

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
July 21, 2026
MRMHS Library, Swanzey, NH

School Board Members Present: Kristen Noonan, Edmond LaPlante, Lisa Steadman, Rachel Vogt, Melissa Diven, Hannah Blood, Scott Peters and Christina Pierce. **Absent:** Jennifer Strimbeck, Brian Bohannon, Gina Carraro, Betty Tatro and Unassigned from Fitzwilliam.

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

- 1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER at 7:00 PM:** S. Peters opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.
- 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** K. Noonan of Swanzey wanted to let the Board be aware of a situation regarding the recent bus accident. The parents of the students are being harassed regarding medical payments and insurance issues. There is no information. Any charge should be paid for by the bus company. J. Rathbun will gather more information and respond at a later date.

J. Rathbun explained that everything is going well with the Troy School renovations but there is currently a major delay with a solution. First he explained that Hutter Construction has done everything correct. There was a small delay regarding the asbestos and from that issue there was a need for a thorough investigation. There is an issue with the tile glue which was not stated in the report. There will be a 3-4 week delay. There are 2 rooms that may not be ready but there is a solution. The school will use the stage for the classrooms. There is a tremendous amount of space and this will only be for a short time. The goal is to start school with all Troy students in their school.

3. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

a. Board Goals Check-In:

i. Safety: L. Steadman reviewed the goals. She explained that J. Strimbeck, the Chair of the Safety Committee was not present at the meeting. The committee did request information from J. Rathbun for the next meeting. She explained that the committee is not on track for the August 1 goal. The committee will be attending a School Safety Meeting this Fall once the administration has the schedule.

ii. Board Member Orientation: L. Steadman explained that the new members were made aware of the NHSBA which has information for new School Board Members. The committee will meet on August 11, 2026.

iii. Education: R. Vogt reported that the committee reviewed policies and forwarded them to the Policy Committee. Regarding the ELO, L. Spencer gave a great report at the Board level. The committee is excited for this coming year. The committee has reached out

to J.Rathbun for feedback from the students, staff and parents regarding the Cell Phone Policy. The committee will be working on philosophies such as preparing students for college/work and also competency-based education; can it be changed.

iv. Finance/Facilities: H. Blood explained that the committee developed 3 courses of action for the funds from the sale of the Cutler School. The committee will be meeting in August to work on the CIP and asking for input from the administration. S. Peters explained that he and others walked the building for prices for the CIP items. The Sept. 1 Goal is still on track. There are some wild guesses on the prices.

J. Rathbun explained that HB1300 is a cap on the school budget. This has to be on the ballot. Currently, we are below 6% of the total district cost. The district has reached out to the attorney. They are not ready to respond.

v. Community Relations: S. Peters commented that there may be a need for the CRC to form in order to get the word out about HB1300.

b. Schedule Joint Policy/Education Committee Workshop: S. Peters would recommend the Policy Committee and the Education Committee holding a workshop to go through the policies. He suggested taking a half a day to get the work done. K. Noonan commented that she is not able to take half a day. R. Vogt explained that she will be able to attend a Policy Committee. The Policy and Education Committees will meet jointly on August 19 at 4:00 PM.

c. Review Minutes/Motions from Budget Committee (6/23 meeting): The Budget Committee did not make any motions regarding ideas for the upcoming proposed budget and the Specialists Contract. J. Rathbun explained that there was a mention of a flat budget. He said with a flat budget there will still be cuts. J. Morin commented that the Budget Committee felt that they had more time to give input. She said the administration will start the process in September.

d. Update on Hiring: J. Rathbun reported that the hiring is going ok. There is a struggle with the hiring of paraprofessionals. There are applications on his desk. The Sheriff is still looking for the SRO. He is fully committed but just can't find people. The previous candidate fell through.

e. Education Report: L. Spencer presented the Instructional Resource Plan to the Board for review. The role of the Board is for a vote on the Instructional Resource Plan.

4. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. Approve Instructional Plan: MOTION: R. Vogt **MOVED** to approve the Instructional Resource Plan as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** K. Noonan **VOTE:** 8.731/0/0/4.269. **Motion passes.**

b. Approve Student Tuition Rate: MOTION: H. Blood **MOVED** to approve the Student Tuition Rate for the 2026-2027 School Year in the amount of \$21,795.00. **SECOND:** R. Vogt. **VOTE:** 8.731/0/0/4.269. **Motion passes.**

c. Approve Bid for (MRMHS Gym and Auditorium Painting): The District received 3 bids per policy for the MRMHS gym and auditorium painting. **MOTION:** R. Vogt **MOVED** to accept the bid from O'Brien Painting in the amount of \$51,700 for the MRMHS

gym and auditorium painting. **SECOND:** M. Diven. **VOTE:** 5.487/0/3.244/4.269. **Motion passes.**

d. Approve Policy DFA: The Board reviewed Policy DFA Revenues from Investments. **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve Policy DFA as presented and reviewed by the Board. **SECOND:** H. Blood. **VOTE:** 8.731/0/0/4.269. **Motion passes.**

e. Approve Exchange Student: **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve the German Exchange Student. **SECOND:** C. Pierce. **VOTE:** 8.731/0/0/4.269. **Motion passes.**

f. Policy Motions 2nd Read:

1. IHCD/LEB: Advanced Course Work/Advanced Placement Courses

2. FEH: Supervision of Construction, Clerk of the Works/Project Manager

3. EHLB: Subpoenas Involving District Students, Officials, Employees and/or Records

4. GCCAD: Leave for Uniformed Service Members or Their Spouses

5. IC: School Year and School Year Calendar

6. JF: Enrollment and Enrollment Capacities: **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve the changes and accept the policies as presented by the Policy Committee. **SECOND:** L. Steadman. **VOTE:** 8.731/0/0/4.269. **Motion passes.**

g. * Approve the Consent Agenda: June 16, 2026 Public and Non-Public Meeting Minutes, the FY26 Manifest \$2,540,390.20 and the FY27 Manifest \$1,275,570.73: **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve the June 16, 2026 Public and Non-Public Meeting Minutes, the FY26 Manifest in the amount of \$ 2,540,390.20 and the FY27 Manifest in the amount of \$1,275,570.73. **SECOND:** H. Blood. **VOTE:** 8.731/0/0/4.269. **Motion passes.**

h. SEALED June 16, 2026 School Board Meeting Minutes: **MOTION:** R. Vogt **MOVED** to approve the SEALED June 16, 2026 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** M. Diven. **VOTE:** 8.731/0/0/4.269. **Motion passes.**

5. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

a. August 11, 2026

i. Review Handbook

ii. 2-year School Counseling Model

iii. Job Fair Plan

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS: R. Vogt spoke of a pilot program which is in other schools. She said kids coming out of school find ways to be reinvested in the community. S. Peters explained that R. Vogt should bring this idea to the Education Committee.

7. 8:25 PM ENTER INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION: 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. **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:** 8.731/0/0/4.269. **Motion passes.**

8. 8:40 PM ENTER INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION: Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (k) Consideration by a School Board of entering into a student or pupil tuition contract: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (k) Consideration by a School Board of entering into a student or pupil tuition contract. **SECOND:** M. Diven. **VOTE:** 8.731/0/0/4.269. **Motion passes.**

9. SEALING OF NON-PUBLIC MINUTES: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to seal the 8:40 PM July 21, 2026 Non-Public Meeting Minutes until July 21, 2036. **SECOND:** S.Peters. **VOTE:** 8.731/0/0/4.269. **Motion passes.**

10. MOTION TO ADJOURN: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 PM. **SECOND:** H. Blood. **VOTE:** 8.731/0/0/4.269. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY: Yes/No/Abstain/Absent