

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2018
MRMHS, Swanzey, NH

Members Present: Winston Wright, Kristen Noonan, Nicholas Mosher, Rob Colbert, Brian Bohannon, Lisa Steadman, Karen Buono, Betty Tatro, Neil Moriarty, Cheryl McDaniel-Thomas, Scott Peters and Karen Wheeler. **Absent:** Eric Stanley

Administration Present: L. Witte, Superintendent, Janel Swanson, Business Administrator and J. Rathbun, Director of Curriculum and Assessment.

Also Present: 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. **Call to Order:** L. Steadman opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

1. **Student Government:** There were no Student Government rep. present.

2. **Public Comments:** Robert Young said it is against the law for the voters to decide the formula outcome. Only the School Board can decide. He is disappointed the Board thought they needed an entire day to read the spread sheets. It would have taken an hour. He commented if the 50/50 passes Roxbury may consider leaving the District and he asked which two teachers would be fired. He has made himself available to the Board.

Ben Drugg explained he was the Vice Chair of the committee to discuss the funding formula. The meetings turned out to be negotiations and then the committee disband. The committee put in 100s of hours into this. He spoke of the challenges with the committee and would encourage the Board to have full knowing of the formula before making a decision.

Cutler School Presentation: Bill O’Connell and Lynn Speckman explained their 4th grade classes have a Science STEM experiment each week. The students will figure out a name for the group and then each student will play a different role and every role in rotation. The 4th graders will work with the 6th graders. The teachers explained they got a few of the ideas for the experiments from the professional development during the summer. The students interact and work together.

3. **MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION**

1. **Policies For Second Read:**

i) **IHAH-World Language in Elementary/Middle School: MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to adopt Policy IHAH using the NHSBA sample and Policy Committee's recommended edits. **SECOND:** W. Wright **VOTE:** 10.756/0/0/2.244. **Motion passes.**

ii) **IHBG-Participation in School Activities by Home Educated and Charter School Pupils: MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to replace existing Policy IHBG with the NHSBA sample and Policy Committee's recommended edits. **SECOND:** K. Buono. **VOTE:** 10.756/0/0/2.244. **Motion passes.**

iii) **IKFC-Alternative Diploma for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities: MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to adopt Policy IKFA as recommended by NHSBA. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** L. Witte explained the diploma is determined by the IEP Team. **VOTE:** 10.542/0/.214/2.244. **Motion passes.**

iv) **JIA-Student Due Process Rights: MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to update Policy JIA with the NHSBA sample with edits recommended by the administration and Policy Committee. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 10.756/0/0/2.244. **Motion passes.**

v) **DKA-Payroll Procedures: MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to adopt Policy DKA as recommended by NHSBA. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 10.756/0/0/2.244. **Motion passes.**

vi) **DIH-Fraud Prevention and Fiscal Management: MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to update Policy DIH with the NHSBA sample with edits recommended by Policy Committee. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 10.542/0/.214/2.244. **Motion passes.**

vii) **AC-Non-Discrimination: MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to update Policy AC as recommended by NHSBA. **SECOND:** K. Buono. **VOTE:** 10.542/0/.214/2.244. **Motion passes.**

viii) **ADB & GBEC-Drug-Free Workplace & Drug-Free Schools: MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to replace existing Policies ADB and GBEC with the NHSBA sample and Policy Committee's recommended edits. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 10.756/0/0/2.244. **Motion passes.**

4. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

1. Board Chair Report:

1. **Letter to Select Board:** L. Steadman informed the Board the letter written and reviewed by L. Witte and L. Steadman was sent to the town select boards.

2. **Board Stipends:** L. Steadman commented the Board Members should have received their stipends by now. *C. McDaniel-Thomas arrives.*

3. **Board Correspondence:** A letter was passed out from E. Moriarty stating her concerns regarding the financial statements.

L. Steadman commented if a Board Member is traveling for Board business they are able to submit mileage for reimbursement.

2. Operations/Superintendent's Report:

1. L. Witte congratulated the Middle School Robotics Team who came in 15th place out of 45 teams and the High School Team who came in first place out of 45 Teams. Congratulations. L. Witte also informed the Board R. Skrocki asked her to thank the Board for the \$15,000.00 funding for the Band Trip. He also wanted to thank the members who offered their stipends for the trip. He wanted those members to know the Band has met their goal and will not need the stipends.

2. **Building Operational Costs:** L. Witte provided information in the Board packets on the operational cost of each school as requested.

3. **Warrant Articles:** L. Witte provided a draft of the warrant without the figures in the Board packets.

3. **Educational Report:**

1. **Staffing Recommendations:** L. Witte explained there are a lot of families moving into Troy. The 4th grade classroom is up to 27 students and is not educationally sound. This year to help in Troy they will increase the Special Ed. teacher. The students in need are up and we must meet the needs of the students with IEPs. They will be creating a 3-4 class which will be funded for the remainder of the year by grant funds. The school will notify the parents. There is no handpicking. It will be what is best for the students. We will be hiring an interventionist for the rest of the year with hurricane funds. L. Witte explained she has spoken to the principals about the needs for next year. Across the elementary schools they would recommend adding 4 classrooms. We can absorb 3 by reconfiguration and will need one teacher in the proposed budget. There will be 9 classes in Troy with some combination classrooms. It does not solve all of the problems but the most significant. L. Witte commented it was discussed to have K-2 in one school and the other students in the other but it was loud and clear Troy and Fitzwilliam families did not want that. S. Peters would like information on the size of the building capacity. The psychologist position is vacant and she hopes to fill it for the fall. Currently, the District is contracting the position. N. Mosher is concerned about the combination classrooms. K. Wheeler commented in favor of combination classrooms. B. Bohannon asked if there was any conversation regarding MTC and the large classrooms. L. Witte said Troy and Emerson have a much bigger ratio. L. Witte is concerned with the Budget Committee tomorrow. They are very serious with coming in with a low number for the propose. K. Noonan asked what an interventionist does. J. Rathbun explained. B. Tatro commented by cutting the size of the classes you may not need the interventionist. **MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to ask the administration to consider adding at least 3 additional teachers in the amount of \$225,000.00 for our over classroom size situations. **SECOND:** R. Colbert. **DISCUSSION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas commented the administration has presented a viable plan and she trusts the administration. B. Bohannon said we cannot make a plan for everything. Full fill our duty and let the voters decide. B. Tatro suggested an Expendable Trust for when there is a need for additional staff. L. Witte does not disagree with strategic thinking, the default is low and what if the budget fails. K. Wheeler trusts the administration. **VOTE:** 4.575/7.302/0/1.123. **Motion fails.**

2. **Other Matters for Discussion:**

1. **Policies for 1st Read:** The following policies are up for first read: BDB-Board Officers, BEDH-Public Comment and Participation at Board Meeting, EHB-Data Records Retention/EHB-R-Local Records Retention Schedule, GBI-Staff Participation in Political Activities, GBK-Staff Concerns and Complaints, IHAK-Character and Citizenship Education and JEC-Change of School or Assignment-Manifest Educational Hardship.

2. **Funding Formula:** W. Wright asked if this Board is going to recommend or let it slide regarding a funding formula. We need to support an opinion. He has not heard from his selectmen yet. S. Peters commented the deadline for petitioned articles January 8.

3. **Superintendent Evaluation:** L. Witte explained the practice for the Superintendent Evaluation. The School Board Members fill out the information and email the response to the Superintendent. R. Colbert believes someone besides the Superintendent should gather the

information. J. Swanson explained at SAU 29 a survey is done by the School Board members than there is a Board subcommittee that prepare the feedback. It was suggested to have it electronically collected. It was asked if there is another platform. L. Witte said the NHSBA has another platform. S. Peters suggested putting this on the next agenda. B. Bohannon would volunteer to collect the feedback.

4. Feasibility Study: K. Wheeler explained the Facilities Committee met with K. Barker. The committee did not have a quorum but still a discussion. The goal of the study is to narrow down our options. He gave a timeline and presented studies he has done. The up to \$75,000.00 is in the proposed budget. The committee will be looking for 2 other bids for the study. They would like to invite another architect firm to the March meeting.

5. SRO/SSO: R. Colbert said he read the legal opinion. Where are we in the process? We need to move forward. L. Witte said the Board did not vote on this issue. R. Colbert said we have a legal opinion. Where does the Board go from here? S. Peters would suggest collecting all the details. L. Witte explained she did share the insurance information. She said there are significant concerns and potential liability to discuss with the Board.

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. December 4, 2018 Minutes: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the December 4, 2018 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 9/0/2.876/1.123. **Motion passes.**

2. Non-Public Meeting Minutes: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the December 4, 2018 Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** K. Buono. **VOTE:** 9/0/2.876/1.123. **Motion passes.**

3. Manifest: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** the manifest in the amount of \$1,344,155.24. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 11.877/0/0/01.123. **Motion passes.**

6. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

- 1. Final warrant**
- 2. Policies**
- 3. Superintendent Evaluation**
- 4. Snow day impact on School Board Meetings**
- 5. Building Capacity**

W. Wright would like the Board to take a look at Resolution 11 and Resolution 14 for the NHSBA delegate assembly.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no Public Comments.

8. 9:22 PM Non-Public Sessions under RSA 91-A:3,II (c): MOTION: B. Bohannon **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, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. **SECOND:** R. Colbert. **VOTE:** 11.877/0/0/1.123. **Motion passes.**

9. **Return to Public Session:** The Board explained the student may stay until the end of the school year.
10. **9:48 PM Non-Public Sessions under RSA 91-A:3,II (l): MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3,II (l) Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel. **SECOND:** N. Mosher **VOTE:** 11.877/0/0/1.123. **Motion passes.**
11. **Return to Public Session: MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to ratify the MDEA Contract as presented. **SECOND:** K. Buono. **VOTE:** 9.831/0/0/3.169. **Motion passes. MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to ratify the MESSA Contract as presented. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 7.712/0/0/5.288. R. Colbert and S. Peters recuse. **Motion passes.**
12. **ADJOURNMENT: MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 PM. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 7.712/0/0/5.288 **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary