

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
November 5, 2019 (corrected 11/19/19)
Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH

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

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: There were no public comments.

2. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

a. Board Chair Report:

i. Budget Committee Partnership: L. Steadman reported S.Peters, L. Witte, J. Morin and herself met with W. Lechliden and A. Hopkins who were representing the Budget Committee. The meeting went well. She had a good feeling when she left.

ii. Supreme Court Oral Argument on Health Insurance Pool: The hearing will take place on November 20, 2019. This has been in court for 2 years. The judge voted in favor of the School District but there was than an appeal by the Union.

iii. Other: Gilsum will hold a Veterans Ceremony Program at 10:00 AM on Friday. Emerson will hold a Thanksgiving Meal, more details to come. *S.Peters arrives.*

3. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. Policies for Second Read:

i. GCI-Professional Staff Development Opportunities:

ii. GBEB-Educator/Staff Code of Ethics: It was suggested to add volunteers to this policy. S. Peters said the primary shift is not only for teachers but all staff. L. Witte explained the administration and Policy Committee will have to check the volunteer policies. It might be cleaner. S. Peters will bring this policy back to the Policy Committee and also review the volunteer policies.

iii. GBEAB-Mandatory Code of Conduct Reporting-

iv. JFABD-Education of Homeless Children and Unaccompanied Youth:

v. JFABE-Education of Children in Foster Care:

vi. JLF-Reporting Child Abuse/Neglect: MOTION: W. Wright MOVED to accept Policy GCI, GBEAB, JFABD, JFABE, GB and JFL as presented by the Policy Committee. **SECOND: B. Bohannon. VOTE: 9.794/0/.213/2.993. Motion passes.**

b. Operations/Superintendent's Report:

i. Fitzwilliam Selectmen Letter Response: The letter to the Fitzwilliam Selectmen was in the Board packet. Information only.

ii. SRO Cost Estimates: The SRO cost estimate was in the Board packet. This document has existed. The chief, lieutenant and L. Witte revised this document. It is similar to what you have seen. The MOU will come after the vote.

iii. Sample Administrator Evaluation: L. Witte provided the Board with a sample administrator evaluation in the Board packet. She will provide another sample evaluation for a future meeting. This will let the Board know what is being used.

iv. Cheshire Career Center Time Change Letter: L. Witte provided the letter she sent to KHS as well as the CCC. She had a meeting with L. Spencer, K. Baker, Superintendent Malay, J. Logan, B. Campbell and the Director of the CCC to discuss the impact of the time change. The KHS will be starting school at 8:40 AM. A majority of our students attend the CCC during the first block. We will not be able to send those students. L. Witte said this is a violation of the agreement. This will be a significant impact on our kids. We need block

one. Keene suggested the CCC students have lunch or take academic classes at Keene. L. Witte is advocating for the kids. She said the Keene Superintendent and the School Board will not change their minds. L. Witte would suggest a letter to the Keene School Board to discuss concerns, possible breach of contract or violation of contract. There is no other meeting scheduled. Monadnock changing their schedule is not an option. Fall Mtn. will be significantly impacted. E. Stanley suggested other options such as KSC or work with Fall Mtn. It was asked if there is a legal way to stop this until we figure it out. L. Witte told Keene they were in breach of contract and they said they are still doing this. L. Steadman suggested writing a letter to the Keene School Board from this Board. N. Moriarty suggested suing them. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to pursue an injunction against the Keene School District until organized. **SECOND:** N. Mosher **DISCUSSION:** B. Bohannon commented playing nice is not getting us anything. L. Witte was asked if the Keene School Board knows what the administration is doing. L. Witte would suggest keeping the letter and the injunction separate. It was suggested when writing the letter mention the Board is pursuing an injunction. S. Peters suggested the letter and injunction happen at the same time. **VOTE:** 10.007/0/0/2.993. **Motion passes.** All parties will receive a copy of the letter. **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to ask the Chair to create a letter to send to the Keene School Board regarding the time change and the CCC. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 10.007/0/0/2.993. **Motion passes.**

v. **Calendar of Upcoming Community-Facing Events:** L. Witte passed out a list of upcoming events.

c. **Policies for First Read:** The Board reviewed the following policies for first read: JEBA-Early Entrance Into Kindergarten and GBK-R-Employee Complaint Procedure.

d. **Education**

i. **Parent/Teacher Conference Overview:** J. Rathbun explained the conferences are for K-12. They are scheduled for October and February. The conferences are mid-term. The teachers do not want to read the report cards to the parents. They want to discuss their students. The attendance of the elementary parents is great, middle school parents improving but the high school parent attendance is very low. The administration is trying to think

of ways to get the high school parents to attend the conferences. There is no answer. We want to make it better. N. Mosher would like communication more frequently between his child's teacher and himself. J. Rathbun explained there are 300 kids at MTC. The teachers are trying to use other means of communication. S. Peters asked how we can get more families engaged regarding the students. L. Witte explained we are discussing that internally. The administration totally agrees.

e. Other:

i. Warrant Over-Expenditure Process: J. Morin explained the Emerson furnace was discussed at the Finance Committee. She said this issue was discussed 3 times at that level. K. Wheeler was not in attendance at some of the Board Meetings and it might have not been discussed at the Board level. J. Morin will make more of an effort to let the Board more aware. We will have to make sure the Board is aware without K. Wheeler present. J. Morin explained the first bids were very high. The Finance committee felt the project needed to be done the District received another bid which came in lower than the others but not the budgeted amount but closer. J. Morin explained she will only be asking the Trustees for \$28,799.00.

MOTION: W. Wright. **MOVED** to reconsider the motion to withdraw funds from the Emergency Expendable Trust Fund. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **VOTE:** 8.796/0/1.211/2.993.

Motion passes. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to withdraw \$28,799.00 from the Emergency Expendable Trust Fund. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **VOTE:** 9.794/0/.213/2.993.

Motion passes. L. Witte commented the committees need to get the motions to the administration. J. Morin explained there was a time delay between meetings.

f. Extracurricular Committee Report:

i. Update on Committee Priorities: K. Noonan is not in attendance to discuss what is happening at the Extracurricular Committee.

ii. Discussion on Student Recognition: K. Noonan not in attendance.

g. Individual Board Member Requests:

i. Website Change-DRA 2020 timeline in place of the 2019 Deliberative: N. Moriarty would like this change. The administration will take it under advisement.

ii. **Web Change-Relocate “Who do you call?”:** N. Moriarty would like to relocate the “Who do you call?” on the website. The administration will take it under advisement. **MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to replace the 2019 Deliberative with the DRA 2020 timeline on the Monadnock and SAU homepage and relocate the “Who do you call?”. **Motion fails for lack of a second.**

iii. **Statistics on Employee Complaints of Physical Harm by Students:** **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to ask the administration for information on employee complaints of physical harm by students, how many have there been, break it down by category and what action was taken. **SECOND:** N. Moriarty **VOTE:** 8.892/0/1.115/2.993. **Motion passes.**

iv. **Other:** E. Stanley would like to discuss student awards and student travel. L. Steadman explained this was discussed in committee. E. Stanley would like to set it up and fund it with the surplus. L. Witte explained there is a budgeted line item. N. Moriarty suggested a trust with a warrant article. J. Morin commented if you have a line item and the warrant article gets voted down you can do nothing.

4. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. **October 1, 2019, 6:30 PM Non-Public Sealed Meeting Minutes:** **MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to accept the October 1, 2019 6:30 PM Non-Public Sealed Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 8.892/0/1.115/2.993 **Motion passes.**

b. **October 15, 2019 School Board Meeting Minutes:** **MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to approve the October 15, 2019 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon **VOTE:** 8.796/0/1.211/2.993 **Motion passes**

c. **Manifest:** **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount totaling \$2,869,541.72 **SECOND:** K. Wilder **VOTE:** 10.007/0/0/2.993. **Motion passes.**

5. Setting Next Agenda:

1. **Feasibility Study**
2. **Letter to Keene Board**
3. **Warrant Article Review**

6. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments.

7. **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:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 8.932/0/0/4.068. **Motion passes.**

8. **ADJOURNMENT: MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM. **SECOND:** N. Mosher **VOTE:** 8.932/0/0/4.068. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis

Recording Secretary