who are not able to go remote or live stream. **VOTE on the amendment:** 12.787/0/.213/0. **Amendment passes. VOTE on amended motion:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

c. August 13, 2020 Minutes: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to accept the August 13, 2020 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 11.665/0/1.335/0. **Motion passes.**

d. Manifest: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of $1,129,050.48 as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 12.002/0/0/.998. **Motion passes. (L. Steadman not present for vote)** J. Morin would ask the Board Members to come and sign the manifest.

4. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

a. Policies (1st Read)

i. BGB:

ii. BGB-R

iii. EB/JLI: The policies for first read were in the Board packets.

b. Board Goals Review:

i. Board Goals Calendar: S. Peters reviewed the Board Goals Calendar.

ii. Finance/Facilities Presentation of CIP: B. Tatro reported at the Fin/Fac Committee Meeting K. Barker was in attendance. He introduced 2 new options.Option 9 is for Troy and Cutler students to go to MTC and for Emerson and Gilsum to remain open with renovations. Option 10 is for Cutler students to go to MTC and all of the elementary schools to stay open with renovations. K. Barker mentioned in Option 9 the cost of bussing would outweigh the cost of renovations. Option 10 would allow the students to stay in their own schools and would help with the spreading of Covid. The towns want their own schools as well. The committee will be working on deciding on an option at the next meeting. The committee would like to present on October 6 the CIP and the Option. S. Peters explained K. Barker will send the Board more information on the new options and a more detailed timeline. We have the Zoom recording to post. He would ask that all members be prepared for when K. Barker attends.

iii. CRC: C. McDaniel-Thomas reported the CRC met earlier this evening. The committee discussed the finalized draft of our Communication Methodology for different media such as slideshows and handouts. We will present a motion to increase the funding for methods of communication. The committee will also create a timeline with backwards planning.

iv. Ed/Tech: W. Wright reported he will meet with J. Rathbun to come up with a date for the committee to meet.

v. Policy: K. Noonan reported Policy BGB-R is a checklist on policy adoption.

vi. Plodzik & Sanderson Annual Questionnaire: S. Peters asked the Board Members to fill out the annual questionnaire. S. Peters will compile the information and send it to the auditors.

c. Operations/Superintendent's Report

i. JFAB-Admission of Children of Employees Update: L. Witte informed the Board there are 2 more employee students attending the district. The total is now 5 employee children.

ii. New State Guidance-COVID-19: L. Witte presented a Covid Trend Tracker. They issued a matrix to determine back to school. If on track for containment for 2 weeks in October a decision will be made to fully go back to school.

iii. Update on Numbers (Homeschool, Remote, Hybrid): L. Witte provided information to the Board on the soft opening numbers of the students. She said they were excellent and she received great feedback. It is a great way to start off the school year. The students were hybrid and remote. Kudos to the employees and staff who engaged as well as we could. J. Rathbun explained there are 249 students who are doing remote learning. He explained when a student is a homeschooler they notify the school district and we never hear from them again. The district received 86 letters of intent, 5 students changed their minds. Out of the 81 homeschoolers 42 were never enrolled or were first graders.

5. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

a. Finance/Facilities Presentation

b. Update on student #s for remote, home school and hybrid

S. Peters explained he met with J. Rathbun and L. Witte regarding in-person Board Meetings. There were questions in regards to social distancing and audio video. We do not have the equipment. The auditorium may work for the social distancing piece. There was an idea of possibly reaching out to a company and getting a consultation. The next steps are to find a location and some technology help.

6. Public Comments: M. Divens thanked J. Rathbun and R. Schafer for being so helpful to her on the phone today. She asked what Phase 3 is regarding sports. She explained her daughter will not be able to have her VLACS courses until the first week in October. S.Peters explained the NHIAA information on Phase 3 is on the website.

7. 8:52 PM Motion to Enter In to Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

8. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM. **SECOND:** K. Noonan **VOTE:** 11.925/0/0/1.075. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY: Yes/No/Abstain/Absent