

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2025
Monadnock Regional Middle/High School, Swanzey, NH

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

Administration Present: J. Rathbun, Superintendent, L.Spencer, Assistant 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. Student NEASC Presentation: L.Spencer explained that the NEASC is done every 10 years which means it will be done in 2027. As part of the process E. Kelly and H.O'Malley asked 6 students about writing K-12, 9-12 and growth. The students spoke of the good, the bad and the ugly. They did not hold back. She thanked the teachers who participated.

J. Rathbun mentioned that the Spring Sports are in full bloom. The softball team is playing on the new field and the Track Team is hosting a big track meet today.

4. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION

a. 2025/26 DRAFT School Board Calendar: The Board reviewed the School Board Calendar.

b. Education Report: iReady Diagnostics: L. Spencer presented data results of the iReady Test to the Board. She reported that the iReady Test is given to the students twice a year once in the Fall and in the Winter. The staff is able to see how the students compared from the Fall test to the Winter test. She explained that all levels increased. This is an internal test. The district does very well when the kids are 2 or 3 levels down. We need to focus on the kids that are at grade level or above. We are missing those kids. L. Spencer explained what the staff is doing to help the students. The teachers have grade level meetings, PLC Meetings sharing knowledge and grade level sub groups. They are implementing Arts and Letters, chosen by the staff. S. Peters asked what if a student comes in October and does not take the Sept. test. There would be no measure. J. Cesaitis commented that 68% are not at grade level in Math but are showing growth. J. Rathbun commented that the comparison to the State is important but we are comparing ourselves with ourselves. People like assessments. We are seeing growth. J. Cesaitis asked if the test was worth the money. S.Peters commented when we had the State Testing the Board did not like it so they found iReady. G.Carraro asked why this data is not more positive. B. Tatro commented that this is worth the money. She would love to see the district stick with it in order to compare apples to apples. J. Rathbun asked is any test worth it if you do not use the data? L.Spencer commented the staff is able to focus on this data more. We are seeing results. J.

Cesaitis asked what the administration is doing to the staff that are not making results like their fellow teachers. L.Spencer commented nothing right now. The teachers are working together. They share information and attend each other's classrooms. J. Rathbun commented that any test is the test of that day. To think a kid tests well every day is not normal. E.LaPlante said that iReady is great. J. Rathbun commented that the State does not look at the iReady test. This is an internal tool. J. Cesaitis asked why more money for iReady if there is no improvement. B.Tatro said with iReady there is no opt out. G. Carraro does not agree with spending the funds. She said it is a waste of money and not every student is not able to do this test on the computer. K. Noonan commented that this is a good assessment tool. E.LaPlante likes this test but at the end of the day the State Test is the only one that matters. J.Rathbun explained that every State gives a different test. Any test is useful if you use the data. iReady gives us data on individual students. C. McDaniel-Thomas commented that this test digs down and the data is immediately accessible. The administration wants the teachers to work together, learn from each other to benefit the students. C. McDaniel-Thomas suggested that the Board should be mindful of all of the classrooms. Teachers are not all working with the same level of students. J.Rathbun explained that it is State Law that 90% of students must participate in order for the district to receive funds.

c. Overview of Updated Employee Evaluation Process: The Board will discuss this at the next meeting.

d. Federal Title VI certification of compliance, General Assurances and Program Assurances: J. Rathbun reviewed the grants that are covered in the Program Assurances, each of the Title Programs, the General Assurances that we will follow Safe School Zone, Gun Free Zone Civil Rights, Environmental, homeless students and every law that they want us to follow. Superintendent Rathbun has informed the Board about the compliances and assurances and he and S. Peters will sign off that the district will follow the rules of the programs.

J.Rathbun informed the Board that the US Dept of Education is asking for a signed statement regarding Title 6, Civil Rights Discrimination. J.Rathbun commented that the district does not have any DEI practices, he signed the statement and will return it.

5. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION

a. Teacher Appreciation Day: This year the Board will provide lunch and swag to the teacher/staff for Teacher Appreciation Day. J.Rathbun said there are funds. S.Peters would like to know what the district is giving the teachers and staff in order to know when they thank the Board.

b. Committee Charters & Goals

i. Policy: The Policy Committee is meeting on April 17, 2025.

ii. Education: H. Blood explained that the committee reviewed the current Charter and took no action. They will just change the date of review. The committee presented the Ed/Tech Goals to the Board. K. Noonan commented on the number of goals. S. Peters said they will have homework to do prior to the meetings which should move things along.

MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the Ed/Tech Committee Goals as presented.

SECOND: K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 10.874/0/0/2.126. **Motion passes.**

iii. **Finance/Facilities:** C.McDaniel-Thomas presented the Finance/Facilities Charter to the Board. The committee did not make any changes. They will change the date of review. The committee presented the Finance/Facilities Goals to the Board. **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve the Finance/Facilities Committee Goals as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 10.874/0/0/2.126. **Motion passes.** C. McDaniel-Thomas mentioned that the committee discussed the tennis courts and the parking lots at the MRMHS. There are funds in the Building and Grounds that could fund part of the tennis courts. The committee has asked the administration for estimates on the tennis courts and the parking lots.

iv. **CRC:** CRC met earlier tonight. They will bring the Charter and Goals to the next meeting.

c. **2025/26 Board Goals:** S.Peters explained that the Board will wait until all of the committee goals are complete and find the most important goals from each committee for the Board Goals.

d. **District Clerk Appointment:** **MOTION:** S.Peters **MOVED** to approve the nomination of Lillian Sutton as the School District Clerk for the 3 year term. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 10.874/0/0/2.126. **Motion passes.**

e. **Voting Machines:** J. Rathbun explained that the agenda is lengthy tonight and this issue could wait until the end of June. E. LaPlante commented that you might want to wait until the court issue is resolved regarding the voting machines.

f. Approve the Agenda:

i. **April 1, 2025 Minutes, Non-Public Minutes, Transfers**

ii. **Manifest:** \$ 3,186,807.89. **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to accept the April 1, 2025 Public Meeting Minutes with edit and Non-Public Meeting Minutes, to approve the manifest in the amount of \$3,186,807.89 and to approve the transfer in the amount of \$35,000.00 as requested by J. Morin from Emerson Guidance health ins. line, Emerson Reg. Instruction retirement line and Emerson Spec. Ed. teacher salary line to Emerson substitute lines and Emerson regular instruction health insurance lines. **SECOND:** R. Vogt **VOTE:** 10.874/0/0/2.126. **Motion passes.**

6. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

- a. **May 6, 2025**
- b. **Evaluation**
- c. **Voting Machines**
- d. **Annual Special Education Overview**
- e. **CCC Meeting Report**

The Board will meet after this meeting for a Non-Meeting.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS: K. Noonan explained that when she was in attendance at the CCC Meeting a Keene School Board Member was impressed with the budget issue/Facebook Live. They said it was a very good job as a School Board.

8. 9:09 PM ENTER INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee: 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:** E. Stanley **VOTE:** 10.874/0/0/2.126. **Motion passes.**

9. 9:14 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:** H. Blood **VOTE:** 10.874/0/0/2.126. **Motion passes.**

10. 9:15 PM Non-Public Session RSA 91-A:3 II (i) Consideration of matters relating to the preparation for and the carrying out of emergency functions, including training to carry out such functions, developed by local or state safety officials that are directly intended to thwart a deliberate act that is intended to result in widespread or severe damage to property or widespread injury or loss of life.

11. MOTION TO SEAL: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to SEAL the 9:15 PM, April 15, 2025 Non-Public Meeting Minutes until April 15, 2035. **SECOND:** B.Tatro. **VOTE:**10.874/0/0/2.126. **Motion passes.**

12. 9:19 PM Non-Public Session 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.

13. MOTION TO SEAL: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to SEAL the 9:19 PM, April 15, 2025 Non-Public Meeting Minutes until April 14, 2026 due to pertaining to contract negotiations. **SECOND:** B.Tatro. **VOTE:**10.874/0/0/2.126. **Motion passes.**

14. MOTION TO ADJOURN: MOTION: C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to adjourn the Board Meeting at 9:25 PM. **SECOND:** H. Blood. **VOTE:** 10.874/0/0/2.126. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY:Yes/No/Abstain/Absent