

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2025
Monadnock Regional Middle/High School, Swanzey, NH

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

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. #celebrateMRSD:** J. Rathbun commented on a wonderful summer camp which was held at the MRMHS. There were about 300 kids. He thanked all of the staff for an amazing job.. Last week was Band Camp and M. Peters and A.LaFond did an outstanding job. This week all the Fall sports are in full swing. Today was new teacher and mentor training. Thank you Marie and Lisa. There were a total of 14 new teachers present. Thursday will be a staff breakfast from 7:30-8:30 with opening remarks in the auditorium. The day will continue with training. The construction and renovations of the elementary schools is in high gear. There have been a lot of exciting things going on over the summer. They can not wait for the kids to come back.

4. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

a. Staffing Update: J. Rathbun informed the Board that the district is in really good shape. There are 14 vacancies and they are mostly paraprofessionals. This is better than in previous years.

b. SAT Results: L. Spencer presented the Board with a packet containing the results of the SAT scores. This is a standard test that colleges and universities look at for their incoming students. There are some schools that do not require this test. She read the results for ELA and MATH and the students are closing the gap faster than the State. The essay scores this year matched the State scores. There have been significant gains, something is working and we are making growth. She would like to give a lot of credit to the teachers and students for working hard. She is also delivering the PSAT results. J. Rathbun explained that the PSATs start in the 9th grade. This test is to keep the kids practicing for the SAT. It is not a real reporting tool. The SAT qualifies as the State Testing. S.Peters said that this is encouraging and the CRC will work this in the dashboard.

c. ELO Goals and Year 1 Plan: L.Spencer presented the ELO Program to the Board. This is extended learning outside of the classroom. L. Spencer and her team along with the Ed/Tech Committee worked on this over the summer. She informed the Board that they are ready to roll this out this week. The students that will be able to participate are the 11th and 12th

graders for this first year. There are conversations with the students who are interested and are asked about their interests. There are teachers that will make sure that the students stay on track. The community partners who are willing to have the students at their businesses are very valuable. The students will be given the opportunity to practice in their career field and receive credit. The students will learn skills outside of the classroom. This is definitely a time commitment. This is a three-stage process: Application for the students, pass to the ELO coordinator and meet the community partners. There is an ELO Contract, planning stage, program description, timeline and benchmarks. This process will earn the students credit. The assessment and presentation are similar to the Senior projects. There will be a formative assessment. The community partners will get a welcome letter, job description and a community/partner agreement. R.Vogt said this is wonderful to have. She would suggest an application regarding what skills make you stand out more than everyone else. It might be important because not everyone will be able to have an ELO. S.Peters would like the Board to know who the community partners are. J. Rathbun commented that this is real life experience.

5. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. Scoreboard Donation: John Guidotti and Brad Steinka of the Alumni Association are here tonight to present the Board with a donation of a new scoreboard in the gymnasium. The Husky Alumni Association Class of 1977 worked on a 18 month campaign. There were 34 people who donated. They worked with T. Cote on this project. The donation is in the amount of \$20,000. They are asking the Board to accept the donation. **MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to accept the donation presented by the Husky Alumni Association for a new scoreboard in the gymnasium. **SECOND:** H. Blood. **DISCUSSION:** S. Peters suggested that the Husky Alumni Association be recognized before the first Basketball Game. **VOTE:** 9.639/0/0/3.361. **Motion passes.** The Board thanked John and Brad.

b. Annual Audit: Required Board Survey: S.Peters explained that part of the annual audit the Board is asked to take part in a survey. So far there are 7 responses. He did mention that one Board Member responded that they are aware of suspicious activities. The auditors will meet with this person for the reason why. J. Morin would like the rest of the Board to respond to the survey. The survey will close Friday.

c. Policies 2nd Read:

i. JFABE: Education of Children in Foster Care

ii. JKA: Corporal Punishment

iii. JLCC: Head Lice/Pediculosis

iv. JLCC-R: Communicable Diseases - Retire

v. JRA: Student Records and Access (FERPA)

vi. JRA-A: Student Records and Access - Retire

vii. JIC: Student Conduct

viii. JLCK: Physical and Emotional Well-Being Students

ix. JLIA: Supervision of Students

x. IMAH: Daily Physical Activity

xi. EBB: School Safety

xii. EBCH: Chemical Safety and Chemical Hygiene Plan: K. Noonan presented the Board with a summary sheet of the edits and changes. They were done either because of the new bulletin or new legislation. **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve all policy changes as presented. **SECOND:** L. Steadman. **VOTE:** 9.639/0/0/3.361. **Motion passes.**

d. Annual Approval of Policy IJ Instructional Plan: The Instructional Resource Plan was presented to the Board for approval. J.Rathbun explained this is how the curriculum is managed. It is a 5-year curriculum review cycle. There is nothing new. This is exactly what we do. L.Spencer went over the plan. S. Peters commented that this presentation is a lot more than he has seen in previous years. He asked the administration where the District is in the cycle. 2024-25 work was done on the Arts, Music and PE. PE has a great conversation, Arts would suggest more night time performances and regarding the elementary schools the request from the Board for instruments for the students was approved. **MOTION:** H. Blood **MOVED** to approve the Instructional Resource Plan as presented by the administration. **SECOND:**L.Steadman. **VOTE:** 8.521/0/1.118/3.361. **Motion passes.**

e. Cutler/MTC transition timeline: J. Rathbun presented the Board with the timeline for transitioning the Cutler students and staff to MTC. There is a strong push to allow the Cutler 6th grade to graduate from Cutler. MTC is expected to be done in early December of 2025. At that point they will have public tours of the MTC facility. The plan being presented is agreeable to all. L.Steadman would only suggest combining Phase 2 and Phase 3 together. **MOTION:** L.Steadman **MOVED** to approve the Cutler to MTC Transition Plan with Phase 2 and Phase 3 combined. **SECOND:** H. Blood. **DISCUSSION:** K.Noonan asked why not move the students in the summer. J. Rathbun said this gives time to spread out and not rush the process. There is always too much going on over the summer. The Board does not want the teachers and the staff to be stressed. **VOTE:** 9.639/0/0/3.361. **Motion passes.**

f. Substitute Pay Rates: The administration presented the current pay for substitutes and the increase being proposed to the Board. It was explained that the substitute line has not been spent. This increase will be covered. J. Morin explained that teachers in Keene receive \$125.00 a day. Jaffery-Rindge is even more. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to approve the new substitute rate as proposed by the administration. **DISCUSSION:** J. Rathbun commented this will help keep the people we have not sure it is enough to entice others. **VOTE:** 9.639/0/0/3.361. **Motion passes.**

g. Approve the Consent Agenda: July 15, 2025 Minutes, Non-Public Minutes and Manifest: \$2,544,865.70 for FY 2025, \$686,970.63 for FY 2026 and \$508,367.56 for FY 2026. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to accept the July 15, 2025 Public Meeting Minutes and Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented and to approve the manifests in the amounts of \$2,544,865.70 for FY 2025, \$686,970.63 for FY 2026 and \$508,367.56 for FY 2026. **SECOND:** R.Vogt **VOTE:**E. Stanley-abstain and all remaining members-yes. **Motion passes.**

h. Finance/Facilities Update: E. Stanley on behalf of the Finance/ Facilities

committee will ask the administration to stay close to the default budget for the FY 2026-27. If there are items that are needed let CRC know in order to inform the public and explain. We do not want a budget of \$40,000,000 but someday that will happen. S.Peters asked B.Tatro to reach out to E. Sheldon of the Budget Committee and ask if there are any guardrails on the budget that they would like to recommend to the Board. It was suggested to have the administration propose a budget based on the anticipated default. S.Peters would like to wait until the Board hears back from the Budget Committee. .

6. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

- a. Review Student Handbook**
- b. Negotiations**
- c. Delegate Assembly**
- d. Naming Emerson Library**
- e. Meet with the Principals taking turns. It was suggested to tour the newly renovated schools when complete and meet the principals in their own schools. Emerson and MTC will be ready to tour this year.**

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS: There are no public comments.

8. 8:40 PM 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:3II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee. **SECOND:** L.Steadman **VOTE:** 9.639/0/0/3.361. **Motion passes.**

9. 8:55 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. Tatro **VOTE:** 9.639/0/0/3.361. **Motion passes.**

10. Public Session: The Board would like to meet the new Band Director and AD at a future meeting.

11. MOTION TO ADJOURN: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to adjourn the Board Meeting at 9:35 PM. **SECOND:** H. Blood **VOTE:** 9.639/0/0/3.361. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY:Yes/No/Abstain/Absent