

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2025
Monadnock Regional Middle/High School, Swanzey, NH

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

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

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS: E. LaPlante informed the Board that he has been asked by residents of Richmond to present information to the Board regarding federal funding. J.Rathbun will give it to the appropriate committee.

3. #celebrate MRSD: The light and sound upgrade renovation to the auditorium is complete. The funds for the renovations were from the Mark and Sadie Carlton Trust Fund. Congratulations to the students and staff. *G. Carraro arrives.*

a. Recap of District Votes & Elections from March 11th: J. Rathbun mentioned that Article One failed and the remaining Articles passed. It was fantastic for the students and staff. He thanked everyone for getting the word out. He would also like to thank L.Sutton for all of her work as district clerk. It went smoothly even with the 2 or 3 different ballot systems she had to work with.

b. Welcome New Board Member: The Board welcomed Rachel Vogt to the Board.

4. BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING: Policies BDA, BDA-R

a. Election of School Board & SAU Officers:

i. Board Chair: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to nominate S.Peters as the Board Chair. **SECOND:** J. Cesaitis. **VOTE:** 12.005/0/0/.995, **Motion passes.**

ii. Vice Board Chair MOTION: J.Cesaitis **MOVED** to nominate K. Noonan as the Board Vice Chair. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to nominate L.Steadman as the Board Vice Chair. **SECOND:** E. LaPlante. **VOTE:** K. Noonan new Vice Chair.

iii. Board Treasurer and Secretary: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to nominate L. Steadman as the Board Treasurer/Secretary. **SECOND:** K. Noonan **VOTE:**12.005/0/0/.995. **Motion passes.**

b. Board Member Documentation:

i. Contact Sheet: S.Peters asked the Board Members to fill out the contact sheet, send it to L. Sutton and she will send the updates out to the Board Members.

ii. BCA/BCA-R (Ethics Commitment Form) S.Peters passed out the Board Ethics Form and asked the Board Members to sign it and return to him tonight or at the next

Board Meeting.

iii. **Review 2024/25 Board Self-Evaluation:** S.Peters explained that 11 School Board Members returned the Board Self-Evaluation along with J. Rathbun, J. Morin and L. Spencer who also participated. **Policy-B.** Bohannon thanked the Policy Committee and commented that the group continues to make progress. **Relationship with the Superintendent-Effective Board Meetings-**The survey agreed on effective Board Meetings, a strong year as a Board. **Communication with the Public-**The communication with the public dropped from last year. S.Peters commented that we need more proactive communication, more continued communication through media. E. LaPlante commented that people have said the Board does not engage in conversation during the Public Comments. S.Peters said that would be a slippery slope. B. Tatro commented on doing Facebook Live. She said to keep it up with the technology. It was commented that it is important not to overuse Facebook Live. S.Peters said it would be good to use Facebook Live when implementing the Cell Phone Policy, the budget and other items. **Strategic Plan-**S.Peters commented that there were a lot of opinions on this issue. We do not have a strategic plan for the MRMHS. There is no working document or a strategic plan for academics. **Annual Goal Performance-**S. Peters commented that not all of the committee goals were reached. Next time the goals should be simpler. **Board Meeting and participation-L.** Sutton kept track and shared the attendance of Board Members at the Board Meetings and the committee meetings. **2024/25 Reflection-**This has been a strong first year for the Superintendent. The Board should work on communication to the public, Board participation, the members should be more flexible with the meeting times, simpler goals and earlier goal results. S.Peters asked the Board how they felt about the past year. Some members spoke and gave their opinion. E. Stanley felt the meetings were too structured and not enough discussion. B. Tatro would agree. S.Peters commented that any information asked for by the administration should be in the form of a motion.

iv. **Board Goal Setting Process:** S.Peters reviewed the Board goal setting process.

v. **Proposed Board Meeting Time/Date/Standard Snow Dates:** The Board received a schedule for the upcoming Board Meetings for 2025/26. This schedule can be updated by the Board throughout the year. K. Noonan would like to hold the Board Meetings in different schools. J. Rathbun said this might not be the year to hold the meetings at the different schools due to the renovations going on. He might suggest MTC sometime in December. J. Cesaitis would agree. The committee agreed to keep the Board Meeting on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. It was explained that if a meeting is canceled due to snow it would be the next day.

c. Evaluate Standing Committee (Policy BDE)

i. **Committee Assignments and Schedule (white board session):** **Policy-**K. Noonan, L. Steadman and C. McDaniel-Thomas, **CCC-K.** Noonan, **Wellness-J.** Strimbeck, **Budget Committee-B.** Tatro, **Education Committee-R.** Vogt, G. Carraro, E. LaPlante and H. Blood. **Negotiations-B.** Tatro, L. Steadman and C. McDaniel-Thomas. **Finance/Facilities-J.** Cesaitis, B. Tatro, E. Stanley and C. McDaniel-Thomas. **CRC-J.** Cesaitis, E. Stanley and H.

Blood. **Extra-Curricular**-E. Stanley and B. Bohannon. E. Stanley is not in favor of the ECC. He said the committee does not get the support. The administration has the stipend information. B. Bohannon said he is not sure about the stipends, maybe a percentage across the board. S. Peters will agree with the assignments. The committees can meet and set a date for their meetings. Policy will meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Finance/Facilities will meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Education will meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month. CRC will meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month prior to the Board Meeting. J. Rathbun would ask the committees to invite the administration to the committee meeting rather than a standing invite.

ii. **Proposed Board & Committee Goals:** S.Peters would ask the committees to come up with one main goal for the next Board Meeting. He feels a CIP for this campus and a study for the SAU might be a goal. B. Bohannon said the committee is drifting from the core goal of education. He would challenge the group for this year. J. Rathbun said that the Strategic Plan is still happening. L. Spencer and her team are at Level 2 of the Strategic Plan. Work is being done and will continue. L. Spencer and the principals will update the Finance/Facilities Committee after their trip.

5. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION

a. **Superintendent Evaluation:** The Board reviewed the Superintendent's Evaluation. He commented that he has 3 goals and they are evaluated by 13 Board Members. He believes and appreciates the work. The goals need to be deliverable, not a huge report. S. Peters would ask the members to send thoughts to him regarding goals for the Superintendent.

b. **FY24 Audit Report:** The Board had received the Auditor's Report by email. J. Morin explained there were no finding. Congratulations J. Morin and her team. K. Noonan asked if there is a spot on the website for the Auditor's Report that would be easy for the public to access.

c. Policies for First Read:

i. **Policy DM-Cash in School Buildings "To update DM to NHSBA sample with edits from committee:** The Finance/Facilities Committee presented Policy DM to the Board for a first read. The Board suggested safes in the schools. J. Rathbun will look into the upgrade of the safes.

6. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. **Transportation Bid:** J. Morin explained that the information for the bussing contract went out to 7 or 8 companies, 2 interested and 2 companies presented bids. The administration would recommend the Board accept the First Student bid which came in lower than the previous extension. This contract is in line to what the district would want for a 5-year contract.

MOTION: H. Blood **MOVED** to approve the 5-year transportation bid from First Student as presented. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 9.756/1.118/0/2.126. **Motion passes. (B. Bohannon missing from the vote)**

b. Approve the Agenda:

i. **March 4, 2025 Minutes and Non-Public Minutes**

ii. **Transfers: \$200,100**

iii. **Manifest: \$ 2,838,228.24. MOTION: B. Tatro MOVED** to accept the March 4, 2025 Public and Non-Public Meeting Minutes, to approve the budget transfer in the amount of \$200,100 requested by J. Morin from Special Education Private Tuition line to the Special Education Districtwide Related Services line and to approve the manifest in the amount of \$2,838,228.29. **SECOND: H. Blood VOTE: 10.874/0/0/2.126. Motion passes. (B. Bohannon missing from vote)**

7. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

- a. **District Clerk and Voting Machines**
- b. **Board.doc Migration**
- c. **Employee Evaluation Report**
- d. **Certified Staff Nominations**

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS: J. Rathbun commented that Primex will be dealing with the other insurance company in regards to the fire at Emerson. There is no expense to the MRSD.

S.Peters reached out to the Chair of the Budget Committee and thanked him and the committee for their support in the recent vote.

9. 8:59 PM ENTER INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION (b): MOTION: K. Noonan MOVED to enter into Non-Public Session RSA 91-A:3 II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee. **SECOND: B. Bohannon. VOTE: 12.005/0/0/.995. Motion passes.**

10. 9:05 PM ENTER INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION (c) : 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: B. Bohannon VOTE: 12.005/0/0/.995. Motion passes.**

11. MOTION TO ADJOURN: MOTION: K. Noonan MOVED to adjourn the Board Meeting at 9:14 PM. **SECOND: H. Blood. VOTE: 12.005/0/0/.995. Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY: Yes/No/Abstain/Absent