

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2026
Monadnock Regional Middle/High School, Swanzey, NH

School Board Members Present: Scott Peters, Edmond LaPlante, Lisa Steadman, Betty Tatro, Kristen Noonan, Jeff Cesaitis, Cheryl McDaniel-Thomas, Brian Bohannon, Hannah Blood, Gine Carraro and Rachel Vogt. **Absent:** Eric Stanley 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: S. Peters called the meeting to order.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Jeff Cesaitis a father and member of the community explained to the Board that his child is being shown pornographic pictures on the bus. The student who is doing this is also sexually assaulting other students inside and outside of the school. There are repeated incidents. He is concerned with the lack of trust. He respectfully requests that this matter be taken care of immediately. There needs to be safeguards on the buses. The district is responsible for protecting the students. Protect the students from the harmful content. This needs to be taken seriously. S. Peters thanked J. Cesaitis for the courage to bring this issue forward. This issue will go to the administration.

3. #celebrateMRSD

a. As part of meeting the administration B.Arguin the Title I Project Manager is here to update the Board on what Title I looks like in the district. She handed out a brochure that she shares with families. She also explained the events for the different grades that are throughout the year. There are 4 schools that benefit from Title I. The 4 schools qualify to be a Title I school. These students are offered Title I services. There are also McKinney-Vento services and tutoring throughout the summer working with Beyond the Bell. There are 177 students over the summer that benefit from this service. The Title I grant funds can only be used for Title I in the marked schools. It can not be used for anything else. The Board asked questions of B. Arguin. They thanked her for attending the meeting.

4. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

a. MTC Grand Opening Ceremonies (February 17th, 6pm) The grand opening of MTC will be on February 17, 2026 at 6:00 PM. There will be a ribbon cutting and staff throughout the school to point visitors in the right direction. Food will be provided for those attending, The gym floor will not be cured but people will be able to see it but not walk on it. J. Rathbun invited the Keene Sentinel and Monadnock Radio Group to attend.

b. Legislative Update: L. Steadman informed the Board of what is going on regarding open enrollment at the State Level. HB751 is a republican backed initiative. There is a letter to encourage our representative to vote against open enrollment. This letter is a unified

stance. HB 1032 is for people with disabilities to count as a part of the quorum by Zoom if they can not attend the meeting. She said so far so good. L.Steadman asked the Board Members if they are interested in being called in by the NHSBA to speak in their areas of expertise. L. Steadman will send the link to the members. **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to authorize L. Steadman to sign the SBAN advisory letter on behalf of the MRSD School Board related to Open Enrollment. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** S. Peters said that personally he would not sign the letter. The Board has not had time to read the letter. **VOTE:** 6.619/4.547/0/1.834. **Motion passes.**

c. Status of Town Payments: J.Morin informed the Board that Fitzwilliam and Richmond had paid part of December's payment. We are fine at the moment. She is not overly concerned.

d. Process Update-Next Steps in the Sale of Cutler School: J. Rathbun explained that he and J. Morin spoke with Attorney J. O'Shaughnessy and he advised that the District could move ahead. The appraisal came in today at 1.9 million. The lawyer suggests putting this out to bid. They will be in sealed envelopes and the district will set a minimum. This will be discussed in non-public. Once the bid is agreed on the district will notify the State in order to give notice to the Charter Schools. Before anything happens we need to hire an abstractor. We have no paperwork on Cutler and we do not have a deed. We need to move once the abstractor's work is done. This is a common practice for schools in this area. J. Morin commented that we can put Cutler out to bid even without the hiring of the abstractor. If the sale is before June 2026 the funds from the sale will go into the unencumbered fund balance and if the transfer is made after July 1, 2026 there will be options on the March 2027 ballot. The bid opening will be done in non-public and O'Shaughnessy will be in attendance to guide the district.

e. 2026/27 School Calendar-First Read: The 2026/27 School Calendar was presented to the Board as a first read. J. Rathbun explained that we are aligned with KHS due to the Career Center. There is not a lot of flexibility. The Board will be asked to vote at the next meeting.

f. Round 4 Safe Grant Award: J. Rathbun explained that this is the 4th year that the district will be receiving Safe Grant funds. This year the money will go to upgrades on the phone system, Blue Lights, alert system and all of the elementary schools will also have panic buttons and gates for the schools. These are the safety concerns that the administration has flagged. Any ideas from the Board regarding safety measurers contact J. Morin or J. Rathbun.

5. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. Policies for 1st Read:

- i. AB: New Hampshire Parental Bill of Rights**
- ii. BEDG: Meeting Minutes**
- iii. JCA: Change of School Assignment – Best Interests and Manifest Hardship**
- iv. JICK: Bullying Prevention - Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention**

- v. **JLCJA: Emergency Plan for Sports Related Injuries and Additional Protocols for Athletics Participation**
- vi. **GBEBB: Employee-Student Relations**
- vii. **EBBCA: Use and Location of Automated External Defibrillators:**

MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to accept the 7 policies as presented by the Policy Committee. **SECOND:** L.Steadman. **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.834. **Motion passes.**

b. * Approve Program of Studies: MOTION: J. Cesaitis **MOVED** to approve the Program of Studies as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** C.McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.834. **Motion passes.**

c. * Approve grades 3-6 move from Cutler to MTC for the 2026/27 school year: MOTION: L.Steadman **MOVED** to approve the move of grades 3-6 from Cutler School to MTC for the 2026/27 School Year and beyond. **SECOND:** H. Blood. **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.834. **Motion passes.**

d. Warrant Articles in Plain English: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to empower the CRC to meet and adjust language if necessary after the Deliberative Session for the Warrant Articles in Plain English sheet. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.834. **Motion passes.**

e. * Approve the Consent Agenda: January 20, 2026 Public and Non-Public Meeting Minutes, the Manifest \$1,038,238.69: MOTION: R.Vogt **MOVED** to approve the January 20, 2026 Public and Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented and the Manifest in the amount of \$1,038,238.69. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.834. **Motion passes.**

6. SETTING NEXT MEETING’S AGENDA:

a. February 7, 2026@MRMHS Teacher’s Room (Deliberative): The Board will have the green sheet, MESSA summary sheet and the slide deck presentation available for the public at the Deliberative Session on Feb.7.

- b. February 17, 2026 @MTC**
 - i. Tour & Reception - 6:00 PM**
 - ii. Board Meeting - 7:00 PM**
- c. Committee wrap-ups for the year.**
- d. Ribbon Cutting**

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

8. MOTION TO ADJOURN: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 PM. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.834. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY: Yes/No/Abstain/Absent