Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2019
Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH

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

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: Student Government Rep. C. Wilder, Student Government President explained the committee has been discussing the student dress code. They presented to the administration. The committee is going through a lengthy process speech and interview to elect a vice president. The current vice president will become the president next year. They are asking the students to fill out a google form to let them know what they want to see in the school. Bring ideas to inspire. They are also discussing phones and language in the hallways.

2. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. Policies for Second Read:

i. JEBA-Early Entrance Into Kindergarten: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to adopt Policy JEBA with specified cutoff of November 1st. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **VOTE:** 10.804/0/0/2.197. **Motion passes.**

ii. **GBK-R-Employee Complaint Procedure: MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to retire Policy GBK-R and to instruct Administration to develop a single standard form to be included in the employee handbook. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **VOTE:** 10.590/0/.213/2.197. **Motion passes.**

b. Facilities:

i. **Engineering Quotes for MRMHS: MOTION:** K. Wheeler **MOVED** to accept the bid from H. L. Turner in the amount of $43,550.00 for architecture services for the shop area at the MS/HS. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **DISCUSSION:** K. Wheeler explained the Facilities Committee had received 2 bids and H. L. Turner had done work in the District before and D. LaPointe was very comfortable with the work they had done before. The other firm was K. Barker Architect. **VOTE:**10.804/0/0/2.197. **Motion passes.**

c. Finance:

i. **Warrant Articles: MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to discuss the Warrant Articles later in the meeting. **SECOND:** W.Wright. **VOTE:** 10.804/0/0/2.197. **Motion passes.**

3. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

a. Board Chair Report:

i. **Cheshire Career Center Letter:** L. Steadman gave the letter she sent to the Keene School Board to the Board Members. She attended a meeting of the Keene School Board in which a vote was taken to keep the start time. It passed 7-2. The next morning there was another meeting with the administration. L. Witte will update later in the meeting.

ii. **Policy Committee Membership: MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to allow C. Toomey to join the Policy Committee. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler. **VOTE:** 10.804/0/0/2.197. **Motion passes.**

iii. **Audit Questionnaire:** L. Steadman asked for the Board Members to respond to the Audit questionnaire.

b. Operations/Superintendent's Report:

i. Cheshire Career Center Time Change: L. Witte attended the meeting and the start time of the CCC will not change. Monadnock will not be able to use block 1 and block 4. Fall Mtn. also attended the meeting and shared their concerns as well. L.Witte explained she is seeking conflict counsel to see what the next steps would be. Currently, Monadnock and Keene have the same legal counsel. The CCC contract states any change in time has to be mutually agreed upon. It was not and there was no notice.

ii. Other: L. Witte explained Diane Hardy had a retirement party and would like to donate $2700.00 which she received at the party. **MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to accept the donation from Diane Harty in the amount of $2700.00 for music. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **VOTE:** 10.804/0/0/2.197. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to approve an overnight, out of state field trip to Quebec. **SECOND:** R. Colbert. **VOTE:** 10.804/0/0/2.197. **Motion passes.**

There is a need for 2 non-public sessions.

iii. Feasibility Study Presentation-Kyle Barker: K. Barker has been working on the feasibility study for a number of months. He passed out the report he prepared. It is a pretty sizable document containing a lot of data. The numbers presented may have small errors but the delta for the options are the same. This is a study. The deadline for the application is 2020. It is a tight deadline. The District will be ready to do that. K. Barker met with Amy Clark from the State. The funding is competitive. There are 30 projects. It will be a lot more competitive in the future. This is the opportunity to get in there first. If a District applies you stay on the list even if the State does not fund. When the funding finally becomes available you keep your spot. K. Barker explained the information on the report. The information includes code review, life safety codes, building codes, facilities assessment which identifies discrepancies, information from the H.L. Turner report, curriculum worksheet, number of required classrooms, cost for the renovations and projection for additions, bond cost analysis which is drilled to square footage on what it will cost and life cycle cost analysis. K. Barker explained he tried to calculate

all of the costs to make the cost accurate, he went back 10 years. He calculated the old buildings being taxed not sold. He was being very conservative. He said the schools in general are in better shape than he has seen thanks to the maintenance staff. The staff has taken pride in the schools. There is nothing that makes the schools unsafe. **Cutler** is a typical building for the age. It is historical and there have been 6 additions. In the end lots of exterior nooks and crannies that does not work. Wood frame, 3 story addition, no sense in the flow of traffic, not handicapped accessible in certain areas. The portable classrooms are not well constructed. This is the worst site in the District. The real problem is there is no way for additions. The fire lane is not legal, not enough space. **Emerson** suffers a lot like Cutler. There are open stairways, narrow corridors, the lower level should not be used, multiple additions the corridors are long and it has a poor layout. The wood frame is more residential not as durable. The bus and the parent pick up should be separate. It is very tight. Emerson's pipes for heating are exposed and antiquated. **Gilsum** is much smaller than the other schools. It has a lot of the same issues as the other schools. There are at least 3 or 4 additions. One classroom is 1000 sq. ft. with only one egress. The front entrance is located deep inside the school. It is so remote from where people enter. Gilsum is the worst due to where the principal's office is location. This is no way to see people coming and going. The building is a wood frame. There are a number of discrepancies. The bus and parent pick up is difficult to separate. He will look at the property line. **MTC.** has a lot of the same issues such as security but has received most of the attention over the years. We are using MTC as a model for the other schools. There are numerous additions. The school needs a gymnasium and the entrance is an issue. MTC is the largest site in the District being flat and open and easy for an addition. **Troy** is limited on three sides of the building. It is the original 3 story brick structure. The 1950's wing does not function well. The area between the addition has multiple issues. The site is challenging. It is a good 3 story historical building in desperate need of attention inside. The next step is to see how many students we should design for. The State will want back up data. There are 966 students and the enrollment projections are not any higher. The number to use will be 1000 students which gives us a buffer for projection. The demographics show the most populated area is Troy. K. Barker reviewed all of the options presented. The

Facilities Committee narrowed it to 3 options. The first option is for a new Troy/Emerson School, close Cutler and addition to MTC. The next option is a new south school and a new north school. The last option is a South school at the Troy site and additions to MTC bringing Cutler for a North school. K. Barker believes the renovations to Troy would be possible due to the multi-story building. It is viable and has a number of benefits. Three stories would be easy to heat. It is a historical building with a dense population. K. Barker discussed the cost with each option. The cost of the first option is around 30 million, option two is around 27 million and option 3 is around 23 million. The last option is the cheapest by building on the Troy site instead of new land. The State will reimburse 54% of the project. There is a different payback from the State. The State will reimburse upfront. It is an entirely different system but the amount of money available is less. The true cost is going out ten years. The last option is the least expensive and consolidates 5 schools into 2 schools. L. Witte explained if you are not on the list for the State you have no shot at all. She hopes that the Board will do something we need to get the plans going. **The SAU and Wilcox** are on the list of things to do. K. Barker explained the SAU and Wilcox are a very small piece of this plan. The SAU building has too many doors and levels. It may cost $400,000.00 at the most to rebuild. It will not change any of these options. K. Barker explained you will receive points with the State is you consolidate, use a historical structure and address life safety code issues. A District with financial needs will get higher priority and Monadnock is one of the highest and will receive 54% reimbursement. There are 2 or 3 other Districts with a higher rate. K. Barker was asked for his professional opinion. He said he would highly recommend 2 school Troy/Emerson on the Troy school and MTC with additions. There would be 2 schools and cost the least of all options. He did a project similar to this option and it worked well. The additions can absolutely be done while the kids are in school. The next step is to prepare a warrant for the design and engineering services. The application is due on July 1 and a letter of interest is due in January. K.Barker said closing Gilsum is a political issue. It was asked why not build at Emerson. K. Barker explained Troy is more central than Fitzwilliam and is located in a dense part of town which would save money on bussing. Troy is the best location.

R. Colbert commended K. Barker on the amount of work he has done. The depth of the information is remarkable. Thank you for a real good job.

iv. **Other: Warrant:** Article One is the proposed budget. Article Two is the removal of the temporary structures and to rebuild 4 classrooms in the amount of $1,130,000. Article Three is $300,000 for engineering and design services from K. Barker Architect. Article Four is in the amount of $275,000.00 to maintain the schools in the District. Article Five is a Special Education Expendable Trust for $1.00. Article Six is a request from the Trustees of the Trust Funds to close the 2009 School Bldg Capital Reserve Fund and transfer to another. Article Seven is in the amount of $50,000 to establish a District Vehicle Expendable Trust. Article Eight is to establish a School Grounds Expendable Trust Fund in the amount of $60,000. Article Nine is to retain year-end unassigned general funds. The Finance Committee is still deciding if they would like to have Article 7 and Article 8 raised and appropriated or come from the year-end surplus. Article Nine allows the District to keep part of the year-end surplus. Forty-two percent of the Districts in NH do retain part of their surplus.

4. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. November 5, 2019 School Board Meeting Minutes: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to approve the November 5, 2019 School Board Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 8.932/0/1.872/2.197. **Motion passes.**

b. November 5, 2019 Non-Public Meeting Minutes: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to approve the November 5, 2019 Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 8.932/0/1.872/2.197. **Motion passes.**

c. Manifest: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of $1,184,200.41 **SECOND:** R. Colbert **VOTE:** 10.804/0/0/2.197. **Motion passes.**

5. Setting Next Agenda:

1. Feasibility Study

2. **Warrant Articles**
3. **Education Report**
4. **Proposed Budget**
5. **CCC Update**
6. **SSO Part time**

6. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

7. 9:24 PM Enter into Non-Public Session: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-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:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 10.804/0/0/2.197. **Motion passes.**

8. 9:27 PM Enter into Non-Public Session: MOTION: K. Noonan **SECOND:** S. Peters. **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II (b) The hiring of any public employee. **SECOND:** S.Peters. **VOTE:**10.804/0/0/2.197. **Motion passes.**

9. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 PM. **SECOND:** N. Mosher **VOTE:** 10.804/0/0/2.197. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary