

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2019 (corrected 2/5/19)
Monadnock Regional MSHS, Swanzey, NH

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

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 6:30 PM.

2. **6:36 PM Non-Public Session: MOTION:** B. Bohannon **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: **SECOND:** S. Peters. **VOTE:** 7.589/0/0/5.410. **Motion passes.**

6:44 PM Non-Public Session: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II (b) The hiring of a public employee. **SECOND:** K. Noonan **VOTE:** 7.589/0/0/5.410. **Motion passes.**

The Board returned to Public Session. S. Peters called for a recess until 7:00 PM N. Mosher arrives.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

1. **Public Comments:** Barry Faulkner a State Representative for Swanzey and Richmond was invited by the Board to attend a Board Meeting. L. Steadman thanked him for attending this meeting. He explained that he is proud to serve in the legislature and is one of 400 members. He explained to the Board his position at the State level. He explained he knows the frustrations of State funding for education but believes the tone is different from last year. **R. Colbert arrives.**

Ben Drugg of Troy commented on the recent vote of the Board to support the 75-25 formula. Everyone agrees the 75-25 is not the best. Fitzwilliam took advantage of the absent Board members. The analysis for the Funding Formula cost per student was not correct it did not include the adequacy funds. The numbers were printed to purposely mislead the voters. The whole document from the administration is suspiciously wrong. He would ask that the

information be corrected to be fair to both sides. Prepare the correct cost per pupil and the tax impact information.

R. Young commented if the formula is 50-50 Roxbury will leave and you can not ask them to come back. The 75-25 is fair. There is about \$400,000.00 which comes from Roxbury to the District. Do not lock in the 50-50, Roxbury will leave.

2. Husky Marching Band Presentation: Angel and Ryan members of the Husky Marching Band updated the Board on their experiences at the Outback Bowl in Florida. They both said it was a wonderful experience and thanked the Board for their support. They said it was a monumental experience for the band. Many of the students met new friends and some students had never left NH before. R. Skroki, Band Director reported the Jazz Honors Band received first place in their division, Jazz Varsity received second place in their division and in the Field Show Competition they received first place.

D. Coffman would encourage the Board to change the way of fundraising as a result of this opportunity. He would challenge the administration on how to reward students. There were 88 Band Members who participated. He would suggest a non-lapsing funding on a regular basis so students can attend. Come up with a way for the District to support and fund these events. It was awesome. He would also like to see the elementary band being funded. Music and Math are hooked in the brain. Make sure music becomes more important. E. Stanley commented there were about 300 people at the school welcoming the Band back from the Outback Bowl. **K. *Buono arrives.***

4. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION

1. Policies for Second Read: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the following ten Board Policies as submitted by the Policy Committee: Policy BDB-Board Officers, Policy BEDH-Public Comments and Participation at Board Meetings, Policy EHB-Data Records Retention/EHB-R-Local Records Retention Schedule, Policy GBI-Staff Participation in Political Activities, Policy GBK-Staff Concerns and Complaints, Policy IHAK-Character and Citizenship Education, Policy JEC-Change of School or Assignment-Manifest Educational Hardship, Policy ADC/GBED/JICG-Tobacco Products Ban-Use and Possession on School Grounds, Policy BCA-Board Member Ethics and Policy EBCA-Crisis Prevention and Emergency Response Plan.**SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 10.045/0/0/2.955. **Motion passes.**

2. EFCA-School Lunch Payment Policy: J. Swanson explained this Policy had been reviewed by the State. There are certain regulations and policies required. The policy was reviewed by T. Walsh and herself. The Policy Committee reviewed the edits made and made more of their own. The administration again reviewed this policy. The State made recommendations to this policy. **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to amend Policy EFCA with the additional documents presented. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher does not feel that middle school students should be excluded from activity because they have not paid. He would like #23 removed from the policy. E. Stanley commented students should not be punished, maybe if they are over 18 years of age. The parents are responsible for paying for the student's lunch. **MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to amend the motion and omit #23. **SECOND:** R. Colbert. **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher would like to see this go back to the Policy Committee. J.

Swanson explained any family can fill out the Free or Reduced Lunch Forms. If there is a prior balance before filling out the forms, it will go away if the forms are filled out and accepted. They need to be held accountable. R. Colbert would agree. He does not mind helping out folks but they need to fill out the forms. J. Swanson said the families are encouraged to fill out the forms. E. Stanley asked if it is possible for someone else to fill out the forms if the parent does not. L. Witte explained a principal can fill out the forms for the students but they need to meet the qualifications. The District will receive more Title One funds and Adequacy with more students enrolled in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program. N. Mosher said kids should not be punished. J. Swanson explained last year the District had to pay \$23,000.00 of unpaid lunch money. S. Peters would add a **Friendly amendment** to omit # 24 for the MS/HS also. The motion makers agreed. We need to move forward with this policy. L. Witte commented around graduation the unpaid lunch money comes in. **VOTE on amendment:** 9.831/0/.214/2.955. **Motion passes. VOTE on amended motion:** 10.045/0/0/2.955. **Motion passes.**

3. EBCE-School Closing and Cancellations & EBCE-R-School Closings and Cancellations Procedure: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve Policy EBCE as edited by the administration, combine Policy EBCE-R with Policy EBCE, delete Policy EBCE-R and rename it Policy EBCE. **SECOND:** S. Peters **VOTE:** 10.045/0/0/2.955. **Motion passes.**

4. Championship Football Team Recognition: MOTION: E. Stanley **MOVED** to give the members on the Championship Football Team \$75.00 each towards a recognition gift of their choice. **SECOND:** R. Colbert. **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher commented the Board needs to recognize the students and also be responsible. E. Stanley said there are 38 members of the team. The account in which the funds would be coming from is at a negative balance due to the Board's support for the Band attending the Outback Bowl. J. Swanson feels in a few months she will be able to find the funds to cover the negative balance. R. Colbert would like to ask J. Swanson to bring her laptop in case the Board has a question. **VOTE:** 10.045/0/0/2.955. **Motion passes.**

5. Authorize Creation of Warrant Articles in Plain English: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to authorize the CRC to prepare the warrant articles in plain english. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher said he was never in favor of this. There is an element of distrust. L. Steadman explained these are not published until the full Board approves. R. Colbert asked about more information on the ballot regarding the trades area. L. Steadman said this is exactly why we do the warrant articles in plain english. **VOTE:** 9.831/.214/0/2.955. **Motion passes.**

6. Motion to Rescind 1/10/19 Funding Formula Vote: MOTION: E. Stanley **MOVED** to rescind the funding formula vote of 1/10/19. **SECOND:** R. Colbert. **DISCUSSION:** E. Stanley commented at a previous meeting we as a Board decided not to take action on the funding formula. At the last meeting 4 people were absent because the meeting had been canceled and then changed. There should have been a full Board present. R. Colbert said he did not believe there was enough discussion on the funding. S. Peters said it is a personal opinion. K. Noonan said we could be stuck with the 50-50 for 5 years.; She said she reviewed all of the Board Minutes from March 2018 and there was never a decision not to take action on the Funding Formula. W. Wright commented he did it because he represents the town of

Fitzwilliam. It is nothing against Troy. He will not vote to rescind the vote. It was commented Fitzwilliam may leave the District. L. Steadman asked if Fitzwilliam has a Study Committee. W. Wright said no and this issue is not on their ballot for March. **VOTE:** K. Noonan-no, W. Wright-no, N. Mosher-no, B. Bohannon-no, R. Colbert-yes, K. Buono-yes, B. Tatro-yes, S. Peters-yes, E. Stanley-yes, L. Steadman-yes. 6.480/3.565/0/2.955. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to expunge the vote on the Funding Formula in the January 10, 2019 Minutes. **SECOND:** R. Colbert. **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher by doing this you are changing history. L. Steadman read the definition for expunge. B. Bohannon explained it is a running record, the minutes. W. Wright does not believe the Board should do this. K. Noonan said there was a quorum when we took the vote. The definition of expunge is rare and for objectionable instances. **VOTE:** K. Noonan-no, W. Wright-no, N. Mosher-no, B. Bohannon-no, R. Colbert-yes, K. Buono-yes, E. Stanley-yes, B. Tatro-yes, S. Peters-no, L. Steadman-yes. 5.482/4.563/0/2.955. **Motion fails ⅔ vote required.**

5. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

1. Board Chair Report: *E. Stanley and R. Colbert leave the meeting.*

1. Resolutions and Delegate Assembly January 26, 10:30 Concord: L. Steadman explained she will be attending this event and asked if there was a volunteer just in case she was not able to attend. There were no volunteers. She asked the Board about Resolution 11 and 14. There was no discussion. L. Steadman will discuss on the Board's behalf.

2. NHSBA Discussion with NHDOE Commissioner Frank Edelblut Feb. 6, 6:30-8:30 Concord: L. Witte and L. Steadman will be attending this meeting.

3. NHSBA School Safety & Security April 9, 2019 6:30-8:30 Concord: L. Steadman will be attending this event.

2. Operations/Superintendent's Report:

1. Governor's Commission Report on School Safety-Communication Chapter: L. Witte passed out information on the work of the Safety Teams in the schools. The teams are meeting daily. There have been 24 drills across the District to date. There will be a lockdown drill soon at MTC. The Swanzey Police Dept. will be going into the schools and explaining to the students. They will have a scheduled lockdown drill and then a surprise drill. She would like to commend the staff for explaining and working with the students on the process. L. Witte asked if there are any questions to email her or they could be addressed at the next meeting.

2. HB 177-FN Relative to Stabilization Grants: L. Witte reported she had attended this discussion. B. Faulkner commented on the stabilization issue.

3. Bids for MTC Project: *R. Colbert returns to the meeting.* J. Swanson explained the bids for the MTC Project have come back. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to change the order of the agenda and discuss the bids for the MTC Project. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 8.924/0/0/4.076. **Motion passes.** D. LaPointe presented the bids and would recommend the following bids to the Board: MacMillian-\$900,000.00, Stromgren-\$178,560.00, Hamlet-

\$138,700.00 and J.A. Carter \$34,400.00. The warrant had passed for \$1.4 million so there should be extra funds for some furniture. D. LaPointe had received multiply bids per Board policy.

MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to accept the bids from the four vendors, MacMillian, Stromgren, Hamlet and J.A. Carter as presented by D. LaPointe. **SECOND:** R. Colbert **DISCUSSION:** D. LaPointe will be the construction manager on this project. **VOTE:** 8.924/0/0/4.076. **Motion passes.**

3. Educational Report:

1. Program of Studies: The Program of Studies was in the Board packets. J. Rathbun updated the Board on the changes. Overall the Program of Studies is very similar to last year. *E. Stanley returns to the meeting.* R. Colbert asked if the students have input on what electives they might want. J. Rathbun explained he is not sure if it is a formal process. **MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to accept the Program of Studies for 2019-2020 as presented. **SECOND:** K. Buono. **VOTE:** 10.045/0/0/2.955. **Motion passes.**

2. 6th/7th Transition: J. Rathbun reported the 6th grade transition is a big focus and a major move. The Middle School Transition Committee has been formed. The Step up Day has improved over the years. All 6th grade students receive a tee shirt with their graduation year on them and wear them to Step up Day. All 6th graders attend the Ecology Trip together and prepare projects together. The 7th and 8th grade teachers attend the 6th grade classes and the 6th grade teachers will attend the 7th and 8th grade classes. There has been more discussion in regards to Special Ed. and the transition. The environment may be different and there may be a need for different services. These conversations are taking place. B. Bohannon asked if there was anything additional for the Gilsum students. J. Rathbun said we try to keep them together on Step up Day. We do need to improve that. We are not doing enough but are making significant improvements. J. Rathbun explained the 6th graders throughout the District are all being taught the same curriculum. He said he is giving the Board the most accurate information on student assessment. He does understand the frustration. He believes in the whole child assessment. It was asked to have the top KPI for a future agenda item.

4. Other Matters for Discussion:

1. Administration Presence at Budget Committee Meetings: L. Witte explained she had attended the most recent Budget Committee Meeting and a discussion took place regarding a personnel issue. L. Witte was not able to discuss it. The discussion was inappropriate about personnel. She would like the Board's support that the administration will only attend the meetings when relative to the budget, the Fall Joint Meeting and the Deliberative Session. She will guarantee they have the information needed through the Board. She can not be in attendance when the conversations are inappropriate. B. Bohannon would support if the administration felt the conversation was inappropriate to be able to leave the meeting. E. Stanley commented if the administration is not present will they make assumptions. L. Witte said she was told we heard what you said but we are going to do what we want by the Budget Committee. R. Colbert did say he was a witness and does support the administration. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to support the absence of L. Witte or the administration during the Budget Meetings except in the development process. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **DISCUSSION:** L. Witte will send a Superintendent Report prior to the meeting. S. Peters asked if the recording secretary for the Budget Committee is paid by the School District. L. Witte said yes. S. Peters asked if the Budget Committee has non-public sessions. L. Witte will run that by the attorney. N. Mosher

would like to keep communication open with the Budget Committee. **VOTE:** 10.045/0/0/2.955. **Motion passes.** N. Mosher would like to have L. Steadman discuss this with W. Lechliden. L. Witte commented there is a joint meeting prior to the Deliberative.

2. **Default Budget:** It was explained the unallocated fund balance is higher due to the fact there was no Business Manager for some time. The 2019-2020 proposed budget is less than this current budget. There has been over 1 million dollars in reductions after the additional savings. L. Witte, J. Swanson and C. Woods received budget information from the Budget Committee. J. Swanson prepared the default budget per statute and compared it to the Budget Committees default number. The RSA states it is the same appropriations from 2018-2019. The Budget Committee started with an average of the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018. It was explained the default changes need to have justification. The Budget Committee had not increased for contractual obligations and decreased lines that were contractual. The Budget Committee decreased the fuel lines and omitted some lines completely. They have omitted books completely. J. Swanson explained she did receive a spreadsheet yesterday. She did reach out to the DRA and they said the Budget Committee did not follow the statute. L. Witte explained after discussion with legal counsel she would recommend a recess to go into non-public under (I). L. Steadman suggested finishing the remaining agenda and go into non-public

3. **Superintendent Evaluation:** L. Steadman suggested the Board form a sub committee to review other District's Superintendent Evaluation practices, look at what the NHSBA suggests and come up with a policy and process. **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to form an ad hoc committee for policy and process for a Superintendent Evaluation in a timely manner. **SECOND:** R. Colbert. **VOTE:** 10.045/0/0/2.155. **Motion passes.** L. Steadman will appoint W. Wright, B. Tatro and B. Bohannon to the Superintendent Evaluation Ad-Hoc Committee. The Board agrees with the appointment.

4. **Turkey Tussle T-shirt Reimbursement:** E. Stanley asked if the tee shirts can come from the gate receipts. J. Swanson said it is a seperate account. N. Mosher asked if we can take from the gate receipts and give to an outside group. J. Swanson said that is allowed. B. Bohannon suggested trying to sell the tee shirts and come back and ask for the remaining balance of the shirts not sold. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to ask the AD to coordinate the selling of the tee shirts and ask the Board to pay the bill for the tee shirts. Any funds from the tee shirts sold will go back into the gate receipt account. **SECOND:** R. Colbert. **VOTE:** 8.833/0/1.212/2.955. **Motion passes.**

5. **Building Capacity:** This discussion will be on the next agenda.

6. **District Clerk Update:** L. Witte explained L. Sutton will be the School District Clerk again this year. Thank you Lillian. There is someone who is willing to be her deputy. The District may have to pay her deputy.

6. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. **January 10, 2019 Minutes:** **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the January 10, 2019 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** R. Colbert **VOTE:** 8.924/0/1.121/2.955 . **Motion passes.**

2. **Manifest: MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** the manifest in the amount of \$1,170,508.44. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 10.045/0/0/2.955. **Motion passes.**

7. **SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:**

1. **Update SRO/SSO armed officer**
2. **Building Capacity**
3. **Training Chapter**
4. **Literacy**
5. **KPI**
6. **Jean Deech**
7. **Article 8**

8. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no Public Comments.

9. **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. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **VOTE:** 10.045/0/0/2.955. **Motion passes.**

10. **ADJOURNMENT: MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 10:58 PM. **SECOND:** R. Colbert **VOTE:** 10.045/0/0/2.955 **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary