

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2020
Monadnock Regional MSHS, Swanzey, NH

Members Present: Winston Wright, Scott Peters, Colleen Toomey, Brian Bohannon, Lisa Steadman, Betty Tatro, Neil Moriarty, Eric Stanley, Nicholas Mosher, Kristen Noonan and Rob Colbert **Absent:** Karen Wheeler and Kristie Wilder

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. Public Comments: Marcia Levesque and Donna Chase of the Marlow Community Advocacy Group are here to invite the Board to attend a presentation on March 5. The presenters are John Tobin and Doug Hall. They will be discussing School Funding and Property Taxes 101. *C. Toomey arrives.*

N. Moriarty mentioned the dinner MESSA wanted to put on for the Board. He said when he was on the Board years ago all of the Unions were invited for a Christmas party and the Board took care of the tab. It was a good thing.

E. Stanley reported Keene, Monadnock and Fall Mtn. will participate in Red at the Rink. This fundraiser will benefit the Boston Children’s Hospital in which Spencer Harrington received a new heart and now is able to play hockey. The game is Wednesday at 7:00 PM. Everyone wear red.

2. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. Policies (Second Read)

- i. IA-Instructional Goals: MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to retire Policy IA. **SECOND:** R. Colbert **DISCUSSION:** S. Peters explained the rationale. N. Moriarty would like to add teach kids daily finance. L. Steadman explained we are retiring the policy. **VOTE:** N. Moriarty-abstain, N. Mosher-abstain, remaining members yes. **Motion passes.**
- ii. JIA-Student Due Process Rights: MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to update Policy JIA to include the sample paragraph provided by NHSBA regarding students with disabilities. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **DISCUSSION:** S. Peters explained we are adding language for students with disabilities. **VOTE:** 10/0/0/3 **Motion passes.**
- iii. JIHD-Student: MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to adopt Policy JIHD with the current NHSBA sample with edits from administration. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** S. Peters reported we do not have this policy on our books. L. Witte explained the process when child abuse is suspected. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**
- iv. AC-Non-Discrimination: MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to update Policy AC with the current NHSBA sample with edits from committee and to retire Policy GBA. **SECOND:** K. Noonan **VOTE:** 9.787/0/.213/3. **Motion passes. (R. Colbert Missing from vote)**

- b. Kiwanis Grant-Project Linus: MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to receive the Kiwanis Grant for Project Linus. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **VOTE:** 10/0/0/3. **Motion passes.**

3. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

a. Board Chair Report:

- i. Review schedule of remaining committee meetings:** L. Steadman explained the Board Meeting is on February 18. What can the Board do to get the work out about the Feasibility Study results? K. Noonan explained the CRC will be scheduling listening sessions. B. Bohannon suggested taking out a radio ad. It is money well spent. K. Noonan does

not feel good about spending money on a radio ad. The Facilities and the Finance Committee have not met. L. Witte explained the CRC may only be able to schedule the Monadnock Listening Session. After discussion the CRC, Finance and Facilities will meet on Feb. 11, 2020 at 6:30 PM.

ii. Delegate Assembly Overview: L. Steadman explained the Delegate Assembly went well. Rochester School Board was named Board of the Year. They spoke about their Math program and an assessment which follows the child each year which in turn will allow the administration to compare the results. They have a program called Pathways for Students. This program allows 10 classes to learn at their own pace. Our proposal to the Delegate Assembly passed unanimously. It will be a resolution. If the resolution stays for 3 years, it will become a NHSBA policy.

iii. Candidate Filing: L. Steadman reported there are many open seats. She would encourage people to run.

b. Operations/Superintendent's Report:

i. CCC Schedule: L. Witte explained the District will be going to arbitration on Monday of next week.

L. Witte reported she has heard nothing regarding the Carpenter House. R. Colbert commented this could be problematic in regards to the feasibility study. It was explained the Letter of Intent states the District will close the Wilcox Building, the SAU and move to the Carpenter House. L. Witte explained there is no lease and no rent for the Carpenter House and also it is ADA complaint. N. Mosher would suggest coming up with a figure for the savings. J. Rathbun explained we have not had any notification that we are in.

ii. Legal expenses on Funding Lawsuit: L. Witte explained the District has spent \$16,407.76 on legal fees which is Monadnock's portion regarding the Funding Lawsuit. She explained there are other districts that are interested in joining the lawsuit.

iii. Technical Education Expansion: L. Witte explained D. LaPointe, J. Morin, L. Spencer and the team of teachers have met with H.L. Turner about the design of the

Tech. Ed. Expansion. The invitation to bid will begin Feb. 27, 2020 and construction should begin on April 1, 2020.

iv. **Other:** The Annual Health and Wellness Fair is coming up.

There is no need for a non-public session.

L. Witte will be attending the National Conference of Superintendents on Wednesday and will be returning on Sunday.

c. **Policies:**

i. **BAA-Annual School Board Evaluation:** L. Steadman explained Policy BAA has been on the books for 20 years. She is not sure if this policy has been used. W. Wright said it was done 2 times. S. Peters suggested the NHSBA sample policy and add a section for the Board goals. He would suggest the Board Members fill it out, send it back and possibly put together a schedule of events in policy. S. Peters will send it to the Board Members and he would ask the Board Members to send them back to him.

d. **Education:**

i. **Parent Engagement:** J. Rathbun asked the question of why people attend the 7th and 8th grade conferences. He spoke to L. Spencer and she said it was a change in the date of Step Up Night to earlier in the year. Information was given to the parents and they wanted to attend the conferences. It showed that parents are intimidated by speaking to a group of teachers. We want parents to learn what we are concerned about. We are working with Lieutenant Roussio regarding a parent information night about social media. We want parents to become involved and have a partnership with the Police Dept. R. Colbert asked why the parents are disappearing at the high school level. J. Rathbun explained if their kids are not smart or in sports they do not attend. E. Stanley suggested a high school PTA. Keep the parents involved. What about a Monadnock Facebook Page? R. Colbert suggested a parent convention with different sections that they would think are important to them. J. Rathbun again explained the parents were not able to go to the Step Up Night so they attended the conference instead.

4. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. January 21 2020 School Board Meeting Minutes: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the January 21, 2020 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented.

SECOND: W. Wright **VOTE:** 10/0/0/3. **Motion passes.** *N. Moriarty leaves.*

b. Manifest: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of \$2,711,341.43 **SECOND:** Bohannon **VOTE:** 10.047/0/0/2.953. **Motion passes.**

5. Setting Next Agenda:

- 1. Gilsum Spotlight-1st Meeting in March**
- 2. School Safety Preparedness**
- 3. Board Evaluation**
- 4. Data Report**
- 5. Meeting with Budget Committee more frequently**

6. Public Comments: M. Szymcik reported the 6thgraders in her class will be interviewing and casting Monadnock staff for their POD Cast.

W. Wright explained the Fitzwilliam Fire Chief reported the students had a fire drill. The students were orderly and did a wonderful job. Everything went according to plan. Great accomplishment.

7. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM. **SECOND:** N. Mosher **VOTE:** 10.047/0/0/2.953. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis

Recording Secretary