Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
April 2, 2019 (corrected 4.16.19)
Emerson Elementary School, Fitzwilliam, NH

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

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: E. Stanley commented on the DI Team becoming State Champions and will be going to the Global Competition. The administration are wearing Autism Awareness Tee shirts. Kathi Wichland has been nominated for Teacher of the Year. The Special Olympics Basketball Team won gold and Troy School had Down Syndrome Awareness and the students and staff wore two different socks.

b) Representative Craig Thompson: Rep. Thompson introduced himself to the Board he is the rep. for Fitzwilliam and Roxbury among other towns in this area. He explained what he has been doing at the State level and what committees he is on. He said the lawsuit timing is perfect. There needs to be pressure at the State House. Education is front and center but the funding will probably not pass the governor.

3. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a) Board Goal Setting: The Board discussed the goals for this coming year. **MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to set the following 3 Board Goals for this coming year: State Education Funding, Student Growth and Capital Improvement. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler. **VOTE:** 9.805/0/1.075/2.120. **Motion passes.**

b) Teacher Appreciation: The Board discussed different ideas to thank the staff on Teacher Appreciation Day. B. Bohannon asked if there was any input from the staff on past

practices. L. Witte commented the staff and teachers were very appreciative with the luncheon. **MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to thank the staff with an appreciation luncheon this year. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 10.880/0/0/2.120. **Motion passes.**

c) Legal Opinion on Early Retirement Offer: L. Steadman explained N. Moriarty would like to reconsider the motion for Early Retirement which is out of order but he could rescind the motion. **MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to rescind the motion of the previous meeting regarding the Early Retirement offering to the Unions. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **DISCUSSION:** N. Moriarty question the timing of the motion and this motion would add $220,000.00 to the contracts. J. Swanson explained this motion does not change the contracts. L. Witte explained the Board has done this in prior years. The funds are from an unallocated fund balance. The intent is a net decrease to fill the positions. N. Moriarty said to rescind the motion. L. Witte explained this offer has been made to the Unions. **VOTE:** 1.075/9.805/0/2.120. **Motion fails. MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to ask J. O'Shaunessy for a legal opinion on the Early Retirement offer and is it legal to rescind after it has been offered. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler. **VOTE:** 7.639/3.241/0/2.120. **Motion passes.** L. Witte explained some staff have taken the offer. She would recommend that the Board extend the offer to the MDEA until April 15, 2019. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to extend the Early Retirement offer to the MDEA until April 15, 2019. **VOTE:** 10.880/0/0/2.120. **Motion passes.**

4. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

a) Board Chair Report:

i) Committee Assignments & April Calendar: L. Steadman explained B. Bohannon will be the Budget Committee rep. A list of committee assignments and dates for the meetings were passed out. K. Wheeler explained Facilities meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to accept the slate of committee assignments as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 10.880/0/0/2.120.**Motion passes.**

ii) School Board Member Ethics Document: L. Steadman explained the document is suggested to be signed by the members. If it is not signed nothing bad will happen. N. Mosher commented on #10. L. Steadman explained there is a modified document with the corrected #10. That document is not here tonight. N. Mosher would like to table this. L. Steadman explained there is no motion so there is nothing to table. The Board will receive the corrected version to discuss and sign.

b) Operations/Superintendent's Report:

i) Funding Lawsuit Update: L. Witte does not have any additional information to share.

ii) Construction Update: L. Witte explained the construction at MTC is continuing. N. Mosher would like a one page information sheet on the project

c) Policies:

i) **EEAEA-Mandatory Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers: MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to update Policy EEAEA as presented by the NHSBA with committee edits. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** L. Witte explained we are required to have this policy. This does not include van drivers. **VOTE:** 10.880/0/0/2.120. **Motion passes.**

ii) **IGBG/IHBG-Home Education Instruction: MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to retire IGBG in favor of our current policy IHGB with the committee edits. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 10.880/0/0/2.120. **Motion passes.**

iii) **IICC/IJOC-School Volunteers: MOTION:** B. Bohannon. **MOVED** to retire IICC and update our current IJOC to the NHSBA sample policy, minus reference to IJOC-R. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 10.667/0/.213/2.120. **Motion passes.**

iv) **IGAH-FAmily Life & Sex Education: MOTION:** K. Noonan. **MOVED** to retire IGAH. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **DISCUSSION:** It was explained when Policy IHAM was adopted in 2017, Policy IGAH was not retired. **VOTE:** 10.667/0/.213/2.120. **Motion passes.**

v) **IGBA/IHBA-Programs for Pupils with Disabilities: MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to retire IGBA. **SECOND:** K. Buono. **DISCUSSION:** It was explained when Policy IHBA was updated in 2010, IGBA was not retired. **VOTE:** 10.880/0/0/2.120. **Motion passes.**

d) Educational Report:

i) **Staffing 2019-2020:** L. Witte had received information back from the teachers on class size. The administration looked at programs and services that have a positive impact on the student's education. J. Rathbun explained the interventionist are not giving us the return we want. We did some research and what we came up with was reassignment of all class sizes as a Board recommendation in grades K-6 in all schools. The social and emotional aspect will be looked at. It was shocking at first for the staff but happy for the students. He cannot speak for the teachers. It is a big change. B. Tatro thanked the administration for listening to the Board. There is nothing better than manageable class size. J. Rathbun said the number of staff members does not change but relocate the positions. The interventionists will be classroom teachers. For the most part. The system we have right now does not make the impact we want. We need to look at professional development. We need to mentor teachers better with more professional development. This process will allow teachers to be teachers. B. Bohannon is very happy that the administration is aware that something has to be different. He appreciates the efforts. It was explained the teachers will design a lesson for all students not only the lower level students. B. Bohannon would like to look at this to see if the changes are working. J. Rathbun explained this will knock us out of the comfort zone. There will be no impact to the MS/HS. The class impact will be brought to the Board later. N. Mosher would like to get feedback relative to the changes.

ii) **Comprehensive Needs Assessment:** J. Rathbun explained when the District receives federal grants you have to follow certain rules. We are required to do a comprehensive needs assessment on the schools, we have already finished 4 elementary schools.

We will be doing the Middle School and than Gilsum. In the Board packets is the comprehensive needs assessment for the schools. This information is for the public to review. We need to update our Schoolwide Plan and discuss how we will spend those Title One funds. We want more parent feedback and community feedback. We want to get kids the help at the lower grades. B. Bohannon would like the administration to let the Board know what help is needed for everyone to succeed.

e) Superintendent Evaluation Committee Update: The committee met last Thursday. They are asking the Board if they feel the committee should ask for staff input for the Superintendent evaluation. J. Rathbun explained we have done that in the past with the SAU staff. L. Witte explained 3 years ago she did a google survey. B. Tatro asked if they should use a new document or something already used in the past. B. Tatro said we will be meeting in 2 weeks. She is not sure we should go with the cookie cutter form due to the timing. L. Witte said the SAU nominations are tonight. W. Wright suggested using a process we know and ask the committee to come up with a new one for next year. This will be put on the next agenda.

f) Cheshire Career Center. W. Wright said he attended a meeting at the CCC. He informed the Board the new Director of the CCC is Michael Burnett. Our problem at Monadnock is the scheduling. Keene High School start time will be an issue. We now have a written contract with the CCC. The last contract was signed in 2013. The food was very good and he appreciates the culinary students. The next meeting is in the fall. L. Steadman will ask the director if this group could have a tour of the center. L. Witte said the contract is vague. L. Witte, J. Rathbun and the guidance department are working very closely with the CCC. J. Rathbun explained we have great communication. We are talking and we will make it work regarding the scheduling and start time.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Emerson 5th and 6th graders will be having a job fair. The students will be going to different jobs in the community. They would like to invite the Board to attend the fair.

E. Stanley commented the DI trip to the Globals will be more expensive than last year. J. Swanson explained we have a significant fund balance at the end of the year and we will be able to transfer. **MOTION:** K. Buono **MOVED** to give the championship DI Team $75.00 each for a championship award of their choice. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 8.684/0/1.122/3.195. **Motion passes.** B. Tatro would like to ask the administration to research the funds previously spent on the DI Teams.

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

1) March 19, 2019 Minutes: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the March 19, 2019 School Board Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler **VOTE:** 9.759/0/1.122/2.120. **Motion passes. N. Moriarty leaves the meeting.**

2) March 19, 2019, 10:24 PM Non-Public Minutes: MOTION: N. Mosher **MOVED** to approve the March 19, 2019, 10:24 PM Non-Public School Board Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** E. Stanley **VOTE:** 8.684/0/1.122/3.195 . **Motion passes.**

3) March 19, 2019 10:30 PM Non-Public Minutes: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the March 19, 2019 10:30 PM Non-Public School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 8.684/0/1.122/3.195. **Motion passes.**

4) Manifest: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** the manifest in the amount of $1,809,623.25. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 7.927/0/1.878/3.195**. Motion passes.**

7. Setting Next Agenda:

1. **Update on CCC Tour**
2. **Projection of class size**
3. **Superintendent Evaluation Team**
4. **DI Funding**
5. **Task Force Planning Chapter**
6. **DI Team**
7. **Committee Update**
8. **State Lawsuit**

8. 8:50 PM Non-Public Session: MOTION: N. Mosher **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3,II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee.**SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 9.805/0/0/3.195. **Motion passes.**

9. 9:03 PM Non-Public Session: MOTION: N. Mosher **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:** K. Wheeler **VOTE:** 9.805/0/0/3.195. **Motion passes.**

10. SEALING OF MINUTES: MOTION: E. Stanley **MOVED** to seal the 9:03 PM April 2, 2019 Non-Public Meeting Minutes for 20 years. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **VOTE:** 8.836/0/.970/3.195. **Motion passes.**

11. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: K. Wheeler **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 PM. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **VOTE:** 9.805/0/0/3.195. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary