

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2020
Monadnock Regional MSHS, Swanzey, NH

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

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.”

S.Peters will be running the meeting tonight.

1. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Amend Agenda: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to change the agenda and revisit Article One.

SECOND: B. Bohannon. **VOTE:** 6.469/0/.213/6.318. **Motion passes.** The Default information was provided to the Board. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to not support the \$32,970,000.00

Budget Committee proposed budget. **SECOND:** K. Noonan **DISCUSSION:** L. Witte explained

the administrative team discussed how to reach the Budget Committee’s proposed number. The

Budget Committee’s number is 1.119 million less than the Board’s proposed budget. The

administration would have to cut the SRO, guidance counselor, academic stipends, extra-

curricular stipends, 6 certified staff, reduce transportation by \$61,681.00 and Special Ed. by

\$170,000.00. There is a Special Education Expendable Trust for extraordinary issues. S. Peters

commented this is the first flush and a dramatic reaction. L. Witte explained the administration

worked hard to reduce class size. We are working hard to preserve that. This is the very first pass.

J. Morin explained the suggested increase in transportation was 9% because the bus drivers would

be expecting a raise. The administration is working with other districts to get the transportation

cost lowered. This is why it is suggested to reduce transportation. K. Noonan commented the

proposed budget number could be changed at the Deliberative Session. **VOTE:** 8.925/0/0/4.075.

Motion passes.

2. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. Approve Draft Warrant Articles in Plain English: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve Article One in plain English. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher commented you need to explain the article as written. We should explain the budget at the Deliberative Session. K. Noonan explained the CRC did not present the articles in plain English until after the Deliberative Session. **MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to table the approval of the Articles in Plain English until after the Deliberative Session. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 8.925/0/0/4.075. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to accept the entire batch of Warrant Articles in Plain English (except Article One) with the red line edits. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 8.712/0/.213/4.075. **Motion passes.**

b. Authorize CRC to Amend Warrant Articles in Plain English Post-Deliberative Session: MOTION: K.Noonan **MOVED** to authorize the CRC to amend the warrant articles in plain English post-Deliberative Session. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **VOTE:** 9.834/0/.213/2.953. **Motion passes.**

c. Appoint Representation and Alternate for NHSBA Delegate Assembly: MOTION: K.Noonan **MOVED** to nominate L. Steadman as the representative to the NHSBA Delegate Assembly, **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 8.925/0/0/4.075. **Motion passes.**

d. Board Position on Proposed Resolutions: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to support the NHSBA recommendation on Resolution #6. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 8.925/0/0/4.075. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to support the NHSBA recommendation on Resolution #7. **SECOND:** B. Tatro to support the NHSBA recommendation **VOTE:** 8.925/0/0/4.075. **Motion passes.** **Resolution #8 is the Board's resolution and the Board has already voted on it.** **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to support the NHSBA recommendation on Resolution #9. **SECOND:** K. Wilder. **VOTE:** 7.810/0/1.115/4.075. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to support the NHSBA recommendation on Resolution #10. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **R. Colbert arrives.** **VOTE:** 6.716/2.210/1.122/2.953. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to support Resolution #11 as submitted by the Keene School Board. **SECOND:** L. Steadman. **VOTE:** 3.331/5.594/1.122/2.953. **Motion fails.**

3. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

a. Board Chair Report:

i. Open Board, Budget and Moderator Seats: L. Steadman reported on the open seats on the different committees.

ii. Delegate Assembly Sat. 1/25:

iii. Warrant Draft/Petitioned Articles: The Warrant Draft and petitioned articles are in the packet.

iv. Deliberative 2/1 at 9 AM: The Board, the Budget Committee and the administration will be meeting at 9:00 AM. The Deliberative Session with the public will be meeting at 10:00 AM.

v. Budget Committee Recap: It was explained the Public Hearing and meeting to follow were fine and professional. The Budget Committee agreed on a \$32,970,000.00 proposed budget. S. Peters read the SRO petitioned warrant article. It is advisory only.

b. Operations/Superintendent's Report:

i. Carpenter House: J. Rathbun explained he had D. LaPointe looked at the Carpenter House. We are ready to send a letter of intent if it is the wishes of the Board. The State has to approve the use of the building. The Town of Swanzey would not have access to the building due to the confidential information. The Selectmen manage the Trust in accordance to the Trust. The Selectmen will make the decision. There is no cost difference between the Carpenter House and not using the Wilcox Building and the SAU. The advantage is ADA accessibility, security and all staff will be together instead of in 3 different buildings. The IT building will be used for student suspension. J. Rathbun explained the first step is the letter of intent. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to endorse a Letter of Intent for the Carpenter House. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** R. Colbert would suggest the attorney review the Trust. J. Rathbun explained you cannot change the footprint or the overall look. The funds in the Trust take care of the building. **VOTE:** 10.047/0/0/2.953. **Motion passes.**

ii. Planting Husky Pride Grant Notification: The MS/HS will be receiving \$1000.00 from the Planting Husky Pride Grant. A letter of thanks will be sent.

iii. Cheshire Career Center Injunction and Arbitration Update: L. Witte explained the Judge denied the injunction. A motion to reconsider was brought forward today. Arbitration is set for March. There is no other update. We will not be able to send kids to Block 1 and Block 4. We do not feel 2 blocks are sufficient. We have a lot of unanswered questions. SAU 29 has information on our students and we have not had a response. If we wanted to look at

other options, there would be no time for the next school year. There is a need for an injunction. S. Peters asked when is the deadline to say no CCC. L. Witte is not sure of the drop dead date. The students will have to select other courses. L. Witte explained L. Spencer and J. Rathbun will be attending a meeting next week along with Keene members and Fall Mtn. representatives. She is not sure of the amount of students almost done with their program. She is not sure what is being directed to the parents.

MOTION: N. Mosher **MOVED** to approve the field trip for the annual Key Club Leadership Conference in Springfield, Mass. on April 3-April 5, 2020. **SECOND:** C. Toomey **VOTE:** 10.047/0/0/2.953. **Motion passes.**

It was explained the MESSA group would like to have a dinner for the School Board prior to the first meeting in March. B. Bohannon respects the offer but will decline. We negotiate with this group. He is not comfortable. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to accept the offer from the MESSA group and attend the dinner. **SECOND:** K. Noonan **DISCUSSION:** It was reported this is not a negotiating year. L. Steadman explained it is for this Board not future board's. N. Mosher would like to maintain professional separation. S. Peters felt it is awesome and we should break bread with more groups. **VOTE:** 8.712/1.335/0/2.953. **Motion passes.**

There is no need for a non-public session. There is a notification in the packet.

c. Policies: (First Read)

i. IA-Instructional Goals:

ii. JIA-Student Due Process Rights:

iii. JIHD-Student Interview:

iv. AC-Non-Discrimination: The four listed policies are in the Board packet

as a first read.

d. Board Goals Check-In:

i. State Education Funding: The Board was updated on the status of the State funding for education at the Supreme Court level. R. Colbert asked the ceiling cost for the lawsuit. L. Witte explained the Board has \$125,000.00 in that budget line. Conval, Monadnock and Winchester all pay a percentage of the cost. R. Colbert supports the efforts but would like to know the cost so far.

ii. Student Growth: J. Rathbun reported the students continue to improve not only academically but in culture and climate. The staff has had training in neglect and abuse of students. Class size has been reduced. We do not have the State data yet. We are identifying before it is too disruptive. We are reporting on improvement in a new way and it needs to be

tweaked. The NH Statewide Assessment results will be back at the end of the school year. L. Steadman thanked the administration for the smaller classrooms. B. Bohannon asked how do we know what we are doing is making a difference. J. Rathbun commented we may never know. If we are perfect, we are out of date. There are less suspensions, we are making progress. He explained we were not getting good data. We looked at smaller class size. There is no way to report on hard data each meeting. What we were doing was not working. S. Peters commented we have had 2 passes of the dashboard data. This is the first year. It can feel we are not discussing it but it is a building year. We will receive the dashboard information again at the 2nd meeting in February. B. Bohannon is concerned that we will never know if what we are doing is working. J. Rathbun explained unless there is a special assessment we will not have that information. A lot of people have a different measure of what is working. N. Mosher appreciates the report given out. There has to be some measurable metric. He wants to see that his child is making academic achievements. S. Peters commented we have 3 meetings to achieve our goals. The Board is not satisfied with the Student growth this year. L. Steadman said she is satisfied with Student growth; an issue we have torn apart. R. Colbert commented we have a \$32,000,000.00 budget; we do not want to judge job performance on one test. We need to see if the Superintendent and her staff are delivering education. We need to measure without the fluff. C. Toomey commented it is only January and to give it more time. It is a new process. L. Witte commented we looked at the data. Where is the discrepancy, K-6, 7-8 or 9-12. K-6 is standard based. The MS is traditional. We are moving K-12 standard based. The report card data is totally different. There are smaller class sizes. We do not have the data but we have seen improvement in student behavior. S. Peters is encouraged but the process but not the Student Growth Goal. S. Peters commented on the lack of an Education Committee and said the Board may want to take a look at that. N. Mosher commented the committee was moved to the entire Board. B. Bohannon is okay with measuring something different but what is the measurement. J. Rathbun is not sure what you want. The assessments stress kids out. He would like to know what the Board wants measured. This is the 100th conversation about what the Board wants. S. Peters said do not let the 2 members speak only. R. Colbert said he Board oversees the Superintendent and the Superintendent oversees the staff.

iii. Capital Improvement: L. Steadman mentioned the Feasibility Study. R. Colbert asked about the renovations in the Industrial Arts area. L. Witte explained there have been many meetings and we are on track for this summer. W. Wright mentioned the Capital Improvement Plan. S. Peters asked what is our 5-year plan if the results of the Feasibility Study

fails. It was commented we definitely need to look at a CIP. R. Colbert commented the Facilities should look at the CIP and include maintenance, track and paving. B. Bohannon agrees they should be on the list of the CIP. S. Peters explained there is policy and process to approve the Education Plan. We have a cycle. Come up with a cycle for review for the CIP.

e. Elementary Consolidation Fact Sheet and Website: It was explained the information on the elementary school's consolidation is on the web site. There are links for the history, reports, projected data and a timeline. She will update the website when new information becomes available. B. Tatro said the CRC has been working on ways to let people know what is going on. L. Witte explained there will be a listening session at Monadnock which will be taped. B. Bohannon asked if we should discuss professional services. He said we may not get another chance to get this passed. It was commented if the \$250,000.00 passes, 100% use a professional for the bond vote.

f. Deliberative Session Logistics: The Board agreed to have the following Board Members speak to certain articles: B. Bohannon-Article One, K. Wheeler-Article Two, R. Colbert-Article 3, R. Colbert-Article 4, K. Noonan-Article 5, W. Wright-Article 6, E. Stanley-Article 7, E. Stanley-Article 8 and S. Peters-Article 9.

4. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. January 7, 2020 School Board Meeting Minutes: MOTION: W. Wright **MOVED** to approve the January 7, 2020 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon **VOTE:** 10.047/0/0/2.953. **Motion passes.**

b. January 7, 2020 Non-Public Meeting Minutes: MOTION: R. Colbert **MOVED** to approve the January 7, 2020, 9:45 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 10.047/0/0/2.953. **Motion passes.**

c. January 7, 2020 Sealed Non-Public Meeting Minutes: MOTION: R. Colbert **MOVED** to approve the January 7, 2020, 6:00 PM Sealed Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 10.047/0/0/2.953. **Motion passes.**

d. January 7, 2020 Sealed Non-Public Meeting Minutes: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the January 7, 2020, 9:48 PM Sealed Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** K. Wilder **VOTE:** 10.047/0/0/2.953. **Motion passes.**

e. **Manifest: MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of \$598,002.51 **SECOND:** K. Noonan **VOTE:** 10.047/0/0/2.953. **Motion passes.**

5. Setting Next Agenda:

- 1. Parent Engagement**
- 2. CCC**
- 3. Request from R. Colbert-Legal Fees**
- 4. Industrial Arts-Construction**
- 5. February Facilities Meeting**
- 6. Policy BAA**
- 7. Principal Update Gilsum or Troy**
- 8. Board Evaluation**
- 9. Update on Dashboard 2nd meeting in February**
- 10. Elementary School Reports-B. Bohannon.** J. Rathbun said he must have

misunderstood. There are no elementary comparisons. L. Witte explained the elementary teachers use the materials provided and will then use more of their own. They are not the same. Teachers go to school to learn to teach and will teach in different ways. The dashboard will be updated and presented next month.

6. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

7. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: N. Mosher **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 10:01 PM. **SECOND:** K. Noonan **VOTE:** 10.047/0/0/2.953. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis

Recording Secretary