

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2024
Monadnock Regional Middle/High School, Swanzey, NH

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

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

- 1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER at 7:00 PM:** L.Steadman called the meeting to order.
- 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no Public Comments.
- 3. #celebrate MRSD:** There was a huge community presence at the MRHS Football Game this past Friday. The Class advisors for the 2027 Class include J.Rathbun and L. Spencer. The class raised \$1500.00 that night. The class is amazing. It was a great night with beautiful weather. The Homecoming Schedule will be shared again.

E.LaPlante commented that it is the Birthday of the Constitution and asked if the Constitution is taught in school. J. Rathbun explained it is taught in Civics, US History and in the elementary school curriculum. NH History is taught in the 4th grade.

4. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION

a. Standing agenda: Student Government Report: There is no Student Government representative present tonight.

b. Standing agenda: Superintendent Goals Update:

c. Standing agenda: Board Meeting Calendar & Goals Update: The committees updated their work to the Board.The CRC is working on a cell phone policy. In Finance/Facilities the committee is working on the compensation analysis of the unaffiliated staff. They are also working on the revised budget process but are not sure it will be in time for the budget. The CRC has developed questions for a survey that they will be sending to J. Rathbun. Policy is working on the Special Bulletin policies.

i. Goal by Goal Status Update: The committee reviewed their goals.

d. Standing Agenda: School Resource Officer (Status Update): J. Rathbun explained that he was asked to contact the State Police to see if it is possible to have one of their officers as the SRO or help in some way. Trooper Eaton said the district can reach out to him if they need help but they are not able to provide an SRO. The Swanzey Police hope to have an update in November. The SRO for the MRMHS has to be a Swanzey Police Officer. The Sheriff's Dept. has not gotten back to J. Rathbun. **J. Cesaitis arrives via Zoom.** J. Rathbun said it is a staffing

concern. The administration believes in this program and hopes the Board will continue to as well. We also have Frank in the district.

e. Standing Agenda: Staff Vacancies: J. Rathbun explained that there is a nomination coming in non-public and the Cutler administration position has been filled. *S. Peters takes over the meeting.*

f. Overview of Guidance Programs (Junior & Senior): L.Spencer and L. Weiderman, Dir. of School Counseling presented the Board with information regarding the support they give the students. There are 4 objectives: #1 Lead, advocate, and collaborate to provide access and equity for all students, #2 Collaborate and communicate with students and parents/guardian regarding academic and social/emotional outcomes, #3 Collaborate administration, faculty and families to provide a strong rigorous academic experience for all students and #4 reflect, adapt and adjust practice based on student needs, feedback and data collection. L. Spencer and L. Weiderman began to explain what the guidance dept does to help the students prepare for the future starting with grade 9. The next steps from the Guidance Dept. are Goal #1 to formalize a comprehensive school counseling program (Pre-K-12) that supports the development of academic, college/career and social/emotional readiness. The program will focus on the mindsets and behaviors for student success which describe the knowledge, skills and attitudes student's need to achieve academic success, college and career readiness and social/emotional development. Goal #2 to begin the high school planning process (college and career) in 7th grade, and expand the emphasis in the 8th grade. Goal #3 Make the career pathway more visible (they do a good job with the college pathway) providing opportunities for more student exploration. L.Spencer and L. Weiderman explained that there is a strong focus on college and military but they are trying to work with the kids that choose another path. All students meet with the counselors more than once a year. They explained when students graduate and need help from the counselors they are more than welcome to come in for assistance. L. Spencer explained that they would send out letters to graduates to see how things are going and if they need assistance and there was really any response. She explained that the recruiters visit the school multiple times. They are not aggressive. They will have physical challenges for the kids and some of the kids stay in school because of the recruiters. K Noonan thanked L. Spencer and L. Weiderman for their great work.

g. Town of Swanzey Request-Water drainage on SAU lawn: J. Rathbun explained that the Town of Swanzey was having a water drainage issue and to solve this the water would have to drain on the SAU lawn. This does not affect anything. This is for the Board's information only.

h. Superintendent's Club Social: Oct. 15th at 5:30 PM: J. Rathbun explained this group is similar to the Dean's List. This is for the students with academic excellence. There are about 60 students in grades 8-12. Students in this group will receive a cord for graduation. The Board is invited to attend.

i. Policies 1st Read

i. ACE: Procedural Safeguards Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Disability

- ii. **ACN: Accommodation of Lactation Needs**
- iii. **JLDBB: Suicide Prevention and Response Plan**
- iv. **BDA -R Catalog of Recurring School Board Policies**
- v. **JIE/IHBCA: Accommodation of Pregnancy and Related Medical**

Conditions: Students:

- vi. **GBAM: Accommodation of Pregnancy-Related Medical Conditions:**

Personnel: K. Noonan explained that the policies were from the Special Bulletin. Policy BDA-R may be changed again soon.

5. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. * Delegate to the NHSBA Delegate Assembly: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to appoint C. McDaniel-Thomas as the primary representative of the Board to the Delegate Assembly which will meet on October 19, 2024. *J.Cesaitis leaves the meeting.* **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 7.805/0/0/5.195. **Motion passes.**

b. * NHSBA Proposed Resolutions (motion to support): The Board reviewed the proposed resolutions, voted to support or not support, C. McDaniel-Thomas will go to the Delegate Assembly and vote on behalf of the Board. **MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to support the Alternate Resolution recommended by the NHSBA Board of Directors for #13 which was submitted by the Hanover and Dresden School Boards. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **DISCUSSION:** E.LaPlante commented that there is a court case regarding this issue. S.Peters said it does not directly influence this motion. **VOTE:** 5.556/1.118/1.131/5.195. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to support the recommendation of the NHSBA Board of Directors not to support Resolution #14 which was submitted by the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School Board. **SECOND:** S. Peters **VOTE:** 7.805/0/0/5.195. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to support the Alternate Resolution recommended by the NHSBA Board of Directors for # 16 which was submitted by the Concord School Board. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **VOTE:** 7.805/0/0/5.195. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to support the Alternate Resolution recommended by the NHSBA Board of Directors for #17 which was submitted by the Concord School Board. **SECOND:** K Noonan. **VOTE:** 7.805/0/0/5.195. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to support the Alternate Resolution recommended by the NHSBA Board of Directors for #18 which was submitted by the Oyster River School Board. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 7.805/0/0/5.195 **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** S.Peters **MOVED** to agree with the NHSBA Board of Directors recommendation not to support Resolution #19 which was submitted by the Oyster River School Board. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 6.687/1.118/0/5.195. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to support the Alternate Resolution recommended by the NHSBA Board of Directors for #20 which was submitted from the Oyster River School Board and Cosponsor of the Hanover/Dresden School Board. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 5.556/2.249/0/5.195. **Motion passes.**

c. * Proposed Budget Items: The Board had proposed a number of items to be added to

the proposed budget. The administration explained the cost and if there was a need for each one. The Board had suggested a Second World Language Teacher at a cost of \$95,000.00, hall monitors which are on the paraprofessional scale at a cost of \$60,000.00, floating paraprofessionals aka permanent substitutes at a cost of \$60,000.00 each, improvement to the accessibility of the playgrounds for Troy, Emerson and Gilsum at a cost of \$150,000.00 each and an increase to the extracurricular stipend and athletics for the MRMHS at a cost of \$110,000.00. J.Rathbun did remind the Board that they had voted on a flat budget and if any of the proposed items are added the administration will have to find it in the budget. The Board reviewed each proposed item. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to add 2 permanent floating para/sub roles to be able to move about the district on an as needed basis at a total cost of \$120,000.00. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 7.805/0/0/5.195. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to add \$5500.00 to the Extra-Curricular Stipend/Athletic budget line. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **DISCUSSION:** **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to amend the motion and add \$20,000.00 to the Extra-Curricular Stipend/Athletic budget line. **SECOND:** L. Steadman **VOTE on the amendment:** 5.556/2.249/0/5.195. **Amendment passes.** **VOTE on amended motion:** 5.556/2.249/0/5.195. **Motion passes.** B. Tatro reminded the Board that the MDEA Contract will be on the ballot.

e. * Approve the Consent Agenda

i. September 3, 2024 Minutes

ii. Manifest:

iii. Budget Transfers: **MOTION:** C.McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to accept the consent agenda which included the September 3, 2024 School Board Meeting Minutes, the manifest for FY25 in the amount of \$ 3,325,898.34, a transfer request from C. Woods in the amount of \$336,190 to cover 3 additional OOD tuition placements, related services and OOD transportation not budgeted for and increases in costs, a transfer request from C. Woods in the amount of \$156,000 to cover additional placements and increased costs in OOD transportation, a transfer from J. Morin in the amount of \$22,500 to cover fees for hiring nurse from previous contracted service and a transfer request from J. Morin in the amount of \$8700 to cover the cost of an additional bus for Ecology School and increased costs. **SECOND:** L. Steadman **VOTE:** 7.805/0/0/5.195. **Motion passes.**

6. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

a. Finish Resolutions 21-24

b. Education Support Professional Day

c. Committee Goals

d. Non-Public I

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

8. 9:20 PM Enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3-II (j) Consideration of

confidential, commercial, or financial information that is exempt from public disclosure under RSA 91-A:5, IV in an adjudicative proceeding pursuant to RSA 541 or RSA 541-A. MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3-II (j) Consideration of confidential, commercial, or financial information that is exempt from public disclosure under RSA 91-A:5, IV in an adjudicative proceeding pursuant to RSA 541 or RSA 541-A. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 7.806/0/0/5.195. **Motion passes.**

9. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to **SEAL** the September 17, 2024, 9:20 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes until July 1,2025. **SECOND:** B.Tatro. **DISCUSSION: Reason for sealing the non-public minutes: Disclosure would render the proposed action ineffective. VOTE:** 7.6/0/.206/5.195. **Motion passes.**

10. 9:29 PM MOTION TO ENTER NON-PUBLIC SESSION under RSA 91-A:3-II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3-II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE:** 7.806/0/0/5.195. **Motion passes.**

11. 9:32 PM MOTION TO ENTER 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:** 7.806/0/0/5.195. **Motion passes.**

12. MOTION TO ADJOURN: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:39 PM. **SECOND:** S.Peters. **VOTE:** 7.805/0/0/5.195. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY:Yes/No/Abstain/Absent