

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
(Non-Approved Minutes)
October 16, 2018
Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH

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

Administration Present: J. Rathbun, Director of Curriculum and Development 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: S. Peters called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. L. Steadman takes over the meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

a. Student Government: There were no Student Government rep. present.

b. Spotlight on MTC -Family Engagement Recognition Month: M. Suarez and two of her Kindergarten teachers were present and informed the Board MTC has been selected to receive a 2018 Family Engagement Month Recognition for the work done over the summer to visit each kindergarten student at their homes to make the transition a little easier. They were selected by another staff member. M. Suarez explained this was only one of the four events they held. Congratulation MTC.

c. Outback Bowl Fundraising Report: R. Skrocki: R. Skrocki reported on the fundraising effort that is going on by the Band. He reported they have raised \$25,471.00 and will need to pay \$41,219.00. There are 15 families who may not be able to pay. He explained if the funds are not paid by Nov. 1, 2018 there will be a late charge.

The Band will be working at the Pumpkin Fest. We are not sure what funds will be raised but we have a lot of people volunteering. There are 80 students, 14 adults and R. Skrocki going on the trip. S. Peters asked J. Swanson about the challenge B. Tatro made regarding the School Board stipend. He asked if it would be possible to get the stipends earlier. J. Swanson said she would be able to do that. J. Swanson explained there is a line for student awards. **MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to pay up to \$17,400.00 in order to support the Band Trip to the Outback Bowl with the discretion of the Superintendent on which line in the budget for available funds. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **DISCUSSION:** **MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to amend the motion and fund \$2500.00. **SECOND:** N. Moriarty. **DISCUSSION:** S. Peters asked J. Swanson if there are any funds available by being creative. J. Swanson explained the Board had approved a few positions at the last meeting. N. Moriarty commented the District has had a million-dollar surplus. N. Mosher said he would trust the Business Administrator and vote for the amendment. R. Colbert suggested a percentage instead of a dollar amount. C. McDaniel-Thomas said the motion is “up to” and it is not our job to find out where it is coming from. R. Skrocki said he is not asking for the \$41,000.00. The 15 kids are looking for help. S. Peters commented if the Board Members donate their checks they will offset the cost. S. Peters, B. Tatro and K. Buono will donate their stipends to the Band. B. Bohannon said this is a once in a lifetime experience. This is the largest percentage of student involvement. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to amend the motion and change the amount to \$4000.00. **SECOND:** N. Moriarty. **DISCUSSION:** L. Steadman commented the Board needs to vote on the first amendment. **VOTE on the amendment of \$2500.00:** 1.289/8.710/1.121/1.880. **Motion fails.** B. Tatro commented the Board purchases the championship jackets at \$75.00 apiece and multiply by 80 students and that is \$6000.00. R. Colbert asked if we are saying the Band is any less important than the Destination Imagination students. L. Steadman asked about the funds in the Student Awards account. R. Skrocki said he appreciates the discussion but is only looking for funds for a scholarship in the amount of about \$15,000.00. **VOTE on the amendment in the amount of \$4000.00:** 2.196/7.803/1.121/1.880. **Motion fails.** *K. Wheeler arrives.* C. McDaniel-Thomas would like to give a **friendly amendment** and change the amount in the original motion to up to \$15,000.00. K. Noonan agrees. The Board asked about the balance in the gate receipt account and the student account. J. Swanson does not have that information with her. **VOTE on original motion with the friendly amendment. The amount is up to \$15,000.00:** 6.591/2.410/2.119/1.880. **Motion passes.** N. Mosher would like an update on where the funds are coming from. J. Swanson is not sure she will know at the next meeting. She does agree we have a significant surplus.

3. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION

a. **Develop Warrant Article:** L. Steadman asked the Board where they would like to start regarding the warrant articles. She listed the articles the Board usually has on the warrant. K. Wheeler commented that a number of the warrant articles suggested will be discussed at the next Finance and Facilities Meetings. B. Bohannon commented the Board has not discussed a Funding Formula article. L. Steadman listed the warrant article and asked the Board to vote on the list. There was no vote on the list. L. Steadman will discuss the warrant articles at the next meeting. **MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to change the location of the Nov, 7, 2018 Board Meeting from Cutler to MS/HS and change the location of the Nov. 20, 2018 Board Meeting from MS/HS to Cutler only if the students have a presentation. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 11.120/0/0/1.880. **Motion passes.**

b. **District Building Appraisals:** L. Steadman commented the cost of the building appraisals could be in a warrant article. K. Wheeler explained the Finance Committee and Facilities Committee will be discussing this next week. The Facilities Committee has discussed hiring an outside consultant to do a feasibility study. L. Steadman will place this on the next agenda.

c. **Hockey Funding for 18/19:** K. Noonan passed out the April 17, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes and read the motion regarding the Hockey funding. The motion states to fund Hockey in a similar manner to other sports and the motion passed. There was another motion to use the funds from the 2017-2018 unallocated fund balance which passed but later found out it was not a valid motion. K. Noonan commented it looks like we are funding the Hockey Team at 100%. R. Colbert commented point taken. We had agreed to put this in the budget. J. Rathbun said the gate receipts paid for the ice time and now the 2018-2019 season is left in limbo. K. Noonan commented the second motion is out of order but the first motion to fund passed. B. Bohannon asked if we should redo the motion. K. Noonan said we should not let the Hockey Team down. J. Swanson said there is about \$5000.00-\$6000.00 in the Gate Receipt Account. K. Noonan said T. Cote was told to tell the parents Hockey was 100% funded. N. Mosher asked about a "similar manner". J. Rathbun said we do have funding in the budget for Hockey in the amount of \$15,000.00. The big thing is the ice fees. The gate receipts were used for ice time and that is why the Booster Club has funds in their account. K. Buono asked for the Board to look at the total cost of the different sports. J. Rathbun and T. Cote have the information about the different accounts and the cost of each sport. **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to ask the Business Administrator to obtain information on the Hockey gate receipts, cost of jerseys, transportation, referees, and ice time costs. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:**

9.785/0/2.092/1.123. **Motion passes.** J. Swanson explained in order to use unreserved funds you need a contract and a definite cost. **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to fund Hockey in a similar manner as other sports. **There was no second and she withdrew her motion.**

4. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

a. Board Chair Report:

i. Monadnock District Funding Formula: J. Rathbun had discussed the concerns of the Board with J. O'Shaughnessy regarding the funding formula. The attorney feels very strongly about the funding issue. L. Steadman would suggest meeting with the attorney on Nov. 7, 2018 in the library. **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to hold off on scheduling a Board work session until there is an opinion from J. O'Shaughnessy. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **VOTE:** 10.756/0/1.121/1.123. **Motion passes.**

ii. NHSBA Training on Board Rules and Responsibilities: L. Steadman informed the Board the training will take place on Nov. 5, 2018 from 6-9 PM.

b. Operations/Superintendent's Report:

i. Special Education Compliance: C. Woods handed out 2 packets of information to the Board. They discussed indicator 11, 12 and 13. She explained with regards to indicator 11 the District has hit the mark. We have people and a process in line to keep us in compliance. Indicators 12 and 16-17 we have met full compliance. In regards to indicator 13 we were audited and have been in compliance. We have 317 IEPs in the District. We are higher than the State but average in the region. She said they are taking a look in the curriculum areas to make sure we are providing enough specialized learning in reading. C. Woods explained they are focusing on the Preschool students this year. Do we assess all students or those with IEPs? She said we know for sure kids who attend preschool do better in kindergarten. We will have the entire conversation with the staff.

ii. Delegate Authority: The Board received a letter in their packets from L. Witte regarding her absence. She stated she is delegating authority to J. Rathbun to sign in her absence. She has been in contact with the administration on a daily basis. J. Rathbun read her most recent email to the Board. No action is needed from the Board. Just information only.

iii. Insurance Pool Update: J. Rathbun has received an email from J. O'Shaughnessy regarding the Insurance Pool. He informed the Board the judge has ruled

in favor of the District. The association has 30 days to appeal. The amount is \$392,000.00. J. O'Shaughnessy would suggest not doing anything with the funds yet. The funds would not go back to the taxpayers until the end of June 2019.

iv. Update on armed SSO: J. Rathbun explained he has heard from Primex and they do not have anything that precludes the District from having an armed SSO. They did say that any unlawful act will not be covered if there is a suit. J. O'Shaughnessy said he feels this is wide open, he would caution the Board to be careful and feels that there are a lot of things that need to happen. J. Rathbun asked the Board if they would like J. O'Shaughnessy to prepare the legal steps before this begins. J. Rathbun read the email from Primex. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to ask for an opinion from legal counsel and ask him to prepare recommendations concerning the SSO carrying a concealed weapon on campus. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler. **DISCUSSION:** S. Peters would like recommendations for safety criteria and a punch list for the role. **VOTE:** 11.877/0/0/1.123 **Motion passes.**

v. Preliminary Beginning of Year Enrollment (BOY) Numbers: J. Rathbun explained the numbers presented are the numbers generated from October 1, 2018. We give information to the State by October 15. They have a formula to determine the number. This is our best guess. Overall we are holding steady with the elementary grades growing. N. Moriarty would like to have the student information by town. BOY does not include preschool. L. Steadman would like to request a class size update.

vi. Unallocated Fund Balance, IR Audit, DOE-25/MS-25: J. Swanson explained she thought they were done with the FY17 but there was more information needed and adjustments to be made. The 2017-2018 surplus was 1.8 million but with the adjustments it will be close to 2.1 million. She also believes there will be more adjustments. There was a bookkeeping mistake in the dental insurance. We will make changes so this will not happen in the future. The IRS Audit, a payroll audit resulted in the District paying taxes and penalties. The District failed to file a 1099 for some contracted services mostly in the medical field and 2 vendors did not have a W-9. The tax and penalty is in the amount of \$13,270.80. We are making corrections. The GMR for the Health Insurance came in at 9.2%, a significant increase from last year.

vii. Educational Funding Letter: The Board reviewed the letter forwarded from L. Witte. They made changes to the letter. **MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to accept the letter as presented with the changes made by the Board. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **DISCUSSION:** J. Rathbun will mail the letter to all elected

officials in our area. He will prepare the mailing list for the Board. **VOTE:** 11.877/0/0/1.123. **Motion passes.** The Board Members will sign the letter at the SAU and it will be mailed out before the vote.

J. Rathbun passed out a fundraiser and event list to the Board. He also announced there will be a need for 2 non-public sessions.

c. Educational Report:

i. Cheshire Career Center: J. Rathbun informed the Board last week the Keene School Board voted to change the start time of the high school to a later time. J. Rathbun and L. Spencer went to the CCC on Monday met with K. Baker and J. Logan to discuss their concerns regarding scheduling and the 20-year agreement. This is not binding and the District could get out of the agreement. There are 36 students from Monadnock attending the CCC and we believe it is a scheduling issue regarding the low numbers. They did agree on scheduling that would benefit our kids. They did discuss the late start time. We can now send 10th graders to the CCC for certain programs. It was a great conversation. The District pays \$1261.22 per student and \$1.00 a day per student for transportation. Monadnock has 25% of the seats in each course, Fall Mtn. 25% and Keene 50%. There has never been an issue where this had to be used. The start time should not affect our kids. We need to meet with the CCC often.

d. Other Matters for Discussion:

i. Policies for first read: S. Peters asked the Board due to the time if they would read the following policies and be prepared to vote on them at the next Board Meeting: **JICD-Student Discipline and Due Process, JICD-R-MOU for administering JICD with local law enforcement, JIC-Student Conduct, JRA-Student Records and Access-FERPA, KEB-Complaints about School Personnel and KE-Public Complaints.**

ii. CRC-Swanzey Select Board Request: C. McDaniel-Thomas and B. Tatro attended a Swanzey Select Board Meeting. They reported the select board would prefer the Board bond instead of a warrant article in the amount of 1 million or 1.5 million a year. Their rationale was to lessen the tax impact. She also reported the committee did meet tonight, worked on the Communication Plan and select board letters.

iii. School Safety Preparedness Taskforce Report-Facilities Chapter: L. Steadman asked the Board to review the facility recommendations presented in the packet. She would like to discuss them at the next Board Meeting.

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. October 2, 2018 Minutes: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the October 2, 2018 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 7.809/0/4.068/1.123. **Motion passes.**

2. Non-Public Meeting Minutes: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to approve the October 2, 2018 Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** K. Buono. **VOTE:** 7.809/0/4.068/1.123. **Motion passes.**

3. Manifest: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** the manifest for 2017-2018 in the amount of \$7,338.95. **SECOND:** K. Buono **VOTE:** 10.8/0/1.075/1.123. **Motion passes.**

4. Manifest: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** the manifest for 2018-2019 in the amount of \$1,007,883.12. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 10.8/0/1.075/1.123. **Motion passes.**

6. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

- 1. Band**
- 2. Class size**
- 3. School Safety-Mental Health**
- 4. HR Position**
- 5. Second read on policies**
- 6. Warrant Article policy**
- 7. Shell of Articles**

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

8. Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (b): MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II (b) Hiring of any person as a public employee. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **VOTE:** 11.877/0/0/1.123. **Motion passes**

9. Non-Public Sessions under RSA 91-A:3,II (c): MOTION: S. Peters **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.**

10. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: N. Mosher **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 10:44 PM. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 11.877/0/0/1.123. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary