

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2019
MRMHS Annex, Swanzey, NH

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

Administration Present: L. Witte, Superintendent, J. Rathbun, Director of Curriculum and Assessment and J. Morin, Business Administrator.

Also Present: L. Aivaliotis, Recording Secretary and Kyle Barker, Architect

“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: Olivia Stanley commented on how important and valuable AP course were to her. She said she had received college credit for the AP Courses she took at Monadnock.

S. Peters arrives.

N. Moriarty commented he has a petition to have the SRO on a separate warrant article. If anyone wants to sign it let him know.

2. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. Finance:

i. Warrant Articles: The committee reviewed Article One, the proposed budget and default. This article will be set by the Budget Committee. Article Two is for the removal of the temporaries at the MRMHS and to rebuild four classrooms. The amount of the article is 1.3 million dollars. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to accept Article Two as

written. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 7.597/1.075/1.115/3.213. **Motion passes.** The Board does not have the warrant articles in front of them so they will not be voting on them tonight.

b. Feasibility Study:

I. Options for Consideration: K. Barker handed out the report to the Board. The information includes assessments, recommendations and finances. He wants to make sure that every recommendation has a savings. There was one scenario that stood out, a north and south elementary school. He would recommend adding to MTC and renovate Troy for a newly renovated south school. It is the lowest cost and we would be reusing the existing space. By using the existing space, the District will gain more from the State than with any other option. There is a new rule from the State if any district had received funds from the State in the past 50 years their portion will be reduced but by using the existing property the district will receive more. Option 8 also receives extra points with the ranking for State Aid. It is a very competitive process. The State is happy to see the historic site being used. Fitzwilliam and Troy students as well as Swanzey students will be going to the south school. K. Barker said he is extremely confident that this project can be completed without disrupting the children. This is similar to the Wilton project. The construction time would be about 16 months. N. Moriarty said K. Barker did a great job on the study but he has a problem with the parking lot. K. Barker said the parking lot can be fixed. The transportation budget is very high. Troy is the most populated which might save on bussing. **R. Colbert arrives.** K. Barker said he does not have a favorite but the Troy option will save money. He said the parking lot would be separate for busses and cars. He explained old schools could be used for housing, businesses or the SAU offices. Even if you give the building away the town will still receive the tax on the property. He also felt there would be no trouble selling the schools because they are currently occupied and they have no contaminants. It was commented that it makes sense to close Gilsum. K. Barker said it is not viable to renovate. There would be no State Aid for any project in Gilsum due to the size of the school and number of students. It was commented to wait for a recommendation from Facilities. L. Steadman said Facilities has not met and we as a Board need to move ahead. **E. Stanley arrives.** E. Stanley commented Option 8 was presented at a School Board Meeting and Facilities has not discussed it or voted on it. K. Barker commented Option 8 was a positive option. C.

Toomey said the committee was leaning toward Option 7. We need to close Gilsum. We cannot close one and not the other. E. Stanley said to keep Gilsum open. **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** for the Board to pursue Option 5, a new south elementary school, add/renovations to MTC for a north elementary school. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **DISCUSSION:** R. Colbert said the Gilsum issue is a full Board issue. He is not comfortable with the Facilities Committee making the decision. N. Moriarty said it is a big mistake. Gilsum costs more money every day. B. Bohannon commented most of the students attending Gilsum are from Swanzey. The Facilities Chair has not been here for a few meetings. B. Tatro commented the CRC cannot promote without an option. B. Bohannon wants to go to the voters and tell them what we are doing and do it. S. Peters commented we picked Option 5 not Option 7 get the blueprints and the closing can happen at another time. J. Rathbun was asked for the opinion of L. Witte. L. Witte had explained this is a Board issue. This is in the Board's hands. K. Barker explained a building site is easier when we own it. If we do not have a site, we will not make the 2020 deadline. S. Peters asked if you could do the renovations in separate parts. K. Barker said yes but the funding would be different. **MOTION:** R. Colbert **MOVED** to amend the motion and leave the Gilsum issue until further discussion but to close Cutler, Emerson and Troy with Option 5. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 10.955/1.075/0/.970. **Motion passes.** L. Steadman would like to ask the administration to look at a site for a new school. R. Colbert would suggest the administration discuss site options with K. Barker. B. Bohannon commented it will cost 4 million dollars more not to build on the Troy site. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to keep in mind using the Troy or Fitzwilliam school property as an option for the new southern school. **SECOND:** R. Colbert. **DISCUSSION:** C. Toomey commented there would be a savings by using the site. B. Tatro commented financially aside you should have a fresh site. K. Barker explained he would let J. Morin know the new figure for Article 3 when using Option 5. **VOTE:** 10.909/1.112/0/.970 **Motion passes.**

3. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

a. Board Chair Report:

i. **Holiday Concert:** The Board Members who attended the Holiday Concert commented on how great it was and how high quality as well.

ii. Budget Hearing 1/16, Deliberative 2/1:

iii. **Other:** NHDI was at Fitzwilliam.

b. Operations/Superintendent's Report:

i. **Injury Report Statistics:** In the Board packet. Information Only.

ii. **Evaluation Documents:** In the Board packet. Information Only.

c. Policies: First Read:

i. **JICDAA/GBEBB-Employee/Student Relations:** S. Peters explained the rationale.

ii. **JICL/GBEF-Responsible Computer/Internet Use:** S. Peters explained the rationale.

iii. **GBCD-Background Checks:** S. Peters explained the rationale. J. Rathbun explained soon we will be doing live fingerprinting on site. The people running the machine will be trained.

d. Education:

i. **Parent Engagement:** J. Rathbun explained the technology today will allow us to contact with parents. We do have parents attend concerts, sporting events and parent conferences. Parent involvement is an issue. We have seniors who are not on track to graduate, we have contacted the parents and they do not care. Parents are allowing their students to leave school. Students are being disciplined for vaping and the parents do not care. That is another bigger discussion. B. Bohannon commented there are other districts that are dealing with these issues. What are they doing? J. Rathbun asked how do we let parents know there needs to be consequences. Maybe a policy and support from the School Board on an issue of signing out their kids. It was commented contact from teachers gets cut off after the 7th grade. J. Rathbun commented we need to have a discussion. S. Peters asked how do we keep the parents involved after the elementary years. B. Tatro commented it is structure. The problem is the elementary teachers have 20 students. In 7-12 grades the teacher will have 100 students. B. Bohannon commented he would not support putting anymore initiative on the staff. Why are the 7th and 8th grade parents showing up. This is a future topic.

ii. **Student Data Report:** J. Rathbun passed out information to the Board on the Student Data report. He explained the cohorts did not score proficient and he has asked the schools to create study groups and meeting for those students. Some students missed the test, some just had a bad test and others had other issues. This report has not been analyzed. He has asked the principals to look at this report. He has not reviewed it. This is based on summative and formative assessment. *N. Moriarty leaves.* We have made small classes to help. Forty percent of the students are socioeconomic disadvantaged. They do not score proficient. Twenty percent have learning disabilities. This is a constant moving target.

e. **Other Matters:**

i. **Carpenter House:** L. Witte reported the administrative team toured the Carpenter House. The space is awesome. The administration would like to locate the SAU and the Wilcox folks there. The Carpenter Trust will allow rent free as long as the building benefits the town. The operating cost is about \$27,000.00. The current SAU and Wilcox operating cost is about \$24,000.00. L. Witte will be having a more in depth conversation which could benefit the District. The State has to approve the use based application. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to ask the administration to engage in a non-binding conversation on what the interest in the Carpenter House might look like. **SECOND:** R. Colbert. **DISCUSSION:** K. Noonan asked why purchase a property when we are trying to get rid of schools. It was explained this is a lease. **VOTE:** K. Noonan-abstain and remaining members-yes. **Motion passes.** The administration had an idea of using the maintenance space for an area when students are suspended.

ii. **Cheshire Career Center:** L. Steadman explained there should be a ruling before the end of the year on the issue of the CCC. L. Witte is optimistic.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

a. **November 19, 2019 School Board Meeting Minutes:** **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to approve the November 19, 2019 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 8.719/0/2.236/2.045. **Motion passes.**

b. November 19, 2019 Non-Public Meeting Minutes: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to approve the November 19, 2019, 9:24 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 10.955/0/0/2.045. **Motion passes.**

c. November 19, 2019 Non-Public Meeting Minutes: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to approve the November 19, 2019, 9:27 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 10.955/0/0/2.045. **Motion passes.**

d. Manifest: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of \$1,144,258.76 **SECOND:** E. Stanley **VOTE:** 10.955/0/0/2.045. **Motion passes.**

5. Setting Next Agenda:

- 1. Warrant Articles**
- 2. Warrant Articles in plain English**
- 3. Program of Studies**
- 4. Operating Budget**
- 5. Update on Safety Drills**

6. Public Comments: The JV and Varsity teams raised \$2000.00 to help the homeless. The Hockey team held a toy drive.

7. 9:50PM Enter into Non-Public Session: MOTION: S. Peters **SECOND:** S. Peters. **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II (b) The hiring of any public employee. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 10.955/0/0/2.045. **Motion passes.**

8. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 PM. **SECOND:** W. Wright **VOTE:** 10.955/0/0/2.045. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis

Recording Secretary