

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2019
Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH

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

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. **MRMHS Student Government Report: C. Wilder:** Chris introduced himself to the Board. He is a senior at Monadnock and the president of the Student Government. **C. Toomey and N. Moriarty arrive.** Currently the group is discussing the dress code. The group would like to be able to fill out a google form regarding changes in the school.
3. **MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:**
 - a. **Policies for Second Read:**
 - i. **GBA-Equal Opportunity Employment: MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy Committee to update Policy GBA with the NHSBA sample as presented. **SECOND:** R. Colbert. **VOTE:** 10.130/0/0/2.870. **Motion passes.**
 - ii. **GBJ-Personnel Records and Files: MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy Committee to update Policy GBJ with the NHSBA sample as presented. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 10.130/0/0/2.870. **Motion passes.**
 - iii. **KBAA-Right To Know Law: MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy Committee to retire Policy KBAA. **SECOND:** K. Wilder. **VOTE:** 10.130/0/0/2.870. **Motion passes.**
 - iv. **KGE-Use of School Buildings for Religious Purposes: MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy Committee to retire Policy KGE. **SECOND:** R. Colbert. **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher does not see this language in the other policies. He is opposed to removing it. **S. Peters arrives. VOTE:** 10.915/.213/0/1.872. **Motion passes.**

v. **KH-Public Gifts To The Schools: MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy committee to replace outdated KH with NHSBA current sample of KH Public Solicitations in the Schools. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 11.128/0/0/1.872. **Motion passes.**

vi. **KH-R-Gifts To School: MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy Committee to retire Policy KH-R **SECOND:** S. Peters. **VOTE:** 11.128/0/0/1.872. **Motion passes.**

4. **MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:**

a. **Board Chair Report:**

i. **Joint Board and Budget Committee Meeting:** L. Steadman reported the Budget Committee will be meeting on Tuesday and she will be in attendance. There is broken communication between the two groups. She would suggest a committee of 2 or 3 people from both committees meet with the administration each month. The Budget Committee rejected the mediator, this is the next best thing. W. Wright, L. Steadman, S. Peters and B. Tatro may be attending the Budget Committee Meeting on Tuesday.

ii. **NHSBA Call for Resolutions:** L. Steadman explained this is the time for the members to bring up any resolutions they would like changed or have a suggestion. The NHSBA will bring them up and vote if they choose. The resolution will then go to the Delegate Assembly for a vote. She mentioned she has a resolution she will be bringing up.

iii. **Policy BHC-Board-Employee Communications:** L. Steadman explained Policy BHC clearly lays out how we as Board Members are to act. Communication is to go through the Superintendent. R. Colbert is concerned that the employees feel they cannot speak to Board Members. Board Members cannot tell employees what to do. The Board can only instruct L. Witte. L. Witte oversees the employees of the District. RSA 194 C The Board's responsibility is to hire the Superintendent.

b. **Operations/Superintendent's Report:**

i. **School Lunch Update-Tom Walsh:** The Board invited T. Walsh to answer concerns of the Board. T. Walsh explained the employees of the Food Service Dept. all have new uniforms and everyone is safe certified. We were selected for 1 of 2 breakfast vending machines in the State of NH. This machine will be located in the Middle School area. There is no cost at this time for us to have the machine. We have been selected. There was a good article in the paper regarding meals. N. Mosher commented on the stigma of students who receive free or reduced lunch. T. Walsh explained the process and invited the Board to see how it works.

ii. **Educator Evaluation Model-Teachers, School Nurses, School Counselors, Social Workers and Library/Media Specialists:** L. Witte provided the Board with a sample copy of the evaluation. N. Moriarty commented that he does not see where the employee can comment on the Superintendent's comments.

iii. **Medicaid to Schools Update:** L. Witte explained there was a NHSBA Bulletin regarding how districts can charge for Medicaid. There is no solid answer. We anticipate

\$380,000.00 from the Medicaid billing. We may have a short fall. The committee is meeting on Friday and she has contacted J. Kahn. He is aware of our concerns.

iv. Staffing Update: L. Witte explained there are still a few positions open. The enrollment number is at 1683 as of today. The State of NH approved the funding formula change.

c. Education Report:

i. Identification and Response to Student Needs: J. Rathbun commented about leaving the last Board Meeting and not sure what the Board was asking for. He is providing the process not just the scores. He would like to share two documents. The documents will be filled out by the schools and used for the students who did not achieve proficiency. The information will be provided in the packets on the dates provided. S. Peters commented the approach is great. B. Bohannon is trying to see a plan for the students that need help. Do we have a mechanism to identify kids with needs? J. Rathbun explained we have a process. He would like to ask M. Suarez to speak at the next meeting. She can explain this better. S. Peters thanked J. Rathbun for his efforts. He said this report is an opportunity to see the accountability.

ii. Elementary Band: It is moving forward.

d. Extracurricular Committee: S. Peters explained the committee met and prepared a presentation for the Board regarding the stipends and a Matrix. The information is in the Board packet's. S. Peters reviewed the information with the Board. He explained the Journey and how the Matrix came about. He explained key discoveries and gaps, goals and philosophies and recommendations and next steps. Stipend positions are employees of the district and are subject to all employee policies. Fair Labor Standards Act. L. Witte commented all coaches are CIP certified. S. Peters explained the Matrix is a pay structure that allows the administration flexibility. He said the information on the matrix is a preview on what is going to happen. The Matrix is very MS/HS heavy. We are asking the principals for feedback to give to L. Witte. This will be a discussion for the upcoming budget season.

e. Policy Committee

i. Policies for First Read:

1. BBBH-Organization and Operation of SAU Joint Board: S. Peters reviewed the rationale for the Board.

2. BBBH-R-Recognition and Operation of the SAU 38 School Board: S. Peters reviewed the rationale for the Board.

3. JFAB-Admission & Tuition of Nonresident Students: S. Peters reviewed the rationale for the Board. **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to take Policy JFAB off the table and to have it as a first read. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 9.794/.213/1.122/1.872. **Motion passes.** N. Mosher is against this policy. S. Peters read the policy to the Board as a first read.

f. Facilities Committee:

i. **Feasibility Study Update:** R. Colbert updated the Board on the meetings with K. Barker. He explained the committee had met with K. Barker a few times. The meetings are very productive. He cannot wait to share the information he will provide to the Board. There were 6 options on the table and E. Stanely added another. The committee decided on 3 options. This information will be provided at the October 1, 2019 meeting. K. Barker will be in attendance and make a presentation. By July 1, 2020 we will need to have one option ready to send to the State in order to apply for Building Aid.

5. OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:

a. **School Board Member Request on SRO: MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to ask the administration to find the cost to upgrade Frank DeTurrus with training and the cost of the liability insurance. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **DISCUSSION as follows:**

i. **What would it cost to upgarde our existing security officer:** N. Moriarty read his letter to the Board. He commented any person in NH can carry a gun. L. Witte explained that is true but not on school grounds. The person will be asked to leave.

1. **Added Liability insurance to the district:**

2. **Added Training:** N. Moriarty asked the cost to upgrade Frank with training and the liability. L. Witte explained the School Board voted to go with an SRO. It is not appropriate to seek the cost of the liability insurance.

ii. **Can we get it in writing that a Swanzey officer will work at all 6 schools in the District?** The MOU will include this language.

iii. **What is the cost of the Swanzey Officer annually? What hours days will she/he work?** The cost of the Swanzey officer will be shared and there is no additional cost for liability insurance. N. Mosher commented the Board voted SRO and SSO. We have already voted for Frank and the SRO. **VOTE:** 1.075/10.053/0/1.872. **Motion fails.**

iv. **Does the School Board want to add this to the Operating Budget or, have a separate warrant article? MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to have the new SRO as a separate warrant article. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **DISCUSSION:** It was commented that members do not want to hide the SRO in the budget. R. Colbert commented we are not hiding it. We have discussed it multiple times. We do not have to do it the same as usual. B. Tatro would support it as a warrant article in order to be transparent. E. Stanley does not want it in the budget. R. Colbert would like to know what functions of the SRO will be lost with a part time versus full time position. L. Witte will provide the 2 proposals. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to table the motion until the next meeting. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **VOTE:** 9.800/1.115/.213/1.872. **Motion passes.** It was asked what L. Spencer wanted and the response was an SRO.

v. **Does the School Board want a Cost Benefit Analysis on adding a Swanzey Officer to our existing security?**

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. **September 3, 2019 School Board Meeting Minutes and Non-Public Meeting Minutes: MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to approve the September 3, 2019 sweep of School

Board Meeting Minutes and 2 sets of Non-public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 11.128/0/0/1.872. **Motion passes.**

b. **Manifest: MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the manifests in the amount totaling \$1,283,724.66. **SECOND:** S. Peters **VOTE:** 10.007/0/1.122/1.872. **Motion passes.**

7. **Setting Next Agenda:**

1. **Warrant Article SRO**
2. **Education Report Progress Monitoring K-2**
3. **Discussion on lunch cards-signing**
4. **K. Barker Presentation**
5. **Draft of Superintendent's Goals**
6. **Update Enrollment**
7. **Negotiations Conversation**

8. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments. *N. Moriarty leaves the meeting.*

9. **9:07 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:** N. Mosher **VOTE:** 10.053/0/0/2.947. **Motion passes.**

10. **9:15 PM Motion to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3,II (c)**

MOTION: R. Colbert **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:** S. Peters **VOTE:** 10.053/0/0/2.947. **Motion passes.**

11. **ADJOURNMENT: MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 PM. **SECOND:** N. Mosher **VOTE:** 10.053/0/0/2.947. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary