

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2020 (corrected 4/7/2020)
Wilcox and Zoom (On-Line), Swanzey, NH

Members Present: Kristen Noonan, Nicholas Mosher, Brian Bohannon, Lisa Steadman, Colleen Toomey, Scott Peters, Eric Stanley, Betty Tatro, Dan LeClair, Michelle Connor and Karen Wheeler **Absent:** Winston Wright and Vacant Seat for Swanzey.

Administration Present: L. Witte, Superintendent, J. Rathbun, Director of Curriculum 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:** L. Witte opened the meeting at 7:06 PM.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no Public Comments.

3. **MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:**

a. **Election of School Board Officers:**

i. **Board Chair and Vice Chair:** L. Witte accepted nominations for Board Chair. **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to nominate S. Peters for Board Chair. **SECOND:** L. Steadman. **MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to nominate B. Bohannon. **SECOND:** Fails for lack of second. **MOTION:** K. Wheeler **MOVED** to nominate L. Steadman for Board Chair **SECOND:** M. Connor **DISCUSSION:** L. Steadman explained she had asked S. Peters to run for Board Chair. He is very tech savvy. She has less time and it is crazy with her kids and school at the moment. She said S. Peters would be a good Chair. **VOTE:** 8.431/0/1.211/3.358. **Motion passes S. Peters Board Chair. S. Peters mentioned this meeting is being recorded and we are not using the Chat function. S. Peters takes over the meeting.** S. Peters asked for nominations for Vice Chair. **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to nominate L. Steadman for Vice Chair. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 9.429/0/.213/3.358. **Motion passes. S. Peters explained we were obligated to make public space available for the meeting. We have opened Wilcox with limited space.**

ii. **SAU Treasurer and Secretary:** **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to table the motion on the SAU Treasurer and Secretary until the next meeting. **VOTE:** 9.429/0/.213/3.358. **Motion passes.**

b. **Emergency Board Meeting Electronic Training:** L. Witte explained the original order, a recommendation that groups be limited and social distancing. It is difficult with a 13-member Board. The Governor declared a State of Emergency and all meetings forward can be remote. We have public space, phone access and zoom which is considered law. Anything

through Chat would be of public record and cannot occur. We are legal in our process and how we are proceeding. L. Steadman said in the future we do not have to open up Wilcox. There were a few glitches with Zoom but were able to be fixed. L. Witte explained W Wright was having trouble getting on the phone. K. Wheeler is concerned everyone is not able to attend. S. Peters explained Zoom to the members in order to participate.

c. Proposed Board Meeting Time/Dates/Standard Snow Dates: S. Peters explained we are not going to set a calendar he would like input from the members to give to the administration. K. Wheeler would like to discuss school vacations and election days. L. Steadman mentioned the Swanzey Deliberative Session on a Board Meeting Day and to bring it to the attention of the Swanzey rep. S. Peters would like the Board Members to send suggestions to the administration and himself by Monday. L. Steadman will send the old calendar to the members.

d. Evaluate Standing Committees (Policy BDE): S. Peters explained the members will look at the committees, suggest what they would like to be on and the Chair will appoint. K. Wheeler wants to stay on the Wellness Committee but has no time for another committee. She said W. Wright wanted to be on the Finance and Facilities Committees. S. Peters said W. Wright also wanted to be on the Policy Committee. K. Noonan would like to stay on the Policy Committee and CRC only if needed. B. Tatro would like to be on the Finance Committee, CRC and ECC. **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to re-established the Education Committee. **SECOND:** K. Noonan **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher is concerned that the information is almost untimely when it gets to the Board. Reduce the timeliness to the Board. S. Peters commented we have matured as a Board and J. Rathbun has delivered timed updates. There are detailed elements that the committee can discuss. It was suggested to combine the Education Committee with the Technology Committee. **B. Tatro and K. Noonan took it as a friendly motion.** N. Mosher asked if the information is going to go directly to the Board. He does not want to be on the committee that is why he wants it to go directly to the Board. He will not be able to be on any committees. D. LeClair would consider being on the CRC and Education/Tech Committee. **MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to table the vote on the Education/Technology Committee. **SECOND:** D. LeClair. **VOTE:** 7.551/0.970/4.479. **Motion passes. (C. Toomey missing from vote).** L. Witte asked the function of the committees. We had combined the committees because what was done at the committee again happened at the Board level. We need a clear understanding of the functions of the committees. N. Mosher said he was in favor of an Ad Hoc Committee with a specific task. The administration was attending too many meetings. K. Noonan said the comments are sort of insulting. The committees have done a lot. She is on 3 committees. K. Wheeler said people do not know the amount of work done at the committee level. S. Peters said every committee has a Charter and should review it at their first meeting. N. Mosher said it is not necessarily the work and time spent, it is the outcome with no results. L. Witte asked if there was a committee that could take a break. The Policy Committee has done incredible work and deserve a public commendation. The ECC has done a lot of work but might be able to take a break. L. Steadman suggested the Finance Committee meeting prior to the Board Meeting and she would be able to attend. **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to deactivate the ECC for now. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 8.521/0.112/3.358. **Motion passes. MOTION:** K. Wheeler **MOVED** to combine the Finance Committee and the Facilities Committee from March 2020 to March 2021. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** K. Wheeler said it is a good idea to combine

but to have an odd number of members on the committee. B. Tatro commented on the fact L. Steadman had said it was a good idea to have the Finance Committee meet prior to the Board Meeting and with the two committees combined there would not be enough time. E. Stanley said having the two separate committees last year was a good idea last year. **VOTE:** .757/4.239/4.646/3.358. **Motion fails.** M. Connor said she would pass on any committee because she is not familiar with them but would join if there was a need. S. Peters said we need participants and reviewing the Committee Charter may help. He would ask M. Connor to review the Charters and give her input to what committees she would be interested in. B. Tatro mentioned negotiations will be happening next year. There are 3 contracts. N. Mosher mentioned the committees do not have to do what is on the Charters, each committee can change the Charter and bring it to the Board for approval. S. Peters mentioned W. Wright is interested in Negotiations. C. Toomey is interested in Policy and Facilities. E. Stanley would like to be on Facilities. L. Steadman would like to be on Finance, Negotiations and Policy. K. Wheeler for Facilities. K. Noonan would like to be on Negotiations. S. Peters commented D. LeClair would like to be on the Education/Technology Committee but there is no one else. B. Tatro suggested Ed/Tech as an Ad Hoc Committee. S. Peters said this information will help him appoint members to the individual committees for the next meeting.

e. **2020/21 School Calendar:** The school calendar was in the Board packet. It was explained the 2020-2021 School Calendar follows the Keene School Calendar. Our students attend school 176 days and our teachers work 188 days. **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to accept the 2020-2021 School Calendar as presented. **SECOND:** L. Steadman **DISCUSSION:** There was a concern regarding voting taking place at the Gilsum School and the children in attendance. L. Witte explained the students can be segregated. K. Wheeler would like to have all voting days off. L. Witte explained that if you did that graduation would be the third week in June. J. Rathbun explained April vacation was not marked correctly. We will fix it and it does line up with Keene's April vacation. **VOTE:** 7.674/1.968/0/3.358. **Motion passes.** N. Mosher feels that the calendar needs to be approved again because of the April vacation being mismarked. S. Peters said that is a clerical error and will be corrected. The motion passed.

f. **School Resource Officer:** L. Witte explained the Default budget was passed by the voters. The petitioned warrant article regarding the SRO failed, it is non-binding and advisory only. She explained the SRO can be found in the Default budget. She would ask the Board for direction. L. Steadman asked what we would sacrifice for this position. B. Tatro mentioned the Town of Swanzey approved their portion of the SRO. **B. Bohannon arrives.** **MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to remove the addition of the Swanzey Police Officer from the budget. **SECOND:** D. LeClair. **DISCUSSION:** S. Peters asked what roles will need to be reduced. L. Witte said there were also stipends and a guidance counselor in the proposed budget. We are discussing the SRO because it was the Board's top item. We need direction on this issue. J. Morin explained if the SRO is factored in the funds will have to be cut somewhere else. **VOTE:** 4.288/5.478/.998/2.236. **Motion fails.** L. Witte said that will give the Board direction. N. Mosher asked what will be cut. L. Witte said the administration will work on it soon. We have this crisis. N. Mosher asked for the discussion on the cuts in the future.

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

a. **Board Chair Report:**

i. **Board Member Contact Information:** S. Peters asked the Board Members to update their contact information to the SAU office.

ii. **NHSBA New Board Member Orientation:** NHSBA training is canceled until June.

iii. **NHSBA Special Education Training 4/13 Concord:** NHSBA training is canceled until June. *K. Wheeler leaves the meeting.* L. Steadman explained some of the NHSBA trainings are very interesting. S. Peters asked for the School Board Members to participate in webinars each month and bring back the information to the Board.

iv. **Review Voting Results:** The Board had received the voting results in their packets. He asked if there were any questions. N. Mosher commented on the timing of receiving the results. He said the paper had the information before it was on the web site.

v. **Vacant Swanzeey Seat:** L. Steadman explained she had received a letter of resignation from R. Colbert. The Swanzeey Board Members need to move forward and select a new Swanzeey Board Member. B. Bohannon said he had spoken to Cheryl McDaniel-Thomas. S. Peters said the Swanzeey Board Members should discuss among themselves and bring the information to the District Clerk. L. Witte explained the district has not done a public post. S. Peters said we will post for 5 days' tomorrow. This is a practice not a requirement. B. Bohannon said in his opinion if we can all agree there is no need to meet.

vi. **Signing the Manifest:** J. Morin explained the manifest needs to be signed by two people. This is how we proceed in the summer with the manifest. B. Bohannon will volunteer to sign the manifest. S. Peters explained Norita will email the manifest for the members to view prior to the Meeting. We are required to vote on the manifest at the Board Meeting. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to delegate B. Bohannon and B. Tatro to sign the manifest every other week. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **VOTE:** 8.885/0/0/4.115. **B. Tatro missing from vote. Motion passes.**

b. Operations/Superintendent's Report:

i. **COVID-19 and Remote Learning Update:** L. Witte explained what the staff and educators have been able to do has been amazing. Everyone has come together. People do feel stressed trying to balance all of the challenges. They have stepped up and gone above and beyond. Gomarlos has donated 300 dozen eggs. A carton for each family picking up or having lunch dropped off. Everything is going as well as expected. On April 3, 2020 this is the re-evaluation date. There is a real possibility that this will continue. N. Mosher said it is great what you have done in a short amount of time. It is nice the teachers keep in contact with the students. If this continues it would be nice to have face to face remote teaching down the road. L. Witte explained we are focusing on maintaining connection for kids, social and emotional. We are not able to have face to face because some students do not have computers. No district in the State is able to give total online learning. There are inequities. E. Stanley said the Vice President commented on what a good job NH is doing in regards to the schools. K. Noonan commented it is very difficult for 3 people to be on the internet at the same time living in Fitzwilliam. B. Bohannon explained it is a challenge with multiple people being on the internet at the same time. It was asked what is the game plan if this continues. L. Witte explained at this time, we had not begun to plan for that. We have been told April 3, 2020 re-evaluate. We need to have those conversations but right now we have a lot of questions about the report card process. Right now

we need to connect with kids. Some kids will not be able to keep up from home. We have not had these questions with the full team. L. Steadman asked if the district is still remote learning over April vacation. B. Bohannon said April 3, 2020 is a dream. Be prepared closer to Easter.

ii. **MRMHS Technology Project Update:** J. Morin explained the bids for the project were opened on March 5, 2020. We had budgeted for \$850,000.00 and the bid came in for 1.3 million. We were taken by surprise. We discussed why the bids were so high and it was commented all projects are 50%-80% higher because of the construction costs and the demand of subcontractors. We have a budget and cannot absorb the overage. We will go back to the drawing board. We have until June 2022. She said it might make sense to put the modular project and the tech project together. E. Stanley does not think we should put it on hold. J. Morin explained we could go out to bid again.

iii. **VEX Sidebar Agreement with MDEA:** L. Witte explained there is no need for the Board's approval. It is to keep the Board informed. This is a schedule change and a written agreement for next year. This will expire at the end of the academic year for 2020-2021.

c. **Policies:** The Board packet contained 8 policies for a first read. The Board will vote at the next Board Meeting per policy. The following policies are for the first read: Policy IKFG-Career Readiness, Policy BDA-R-Recurring Motions, Policy BEDG-Minutes, Policy IHCD/LEB-Advanced Coursework, Policy IGD-Co-Curricular & Extracurricular Programs, Policy JJE-Student Fundraising Activities, Policy JLCFA-Feminine Hygiene Products and Policy BBAB-Responsibility of Chair.

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. **March 3, 2019 Minutes: MOTION:** C. Toomey **MOVED** to approve the March 3, 2020 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon **VOTE:** 8.932/0/1.074/2.993. **Motion passes.**

b. **March 3, 2020 Non-Public Minutes: MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to approve the 2 sets of March 3, 2020 Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **VOTE:** 7.810/0/2.197/2.993. **Motion passes.**

c. **Manifest: MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** the manifest in the amount of \$1,053,189.81 based on Norita's email. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 10.007/0/0/2.993. **Motion passes.**

6. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

1. **COVID-19 Update**
2. **Committee Assignments**
3. **Board Goals**
4. **Nomination of Certified Staff**
5. **Committee Review-Options**
6. **SRO Budget**
7. **Update Remote Learning**
8. **Special Education Students**

7. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no Public Comments.

8. **9:56 PM NON-PUBLIC SESSION: MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to enter into a Non-public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a) The compensation of any public employee.
SECOND: B. Tatro **VOTE:** 10.007/0/0/2.993. **Motion passes.**

9. **ADJOURNMENT: MOTION:** C. Toomey **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 10:37 PM. **SECOND:** N. Mosher **VOTE:** 10.007/0/0/2.993. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary