Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
July 9, 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 and Eric Stanley. **Absent:** Karen Wheeler, Neil Moriarty, Kristen Noonan and Scott Peters.

Administration Present: L. Witte, Superintendent, J. Rathbun, Director of Curriculum and Assessment and P. Brown, HR Director.

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. **Call to Order:** L. Steadman opened the meeting at 6:30 PM.
2. **6:30 PM Non-Public Session: MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3,II (c) Matter 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:** 7.934/0/0/5.066 **Motion passes. R. Colbert arrives during non-public session.**

3. **Public Comments:** Virginia Sullivan the music teacher for MTC and Cutler saw that the Specials staffing was on the agenda. She said there is limited space for music. It has to be shared with Art. There is no space available for instruments. The equipment has to be at a certain temperature. We need to keep the MS/HS as vibrant as it is.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**
   a) **#Let's CelebrateMRSD:** J.Rathbun reported that 30 teachers volunteered their time over the summer to participate in professional development for Responsive classrooms. J. Rathbun was asked about paying the teachers and he said there are professional development

funds which they can utilize each year. The summer professional development has never been funded because there are professional development funds available and course reimbursement. Title II is paying for the training. R. Colbert is encouraged by the number of staff participating.

5. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a) Independent Auditor: L. Witte explained there is no information on this issue.

b) Meal Price Increase: The Board received the increase lunch prices in their packets. The price changes are required as part of the grant. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to accept the price changes as presented. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 8.842/.213/0/3.945. **Motion passes.** N. Mosher would like to have more information next time.

c) Set Student Tuition Rate: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to set the regular student tuition rate at $17,980.00 and the Special Education tuition rate at $27,500.00 plus the cost of additional help if required. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **DISCUSSION:** The State average last year was $15,862.00. **VOTE:** 7.727/1.328/0/3.945. **Motion passes.**

d) Budget Timeline: L. Witte explained it is always difficult to find a Saturday for the Board and the Budget Committee to meet. The administration would like to suggest a Tuesday for the joint meeting. She explained the administration will have the default budget for the Budget Committee's November meeting. She also said the sheets being asked for by the Budget Committee have been emailed. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the Budget Timeline as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 9.055/0/0/3.945. **Motion passes.**

e) Policies:

i) Annual Review of Policy DFA:

ii) IGAEA/JLCF-Wellness: MOTION: W. Wright **MOVED** to retire Policy IGAEA, JCLF-R and to update Policy JLCF with the goals and recommendations of the Wellness Committee. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **VOTE:** 9.055/0/0/3.945. **Motion passes.**

iii) JKAA-Child Restraint & Seclusion: MOTION: W. Wright. **MOVED** to update Policy JKAA with the NHSBA sample as presented. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher does not have a complete understanding and will abstain. **VOTE:** 8.842/.213/0/3.945. **Motion passes.**

iv) BBB-R Chart of Weighted Vote: MOTION: W. Wright **MOVED** to update the name of Policy BBB-R. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **VOTE:** 9.055/0/0/3.945. **Motion passes.**

v) BBB School Board Elections: MOTION: C. Toomey **MOVED** to update Policy BBB with updates recommended by committee. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **VOTE:** 8.842/.213/0/3.945. **Motion passes.**

vi) CBI-Superintendent Evaluation: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to update Policy CBI with the NHSBA sample combined with recommendations from the Policy Committee. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 9.055/0/0/3.945. **Motion passes.** L. Witte thanked the Board for updating the policy.

vii) CBI-R Super Eval Form: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to retire Policy CBI-R and instead each year the School Board will leverage the most recently published Superintendent Evaluation form offered by the AASA (American Association of School Administrators), combined with questions/criteria specific to the Superintendent's most recent annual goal. **SECOND:** R. Colbert. **VOTE:** 9.055/0/0/3.945. **Motion passes.**

viii) JFAB-Admission/Tuition of Non-Resident Students-Request to Skip First Read: This policy was not in the packet. L. Steadman said there is a rush to implement it for the coming year.

6. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

a) Board Chair Report:

i. CCC Tour: L. Steadman proposed a tour of the CCC on July 11, 2019 at 5:30 PM. W. Wright said it is best to tour when the students are in class. The Board agreed to cancel.

ii. Meeting Location Changes (Mt. Caesar and Gilsum): The Mt. Caesar Board Meeting is scheduled for September 3 and the Gilsum Board Meeting is scheduled for October 1. The February 4 Board Meeting is scheduled to meet at the MS/HS.

b) Operations/Superintendent's Report:

i. District Overview Presentation: L. Witte presented the information the administration team worked on during their recent administrator's retreat, the State of the

District. She walked the Board through the information. She explained the enrollment is very close to the State due to the changes made by the administration. K. Barker is looking at the enrollment and the projections. She reported on the demographics of the District. The students at the elementary are more apt to fill out the free and reduced lunch forms than the MS/HS. The income and the number of members in the family decide on free or reduced. We have 334 students with disabilities. The numbers are the same in other districts in the southwest region of NH. We are in complete compliance in Special Education for the first time in 10 years and kids are getting what they need. Shout outs to C. Woods and the Special Ed. Dept. L. Witte explained the students who are homeless due to different situations. Some are living with other members of the family, some in tents and some in hotels. Parents are working multiple jobs. There are students living in single family homes. L. Witte explained reducing class size at the elementary schools will help and the additional social worker. Social and Emotional Curriculum, Choose Love First will be presented by a parent of a student who passed away at Sandy Hook. L. Witte explained the financial side of the District. She commented that the lower amount in the warrant article always passed but not in 2018. She presented a survey to the staff on how they think we are doing. There were 172 responses on how we are doing on our mission and vision. The Board commented on the results of the survey.

ii. SRO Update: L. Witte explained the Sheriff Dept. is not interested in the SRO position she will reach out to the State Police but she feels there will also be no interest.

c) Educational Report:

i. Curriculum Cycle Review: J. Rathbun explained they are implementing curriculum teams next year. The teachers will be running the teams. They are the experts. There are eight teams. Half of the teachers from the elementary schools and the other half from the MS/HS. The team leaders will meet with J. Rathbun on a regular basis. J. Rathbun listed the team leaders and their area of expertise. The Board asked J. Rathbun about the number of school counselors for each group of students. We are within the State guidelines but they are stretched. N. Mosher said we are rearranging and stretching things out he would like to hear a discussion on staff. **MOTION:** R. Colbert **MOVED** to have the Board ask the administration to speak in more detail at the next meeting and are more resources needed to identify them. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **VOTE:** 9.055/0/0/3.945. **Motion passes.** N. Mosher commented do not sacrifice something else. Make an additional investment.

d) Other:

i. **Specials Staffing:** There are 2 teachers for all 5 elementary schools. J. Rathbun explained music, PE and Art are not feeders into the MS/HS but are academic areas that are taught by certified teachers. He will ask T. Cote to sit in on that team. PE is a subject. Every student participates in PE. Instruments band lessons are not part of the curriculum. The team has to work it out. R. Colbert would encourage the students to be exposed to music and lessons. The teachers will do the research and the best practices. Family consumer science is not a requirement but we have to offer it to be recognized as a school in NH. Tech Ed. is a ½ credit requirement. J. Rathbun explained Maker Space is for the elementary students. He said the idea behind Maker Space is for the students to come up with their own ideas. They have 30 minutes a day to work on Maker Space. The theory behind it is to have the students solve a problem without the help of an adult telling them what to do. World Language is highly recommended but the numbers are very low and is not taught in the elementary schools. B. Bohannon said it was a great presentation but we are moving in the right direction. Make it clear to the team leaders that the Board is supportive for funding to help. B. Bohannon commented during Public Comments the music room was discussed. J. Rathbun commented the principals schedule their buildings and he will have a discussion with A. Salzmann. L. Witte commented J. Rathbun knew of the shared space but did not know the concern. She said this is the first they have heard of it.

ii. **HR Position Update:** Patty Brown the new HR Director started on Monday.

7. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. June 18, 2019 School Board Meeting Minutes: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the June 18, 2019 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 7.934/0/1.122/3.945 **Motion passes.**

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b. Manifest: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the 2018-2019 manifest in the amount of $1,484,973.80. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **VOTE:** 9.055/0/0/3.945 . **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the 2019-2020 manifest in the amount of $602,798.45 **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **VOTE:** 9.055/0/0/3.945. **Motion passes.**

c. May 21, 2019 Sealed Non-Public Meeting Minutes: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the May 21, 2019 Sealed Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** N. Mosher **VOTE:** 6.812/0/2.243/3.945. **Motion passes.**

d. Motion to continue sealing: MOTION: R. Colbert **MOVED** to seal the May 21, 2019 Sealed Non-Public Meeting Minutes for 3 years. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **VOTE:** 6.812/0/2.243/3.945. **Motion passes.**

e. June 18, 2019 sealed Non-Public 7:17 PM Meeting Minutes: MOTION: W. Wright **MOVED** to approve the June 18, 2019 sealed Non-Public 7:17 PM Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **VOTE:** 9.055/0/0/3.945. **Motion passes.**

f. June 18, 2019 sealed Non-Public 7:37 PM Meeting Minutes: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the June 18, 2019 sealed Non-Public 7:37 PM Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** E. Stanley **VOTE:** 8.842/.213/0/3.945. **Motion passes.**

8. Setting Next Agenda:

1. **Data results**
2. **Program Update MTC**
3. **Update Space Specials**

9. Public Comments: No comments.

10. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 PM. **SECOND:** N. Mosher **VOTE:** 9.055/0/0/3.945. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary