

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2019 (corrected 3/19/19)
Monadnock Regional MSHS, Swanzey, NH

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

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

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:

a) Mt. Caesar Permanent Portables-Missy Suarez: M. Suarez explained to the Board the red portables are gone. She and L. Witte were able to run the backhoe and help take down the portables. She explained they had thought this whole situation through. They felt starting the project now would allow the students to come back to school in the fall to their own classrooms. At the present time some services are sharing space. Everyone is very excited for the new building. D. LaPointe explained the work started last week and it will not stop until complete. It should be done by August 16, 2019. There will be a sketch of the building for all to see. The kids are safe and we are good to go.

3. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

a) Board Chair Report: L. Steadman thanked C. McDaniel-Thomas for her great contributions to this Board and the District. This will be her last Board Meeting.

b) Operations/Superintendent’s Report:

i) Letter from Fitzwilliam Selectmen: L. Witte explained the letter from the Fitzwilliam Selectmen was in the Board packet. **K. Wheeler arrives.** N. Moriarty mentioned

the fact the School Board paid for an attorney for the Budget Committee when he sued. N. Moriarty would like to put the discussion of the letter on the next agenda.

ii) Election posting terms: L. Witte explained the postings for the term lengths were incorrect. This mistake will only affect Swanzey. The corrections have been made.

iii) Senior Trip: L. Witte explained the location of the senior trip has been changed. The students will now go to Boston on May 17 - May 18. **MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to approve the Senior Trip to Boston on May 17-May 18, 2019. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 10.879/0/0/2.121. **Motion passes.**

iv) Planaria Presentation at KSC: J. Butterfield and his students will be doing a Planaria Demonstration at KSC. All are invited and it will be worth the trip.

v) Congratulations: Congratulations to the Girls Basketball Team for the State Championship win. The Boys Hockey Team will be in the playoffs in Plymouth tomorrow. B. Tatro commented on the amount of people who came out to welcome the girls back to Monadnock after their win. It was also mentioned the Pep Band did a great job at the game. **MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to give the members of the championship basketball team \$75.00 to purchase an award of their choice. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** J. Swanson explained the awards line is negative \$10,275.00 at the moment. **VOTE:** 10.879/0/0/2.121. **Motion passes. .**

vi) School Safety Task Force-Planning Chapter: L. Witte passed out information to the Board on the Planning Chapter. She explained we are near completion. We met as a leadership safety team and will be preparing Go Bags for the classrooms at each level at each school. The team reviewed the items list and are in the process of equipping the bags in case of an emergency. The nurse will have her own bag with student needs. The cost for the bags are about \$15,000.00. The cost will equip 200 bags and they will be delivered to the schools. This process should be done by the end of the year. We are working on items that the group feels are important and appropriate. We are in really good shape. There is money in the budget for these items. She explained the District is working on the lettering for the doors and the windows. We are working with the police. We have received grants from the State. The State is looking to put more money into that pot. We will look to see what we will be asking for through the grants.

vii) Indicator Eleven: L. Witte was notified by the DOE that the District was 100% in compliance on Indicator Eleven and sent a letter of congratulations.

viii) Substitute Teacher Rate Change Impact: J. Swanson presented information to the Board on the financial impact of changing the sub rate from \$85.00 to \$126.00 based on the subs used to date. J. Swanson explained we are in the ballpark at \$85.00. L. Witte explained we pay the same as Keene. **S. Peters arrives.** She said you will pay more but not see an increase in people. B. Tatro commented we are using staff in house which is not good for our students. B. Bohannon said the increase will help fill the roles. Try it and if it does not work move on. L. Witte commented at this time the economy is good. We are putting together a sub survey which will be given out to our sub pool. B. Tatro asked how often we pull from within. N. Mosher would like that topic on the next agenda. N. Moriarty would suggest getting the survey results and then move on to the next step. B. Tatro said a possible option would be to use KSC students. L. Witte explained we already use KSC students. S. Peters asked about hiring a permanent floater. L. Witte was not sure the vacancy issue would support it. K. Wheeler asked when we increased the pay rate did we get more subs. J. Rathbun explained Troy has a high teacher attendance rate but a worse fill rate. It is a very hard time to fill the roles.

4. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION

a) Policies for First Read:

i. IGBD/IHBC: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to retire Policy IGBD, adopt NHSBA sample policy IHBC with edits and mark Policy JIE as reviewed with no changes on 2-6-19. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** It was a friendly amendment to strike “student nurse” in the policy. **VOTE:** 11.877/0/0/1.123. **Motion passes.**

ii. EHAB: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to adopt NHSBA Policy EHAB with edits and recommendations from the administration. **SECOND:** R. Colbert. **VOTE:** 11.663/.214/0/1.123. **Motion passes.**

iii. GADA: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to adopt NHSBA sample Policy GADA as written. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 11.877/0/0/1.123. **Motion passes.**

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION CONTINUED:

c) Educational Report:

i) Differentiation Follow-Up: J. Rathbun commented that it directly relates to attendance. We have put in a new teacher evaluation plan. We need more professional development and we have more. What do we need from the Board? Understand we are watching it. Keep on us. Comprehensive Needs Assessment for the 4 Title One Schools. The next step is to meet with each of the principals by the end of March and update Title One plans. The next step is to reach out to the MSHS and Gilsum then return in April. The survey will be good and complete. It is all coming together -a real focus.

d) Other Matters for Discussion:

i) **Weapons on School Grounds:** L. Witte explained the Board has Policy JICI regarding weapons on school property. There are two bills at the State level and an article. Our policy prohibits the public from bringing weapons on school grounds and that is the reason for the 2 bills at the State level. The NHSBA recommendation is violating State Law as well as our policy violates the law. The police cannot enforce our policy. K. Wheeler is concerned. She believes that students should be able to bring self-defense weapons to school. She was never ok with passing the policy and pushing it through. N. Mosher said it is vague on weapons and a great amount of latitude for the person. Who enforces the policy? **MOTION:** K. Wheeler **MOVED** to have Policy JICI go back to the Policy Committee and vote on it after the bills have passed at the State Level. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **DISCUSSION:** S. Peters explained the NHSBA recommends twice a year. B. Bohannon would support moving forward without waiting for the NHSBA. R. Colbert would like to revise when the changes come out. K. Wheeler would like it to go back to Policy. C. McDaniel-Thomas does not agree. **VOTE:** 9.758/1.121/0/2.121. **Motion passes.**

ii) **Future Committee:** R. Colbert commented we have trouble filling the committees. He was wondering if we could revisit the purpose of the committees. K. Noonan is not sure if this meeting is one meeting too early. L. Steadman commented we can choose a format we have a policy. W. Wright does not want to see too many committees out. If so the Board Meetings would be long and we would have to hash it out here. B. Bohannon commented if we are not getting any action from the committees than why have them. L. Witte commented policy does not mandate committees. S. Peters asked if there is any committee not necessary now. B. Tatro commented Education Committee. S. Peters commented J. Rathbun has been doing the Education Report. N. Mosher commented Negotiations and Finance have been doing a majority of the important items. He would like to have a conversation with the new Board Members. K. Wheeler commented snow has been an issue and the Board might want to discuss the size of the committees. An odd number of people is better for quorum. S. Peters asked why we rehash at the Board level. Do the members not trust the committees? The meetings are open and anyone can attend or read the minutes. CRC and Extra-Curricular do not believe they rehashed here. W. Wright does not see a problem with the committees. N. Mosher would like input from the administration as well.

iii) **Warrant Article Amendment Policy:** The recurring School Board policies were in the Board packet. S. Peters explained this is policy but we have not honored it. It is motivation to make sure these get done. W. Wright would suggest this be brought up in September. N. Moriarty questioned the posting of the meetings and L. Steadman responded the district posts the meetings correctly.

iv) **Recycled Percussion:** K. Noonan explained Emerson School was nominated to receive this program Kindness through Chaos. L. Stephens received a phone call saying Emerson School was nominated and will receive the program. The cost is \$5000.00. She is asking the School Board for some of the funds. They are also working on raising the funds.

K. Wheeler would suggest allowing all of the elementary students to attend and share the cost. B. Tatro explained they came to Cutler and asked how they raised the funds. L. Witte said the PTO helped and they had box tops.

v) **Meeting Time Suggestion:** L. Steadman explained there has been a request to change the time of the School Board meeting to 6:00 PM. The Board will discuss at the next meeting.

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **February 19, 2019 Minutes: MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve the February 19, 2019 School Board Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE:** 9.999/0/1.878/1.123. **Motion passes.**

2. **Manifest: MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** the manifest in the amount of \$1,850,907.43. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler. **VOTE:** 11.877/0/0/1.123 . **Motion passes.**

6. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no Public Comments.

7. Setting Next Agenda:

1. **Revisit Survey-Sub fill rate**
2. **Comprehensive Needs Assessment**
3. **Composition of Committees-day-time-update from committee**
4. **Election of officers**
5. **Training Chapter-School Safety**
6. **Recap Goals**
7. **Revisit authorization of Superintendent not to attend BC Meetings**
8. **Open positions-number of days**
9. **Organization of committees**
10. **No Education Report until April**

8. **Public Comments:** E. Stanley mentioned the students will be performing Newsies this weekend.

9. **ADJOURNMENT: MOTION:** S/. Peters **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 PM. **SECOND:** E. Stanley **VOTE:** 11.877/0/0/1.123 **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis

Recording Secretary