

**Monadnock Regional School District
(MRS D) School Board Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2018
Roxbury Town Hall, Roxbury, NH**

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

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

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:** A selectman from Roxbury welcomed the Board to Roxbury.

3. **MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION**

1. **Funding Formula:** K. Noonan prepared information for the Board breaking down the options for the funding formula based on the spreadsheet created by R. Young. **B. Tatro arrives.** K. Noonan reviewed the information being presented. B. Bohannon commented the numbers are not the same as the numbers on the computer. R. Young helped B. Bohannon with the numbers. N. Mosher commented a fair formula is going to be incredibly difficult to come up with. **MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to put option # 4 on the floor for discussion which is the 60 ADM, 40 EV with a 121% CPS Cap. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher commented on the amount Roxbury would be responsible for. He said it is a shifting cost between towns. It will increase the taxes in Fitzwilliam. Change the funding at the State level. He will not support this motion. L. Steadman said Roxbury will see a decrease. K. Noonan commented there will be a petitioned article for the 50-50 and that will be an increase. L. Witte passed out information on apportionment for the towns to be placed in the formula. W. Wright made the motion to have a discussion. He will not vote until he has a discussion with the selectmen of his town. B. Bohannon said it is irresponsible to vote without all of the information. **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to amend the motion and ask the administration to validate the data presented for formula #4. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** L. Witte could do the work but would need time. L. Steadman will not vote on the motion and is in favor of the 50-50 formula. **MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to amend the motion and ask the Troy treasurer to prepare the information. **Motion**

fails for lack of a second. N. Mosher is not in favor of the amendment it is too much work for the administration. The Board asked when L. Witte would be able to have the information available. She said with the budget and the Audits she would be able to work on it during winter break. **VOTE on the amendment:** W. Wright-abstain, N. Moriarty-yes, N. Mosher-no, B. Bohannon-no, R. Colbert-no, K. Buono-no, E. Stanley-no, B. Tatro-no, L. Steadman-no and K. Noonan-yes. 2,190/6.817/1.115/2.878. **Motion fails. DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher would like to allow the people to have their say. L. Steadman explained by voting yes the Board will have a full day to discuss the formula funding or vote no and there is no meeting. **VOTE:** K. Noonan-yes, W. Wright-yes, N. Moriarty-abstain, N. Mosher-no, B. Bohannon-no, R. Colbert-no, E. Stanley-no, B. Tatro-yes, L. Steadman-no and K. Buono-no. 3.351/5.696/1.075/2.878. **Motion fails.**

2. Turkey Tussle T-Shirts: MOTION: E. Stanley **MOVED** to allow the District to refund the Booster Club in the amount of \$1113.00 for the t-shirts out of the gate receipts. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **DISCUSSION:** R. Colbert commented on a similar situation where the Superintendent canceled a play and credited their account. N. Mosher has a fear that other will ask in a same manner. W. Wright would suggest selling the t-shirts first at a discount price. L. Steadman would suggest the Boosters ask the printing company if they could fix them and possibly use them next year. E. Stanley would suggest the school take responsibility and have the District sell them after paying the Boosters. L. Witte said the gate receipts need to be looked at. **Friendly amendment** to research if the Board can take the funds out of the gate receipts. L. Witte said it is a good idea to recoup as much of the cost as possible first. **VOTE:** 9.001/1.121/0/2.878. **Motion passes.**

3. Hockey Funding: L. Witte explained in the athletic lines the District can fully fund Hockey for the 2018-2019 school year. The Hockey funding is now in the District Account. **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to fully fund Hockey for the 2018-2019 school year out of the Athletic Account in the amount of \$26,796.05 and to take the Booster Club balance to offset the cost. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher said he would rather see the funds go toward education. E. Stanley said he supports sports. They are very important some kids may not be in school without sports. It was explained thereafter the funding of Hockey will be in the regular budget and the families are responsible for the equipment. **VOTE:** K. Noonan-yes, W. Wright-yes, N. Moriarty-yes, N. Mosher-no, B. Bohannon-no, R. Colbert-yes, K. Buono-yes, E. Stanley-yes, B. Tatro-yes and L. Steadman-yes. 8.787/1.335/0/2.878 **Motion passes.**

4. Finalize Warrant Articles:

1. Building Warrant:

1. Metals and Wood Shop at MRMHS: L. Witte explained the need to expand the Metal and Wood Shop at MRMHS. She explained the space is tight, the classrooms are not ADA compliant and it is a safety risk for the students to cross the parking lot for class. D. LaPointe explained the addition would measure 30'x58' and cost \$850,000.00. He also explained there will be updates on the ventilation. L. Witte explained we are following the area per pupil guidelines for the amount of students. D. LaPointe explained there would be funds to update the machinery as well. The current space was built in 1962. B. Tatro asked if this will be big enough to meet the needs. D. LaPointe said yes. N. Mosher is concerned with academics and class size. He would like to support but this may be difficult. What about the CCC? K. Buono is concerned the Board is opening a can of worms with the

ADA. D. LaPointe assured her we will be okay; we may need a new desk. J. Rathbun explained we want to connect real life with core academics. It is hands on. There is limited space, it is not modernized and the classes are always full. J. Rathbun explained the District could not offer what is available at the CCC. Scheduling at the CCC is another issue. **MOTION:** R. Colbert **MOVED** Article Two in the amount of \$850,000.00 for the Tech Education Area at the MRMHS. **SECOND:** B. Tatro.

DISCUSSION: It was asked if the District was moving forward with the classrooms at Troy. L. Steadman said that is another discussion and it will be discussed later in the meeting. J. Rathbun explained the class sizes are big at Troy but it is not because of space it is because of people. L. Witte explained they are looking at it as a staffing issue not a building issue as discussed at the Saturday joint meeting. She explained the District is looking at a feasibility study. **VOTE:** 9.908/.214/0/2.878. **Motion passes.**

Auditor's Report: L. Witte invited Steve Egan to update the Board on the FY17 and the FY 18 Audits. He reviewed the findings and the outcomes of the audit with the Board. He explained the Auditing Firm was asked in July to do the FY 17 Audit. He said it was a difficult Audit. He said what was evident was the process and the structural issue. It may not have been set up correctly. He is not aware of any fraud, nothing identified. L. Witte commented on the letter from the Fitzwilliam Selectmen on the disappointment of the submitted paperwork to the State in a timely manner. R. Colbert said he was taken by surprise and asked if there was going to be a response. L. Witte informed the Board the paperwork was being worked on and she had asked the members to contact their town officials and explain. N. Mosher would like to send an apology letter. **MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to ask R. Colbert to draft a letter to apologize to the town select boards for the delay of the figures to the State. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **DISCUSSION:** R. Colbert suggested a set date for the Superintendent to tell the Board when the audit is complete for each year. R. Colbert would be willing to write the letter and forward it to the Board for approval. **VOTE:** 10.122/0/0/2.878. **Motion passes.**

2. Operating Budget:

1. Human Resource Director: L. Witte explained the administration did a survey with other area districts regarding a HR Director and they would like to recommend a part time HR Director. This position is budget neutral. The Board discussed the proposal and L. Steadman stated it is the consensus of the Board to agree with the administration. **MOTION:** K. Buono **MOVED** to approve the Part time HR Director in the proposed budget. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 10.122/0/0/2.878. **Motion passes.**

2. Feasibility Study: The cost of the feasibility study which includes appraisals for the buildings in the District totals \$75,000.00. W. Wright is not in favor of this motion. B. Bohannon is in favor of the feasibility study but not the appraisals. Why appraise when we will probably not sell or close. J. Swanson said K. Wheeler would like to put the appraisals in the budget. The feasibility study is to help the Board narrow down the options. R. Colbert said we felt an outside firm would be objective. If it is voted down on the warrant we can do nothing. K. Noonan would agree with the feasibility study but not the appraisals. N. Moriarty commented we need the sales value of the buildings. J. Swanson explained an architect will be attending the Facilities Meeting and she will ask if the appraisals are important with this process. **MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to approve the feasibility study which include the appraisals in the proposed budget. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** K.

Noonan-yes, W. Wright-no, N. Moriarty-yes, N. Mosher-abstain, B. Bohannon-yes, R. Colbert-yes, K. Buono-yes, E. Stanley-yes, B. Tatro-yes, L. Steadman-no. 7.795/2.113/.214/2.878. **Motion passes.**

3. Accounting Software: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to add the Accounting Software proposal in the proposed 2019-2020 budget. **SECOND:** N. Moriarty. **VOTE:** 10.122/0/0/2.878. **Motion passes.**

4. Ecology School: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to add the cost of the Ecology School to the proposed 2019-2020 budget. **SECOND:** E. Stanley **VOTE:** 10.122/0/0/2.878. **Motion passes.**

5. Regular Education Paraprofessionals: L. Witte explained she would like to discuss this at the next Board Meeting. She would like to meet with the principals.

L. Witte would like to discuss an additional Gilsum teacher at the next meeting.

3. Policies for Second Read: The Board will take up the following policies at their next meeting for a second read: Policy IHAH-World Language in Elementary/Middle School, Policy IHBG-Participation in School Activities by Home Educated and Charter School Pupils, Policy IKFC-Alternative Diploma for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities, Policy JIA-Student Due Process Rights, Policy DKA-Payroll Procedures, Policy DIH-Fraud Prevention and Fiscal Management, Policy AC-Non-Discrimination and Policy ADB-Drug-Free Workplace & Drug-Free Schools.

4. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

1. Board Chair Report:

1. District Clerk Position: L. Steadman explained they are still looking for someone to fill the position. She asked the Board to review the job description.

L. Steadman passed around a document for the Board to sign.

2. Operations/Superintendent's Report:

1. School Cancellation Procedure: L. Witte informed the Board she had been on the radio and it was a great opportunity to share the process of calling off school for a snow day.

2. Budget Hearing Recap: L. Witte explained the joint meeting with the Budget Committee went well. She explained the meeting being later in the year was beneficial to the administration.

3. Girls Lacrosse: L. Witte reported the NHIAA has approved lacrosse coop with Keene. L. Witte explained this is a great opportunity with Keene.

4. Approval of Field Trips: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the field trip for the World Language Class to travel to France for 10 days in June of 2020. **SECOND:** K. Buono. **VOTE:** 10.122/0/0/2.878. **Motion passes.**

5. Governor's Commission Report on School Safety-Mental Health Chapter:

The Board will review the 3 pages of recommendations.

3. Educational Report:

1. School Psychologists, Risk Counselors, Guidance Counselors: J. Rathbun explained the number of counselors, social workers and school psychologists the District employees. He commented the District has a lot of mental health options in place and are stretching ourselves to make that happen. We need support District wide. We need another social worker or counselor throughout the District. C. Woods explained for one person is too much. She would like to have a social worker in each elementary school and a LADAC in the District. L. Witte explained the District does contract with MAPS. R. Colbert commented we cannot be everything to everyone. It was commented we are seeing different issues. Currently, there are 2 social workers for all 6 schools. The social workers do the IEPs. The administration is not sure if the LADAC is the solution. The administration is still thinking. C. Woods said they could ask Antioch for interns to help. R. Colbert would suggest asking the staff how they feel. J. Rathbun said the staff never says no but there are alot of kids. This will be on the next agenda.

2. NH Statewide Assessment Systems: (SAS): J. Rathbun presented the results of the SAS. The students in the 3rd grade did quite well in Math and the 6th grade students did well in Math and Reading. We need to improve in ELA. We have put a lot of work in Math and it is paying off. Reading is not working. It is not one test. We look at data regardless of the testing. We cannot blame the test. In order to improve the test scores we need to improve the culture. We need to meet the basic needs of our students first. We cannot improve academics until the students learn to be at school. The Socioeconomic students are scoring low. K. Noonan asked if the lack of staff and class size had to do with the low scores. J. Rathbun said it is hard to answer because Troy has large classes but scored the highest. N. Mosher asked if the administration has anything in the works. B. Bohannon had heard concerns about the current Math Program. J. Rathbun commented he had not heard anything bad about the program. He said the District is looking at balanced literacy but it is not working. J. Rathbun will be talking to the principals about the interventionists and the Reading Specialists. Are they using them correctly? There are kids not knowing how to come to school. There is alot going on to help correct this issue. N. Mosher will support the needs in those areas in the budget. B. Bohannon would like to see a plan with dates and if there is a need for funding the Board should support. L. Witte explained change does not always involve funds.

J. Rathbun explained there is new classification for schools, Additional Targeted Support. We are not on the list. One of the subgroups made the list. There is no plan for us to be placed on the list just a heads up. He explained the few groups that were not doing well. J. Rathbun will monitor this closely. He explained some of the issues that might contribute to this report.

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. November 7, 2018 Minutes: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the November 7, 2018 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** R. Colbert **VOTE:** 10.122/0/0/2.878. **Motion passes.**

2. **Non-Public Meeting Minutes: MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the 9:16 PM November 7, 2018 Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 10.122/0/0/2.878. **Motion passes.**

3. **Non-Public Meeting Minutes: MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the 8:40 PM November 7, 2018 Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 10.122/0/0/2.878. **Motion passes.**

4. **Manifest: MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** the manifest in the amount of \$1,874,233.87. **SECOND:** K. Buono. **VOTE:** 10.122/0/0/2.878. **Motion passes.**

6. **SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:**

1. **Update on armed officer**
2. **Regular ed. Paraprofessionals**
3. **LADAC**
4. **Staffing recommendations**
5. **Snow days for Board**
6. **Written evaluation for Superintendent**
7. **R. Colbert's Letter**

7. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** N. Mosher was disappointed he was not able to attend the joint meeting because it was rescheduled.

J. Rathbun thanked the Board for funding the Ecology School. He explained they have had to fundraise for part of the trip for 17 years. This is huge.

8. **11:10 PM Non-Public Sessions under RSA 91-A:3,II (c): MOTION:** N. Moriarty **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:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 10.122/0/0/2.878. **Motion passes.**

9. **ADJOURNMENT: MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 11:16 PM. **SECOND:** N. Mosher **VOTE:** 10.122/0/0/2.878. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary