

**Monadnock Regional School District
Education/Technology Meeting Minutes
July 9, 2024
SAU Conference Room, Swanzey, NH**

Members Present: Scott Peters, Gina Carraro, Hannah Blood and Edmond LaPlante.

Also Present: Cheryl McDaniel-Thomas, Board Member and L. Aivaliotis, Recording Secretary.

1. **Call the Meeting to Order:** G. Carraro called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
2. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments.
3. **Approval of the May 22, 2024 Ed/Tech Committee Meeting Minutes:** The committee will vote on the minutes at the next meeting.
4. **Cell Phone Discussion:** S. Peters explained that the Behavior Committee from the Middle/High School will be meeting over the summer to structure a cell phone use plan. G. Carraro explained that she had done a lot of research on studies regarding cell phone use. The information is from NPR, Podcasts and the internet. She explained that districts in NY and LA have banned cell phone use in their schools. She did not find any positive feedback regarding the use of cell phones. The research shows that cell phones have a negative impact on education. She wants to move ahead with a cell phone ban. S. Peters explained that for 4 or 5 years the Board has been discussing the cell phone issue. E. LaPlante explained he has had conversations with other districts. He explained that on July 8, 2024 Pelham School District put a cell phone policy in place. There was no advance notice about the policy. It was commented that there will be pushback with a cell phone policy or ban. There are concerns by the parents about school shooters and the teachers are worried that they will not be able to enforce it. S. Peters commented if there is a students policy it will also be for the staff and teachers. He did mention that there are teachers who are able to control cell phone use. G. Carraro said in her opinion do not bring your cell phones to school. H. Blood commented if you say no cell phones she feels it will not go well. She said maybe not in class. There needs to be a balance. S. Peters said that it has to be enforced in steps. He said the administration said it is not really an issue in the classroom. It is social media and bringing baggage and a response to it to school. The school is understaffed. There are issues with the cell phones in the bathrooms and the hallways. E. LaPlante read the punishments at Pelham School District for having a cellphone. G. Carraro said it is important to rip the bandaid off. We need to make the policy and support and enforce it. G. Carraro suggested researching policies from other districts. The Board discussed the fact that parents contact their kids all day at school and years ago parents were not able to. S. Peters said

there is an attendance problem because kids text their parents to excuse them. He said you can not please everyone. G. Carraro said we need to sell it to the community. The committee discussed how they will sell it to the community and when it will be brought to the Board if this is something the committee wants to do.

5. Philosophy Documentation: The committee discussed the next steps for the philosophy documentation.

6. Setting the next meeting's date, time and agenda: The committee will meet on July 24, 2024.

7. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

8. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: G. Carraro **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM. **SECOND:** E. LaPlante **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary