

April 4, 2017

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2017(Corrected)
Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH

Members Present: Phyllis Peterson, Winston Wright, Nicholas Mosher, Mike Blair, L. Steadman, Neil Moriarty, Bob Mitchell, Karen Wheeler, Eric Stanley, Rob Colbert and Betty Tatro.

Absent: Cheryl McDaniel-Thomas and Scott Peters.

Administration present: L. Witte, Superintendent, J. Rathbun, Director of Curriculum and Instruction and J. Fortson, Business Administrator.

Also present: T. Blair, Student Government Representative and L. Aivaliotis, Recording

“We collaborate not just to teach, but also to engage and educate every student in our district in an environment that is challenging, caring and safe, while fostering life-long learning.

1. **Public Comments:** M. Diven would like to invite the Board Members to Gilsum for Invention Convention on Thursday. The students will be making cigar box guitars and robots.

2. **MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION**

- a. **Committee Structure 2017-2018:** M. Blair listed the members on the Board sub-committees and the time and days in which they will meet.

- b. **Warrant Article #9:** N. Mosher said based on public opinion regarding Policy BCA-R he made the following motion: **MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to strike # 10 in Policy BCA-R. **SECOND:** N. Moriarty. **DISCUSSION:** M. Blair explained it is the Board practice to bring this motion for a first reading and then vote at the next meeting. Policy BCA-R with the amendment will be in the Board packets. W. Wright is willing to vote on it tonight. **VOTE:** P. Peterson-yes, W. Wright-yes, K. Wheeler-yes, N. Mosher-yes, N. Moriarty-yes, M. Blair-no, R. Colbert-no, B. Mitchell-no, E. Stanley-no, B. Tatro-no and L. Steadman-no. 4.275/6.605/0/2.119. **Motion fails.**

3. **MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:**

- a. **Student Representative Report:** T. Blair reported the DI Teams have won the State Competition and will be headed for the Global Competition. The PSAT and SATs will be given to the students tomorrow. There will be Vacation Academy over April vacation. Friday report cards will be given out. L. Steadman explained Mr. Kuhn is preparing a letter for the Board to ask for monetary help for the trip to the Global

Competition. J. Rathbun reported the modified PSAT is the 9th grade test rather than standardized testing. The sophomores will take the PSAT. The PSAT is a lower in price compared to the standardize test. The juniors will be taking the SATs. The State will pay for the PSAT as well as the SAT except the writing portion of the SAT is paid for by the District.

b. Superintendent's Report:

i. Snow Days and Graduation Update-Waiver Approved: L. Witte reported she was at the State House presenting testimony regarding SB 193 Voucher in the State of NH.

L. Witte explained the State of NH has granted the waiver to the District and there is no need to change the day of graduation.

ii. Tom Cote-Co-op Girls Ice Hockey Team: It was explained that there are boys from Fall Mtn. who would like to play on the Monadnock Team. Monadnock will be losing 7 seniors by adding Fall Mtn. students it would save our team and they are willing to pay \$1100.00 per student. T. Cote said there are not many kids that will be playing hockey and the Fall Mtn. students will help. The coach will be from Monadnock. J. Fortson explained all employees and students of the District will be covered by the District regarding insurance. J. Fortson explained at one time we joined with Hinsdale and had separate insurance. Fall Mtn. students will be covered by their own insurance. B. Mitchell suggested a written agreement, a MOU. T. Cote explained he was not aware the Hockey Team was meeting tomorrow and will need an answer from the Board. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to accept the Boy's Hockey Team proposal as presented contingent upon approval from NHIAA and a MOU with the Fall Mtn. District. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** K. Wheeler commented the cost to the Boosters will be less not the cost of the District. **VOTE:** 10.667/0/.214/2.119. **Motion passes.** T. Cote explained the Girl's Ice Hockey Team. There are two girls who would like to play on the Keene-Fall Mtn. Team. They are willing to pay \$650.00 out of their pockets to play. It will be safer than the girls playing on the Boy's Hockey Team. Keene will be overseeing the girls on the program. **MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to accept the proposal presented by T. Cote for the formation of a Keene/Fall Mtn./Monadnock Girl's Hockey Team. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 10.881/0/0/2.119. **Motion passes.**

iii. ACES 93-Darlene Ayotte: D. Ayotte explained as of Friday there are 435 students from across the District in the Back to Basics and ACES 93 programs. The Before and After Warrant Article did not pass. She has submitted a proposal for a grant. She should know on May 5, 2017. They have also been fundraising. She explained if parents had to pay the entire amount it would not have the same volume of students. There are 21 Preschoolers at MTC and 10 at Emerson. The Troy Program is totally fee funded. It is not grant funded and it is the only licensed program in Troy. L. Steadman commented on the shortage of preschools and the fact that people will be willing to pay. M. Blair said there is a problem with adequate day care. ACES is not taking away from the other providers. Reducing the program will make things worse. B. Tatro commented that room rental is factored in the grant. J. Fortson explained the

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administrative services and anything else over is paid for by ACES. B. Tatro commented ACES has a strong educational background per the grant. D. Ayotte said the staff is more than qualified to teach. She said without the \$75,000.00 from the warrant, fees will go up. After they hear from the grant on May 5, 2017 they will ask the administration what to do. J. Fortson explained we cannot fund the program after the warrant failed. The funds cannot come from the operating budget. M. Blair suggested a conversation after they hear about the grant. L. Steadman asked if the District could have a special meeting. L. Witte explained no there would have had to be a warrant article to allow the special meeting. K. Wheeler asked if the funds could come from surplus. L. Witte will ask the State.

iv. Special Education-C. Woods: C. woods explained they had 504 training on March 23 and on March 22 they had discussion with the DOE regarding compliance. There will be another visit on May 18 for another review. She will continue to observe at the schools and review data. There are 287 students with an IEP, 252 educated in the District, which is 16% of the total enrollment with 27 students at an out of district placement. There are 2 students who indicate a desire to return to the District. C. Woods explained if a student with a large special ed. cost was to move into the District we would have to overspend the budget to give the child what they need. J. Fortson reviewed the process regarding the special ed. account. L. Witte explained there is \$350,000.00 in the Special Ed. Account and the article failed to add an additional \$50,000.00 to it this year. C. Woods explained the Resource Rooms are designed to give additional help to the students. N. Moriarty said the students that are pulled out of the classroom to go to the Resource Room should not be counted as part of the regular classroom number. C. Woods commented that all kids belong to the general education setting. The students are in the regular classrooms 60% of the time and at the Resource Room 40% of the time. The ACES Program would support the families and help the students. C. Woods is keeping a watchful eye.

v. 2017/18 Budget: L. Witte and the administration discussed what to bring forward to the Board as part of the budget. She said the Elementary Spec. Ed. Coordinator was always on the list and a much needed position. She explained the positions they would recommend and those they would not. R. Colbert asked about the Media Information Coordinator. L. Witte said the administration did not recommend. R. Colbert asked about the AD going to full time. L. Witte said the administration did not agree on the AD going full time. E. Stanley would like to request the AD job description and a comparison with other Districts. It was explained that there are not a lot of students using the late buses. N. Mosher said he would applaud the work on the items. He will support the administration's proposal. J. Fortson said she will provide the late bus information at the next meeting. R. Colbert said based on personal experience these are hard decisions regarding the cuts but he would like to revisit the AD full time position. T. Cote is working above and beyond. Who is doing his job when he is not here? What percentage of students is participating in athletics? N. Mosher does not want to see late buses go but will support the administration.

MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** to increase the Athletic Director position to full time. (For the sake of discussion and to see where the Board stands on it.) **SECOND:**

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P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** L. Witte said they heard the conversation and concerns. The proposed budget did not pass. The default did. We wanted to come back with suggestions recognizing the high tax rate. They are trying to be fiscally responsible. The number is \$244,000.00 below the default. The number is in response to the concerns. J. Fortson explained the insurance rate was set at 11.3% and came in at 2.4%. The intent is not to use the buffer. E. Stanley would like to wait to see the information on the AD and to justify. P. Peterson would trust the administration. **MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to table the motion. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 9.759/0/1.121/2.119. **Motion passes.** K. Wheeler is concerned the discussion is about the AD and not the late buses. She does not believe the number of students using the late buses is accurate.

vi. Adjunct Faculty Approval 17/18: L. Witte is asking permission of the Board to teach a class on line for NE College. It is one course in the fall from Oct. to Dec. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to allow L. Witte to teach an on line course for NE College from Oct. to Dec. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** L. Witte explained this course is completely on line and on the weekends. **VOTE:** 9.910/0/971/2.119. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to accept the donation to the District for the Key Club in the amount of \$900.00. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 10.881/0/0/2.119. **Motion passes.**

c. Business Administrator's Report:

i. MS22: J. Fortson passed out the copies of the MS22 and asked the Board to sign the 3 copies and review the manifest. MESSA has discussed a retirement buyout. This will be discussed in non-public. She explained the engineering study regarding the Troy and Cutler building contracts have been signed and the work will begin during April vacation.

d. Board Chair Report: M. Blair read the letter he wrote to the NH State Legislature regarding the snow storm on the day of voting. E. Stanley would like to ask if there could be a challenge on the vote due to the snow. M. Blair said there is a discussion at the State level. **MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to allow the letter written by M. Blair to be sent on behalf of the Board. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** The letter will be sent to the Committee on Education, our representatives and our State Legislatures. **VOTE:** 10.881/0/0/2.119. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** to authorize Superintendent Witte or any delegate of the Board to testify on any bill that states something generically to this matter. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** B. Mitchell said L. Witte is doing a great job and should not concentrate on an issue that happened in the 1800s. **VOTE:** 8.691/0/2.190/2.119. **Motion passes.**

e. Committee Reports:

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i. Ad hoc Committee: M. Blair said the composition of the committee has not been determined at this time. He will work with L. Witte to pick an appropriate day to meet. He would suggest the voting members will be determined at the first meeting.

L. Steadman would like to discuss The Education Freedom Savings Accounts. M. Blair said this is appropriate for the next agenda.

4. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Approval of the Manifest: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the Manifest in the amount of \$ 1,783,038.12. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 10.881/0/0/2.119. **Motion passes.**

b. Approval of the March 21, 2017 School Board Meeting Minutes: MOTION: B. Mitchell **MOVED** to approve the March 21, 2017 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** P. Peterson **VOTE:** 10.881/0/0/2.119. **Motion passes.**

c. Approval on March 21, 2017, 8:17 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes: MOTION: N. Mosher **MOVED** to approve the March 21, 2017, 8:17 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 10.881/0/0/2.119. **Motion passes.**

d. Approval of March 21, 2017, 8:30 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes: MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to approve the March 21, 2017, 8:30 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 10.881/0/0/2.119. **Motion passes.**

5. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

- 1. Late buses**
- 2. Ad Hoc Discussion**
- 3. Facilities Report Card**
- 4. Engineering Report**

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS: W. Lechliden commented the Default had passed and there are restrictions. He would suggest getting an opinion from J. O'Shaughnessy. The increase in Article One cost us ACES, Spec. Ed. and Article 2.

M. Blair called a 7 minute recess.

7. 9:42 PM Non-Public Session: MOTION: N. Mosher **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Consideration of Hiring a Public Employee **SECOND:** B. Mitchell **VOTE:** 10.881/0/0/2.119. **Motion passes.**

8. 10:59 PM Non-Public Session: MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would

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likely affect adversely the reputation of any person unless such person requests an open meeting; however, this cannot be used to protect a person who is a member of your Board, Committee or Subcommittee. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **VOTE:** 10.881/0/0/2.119. **Motion passes.**

9. Adjournment: MOTION: N. Mosher **MOVED** to adjourn the Board Meeting at 11:20 PM. **SECOND:** P. Peterson **VOTE:** 10.881/0/0/2.119. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording secretary