

August 8, 2017

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
August 8, 2017
Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH

Members Present: Phyllis Peterson, Scott Peters, Winston Wright, Nicholas Mosher, Mike Blair, Karen Wheeler, Robert Colbert, Betty Tatro, Neil Moriarty, Eric Stanley and Bob Mitchell **Absent:** Cheryl McDaniel-Thomas and Lisa Steadman,

Administration present: L. Witte, Superintendent and J. Fortson, Business Administrator

Also present: Justin Bemis, Student Representative and L. Aivaliotis, Recording Secretary.

“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: There were no Public Comments.

2. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. Strategic Goals: The Board had received a copy of the Strategic Goals in their packets. **MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the Strategic Goals as presented by Superintendent Witte. **SECOND:** N. Moriarty **VOTE:** 8.471/1.075/1.335/2.119. **Motion passes.**

b. Tuition Rate Setting: **MOTION:** K. Wheeler **MOVED** on behalf of the Finance and Facilities Committee to set the regular education tuition rate at \$17,775.95. **SECOND:** P. Peterson **DISCUSSION:** E. Stanley asked why not make it more attractive. K. Wheeler explained it was the will of the committee because currently some towns in the District pay more and some pay less. They would like to put an article on the ballot to put the tuition less to make it more attractive for students in other districts. W. Wright commented Fitzwilliam pays over \$17,000.00 per student. E. Stanley commented with the additional funds from the other districts every town will lower their taxes. B. Mitchell will agree with E. Stanley. It will help the district. E. Stanley said it makes economic sense. Go with the lower tuition rate and see how many students you get. N. Mosher would like to see the taxpayers vote. E. Stanley asked L. Witte where is the impact when we have to add additional resources. L. Witte said it would depend on the grade. M. Blair said school is starting soon, set this number and put it before the voters in March. **MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to amend the amount of tuition to \$14,500.00 as a 1-year trial for the 2017-2018 school year and bring it to the voters in March. **SECOND:** N. Moriarty. **DISCUSSION on**

the amendment: K. Wheeler commented school will begin and we will not have any additional students. N. Mosher commented we had a committee discuss this and now we are going to change it. This is reactionary. A friendly amendment was made for sending parents only. E. Stanley the motion maker does not agree. **VOTE on the amendment:** P. Peterson-no, W. Wright-no, K. Wheeler-no, N. Moriarty-yes, N. Mosher-no, M. Blair-no, R. Colbert-yes, B. Mitchell-yes, E. Stanley-yes, B. Tatro-no and S. Peters-yes. 5.437/5.443/0/2.119. **Motion fails.** K. Wheeler will stand by what the committee discussed. M. Blair stated if the motion fails we will go with the present tuition cost. B. Mitchell will support the motion on the floor. **VOTE on the original motion:** P. Peterson-no, W. Wright-yes, N. Moriarty-no, N. Mosher-yes, B. Mitchell-yes, R. Colbert-yes, M. Blair- yes, E. Stanley-no, B. Tatro-no, S. Peters-no and K. Wheeler-abstain. 4.693/5.431/.757/2.119. **Motion fails.** M. Blair commented the Board should have input from the voters.

Special Education Tuition: MOTION: K. Wheeler **MOVED** on behalf of the Finance/Facilities Committee to set the Special Education Tuition rate at \$27,500.00 plus the cost of a paraprofessional is required for a student with an IEP. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** J. Fortson explained the regular education tuition is \$16,400.00 and the Special Ed. tuition is \$25,000.00. It has been several years since there was an increase in the Special Ed. tuition. C. Woods had explained at the Finance/Facilities Meeting that our Special Ed. tuition rate is lower than other districts. N. Mosher commented it bothers him to reduce the regular education rate but not a reduction in Special. Ed. S. Peters would suggest debating the model of the average rate vs. the actual cost. M. Blair commented this is a long range discussion. **VOTE:** P. Peterson-yes, W. Wright-yes, K. Wheeler-abstain, N. Moriarty-yes, N. Mosher-no, M. Blair-yes, B. Mitchell-yes, R. Colbert-abstain, E. Stanley-no, B. Tatro-yes and S. Peters-yes. 7.667/1.335/1.878/2.119. **Motion passes.**

c. Policies-Second Read

i. IICA-R Field Trips and Excursions: MOTION: M. Blair **MOVED** to accept Policy IICA-R Field Trips and Excursions as presented. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **VOTE:** 10.881/0/0/2.119. **Motion passes.**

ii. KCD Public Gifts and Donations: MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept Policy KCD Public Gifts and Donations as presented. **SECOND:** R. Colbert **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher does not agree with the second part of the motion. He would like to know what is being donated. He would like to let the public know. **MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to amend the second section in which the Policy Committee changed. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 5.397/5.484/0/2.119. **Motion fails.** **VOTE on original motion:** 10.667/.214/0/2.119. **Motion passes.**

4. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

a. Student Representative Report: Justin Bemis reported on the upcoming Homecoming events that will take place on September 15 and 16.

b. Superintendent's Report:

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i. Late Busses for 2017/18: Paula from the First Student Bus Company explained to the Board that the District could reduce the 4 late buses to 3 late buses. If the buses are reduced down to 2 late buses it would be longer rides for some students and it would change the entire system. She explained that whenever the late buses run they are skeleton runs. M. Blair explained the current plan is to keep status quo. The Board discussed the bus issue. **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to reduce the late buses to 3 buses for 2017-2018. **The motion fails for lack of second.** It was commented the Board had already voted to run 4 late buses.

ii. School Security Officer Update: L. Spencer presented information to the Board on the number of calls on the service log of the SSO. It was reported that the number of incidences have decreased. N. Mosher commented the reduction in incidences is very encouraging. L. Spencer explained Polly Bathe will be working with all schools on discipline, climate and culture. L. Spencer explained the punishment for certain offenses.

iii. Ecology School: **MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to approve the Ecology School overnight field trip on April 9-13. There are about 100 students attending. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **VOTE:** 10.881/0/0/2.119. **Motion passes.**

iv. Social Worker Position: L. Witte explained the Guidance Counselor is leaving. The administration looked at the number of Guidance Counselors and felt there was a need for support for families and feel there is a need for a social worker. **MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to approve the District wide Social Worker position. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **DISCUSSION:** The funds are already in the budget. **VOTE:** 10.881/0/0/2.119. **Motion passes.**

v. Tuition Student Request: L. Witte explained a student who lives in Vermont and parent works in the area would like to have the child attend MRSD. **MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to allow the Vermont student to attend MRSD at the tuition rate of \$15,000.00 for the 2017-2018 school year. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** P. Peterson-no, W. Wright-yes, K. Wheeler-yes, N. Moriarty-yes, N. Mosher-no, M. Blair-yes, B. Mitchell-yes, R. Colbert-yes, E. Stanley-abstain, B. Tatro-yes and S. Peters-yes. 8.431/1.328/1.121/2.119. **Motion passes.**

vi. Extracurricular Stipends: **MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to endorse the stipend matrix for 2017-2018 as provided by the Superintendent. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** S. Peters would like to have information on the number of hours for each stipend position. M. Blair would suggest this be done during the budget season. He would also suggest the Board looking at the list and increase where appropriate. P. Peterson would like information on student participation as well. M. Blair would like the Board to look at the equity. K. Wheeler would like a column for positions not filled. R. Colbert would like to know which positions are held by District employees. S. Peters would like to know the groups that do not receive a stipend. **VOTE:** 10.881/0/0/2.119. **Motion passes.**

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L. Witte reported all staff will return on August 21, 2017 and a staff photo will be taken.

vii. Long Range Planning Committee: L. Witte reported the committee is working really hard and will be making recommendations and have ideas to share. The committee is in need of a Board Member due to the fact M. Blair will be leaving. Anyone interested let L. Witte know.

c. Business Administrator's Report: J. Fortson reported the District will be receiving Building Aid from the state in the amount of \$560,000.00. The payments will come in October and April.

d. Board Chair Report: M. Blair commented on Roberts Rules of Order regarding the motion for reconsideration. M. Blair read his letter of resignation.

e. Committee Reports:

i. Education Committee: B. Tatro would like to vote on the Charter at the next meeting. She explained J. Rathbun is chairing a task force regarding the homework policy and A. Saulzman will be chairing a task force on teacher evaluations.

ii. Finance/Facilities Committee: K. Wheeler commented a lot of information had already been discussed. The committee did commend the maintenance staff on a great job.

f. Other: N. Moriarty commented on the motion for reconsideration. He said the chair should wait for a second before discussion. He also asked about the Pumpkin Fest and the fact Monadnock is not being asked to be a part of the event.

M. Blair would suggest the Extra-Curricular Committee discuss the stipends and then forward it to the Finance/Facilities Committee. L. Witte will bring information from the AD to the next Extra-Curricular Meeting.

S. Peters informed the Board the students now at the school are in Band Camp. There were 4 or 5 students who attended a leadership academy. The band enrollment is up to 70 students.

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Approval of the Manifest: MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to approve the 2016-2017 Manifest in the amount of \$ 108,520.58. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **VOTE:** 10.881/0/0/2.119. **Motion passes.**

b. Approval of the Manifest: MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to approve the 2017-2018 Manifest in the amount of \$ 1,943,604.95. **SECOND:** N. Mosher **VOTE:** 10.881/0/0/2.119. **Motion passes.**

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c. Approval of the July 11, 2017 School Board Meeting Minutes: MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to approve the July 11, 2017 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** N. Mosher **VOTE:** 7.5634/0/3.318/2.119. **Motion passes.**

d. Approval of the July 11, 2017 8:44 PM Non-Public School Board Meeting Minutes: MOTION: K. Wheeler **MOVED** to approve the July 11, 2017, 8:44 PM Non-Public School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** P. Peterson **VOTE:** 7.5634/0/3.318/2.119. **Motion passes.**

6. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

- 1. Status on Negotiations**
- 2. Budget 2018-2019**
- 3. Education Charter**
- 4. ACE**

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

8. 9:10 PM Non-Public Session: MOTION: B. Mitchell **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would 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 you board, Committee or Subcommittee. **SECOND:** P. Peterson **VOTE:** 10.881/0/0/2.119. **Motion passes.**

9. Public Session: MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to seal the August 8, 2017, 9:10 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes until June 30, 2022 or until the grievance and/or litigation has been resolved. **SECOND:** R. Colbert. **VOTE:** 10.667/.214/0/2.119. **Motion passes.**

10. Board Role Replacement Appointments: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to appoint L. Steadman as the Board Chair. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** P. Peterson-yes, W. Wright-yes, K. Wheeler-yes, N. Moriarty-yes, N. Mosher-no, B. Mitchell-yes, M. Blair-yes, R. Colbert-yes, E. Stanley-yes, B. Tatro-yes and S. Peters-yes. 10.667/.214/0/2.119. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to nominate W. Wright as Board Vice Chair. **SECOND:** B. Mitchell. **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to nominate S. Peters as Vice Chair. **VOTE:** 5.397 W. Wright and 5.484 S. Peters. S. Peters Vice Chair.

B. Tatro would like to meet with the other Swanzey Board Members to discuss the Swanzey vacancy. S. Peters would like to meet with members of the Negotiating Committee after the Board Meeting.

MOTION: W. Wright **MOVED** to accept the resignation of M. Blair as the Board Chair. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **VOTE:** 10.881/0/0/2.119. **Motion passes.**

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11. Adjournment: MOTION: N. Mosher **MOVED** to adjourn the Board Meeting at 9:28 PM. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler **VOTE:** 10.881/0/0/2.119. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording secretary