

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2026 (Not Yet Approved)
MRMHS Library, Swanzey, NH

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

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

1. PUBLIC HEARING -SALE OF CUTLER SCHOOL: S. Peters opened the Public Hearing regarding the Sale of the Cutler School at 7:00 PM: MOTION: S.Peters **MOVED** the Board authorize the filing of CY Pres petition seeking approval for the sale of the Cutler School in an appropriate court and authorize the District in consultation with legal counsel, to take all actions necessary throughout the court proceedings. **SECOND:** M. Diven **DISCUSSION:** J. Rathbun explained that the District hired a person to look for the deed and what they found were multiple deeds. It is currently in a Charitable Trust and the lawyers can petition the State to get rid of it. It will go to probate court but first this Public Hearing must take place. The Board had no additional questions. **Public Comments:** Scott of Swanzey asked if there were any buyers at this time. J. Rathbun explained the District is getting ready and there is the question of the Charitable Trust. He said that it is State Law that the Charter Schools have first right of refusal to purchase the Cutler School at the price it is being sold for. They have either 30 or 45 days to respond. **G. Carraro arrives.** Ashley of Swanzey asked about the funds from the sale of Cutler. J. Rathbun explained the funds will be revenue to the District and we need to ask the taxpayers what to do with those funds. Alan Gross of Swanzey commented that it would be a good idea to allow the people of Swanzey to use the newer part of Cutler for things such as art, gym space and recreation. Josh of Swanzey asked about what kind of offer. J. Rathbun commented that the District will accept a fair market offer and it is up to the Board to accept. Greg Johnson asked if the Town of Swanzey wanted to purchase the Cutler School could they become one of the bidders. J. Rathbun responded yes. **VOTE:** 8.937/0/0/4.063. **Motion passes. B. Tatro arrives. S.Peters closed the Public Hearing.**

2. 7:15 PM CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER at 7:15 PM: S.Peters opened the meeting at 7:15 PM.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no Public Comments.

4. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

- a. Education Report:** There is no Education Report tonight. The report is scheduled for October.
- b. Reschedule Joint Policy/EDU Meeting:** The committees will reschedule the Joint Policy/EDU Meeting for November 10 at 4:00 PM. R. Vogt commented that the Education Committee has been going through the policies. We want to help the Policy Committee. R. Vogt will put the policies in log form for the joint meeting.
- c. Policies for 1st Read:**
 - i. DFA: Investment:**
 - ii. JiCK: Bullying Prevention-Pupil Safety & Violence Prevention**
 - iii. JJJ: Access to Public School Programs by Non-enrolled Resident Students.** J.Rathbun explained that one update in Policy JICK is the notification of rights regarding bullying.

5. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

- a. Waive 1st Read of Policy DAF: Administration of Federal Grant Funds:** The Board did not feel it was necessary to waive the first read on Policy DAF. The Board will vote on the 3 policies together at the next Board Meeting.
- b. Budget Cycle Tasks:**
 - i. Superintendent report on focus items needed for the budget: J.** Rathbun explained in the past students were allowed to transfer schools within the district due to bullying or if it was in the best interest of the student. As recently as this year they are taking out "best interest determination" and capacity such as class size is determined. We have a lot of shifting of students. There are 723 students in MRMHS, 575 at MTC, 168 at Emerson including 10 preschool students from Troy, 40 students at Gilsum and 84 students at Troy. There are a lot of requests for MTC because if a sibling is at MRMHS it is more convenient for the family. We need to define capacity. It is not only classroom space it is in regards to the cars, lunchroom, PE, art classes, etc. J. Rathbun would like to engage in this conversation and have a committee take this up. This will affect parents not so much as a serious budget impact. Once the Troy School is complete the numbers will increase. H. Blood commented that it may not be a budget issue but an extracurricular, art and music issue. J. Rathbun said this is a big conversation. The law says to only consider capacity. S.Peters commented an increase in one school will impact music, art, etc and the sending school has less students but the District will not be able to reduce staff. J. Rathbun said the classes are not tiny but Troy has a small 3rd grade. There are a lot of requests going to one or two schools. This is going to be a great conversation and which committee is going to take it up. J. Rathbun mentioned the Mosaic Program and the fact that there is room at another school for another program. We still have kids out of district. How to use the space wisely.

This is a great topic for the Education Committee. R.Vogt would like to find out what departments are overwhelmed and receive a report from each school and staff. J. Rathbun said we should wait until the BOY is official to have that conversation. S. Peters said to have the committee come up with questions and go back to the administration.

ii. **Decide wish list items to add to the proposed budget:** J. Rathbun reviewed the list presented by the Board at the last meeting. He said the bathrooms are a big job and should be considered in the CIP. R.Vogt explained that the Ed. Committee discussed the individual phone boxes for the desks. J.Rathbun explained that MRMHS has the boxes. We need to get the kids to use them. That is the next step. The Board is asking the administration to put specific items in the budget.

c. **Approve the Consent Agenda: September 1, 2026 Public and Non-Public Meeting Minutes, transfers and the FY27 Manifest \$1,672,910.32: MOTION:** H. Blood **MOVED** to approve the September 1, 2026 Public and Non-Public Meeting Minutes, a budget transfer request from S. Betit- Hancock in the amount of \$137,750.00 from the MRMHS Special Education Paraprofessional Salary and Benefits lines to the Contracted Services lines and the FY27 Manifest in the amount of \$ 1,672,910.32. **SECOND:** R.Vogt. **VOTE:** 10.068/0/0/2.932. **Motion passes.**

6. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

- a. **October 6, 2026**
- b. **Second Policy Read**
- c. **Update on School Funding**
- d. **H. Blood-NEASC**

7. SICK BANK-MDEA: it was explained that the MDEA is requesting a review of the sick bank in order to donate unused sick time to an employee in need. The committee to review the sick bank is made up of 2 Union Members and 2 School Board Members. L.Steadman and M. Diven volunteered.

8. SIGNATURES REQUIRED FOR THE MS25 and DOE 25: J. Morin is asking the Board Members to sign the MS25 and the DOE 25 along with the manifest for FY26.

9. RETAIN FUND BALANCE FROM 2025-2026: J.Morin explained that the Board is allowed to retain 2.5% of \$642,967.48 which is the amount of the net assets. The Board has done this before and has never used the funds for an emergency. If they are not used the funds are returned to the taxpayers. **MOTION:** L.Steadman **MOVED** to retain \$200,000 from the fund balance. **SECOND:** B.Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** Returning the \$200,000 to the taxpayers is a very small impact but will help with cash flow when the towns are making their payment to the School. **VOTE:** 10.068/0/0/2.932. **Motion passes.**

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS: A. Gross commented that the Board Meetings are much more efficient since he was on the Board. He is currently on the Selectboard for Swanzey. He thanked the School Board for the use of the school for voting but commented on the parking and the fact that there will be a lot more people in November. He said there are a lot of wonderful things going on in the District and suggested the Board get the word out to the taxpayers. PR the good stuff. He is challenging the Board.

11. 8:05 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: C. Pierce **MOVED** to enter into 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. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 10.068/0/0/2.932. **Motion passes.**

12. 8:12 PM ENTER INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION: Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (i) Consideration of matters relating to the preparation for and the carrying out of emergency functions, including training to carry out such functions, developed by local or state safety officials that are directly intended to thwart a deliberate act that is intended to result in widespread or severe damage to property or widespread injury or loss of life. MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (i) Consideration of matters relating to the preparation for and the carrying out of emergency functions, including training to carry out such functions, developed by local or state safety officials that are directly intended to thwart a deliberate act that is intended to result in widespread or severe damage to property or widespread injury or loss of life. **SECOND:** H. Blood. **VOTE:** 10.068/0/0/2.932. **Motion passes.**

13. MOTION TO ADJOURN: MOTION: C. Pierce **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 PM. **SECOND:** H. Blood **VOTE:** 10.068/0/0/2.932. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY: Yes/No/Abstain/Absent