

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2026
MRMHS Library, Swanzey, NH

School Board Members Present: Lisa Steadman, Rachel Vogt, Brian Bohannon, Gina Carraro, Hannah Blood, Scott Peters and Christina Pierce. **Absent:** Jennifer Strimbeck, Kristen Noonan, Melissa Diven, Edmond LaPlante, 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: There were no Public Comments.

3. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

a. Review Student Handbook: J. Rathbun explained that there are several changes in policy which were updated in the handbook. Also they adjusted the practice to what the District is doing. The NH law regarding the parents bill of rights was added and it is required by law.

b. Bus Incident Update: After a citizen had questions about the bus accident J. Rathbun gave an update. Primex is not a party to the insurance issue. The district thought First Student was giving information to the parents but apparently not. J. Rathbun and J. Morin reached out to First Student and a meeting was held. At that time there was no State Police Report. J. Rathbun and J. Morin gave the contact information and the claim number to the parents. First Student said they will pay the medical bills. There was a comment during Public Comments that said the District needs to do more. J. Rathbun said the district did everything to help. J. O'Shaughnessy, the attorney for the District, said we need to be supportive but not get involved. J. Rathbun commented that at this point we have not heard from parents. If there is a push to act, we will reach out to the legal team.

c. Marzano Work Update: J. Rathbun congratulated L. Spencer for really pushing the Marzano work out to all. The District has reached Level One and is the only District in the State to do so. Level One is School Safety. Level Two includes stakeholders and teachers, effective instruction. There is a lot of work happening for next year regarding strategic planning. The Board asked for the Marzano Program information and how it is meeting standards. B.Bohannon would like to celebrate this accomplishment. Communicate it to the public. J. Rathbun explained he has a press release going out.

d. 2-year Counseling Model: L. Weideman explained that she worked with the School Counseling Team to create a comprehensive School Counseling Plan. It needs to be presented to the Board and approved. She made the presentation to the Board. The Mission Statement, the Program Components and 3 sets of standards were explained. There are no

changes in staff for the next level. Each staff member has Masters Training which they have received through their schooling. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to accept the 2-year Comprehensive School Counseling Plan for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 School Year. **SECOND:** C. Pierce. **VOTE:** 6.687/0/0/6.313. **Motion passes.**

e. **Update on Hiring:** J. Rathbun explained that they are still in need of paraprofessionals, a School Psychologist and a BCBA. We have a plan to contract substitutes. There is a concern regarding Gilsum and a triple grade. The principal may have to teach. There is a concern regarding a 9th grade Earth Science Teacher. B. Gottheimer has a Science teacher interview. We have plans in place. B. Bohannon commented that there are a lot more teachers leaving than in previous years. J. Rathbun explained that people are leaving the profession or leaving the State. We have lost a lot of young teachers. J. Rathbun explained the district has hired a lot over the summer. It was a group effort.

f. **Policies for First Read:**

i. **JFABD: Admission of Homeless Children and Unaccompanied Youth:**

ii. **JLCD: Administering Medication to Students:**

iii. **EBCA: Crisis Prevention and Emergency Response Plan:**

iv. **EHB: Data/Records Retention:**

v. **AC: Nondiscrimination, Equal Opportunity Employment, and Anti-Discrimination Plan:**

vi. **ACA: Discrimination and Harassment Grievance Procedure:** The Board was asked to review the policies for a vote at the next meeting.

4. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. **Update POS-Physical Science to replace Earth Science:** In previous years the District switched from Physical Science to Earth Science. The District would like to change it back. This will give the students the opportunity to be exposed to Physical Science which is on the State Testing. L.Spencer gave the rationale for the switch. J. Naso can make this curriculum very exciting. It was explained that it is easier to hire a Physical Science teacher. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon. **MOVED** to approve the change from Earth Science to Physical Science as presented by the administration. **VOTE:** 6.687/0/0/6.313.**Motion passes.**

b. **Annual Audit: Required Board Survey:** Each year the Board is asked to participate in the google survey regarding the recent Audit process. The Board Member can reach out to the Auditors if they want their answers confidential. The Board is asked to return their answers by the next Board Meeting. J. Rathbun attended a School Law Conference. Our annual audit and the surveys keep us where we need to be, our practices were called out.

c. **MRMHS Exchange Student:** J. Rathbun explained that there is an exchange student from Germany who would like to attend Monadnock. The student is in 10th grade. All of the boxes have been checked. **MOTION:** L.Steadman **MOVED** to approve the Exchange student from Germany to attend MRMHS. **SECOND:** H. Blood. **VOTE:** 6.687/0/0/6.313. **Motion passes.**

d. Approve the July 21, 2026 SEALED Non-Public Meeting Minutes:
MOTION: S.Peters **MOVED** to approve the July 21, 2026 SEALED Non-Public Meeting Minutes with the recommended change as presented. **SECOND:** H. Blood. **VOTE:** 6.687/0/0/6.313. **Motion passes.**

e. Approve the Consent Agenda: July 21, 2026 Public and Non-Public Meeting Minutes, the FY26 Manifest \$5,898.99 and the FY27 Manifest \$2,964,216.84: **MOTION:** C.Pierce **MOVED** to approve the July 21, 2026 Public and Non-Public Meeting Minutes, the FY26 Manifest in the amount of \$5,898.99 and the FY27 Manifest in the amount of \$2,964,216.84. **SECOND:** H. Blood. **VOTE:** 6.687/0/0/6.313. **Motion passes.**

f. Update on Construction Project: J. Rathbun explained that there is an issue at Troy School. There was asbestos that was not identified in the Ohara Report. When Hutter began to peel away the flooring it was identified. This is not the fault of Hutter or any of the contractors. Because the classroom will not be ready for the first day of school we will be shifting one of the classrooms to the stage for a few weeks only. Gilsum is ready to go as planned. The addition is awesome. J. Rathbun would suggest the Board consider September or October for the Board Meeting at the MTC location.

5. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

- a. September 1, 2026**
 - i. Set guardrails for proposed budget**

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

7. 8:00 PM ENTER INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION: Non-Public Session RSA 91-A:3 II (d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community. **MOTION:** Brian Bohannon **MOVED** to enter Non-Public Session RSA 91-A:3 II (d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community. **SECOND:** H. Blood. **VOTE:** 6.687/0/0/6.313. **Motion passes.**

8. 8:12 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:** C.Pierce **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:** H. Blood. **VOTE:** 6.687/0/0/6.313. **Motion passes.**

9. SEALING OF NON-PUBLIC MINUTES: MOTION: R. Vogt **MOVED** to seal the 8:12 PM August 11, 2026 (k) Non-Public Meeting Minutes until August 11, 2036. **SECOND:** C.Pierce **VOTE:** 6.687/0/0/6.313. **Motion passes.**

10. MOTION TO ADJOURN: MOTION: H.Blood **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 PM. **SECOND:** B.Bohannon. **VOTE:** 6.687/0/0/6.313. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY:Yes/No/Abstain/Absent