

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
July 16, 2024 (Not Yet Approved)
Monadnock Regional Middle/High School, Swanzey, NH

School Board Members Present: Scott Peters, Edmond LaPlante, Brian Bohannon, Lisa Steadman, Cheryl McDaniel-Thomas, Eric Stanley, Hannah Blood, Kristen Noonan, Jeff Cesaitis and Gina Carraro, **Absent:** Dan LeClair, Betty Tatro and Jennifer Strimbeck.

Administration Present: J. Rathbun, Superintendent and J. Morin, Business Administrator.

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER at 7:00 PM: S. Peters called the meeting to order.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

3. Celebrate # MRSD:

a. Summer ESY & Beyond the Bell: J. Rathbun explained that the Beyond the Bell Summer Program is going very well. All of the administration and the building and grounds staff are doing a great job. F. Ashworth had made plans with both Troy and the MRMHS for designated areas so it would not interrupt with the building work over the summer. The building is absorbing a lot of summer programs Beyond the Bell, ESY, Title One, Extended Days and Drivers Education. Thank you to all of the custodians and administrative assistants. It is a great team effort at both the MRMHS and Troy. K. Noonan asked about Emerson and J. Rathbun said the Fire Marshall is now reviewing the plans. Signs and fences will be coming in time. The Historical Society in Fitzwilliam said the plans look great and they appreciate keeping the character of the building with the new plans.

J. Rathbun reported that there is a lot of work going on at MTC. It looks like a giant sand box. We are on track and the cement trucks should be arriving soon.

4. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

a. Policies 1st Read: C. McDaniel-Thomas explained that the Finance/Facilities Committee would like to pick away at the policies in Book D and Book F. They were not sure if it might be too many policies being presented to the Board if they were to come from 2 different committees. Also should the policies be reviewed by the Fin/Fac Committee go to the Policy Committee or the Board. They also felt that the policy changes should be explained at the first read. S. Peters felt both committees bringing policies to the Board was not an issue. K Noonan explained the edits made by the Policy Committee and answered any questions.

i. JHBB: Attendance Monitoring/Accounting

- ii. **JICE-R: Student Publications**
- iii. **JHC: Use of Metal Detectors**
- iv. **JLIA: Supervision of Students**
- v. **EBB: School Safety**
- vi. **JLIF/JLIF-R: Receipt and Use of Sex Offender Registry**

Information

- vii. **EG: Creation of Communication Plans**

b. Standing agenda: Student Government Report: There is no Student Government Report.

c. Standing agenda: Board Meeting Calendar & Goals Update: The Board reviewed the upcoming meetings and goals. The Budget Committee will not be meeting in July. CRC will not meet on August 6, 2024. Education will meet on July 24. The Education Committee is also invited to attend a meeting on July 31, 2024 during the day with the Behavior Education Committee.

- d. Standing agenda: Superintendent Goals Update:** There is no update today.

5. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. Research Request for Proposed Budget: S. Peters would like to ask the Board to propose ideas for the upcoming budget. The Board will then decide if they would like to move forward and ask the administration to look at the cost and the need. The Board reviewed the list and decided to vote on each one at a time: **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to ask the administration to look at adding a second foreign language and/or American Sign Language to the Program of Studies at a minimum as a VEX Class and report back to the Board. **SECOND:** Bohannon. **VOTE:** C. McDaniel-Thomas-no and remaining members-yes. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to ask the administration to look at Extracurricular Stipend increases, make recommendations for new/additional stipends and to report back to the Board. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **DISCUSSION:** J. Rathbun commented that it is impossible to research differences to compare. Look at the number and a percentage increase instead of comparing. **VOTE:** 10.035/0/0/2.966. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to ask the administration to review Incremental Administration Resource: HR & Recruiting Support and to report back to the Board. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **DISCUSSION:** The Board asked the administration if they felt this position was needed. J. Rathbun said it is not fair yet to give an opinion but he did say they would be ok without it. B. Bohannon said adding administration headcount is tough to swallow. **VOTE:** All Members-no. Motion fails. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to ask the administration to review Incremental MRMHS Resources: Hall Monitors and to report back to the Board. **SECOND:** H. Blood. **VOTE:** 10.035/0/0/2.966. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** to ask the administration to review hiring a floating paraprofessional (aka permanent substitute) and to report back to the Board. **SECOND:** K. Noonan **VOTE:** C. McDaniel-Thomas-abstain, J. Cesaitis-abstain and remaining members-yes.

Motion passes.

MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** to ask the administration to review improving the accessibility to elementary school play spaces and to report back to the Board. **SECOND:** G. Carraro. **DISCUSSION:** The members discussed the wood chips under the structures. MTC will be having a different material one that all will have access to. J. Morin explained it is State Law to have the playgrounds more accessible. H. Blood asked if there is any grant funding. L. Steadman said yes but it is not easy. **VOTE:**10.035/0/0/2.966. **Motion passes.** H. Blood proposed support for after graduation, support for college and trade school connections that would better serve the juniors and seniors. J. Rathbun will bring a report to the Board regarding what is in place currently to the September or October Board Meeting.

b. Policies 2nd Read:

i. JICD: Student Discipline & Due Process

ii. JICG, ADC, GBED: Prohibitions Regarding Use & Possession of Tobacco Products

iii. JKAA: Use of Restraints & Seclusion

iv. IHBA: Programs for Pupils w/Disabilities

v. IHBA-R: Procedural Safeguards for Children w/Disabilities

vi. GBCD-R-RD: Professional/Staff Positions (Criminal Records)

vii. JJJ-Access to Public School Programs by Nonpublic, Charter & Home-Educated

viii. JLCJ - Concussions and Head Injuries

ix. AC- Non-Discrimination, Equal Opportunity Employment & District Anti-Discrimination

x. ACE- Procedural Safeguards: Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Handicap/Disability t data

xi. ACF- Food Nutrition Services: Non-Discrimination & Civil Rights Complaints

xii. ADB/GBEC - Drug-Free Workplace & Drug-Free Schools

xiii. DAFB - Equivalence in Instructional Staff & Materials:

MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to accept all of the motions for second read as presented by the Policy Committee. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 10.035/0/0/2.966. **Motion passes.**

c. * Annual Approval of Policy DFA: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to accept the annual approval of Policy DFA. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 10.035/0/0/2.966 **Motion passes.**

d. * Bi-Annual Approval of Policy JLDBB: MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** to accept the bi-annual approval of Policy JLDBB as presented. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 10.035/0/0/2.966. **Motion passes.**

e. * Annual Approval of Instruction Plan (Policy IJ): MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** to accept the annual approval of the Instruction Plan 2025/26 as required by Policy IJ. **SECOND:** H. Blood. **VOTE:**10.035/0/0/2.966. **Motion passes.**

f. * Annual Approve of Data Governance Plan (Policy EHAB): J. Rathbun explained that the Data Governance Plan for 2025/26 is the law that protects student data. There are two parts, one part to share updates each year by C. Czfrick and the other part is a plan that is not published to the public but reviewed every year. The second part of the plan is only shared with J. Rathbun. The document being shared with the Board has been reviewed with no new updates. The second part of the Plan which is the Disaster Plan has been updated but can not be reported out. **MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to approve the Data Governance Plan per Policy EHAB as presented. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 10.035/0/0/2.966 **Motion passes.**

g. * Request for Meal Price Increases: It was explained that there has not been an increase in the cost of the schools lunches in 3 years. The list of increases were presented to the Board. **MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to approve the meal price increases as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 10.035/0/0/2.966. **Motion passes.**

h. * Ice Hockey Co-op: J. Rathbun informed the Board that T. Cote had requested dissolving the Ice Hockey Co-op with Fall Mtn. and Conval and to form a co-op with Fall Mtn. and Conant. He said this will balance out the teams. There are not as many kids from Conval. **MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to dissolve the Ice Hockey Co-op with Fall Mtn. and Conval and to form a new Co-op with Fall Mtn. and Conant. **SECOND:** H. Blood. **VOTE:** 10.035/0/0/2.966 **Motion passes.**

i. * Best Buddies Club: J. Rathbun explained that there has been a request to start a new club. The club is a Chapter of the Best Buddies Club. It is a service club and has an advisor. The club will fundraise and travel is involved. **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to form a local Chapter of the Best Buddies Club. **SECOND:** J. Cesaitis. **VOTE:** 10.035/0/0/2.966. **Motion passes.**

j. * Set Annual Student Tuition Rate: **MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to set the annual tuition rate for the 2025/26 School Year to \$20,066.00. **SECOND:** J. Cesaitis. **VOTE:** 10.035/0/0/2.966. **Motion passes.**

k. * Approve the Consent Agenda:

i. June 26, 2024 Minutes

ii. Manifest **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to approve the consent agenda: to approve the June 26, 2024 School Board Meeting Minutes and the Manifest in the amount of \$ 1,044,071.59 for the FY 2024 and the amount of \$2,009,848.91 for the FY 25. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 10.035/0/0/2.966. **Motion passes.**

6. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

- a. Fin/Fac Committee Update**
- b. Education Update**
- c. Superintendent Goals-Evaluation Process**

d. Building Update

7. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments.

8. **8:13 PM Motion to Enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely adversely affect the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to Enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely adversely affect the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. **SECOND:** C.McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE:** 10.035/0/0/2.966. **Motion passes.**

9. **Return to Public Session: MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to seal the July 16, 2024 Non-Public Meeting Minutes until August 19, 2024. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **VOTE:** 10.035/0/0/2.966. **Motion passes.**

10. **ADJOURNMENT: MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 PM. **SECOND:** J. Cesaitis **VOTE:**10.035/0/0/2.966. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY:Yes/No/Abstain/Absent