

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)

School Board Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2019 (corrected 5/7/19)

Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH

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

Administration Present: L. Witte, Superintendent, J. Rathbun, Director of Curriculum and Assessment and J. Swanson, 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. Call to Order: L. Steadman opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

a) #Let’s CelebrateMRSD: K. Noonan attended the 5th and 6th grade job shadowing fair presentation in Emerson and she said the students did an excellent job. K. Wheeler attended a play at Gilsum STEAM. L. Witte and J. Rathbun were also in attendance. K. Wheeler was very impressed with the students’ performance.

b) Spotlight: Technology/Robotics: Paul Lucas the computer science teacher at the MS/HS presented the Board with a power point regarding the courses available to the students. He has received grants to revamp the computer labs. Two students from Monadnock HS took first place in the NH State Robotics Competition at UNH and the two Middle School students came in 15th out of 40 schools. P. Lucas explained he had received grant money for the Farmbots and as of today it is running. The Farmbots can be programmed to water plants, weed and a camera to watch the plants grow. J. Rathbun explained we could have had someone come and put the Farmbots together but the students learned so much doing it themselves. J. Rathbun explained we look at the teachers as the experts. We provide the tools and P. Luca takes and

provides the courses. R. Colbert commented on a great job. He asked what is next and what do we need to fund to continue with this great start. P. Lucas explained there is a new certification in Computer Science and he is in the middle of being certified. He would like to see a way to get girls more involved in the courses. N. Mosher asked if P. Lucas could explain the impact in the lower grades. P. Lucas said he could not. He is at the MS/HS. J. Rathbun explained MakerSpace and STEM all lead up to this for the elementary students. It is not as organized as a class but it will give the foundation for the students.

c) Destination Imagination Fundraising Update: J. Kuhn an advisor for DI explained there were 16 students and 3 teams who went to the State Tournament and this is the 3rd chance to go to globals. The students who participated in the competition explained what being part of the DI team has done and meant to them. J. Kuhn explained the students have raised about \$13,000.00 which is about half the amount needed. He explained the team has a great group of parents. The trip is set for May 2019. The next payment is on May 2, 2019 which is \$3500.00 toward the registration fee. It was explained last year the District funded \$3000.00. **MOTION:** R. Colbert **MOVED** to fund \$3000.00 for the DI global competition which is the same as last year. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** L. Steadman suggested the Board wait to vote until the Board receives all of the information needed to make their decision. **There was a vote later in the meeting.**

3. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a) Finance Motion: Line Item Transfer: **MOTION:** K. Wheeler **MOVED** to transfer \$10,275.00 from the Unemployment Insurance Line to the Student Award Line. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** It was explained this will bring the balance to zero in the Student Award Line. That would not cover the DI jackets or funding to help with the global competition. J. Swanson explained there is a balance of \$32,168.00 in the Unemployment Insurance line. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

b) Finance Motion : Accounting Software Purchase: **MOTION:** K. Wheeler **MOVED** to purchase Infinite Visions, new accounting software in the amount of \$60,494.00 with an annual service charge of \$14,560.00. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **DISCUSSION:** J. Swanson explained this software works best with what we already have. We are being forced because our software is phasing out. It is not user friendly but they are offering training. The conversion takes place on July 1 or January 1, 2020. Unfortunately, July 1, 2020 is full we will

have to wait until Jan. 1, 2020. Our current annual fee is \$18,000.00. We are discussing how much history we should keep. **VOTE: 13/0/0/0. Motion passes.**

c) **Facilities Motion: Flooring Cleaning Machine Purchase: MOTION:** K. Wheeler **MOVED** to purchase a floor cleaning machine in the amount of \$18,003.04. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **VOTE: 11.879/0/0/1.122 Motion passes. (R. Colbert missing from vote)**

d) **Teacher Appreciation:** The District will supply the staff with an appreciation luncheon in the individual school. The Board Members are welcome, please contact the principals.

e) **Legal Opinion on Early Retirement Offer:** L. Witte explained the legal opinion is still pending.

4. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

a) Board Chair Report:

i) **School Board Member Ethics Document:** L. Steadman would ask the Board Members to sign the Board Ethics Form and hand it into her. R. Colbert feels that walking around the school and talking to people is frowned upon. N. Mosher has an issue with some of the statements on this form and will not sign it. B. Bohannon commented this makes sure we are doing an ethical job. K. Noonan commented we just revised this policy in January.

Destination Imagination will be having a fundraiser at Papagallos. She would encourage everyone to order.

ii) **Cheshire Career Center Tour:** L. Steadman explained she would like to have a tour of the CCC on May 14, 2019 at 6:00 PM. The details have not been nailed down. She will confirm and let the Board know.

b) Operations/Superintendent's Report:

i) **Learn Everywhere Update:** L. Witte provided information in the packet. She also explained she has testified twice and at this point it is at the State Board and they have put it off until June. J. Kahn has a Bill to say Learn Everywhere is illegal.

ii) **State Education Funding:** L. Witte provided information in the packet. If the Stabilization Grant goes back to 100% funded it would be a great short term fix. She will keep the Board updated.

iii) **School Funding:** The Board will discuss this issue in non-public.

iv) **Fill Rate for Para Subs Pre-and Post-Rate Change:** L. Witte explained the survey provided to the substitutes is being put together. J. Rathbun explained we have trouble filling any subs similar to all districts. The administration has raw data which will take time to put together. There is a lot of data. L. Witte said she is working on that. N. Mosher and B. Bohannon would like to have the data. J. Swanson explained Michelle has discovered the subs are not being notified but since then we have changed the way we notify people. B. Tatro commented N. Mosher and B. Bohannon cannot speak for the entire Board in regards to getting the information.

v) **Substitute Survey Results:** L. Witte provided some of the information from the survey results in the packets. The administration explained there were 65 people invited to do the survey and 30 responded. The Board reviewed the results of the survey. L. Witte commented the next best step to solve this is to advertise on social media, work with colleges and announce the substitute opportunities at events. S. Peters would like this topic to stay on the agenda.

vi) **School Safety Task Force-Training Chapter:** The information on the Training Chapter was shared with the Board. Troy School is receiving a Waiting Phase Grant for a secure entrance.

There will be no roundabout this summer. There were no bids for the job. It will go out to bid again in the Fall. The only project this summer is MTC.

L. Witte explained she will be away during April vacation.

c) **Education Report:**

i) **NH DOE Bureau of Federal Compliance Overview:** J. Rathbun explained the District receives many types of grants, Title I, IDEA and Title II which are funds

to train teachers and provide professional development. Title 4 is technology funding and a 21st Century Grant for Before and After school. All of the grants come with rules. NH was busted by the Federal Government. A bureau was created to make sure we follow the rules. The NH DOE has visited the District to do a compliance review. They then decide if you are a risk. There are forms to fill out but overall the State was really happy with our paperwork. This is happening with every school in NH. We are supposed to have Federal Policies. NH is late on the ball. This is all specific to Federal Funds. It is written in the law and has to be done by July 1. It will be a hefty policy and there is not much wiggle room. He would ask the Board to please read it for the first read. We have to have this completed to receive the federal funds. We have to have a procedure manual which will be J. Rathbun's job. He is working on that. J. Rathbun commented the faster we pass this policy the better. Until this is done we will be unapproved, we will be at the back of the line and salaries will not be paid. The faster the better. We were not told about this issue. The sample came from the NHSBA. S. Peters commented we are waiting for the Title One Grant policies and the Spring Bulletin from the NHSBA policies. He commented the Board can vote not to have a first read and approve. N. Moriarty commented we cannot change the policies we might as well pass it.

d) Policies for First Read:

i) The following five policies were presented in the Board packets for a first read: Policy IMGA-Service Animals in School, Policy JICDAA/GBEBB-Employee-Student Relations, Policy JICDD-Student Discipline for Out of School Actions, Policy JLD-School Guidance and Counseling Program and Policy KEE-Website Accessibility and Grievance.

e) Other Matters for Information and Discussion:

i) **Superintendent Evaluation Committee Update:** B. Bohannon reported the committee will have something for the next agenda.

ii) **Mt. Caesar Construction Summary:** L. Witte provided a summary in the packet and a timeline of tasks regarding the construction. The job should be completed by August 16, 2019. N. Mosher thanked the administration for the information.

iii) **Destination Imagination Fundraising Update:** J. Swanson commented J. Kuhn had explained the group will need \$4500.00 for the registration. B. Tatro commented this trip is more expensive than the last one. E. Stanley commented a lot more expensive.

MOTION: R. Colbert **MOVED** to fund \$3000.00 for the Destination Imagination Team going to

the Global Competition with an option to fund with additional funds if needed. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/1.122/0. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve \$75.00 per participant for the High School Robotics Championship Team for a swag of their choice. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** May 6, 2019 Teachers Award Banquet.

6. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

1) **April 2, 2019 Minutes:** **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to approve the April 2, 2019 School Board Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 12.002/0/.998/0. **Motion passes.**

2) **April 2, 2019, 8:50 PM Non-Public Minutes:** **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve the April 2, 2019, 8:50 PM Non-Public School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** W. Wright **VOTE:** 10.927/0/2.073/0 . **Motion passes.**

3) **Manifest:** **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** the manifest in the amount of \$1,305,628.86. **SECOND:** K. Buono. **VOTE:** 11.925/0/1.075/0. **Motion passes.**

7. **Setting Next Agenda:**

1. **MRI/SSO**
2. **Class size 2019-2020**
3. **School Safety**
- 4 **Superintendent Evaluation**

8. **9:20 PM Non-Public Session:** **MOTION:** N. Mosher **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:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

9. **9:40 PM Non-Public Session:** **MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3,II (l) Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or more members of the public body, even where legal counsel in not present. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

10. SEALING OF MINUTES: MOTION: K. Wheeler **MOVED** to seal the second set of non-public minutes of 9:20 PM April 16, 2019 Non-Public Meeting Minutes for 20 years.

SECOND: K. Noonan **VOTE:** 11.879/0/1.122/0. **Motion passes.**

11. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: K. Wheeler **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 PM. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis

Recording Secretary