Monadnock Regional School District(MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2019
Gilsum STEAM Academy, Gilsum, NH

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

Administration Present: L. Witte, Superintendent 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."

6:30 PM 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: MOTION: B. Tatro **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:** 10.047/0/0/2.953. **Motion passes.**

6:47 PM Board returns to Public Session: R. Thackston asked for a list of students being billed for from Troy. They need it. Especially with the new formula. Please send the list to the Selectmen. L. Witte explained this is a process and she will get the October numbers to the selectmen.

6:53 PM R. Thackston commented on the District funds and audits. The District has a different fiscal year than the towns. He would like to see the District return the surplus via a check or a reduced mid-year bill.

1. **Public Comments:** R. Thackston commented on the District. It was explained the District has hired K. Barker to do a feasibility study for the District. He has met with the Facilities

Committee and has presented options. The committee has not recommended an option but have narrowed it down to 2-3 options. We understand State Aid is coming and the District should expect a large amount. The Facilities Committee has been working on this for a year. We hired someone from the outside to be objective. K. Barker will share the data it is very impressive. R. Colbert explained the study is looking at all of the inventory. R. Thackston suggested to build down the District. The expense of the District is staff. If you redo the physical plant you reduce the staff.

2. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

a. Operations/Superintendent's Report:

i. Feasibility Study: K. Barker has looked at all of the buildings in the District. He has a renovation number attached to the buildings to bring it up to the MTC standards. MTC is what a complete project would look like. We want to bring up the rest of the schools to MTC except MTC is still in need of a gymnasium. K. Barker reviewed the options he has proposed. He explained there is no building aid for construction and the next possible round is not for another 2 years. July 1, 2022 is when it may become available. There is a new application and timeline. We now have 3 years to prepare. He is hopeful to have a draft from the School Board, submit it to the State, have Amy Clark review it in order to have it for the voters in February. The enrollment projection is what he has prepared. The information is based on birth rates and enrollment. Five years is the best we can do. Because the schools are so small, it has been difficult to be accurate but the trends are flat with a decline in Fitzwilliam and Troy. He is seeing a lot of students exit in the 4th grade across the District. There would be an increase in enrollment with a new school. K. Barker explained that the State is very favorable with Districts consolidating buildings. He explained the savings if the District were to build new which includes energy, fuel, staff and maintenance among other things. R. Colbert asked K. Barker to explain each of the building's needs, the cost to renovate, consolidate and build new. The committee would like to visit option 4, 5 and 7. Option 4 is a new south elementary, additions/renovations to Swanzey and Gilsum, Option 5 is a new south elementary, additions to MTC to create a north elementary, additions/renovations to Gilsum and Option 7 is a MTC/Cutler/Troy school and a Gilsum/Fitzwilliam school. K. Barker did not address Gilsum because the numbers would not matter due to the size. The final report should be completed by the end of October.

ii. Legislative Update: L. Witte explained we should expect 3.5 million dollars from the State over the next 2 years. The numbers have not been run but overall it is good news. The administration is trying to find out the new medicaid rules. We are seeking clarification but it looks good.

iii. **Updated Enrollment (handout):** L. Witte explained she does not have a certified enrollment number yet, BOY. The State has to cross reference the ID number for each student.

iv. **School Lunch Payment Policy and Procedure (in packet):** It was explained if a student has a negative balance they sign a clipboard and still receive lunch. **MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to send Policy EFCA School Lunch Payment Policy back to the Policy Committee. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** J. Morin asked T. Walsh if there were any issues after the last Board Meeting when this issue was discussed. He said no. T. Walsh said the students are using a card or their ID as an acceptable method instead of signing. J. Morin said they are also able to use their license and they do not have to sign. They are signing to confirm they are the person receiving the lunch. J. Morin said a negative balance, no ID they are to sign the form. K. Noonan commented this is not for free and reduced lunch. **VOTE:** 9.049/0/.998/2.953. **Motion passes.**

v. **Choose Love: An Evening with Scarlett Lewis (in packet):** L. Witte reported that Scarlett Lewis, a mother of a Sandy Hook child will be presenting Choose Love a social and emotional curriculum for all schools. It is incorporated in different ways. Cutler already has incorporated some form of this curriculum. Everyone is invited. It is a great message.

b. Board Chair Report:

i. **Budget Committee Partnership:** L. Steadman explained she attended the Budget Committee Meeting and asked the members to join the Board in mediation. The Budget Committee rejected the invite but agreed on a meeting with the Superintendent, J. Morin, L. Steadman, S. Peters, W. Lechlider and A. Hopkins.

L. Witte read a letter to the Board regarding her absence at the Budget Committee Meetings. She commented on personal attacks and false statements shared with the media. There were false statements regarding the administration's presence at the Budget Committee Meetings. There were inappropriate comments to bullying. There was a comment on a principal during public session. The administration has given information and were told that they were dragging their feet. She said the environment is toxic, abusive and bullied. She would look forward to working in a professional manner.

ii. **Joint School Board and Budget Committee Meeting:** L. Steadman attended the Budget Committee Meeting and the committee would like to schedule the joint meeting on November 23, 2019, which is a Saturday. **MOTION:** W. Wright. **MOVED** to schedule the joint meeting of the Budget Committee and the School Board on November 23, 2019. **DISCUSSION:** R. Colbert asked why it was scheduled on Tuesday. L. Witte explained

there were conflicts with Saturday, sporting events, family and low attendance. The Budget Committee had said it was difficult for some of their members to make a Tuesday night meeting. The meeting will run from 10:00-noon. **VOTE:** 10.047/0/0/2.953. **Motion passes.**

iii. **Education Law Conference:** L. Witte and L. Steadman will be attending the Law Conference. L. Steadman explained the NHSBA offers training and it is free to all members.

3. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. SRO Warrant Article: The SRO motion was tabled at the last meeting until no date specific. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** untable the motion which was to have the SRO as a separate warrant article. **SECOND:** C. Toomey, **VOTE:** 10.047/0/0/2.953. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to include the SRO in the proposed budget for 2019-2020. **SECOND:** R. Colbert **DISCUSSION:** L. Witte will be meeting with the chief, the lieutenant and Frank to look at the numbers. We have a ballpark number. She is not sure what this expense will displace if any. S. Peters explained this motion is not for a specific number but to put the SRO in the proposed budget. L. Witte will present the best option in regards to a part time or full time position. K. Noonan would like to know the cost of the SRO before she votes. N. Mosher as well would like to know the cost. S. Peters would trust the administration to bring the information. If we have a warrant article and if it is voted down by the voters, we will not have another option. If the budget fails, we still have the opportunity to reallocate the funds. B. Tatro would like to be transparent with the voters. R. Colbert explained this topic has been on the agenda. There are no taxpayers present and no one has asked questions. B. Bohannon would like to echo what R. Colbert said. No one comes to the meetings. W. Wright believes this should be in a warrant article. The public will see this as hiding. **MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to amend the motion and put the SRO as a part time position. **Motion fails for lack of a second. VOTE:** 5.561/3.358/.213/2.953. **Motion passes.**

b. Policies for Second Read:

i. BBBH-Organization and Operation of SAU Joint Board: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy Committee to update Policy BBBH with the NHSBA sample policy with edits made by the committee. **SECOND:** K. Noonan **VOTE:** Unanimous for all present, R. Colbert missing from vote. **Motion passes.**

ii. BBBH-R-Recognition and Operations of the SAU 38 School Board: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy Committee to retire Policy BBBH-R as presented by the Policy Committee. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 10.047/0/0/2.953. **Motion passes.**

iii. JFAB-Admission & Tuition of Nonresident Students: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to accept Policy JFAB **SECOND:** K. Noonan **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher said he is not in favor of the policy. We have reduced class size at MTC. C. Toomey said this is a good benefit for the employees. A reduced rate incentive. **MOTION:** C. Toomey **MOVED** to give the staff of the District a discounted tuition rate of 20%. **Fails for lack of a second. MOTION:** R. Colbert **MOVED** to amend the motion and strike paragraph one and leave the blue section. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 10.047/0/0/2.953. **Motion passes. MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to set the tuition rate for the staff at 0%. No charge for the staff asking to send their child to the Monadnock District. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **DISCUSSION:** E. Stanley commented the teachers are our greatest resource. N. Mosher commented we are talking about hundreds of thousands of dollars. K. Noonan would disagree it would be the cost of consumables no extra staff. N. Mosher commented there was a huge effort to reduce classes at MTC. If we take on more students it will cost more. L. Witte explained there are only 3 students we are talking about for this year. R. Colbert moved a **friendly amendment** to cap off at 5 students a year and if anymore it would require a special vote of the Board. E. Stanley commented this is an added bonus for the District. N. Mosher asked what about a large class coming through do we tell the student no. It was commented that there are specific qualifications, class size is one. B. Bohannon said the parent would be aware and that is a risk. K. Noonan agrees with the motion. L. Witte explained this is very attractive to lower paid staff. **VOTE:** B. Bohannon-yes, R. Colbert-yes, E. Stanley-yes, B. Tatro-yes, C. Toomey-yes, S. Peters-yes, L. Steadman-yes, K. Noonan-yes, W. Wright-no, N. Mosher-no 8719/1.328/0/2.953. **Motion passes.**

4. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. September 17, 2019 School Board Meeting Minutes: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the September 17, 2019 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** S. Peters **VOTE:** K. Noonan-abstain unanimous for the remaining members.. **Motion passes.**

b. September 17, 2019 Non-Public Meeting Minutes: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to accept the September 17, 2019 9:07 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** S. Peters **VOTE:** K. Noonan-abstain unanimous for the remaining members. **Motion passes.**

c. September 17, 2019 Non-Public Meeting Minutes: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to accept the September 17, 2019 Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented.

SECOND: W. Wright. **VOTE:** K. Noonan-abstain unanimous for the remaining members. **Motion passes.**

d. Manifest: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount totaling $2,120,195.82. **SECOND:** E. Stanley **VOTE:** 10.053/0/0/2.947. **Motion passes.**

5. Setting Next Agenda:

1. Progress Monitoring

2. Rotation of Board Meetings

6. Public Comments: N. Mosher commented he was disappointed at the last Board Meeting regarding Policy KGE the Board voted to delete.

7. Sealing of Non-Public Meeting Minutes: MOTION: E. Stanley **MOVED** to seal the October 1, 2019 6:30 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes-Student Issue only until the end of the 2019-202 school year. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 10.053/0/0/2.947. **Motion passes.**

8. 9:00 PM Motion to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3,II(c)
MOTION: K. Noonan **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. Bohannon **VOTE:** 10.053/0/0/2.947. **Motion passes.**

9. 9:12 PM Motion to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II (b):
MOTION: E. Stanley **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee. **SECOND:** K. Noonan **VOTE:** 10.053/0/0/2.947. **Motion passes.**

10. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 PM. **SECOND:** K. Noonan **VOTE:** 10.053/0/0/2.947. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary