

**Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2026 (Not Yet Approved)
MRMHS Library, Swanzey, NH**

School Board Members Present: Scott Peters, Edmond LaPlante, Lisa Steadman, Betty Tatro, Jeff Cesaitis, Christina Pierce, Hannah Blood and Gina Carraro. **Absent:** Rachel Vogt, Kristen Noonan, Brian Bohannon, Jennifer Strimbeck and Swanzey Vacancy.

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: There were no public comments.

3. #celebrateMRSD

a. Recap of District Votes & Election from March 10th: J. Rathbun explained that all of the articles on the ballot passed. The MESSA contract passed which is helpful to the Monadnock employees.

b. Welcome new Board Members: J. Rathbun welcomed new School Board Members from Fitzwilliam, Christina Pierce and Kristen Noonan who was elected the new Swanzey Board Member.

c. Winter Spirit Championship: J. Rathbun informed the Board that the Varsity Cheerleading Team has won the Winter Spirit Championship. Congratulations!!! **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve the traditional championship swag for the Varsity Cheerleaders. **SECOND:** H. Blood. **VOTE:** 11.663/0/0/1.337. **Motion passes.**

d. We Will Rock You Presentation: J. Rathbun congratulated the students and staff for a great job in the recent show. He was away at a conference but heard many good things about it.

e. Mathematics Competition: J. Rathbun commented that it has been some time since the district has sent a Math Team to competition. The Team consists of 10 students and a teacher.

f. Professional Development Day-March 20, 2026: During the Professional Development Day the high school will be working on NEASC and the elementary school staff will be working on English and Math Programs. Professionals from those companies will work with the staff. The elementary staff will also work on Marzano.

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

a. Election of School Board & SAU Officers:

i. Board Chair: J. Rathbun asked for nominations for the Board Chair. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to nominate S. Peters as the Board Chair. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **There were no other nominations.** **VOTE:** 10.668/0/.915/1.337. **Motion passes.** **S.**

Peters takes over the meeting as Board Chair.

ii. Board Vice Chair: S. Peters asked for nominations for Board Vice Chair. **MOTION:** J. Cesaitis **MOVED** to nominate K. Noonan as the Board Vice Chair. **SECOND:** R. Vogt. **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to nominate L. Steadman as the Board Vice Chair. **SECOND:** J. Strimbeck. **VOTE:** K. Noonan 6.585 and L. Steadman 5.078. **K. Noonan Board Vice Chair.**

iii. Board Treasurer and Secretary: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to nominate L. Steadman as the Board Treasurer/Secretary. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **VOTE:** 11.663/0/0/1.337. **Motion passes.**

b. Board Open Seats: There is an open seat for Swanzey. C. McDaniel-Thomas has resigned and will be moving to Maine. The Swanzey Board Members will be voting on a new Swanzey Board Member. The vacancy means there is a 12-member Board when figuring out quorum until a member is elected. The members will notify L. Sutton when there has been a nomination.

c. Board Member Documentation:

i. Contact Sheet: S. Peters passed out the Contact Sheet for the members to update their information.

ii. BCA/BCA-R (Ethics Commitment Form): The Ethics Commitment Form has been passed out to the members and they are being asked to agree and sign it. The forms were signed and passed back to the chair.

iii. Review 2025/26 Board Self-Evaluation: S. Peters explained that only 4 self-evaluations came back and that could have been due to a processing issue. He commented that the biggest struggle last year was the committee meetings. He asked that the members work harder this coming year.

iv. Board Goal Setting Process: S. Peters explained that each committee would come up with their committee goals and then from those goals the Board will come up with the Board Goals.

v. Proposed Board Meeting Time/Date/Standard Snow Dates: The Board Meeting schedule was passed out to the members. Policy BDA-R is a list of the recurring motions to do at various meetings. The committee discussed some of the Board Meetings to be held at the various schools during the year. B. Bohannon likes meeting at the MRMHS. K. Noonan and J. Cesaitis agreed on meeting at the various schools during the year. S. Peters commented that the meeting locations can be adjusted at any time during the year. He would suggest that the members from the various towns promote their school but maybe not in the summer.

d. Evaluate Standing Committees (Policy BDE): The Board discussed if there were some committees that were not necessary. H. Blood explained that she was the Chair of the CRC and it was hard to know what the committee really needed to do, one member stopped attending and the CRC needed more help to set the CRC up for success.

i. Committee Assignments and Schedule: B. Tatro-Budget Committee

liaison, R. Vogt-CCC representative, J. Strimbeck-Wellness Committee. S.Peters would suggest 2 senior Board Members to have a Board Orientation with the new members. L.Steadman and K. Noonan agreed. L.Steadman would suggest a Governance Committee. Christina Pierce and R. Vogt will also be a part of that committee. It was commented that the CRC might not be needed all the time. J. Rathbun commented that what is hard is that the committees will give the administration an assignment and they already have so many roles to fill. It is a hard conversation but the reality is that it is hard to fit it into the administration's schedule. The CRC can be helpful when the staff brings ideas to the committee and asks for their help. The Emerson Library dedication still needs to happen. The administration will need help with the library dedication, Cutler gymnasium and the Class of 1977 appreciation ceremony. Maybe the committee could be a standing committee and meet maybe monthly if there is a need. H. Blood does agree with all of that. Wait until the administration needs the committee, be flexible.

Committee Assignments continued: CRC-H. Blood, R. Vogt and B. Bohannon, Negotiations-L.Steadman, B. Tatro and H. Blood, Finance/Facilities-R. Vogt, J. Cesaitis and H. Blood (working on the CIP, SAU Plans, Cutler Warrant Article), Policy-K. Noonan, B. Tatro and L. Steadman(work with Education on Book I and Book J), Education-R. Vogt, E. LaPlante and C. Pierce (work with Policy on Book I and Book J). J. Rathbun would suggest the ECC be an ad hoc when needed. S.Peters will appoint if the need arrives. J.Cesaitis would like to have a Safety Committee. He would like a deeper understanding of the safety policies in each school. J. Rathbun explained that certain information would have to be in non-public and some information cannot be shared. J. Cesaitis asked about the procedures. S. Peters said the role of the Board is to set policy. K. Noonan commented that we can review policy but can not dictate procedure. J. Cesaitis asked if the procedures abide by the policies. J.Rathbun answered yes and commented that he is not sure how this committee could work without the administration. H.would have to be in attendance. J. Cesaitis commented on emails he has received about safety concerns. The Safety Committee-J. Cesaitis, J. Strimbeck and E.LaPlante. S.Peters would caution the committee about responding to safety concerns. They should be directed to the administration. The group will meet and share with the administration. **MOTION:** S.Peters **MOVED** to form the committees as elected. **SECOND:** K.Noonan **VOTE:** 11.663/0/0/1.337. **Motion passes.**

ii. Proposed Board & Committee Goals: S.Peters would ask the committees to meet, elect a chair, review the current Committee Charter, review, update and have a first pass at the Committee Goals as well. The Committee Chairs will contact L. Sutton about their meetings in order for her to post them.

e. Elementary STEAM Position: J. Rathbun explained that the administration is looking to hire a Maker Space/STEAM position. Currently, the MRMHS Library Media Specialist is teaching the STEAM, supporting the elementary schools while being the MRMHS Library Media Specialist. **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to support the recommendation presented by J. Rathbun for an Elementary Maker Space/STEAM position. **SECOND:** J. Cesaitis. **VOTE:** 11.663/0/0/1.337. **Motion passes.**

5. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

a. Superintendent Evaluation: J. Rathbun asked that before the evaluation he has an opportunity to sit and have a chance to review his goals, accomplishments and remind the board on what has happened. It has been quite a year. He said an evaluation is for improvement in education. He does not feel that the evaluation helped him. He said last year it was nice but there was no conversation. He explained when he does the annual reviews for the administration he asks for goal setting prior to the kids entering the school. He is not offended if his compensation is not done with the others. J. Rathbun will have his written reflections and goals at the 2nd meeting in April. C.Pierce asked if teacher feedback is part of this process. S. Peters said there is a process and any teacher feedback would be in the Bargaining Units.

b. Education Report: There will be a Marzano Report on April 21, 2026 and in July or August a report from the Director of Guidance.

c. FY25 Audit Report: J. Morin explained the auditors are trying to wrap up the audit and the goal is to be complete by March 31, 2026

d. Virtual Signature on Manifest: J. Morin explained that there are challenges with Virtual Signatures. J. Rathbun said that they would look into it.

6. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. * Approve the Consent Agenda: (February 17, 2026 Public and Non-Public Meeting Minutes, Budget Transfers and the Manifest \$3,662,812.04): MOTION: B.Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the February 17, 2026 Public and Non-Public Meeting Minutes, a budget transfer request from S. Betit-Hancock in the amount of \$12,222 from Cutler Guidance Salary and benefit lines to the MRMHS benefit lines, a budget transfer request from S. Betit-Hancock in the amount of \$20,530 from the MRMHS Special Ed. Para Salary line to the Cutler Special Ed. Health Ins. line, a budget transfer request from S.Betit-Hancock in the amount of \$9,810 from the MRMHS Special Ed. benefit lines to the SAU Special Ed. benefit lines and the Manifest in the amount of \$3,704,178.51. **SECOND:** H. Blood. **VOTE:** 11.663/0/0/1.337. **Motion passes.**

7. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

- a. April 7, 2026 @MRMHS**
- b. Committee Charter-Goals**

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

9. 9:00 PM Non-Public Session 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:** R. Vogt. **VOTE:** 11.663/0/0/1.337. **Motion passes.**

10. MOTION TO ADJOURN: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 PM. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **VOTE:** 11.663/0/0/1.337. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY:Yes/No/Abstain/Absent