

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2020
Zoom Virtual Meeting, Swanzey, NH

Members Present: Kristen Noonan, Winston Wright, Lisa Steadman, Colleen Toomey, Scott Peters, Betty Tatro, Eric Stanley, Cheryl McDaniel-Thomas, Michelle Connor, Brian Bohannon and Karen Wheeler **Absent:** Dan LeClair and Nick Mosher

Administration Present: L. Witte, Superintendent, J. Rathbun, Director of Curriculum and 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 & PUBLIC COMMENTS: S. Peters called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. There were no Public comments.

2. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. National Superintendent Certification: L. Witte explained she had applied for the National Superintendent Certification Program and was accepted. She is asking the Board to support her attending the program and the cost of \$6000.00. This \$6000.00 is above and beyond the allocated PD amount. The information about the program is in the packets. She explained this is a great opportunity. B. Tatro said she is very much in favor of this. It benefits us and L. Witte’s career. C. Toomey said it sounds great but she felt the Board already approved it. L. Witte explained she was not in attendance when it was on the agenda so the Board wanted her to be present if there were any questions. W. Wright said it is an excellent program and he would allow her to attend. **MOTION:** C. Toomey **MOVED** to endorse the Superintendent to pursue the National Superintendent Certificate Program and to fund it in the amount of \$6000.00. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** J. Morin explained where the funds will come from. She explained she will bring a transfer at the next meeting. **VOTE:** 10.544/0/0/2.456. **Motion passes.**

b. Budget Transfers: J. Morin provided the proposed transfers in the Board packets. This was a result of the reduction of class size this past Spring. **MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to accept the transfer in a total amount of \$61,140 for salary and associated benefits of a Reading Specialist position at Cutler to a Classrooms Teacher position for 2019-2020 and a transfer in a total amount of \$76,838 for salary and associated benefits of a Reading Specialist position at MTC to a Classroom Teacher position for 2019-2020 school year. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler. **DISCUSSION:** B. Tatro had a question and would like to discuss it in Non-Public Session. J. Morin explained the positions have already been switched and the Board is aware of it. L. Witte explained this is part of the shifting from last Spring. B. Tatro said never mind. **VOTE:** 10.544/0/0/2.456. **Motion passes.**

c. May 5, 2020 Minutes: **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to accept the May 5, 2020 Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 7.591/0/2.953/2.456. **Motion passes.** *B. Bohannon arrives.*

- d. **Manifest:** The Board will make a motion on the manifest at the next meeting.

3. **MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:**

a. **Policies (1st Read) Motions to Update:**

- i. **JL-Student Rights and Responsibilities:**
- ii. **JLC-Student Health Services & Requirements:**
- iii. **JLCJ-Concussions and Head Injuries:**
- iv. **JLCK-Special Physical Health Needs of Students:**
- v. **JLDBA-Behavior Management and Intervention:** K. Noonan explained the policies presented by the Policy Committee are for the Board to review and ask questions. The Board will have the opportunity to make a motion at the second read. She explained if there are any questions the members may email her.

b. **Board Chair Report:** The administration will provide the Board with the seniors by towns at the next meeting.

J. Morin is in need of 3 more signatures for the MS 22. C. McDaniel-Thomas, W. Wright and E. Stanley have volunteered to go to the SAU office and sign.

i. **Board Goals Review:** S. Peters would like committees that have met to give a report to the full Board He would also like to ask the committee chairs to review their committee information on the website to make sure it is correct. The Finance/Facilities Committee met and B. Tatro reported. B. Tatro said the committee discussed having K. Barker return and discuss the elementary school option. The committee would like to get a list of projects from J. Morin and D. LaPointe for the CIP Plan. The committee would like to have a member of the committee attend Budget Committee Meetings on an alternate basis. The committee would like to ask K. Noonan to attend their meeting to help with the committee's policies. The committee will have their first recommendation on August 1, 2020 per the committee goals.

c. **Operations/Superintendent's Report:**

i. **Employee Status During Extended Closure:** L. Witte explained there is no update. There are 8 days from the last day of school. We are already discussing what next year will look like. We are waiting for more guidance from the State. The recommendations from the Task Force are advisory.

ii. **Follow-Up on Teacher Appreciation Plans:** L. Witte reported on May 7, 2020 the staff had a drive through recognition for Teacher/Staff Appreciation Day. The District handed out fleece jackets with an embroidered logo on them. They were well received by the staff. It was well attended. Many staff thanked the Board.

iii. **Calendar of Rescheduled End of Year Events:** L. Witte reported on the following rescheduled events: Milestone Awards-August 10, High School Graduation-TBD, Prom-August 1, Ecology School-7th grade Fall-TBD, Step-Up Day-August 24 and 6th grade recognition-drive through celebration from May 26-May 29. B. Tatro asked if the schools need more funds for PD due to the remote learning. L. Witte explained she does not anticipate being short. K. Wheeler asked if the unallocated funds could be used. L. Witte explained the unallocated funds need to have a contract and we have until the last meeting in June to do that. S. Peters explained we changed the last meeting in June to the last Tuesday of the month purposely just in case there was a need to use the unallocated funds.

iv. Financial Reports:

1. Update on Summer Meal Services: J. Morin explained all sites will be able to give out meals until June 12 after that the Troy and Cutler sites will be giving out meals until August 7. It was asked if buses might be able to bring the meals to the other towns during the summer. J. Morin explained the District does not have the bus service during the summer. K. Wheeler asked if people in Gilsum could pick up the meals. J. Morin would suggest K. Wheeler contact T. Walsh at Nutrition Services to see if that is possible. She also said the Sheriff's Dept. will not be delivering meals after the end of this month.

2. Town Tax Deferments: J. Morin has reached out to the towns to see if they felt there would be an issue with taxes not being paid and the school receiving their portion. She said she has not had much of a response. Swanzey was the only one who responded and they said that they already had a conversation on anticipating this. They said they will still be paying their obligation to the District.

vi. Education Report:

1. Update on Remote Learning: J. Rathbun explained at the end of this year the teachers will be doing a lot of planning for September. We want to wrap up this year in a positive way. When planning we need to look at our skills and curriculum. What have we not been able to do due to Remote Learning. For 3 days the teachers will be meeting with the principals to identify essential skills that they did not get to. For the next 4 days the teachers will meet by grade level or course and look at the start of the new year. What are the standards of competency? What is missing and how to plan for introducing it next year? Spend time identifying what we need. On June 9 and June 10 the staff will have 2 PD days led by teachers. They will work on google classroom, google docs, wellness, workshops and more. The summer will be very rich and busy. We will start to play out all of the different scenarios for next year. **B. Tatro offered a round of applause for J. Rathbun's recognition at the State Level. Congratulations!!** J. Rathbun was asked about accessing some of the programs over the summer. He is looking at that right now. He said there will be things available during the summer. Lynn Lyons will be presenting to our staff regarding anxiety and wellness. He said the District is taking this very seriously.

a. Remote Learning by the Numbers: L. Witte presented numbers to the Board and what they represent since Remote Learning began. She said 4108 represents the number of Zoom Meetings, 12,797 represents the number of visits to Google Classroom for less than one week, 22,314 represents the number of meals provided to students and as of yesterday there have been 865,777 minutes in Zoom Meetings.

2. Federal Grants: J. Rathbun explained it is a requirement for the administration to notify the Board on the Federal Grants the District receives. Title One is the biggest grant and it is based on free and reduced lunch. This grant helps students to have the same access as all students. Title Two is for teacher professional development. The funds will be used for new teacher mentors training and to rewrite the plan. Title 4A is a new grant for items that the District would like to have but are not in the budget. It has been used to purchase forensic microscopes, forensic light kits and aquariums. Title 4B is a low income grant for After School Programs. Title 5 is to help with the other grants. J. Rathbun explained the purpose of the comprehensive needs assessment. He said any funds spent need to be directly related to the individual grant. He needs to show that information. K. Wheeler asked about Title 1 funds to Gilsum. J. Rathbun explained Gilsum does not receive grant funds from Title 1 but does receive other grant funds. He also explained there is no correlation between Before & After School Programs and receiving funds from Title 1.

3. Update on Special Education Services: C. Woods explained they have not received advice or guidance from the State regarding ESY. The team has decided to extend ESY to 7 weeks. Typically, it is 4 weeks, 12 days in person. There will also be 7 weeks of Related Services available. They are working with the Dept. of Education. The staff will be Special Ed. teachers, qualified instructors and licensed Related Service staff.

4. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

- 1. Review Seniors by Towns**
- 2. Second Read on Policies**
- 3. Options for Summer Education** (B. Bohannon asked if there are any options for continued education throughout the summer. He would be in support of this idea)

K. Wheeler would like the chromebooks to be available to the students throughout the summer. To help continue their studies.

K. Wheeler would like information on the meals throughout the summer for schools besides Troy and Cutler and ways to get the meals to the other towns. J. Morin explained Troy and Cutler will have the Seamless Summer Option due to their free and reduced numbers. She suggested K. Wheeler contact T. Walsh at Nutrition Services. J. Morin explained the Seamless Summer Option does not have anything to do with the Before or After School Program.

5. Public Comments: M. Szymcik thanked the Board and the administration for the fleece jackets presented to all of the staff for Teacher Appreciation Day. (The staff drove through to pick up their gift)

6. MOTION TO ENTER NON-PUBLIC SESSION: MOTION: C. Toomey **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA91-A:3, II (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 11.665/0/0/1.335. **Motion passes.**

7. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 11.665/0/0/1.335. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY: Yes/No/Abstain/Absent