

**Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**October 2, 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 and Scott Peters. **Absent:** Karen Wheeler, Eric Stanley, Cheryl McDaniel-Thomas and Neil Moriarty

**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. Pre-Meeting on ‘How to read the Manifest’ 6:40 PM**

**2. Call to Order:** L. Steadman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**a. Student Government:** There is no report. L. Spencer explained Student Government has just met and she will let Mr. Harrison, the advisor know the Board would love to have a student representative to the meetings.

**4. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION**

**a. CCC Regional Agreement: MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to accept the Cheshire Career Center Agreement as presented. **SECOND:** K. Buono. **DISCUSSION:** R. Colbert asked how many students are attending the CCC. J. Rathbun explained there are about 40 students. The enrollment is down because of scheduling. He has contacted the Keene Superintendent and explained Monadnock is concerned with the numbers. W. Wright updated the Board regarding the changes to the CCC. He explained there are now 2 directors, 1 for Fall Mtn. and the other at the CCC in Keene. The Fall Mtn. director will be responsible for the equipment at Fall Mtn. Fall Mtn. will be a receiving district. J. Rathbun explained we are not concerned with the agreement but with the scheduling. The agreement took a while due to the attorney review and talks took longer at the State level. W. Wright explained it is a 20-year agreement but will be reviewed every 3 years. R. Colbert commented the contract states we can terminate the contract. J. Rathbun said it would end up at the State and they will have the final say. J. Rathbun explained Keene and the State have signed and agreed so far on the contract. S. Peters would like to know the cost per student at a future meeting. B. Tatro asked if Monadnock is capable of

offering courses to the other districts. It was commented we are not there yet. J. Rathbun commented at the time of the agreement we did not have anything to offer. We cannot compete with districts that offer the programs. **VOTE:** 8.924/0/0/4.076. **Motion passes. MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to authorize L. Steadman to sign the CCC Agreement on behalf of the MRSD. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **VOTE:** 8.924/0/0/4.076. **Motion passes.**

**b. Policies ACE, GCQ, KB, IJ:** S. Peters presented the policies to the Board for a second read. He gave the rationale for each policy. **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to adopt the NHSBA sample Policy ACE Procedural Safeguards/Non-discrimination on the Basis of Handicap or Disability as written. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 8.924/0/0/4.076. **Motion passes. MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to adopt the NHSBA sample Policy GCQ Non-renewal, Termination and Dismissal of Certified Staff as written. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **VOTE:** 8.924/0/0/4.076. **Motion passes. MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to adopt the NHSBA sample Policy KB Title I Family and Community Engagement as written. **SECOND:** Noonan. **VOTE:** 8.924/0/0/4.76. **Motion passes. MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to adopt Policy IJ Instructional Resources and Instructional Resources Plan as proposed and retire the previous MRSD Policy IJ. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** J. Rathbun will bring back a rough time frame to the Policy Committee. **VOTE:** 8.924/0/0/4.076. **Motion passes.**

**c. Phone System:** N. Moriarty had asked for this agenda item and he is not present tonight. The Board will discuss this item at a future meeting.

**d. Funding Formula:** L. Steadman explained if the Board waits there is a guarantee that the 50-50 formula will be on the ballot. N. Mosher commented there could be a number of options and let the public bring a petitioned article to the Deliberative Session. S. Peters commented we have not invested the time as a group. **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to create a dedicated evening for the Board to discuss the formula issue and invite the Fair Funding Group to walk us through. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** K. Noonan said this is a good idea. S. Peters said we should do this before Thanksgiving. K. Noonan said it should be with the full Board. L. Steadman would strongly suggest asking counsel if it is legal to cap. L. Steadman said we will post the meeting and if we do not have a quorum we will continue the meeting as a workshop. **VOTE:** 7.589/0/1.355/4.076. **Motion passes. K.** Noonan would suggest asking legal counsel if capping and pooling is a legal option. N. Mosher asked when legal counsel has a response let the entire Board know the answer.

**e. Education Funding Fairness Advocacy Letter:** L. Steadman explained the Board had received in their packets a letter for the Fair Funding Campaign. The letter is asking the Board to make edits, send the letter to key people and to join the campaign. L. Steadman will have L. Witte mark this letter and bring it back to the Board. **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to have this Board develop some version of this letter on the Funding Fairness Campaign and join the Conval Group. Ask L. Steadman to work on this letter. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **DISCUSSION:** It was commented to send this letter to the State Representatives. L. Steadman may have this letter done by the next meeting. **VOTE:** 7.595/0/1.329/4.076. **Motion passes.**

**f. Set Board/Budget Committee Joint Meeting Date: MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to set the Board/BC Joint Meeting date for November 17, 2018. The time of the meeting will be 8:00 AM to noon. **SECOND:** 8.924/0/0/4.076. **Motion passes.**

**g. Finance Committee:**

**i. Budget Transfers: MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to approve the transfer of \$4000.00 from World Language and \$6095.00 from Math for a total of \$10,095.00 to Social Studies as presented by J. Swanson and approved by the Finance Committee. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 8.924/0/0/4.076. **Motion passes. MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to approve the transfer of a .5 Reading Specialist at Troy and a .5 Reading Specialist from Emerson for a total amount of \$62,356.00 to the District Account for a Library Media Specialist as presented by J. Swanson and approved by the Finance Committee. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 8.924/0/0/4.076. **Motion passes.**

**ii. Quotes for Building Appraisals:** L. Steadman explained the Board has received one quote in the amount of \$17,640.00 from Power Smith & Associates. **MOTION:** to hire Power Smith & Associates to prepare the District building appraisals in the amount of \$17,640.00. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **DISCUSSION:** R. Colbert commented this is part of a larger discussion in terms of the massive project we will be doing. We will discuss at the next Finance Committee Meeting the total cost to complete our task. R. Colbert said the committee will be looking at a number of options from an addition, closing of schools and a new school. The committee would like to know how much the buildings would be worth if they were sold. S. Peters said we are looking at the information we need to do this but we have not budgeted for this item. The Finance Committee will put the items on a white board with the cost and report back to the full Board. N. Mosher asked if we will have to sacrifice in other areas for these funds. J. Swanson said should would not be able to tell the Board tonight where the funds would come from. **MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to table the motion until the information is available. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 7.803/0/1.121/4.076. **Motion passes.** B. Tatro said the Finance Committee will be able to put together a more comprehensive plan.

**5. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:**

**a. Board Chair Report:**

**i. Roles and Responsibilities Training:** L. Steadman said it would be nice to be refreshed and let the new Board Members know what to do. The training will clarify a lot of issues. R. Colbert asked if it would define roles and responsibilities of the Board officers. K. Noonan said it would be worthwhile to have this training. B. Tatro would agree. R. Colbert asked if it is better to do this after the election. L. Steadman said March is a long time away. N. Mosher said he would rather speak to legal counsel instead of the NHSBA. L. Steadman said they would send legal counsel from the NHSBA. **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to invite the NHSBA to train the Board on their Roles and Responsibilities. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **VOTE:** 8.710/0/.214/4.026. **Motion passes.**

**b. Operations/Superintendent's Report:**

**i. School Safety Update:**

**1. School Safety Meetings:** L. Witte is not available due to a family issue. She will report at a future meeting.

**2. Armed Security Personnel:** The Swanzey Police Chief explained he had a few good conversations with L. Witte regarding an armed security personnel in the schools. He said it is the right thing to do. We have a retired police officer, F. DeTurrus in the school and he can carry a gun anywhere in the U.S. This is a great opportunity to add another layer of protection. Why wouldn't we take this step forward. Move forward and get the Board's support. He also explained the police department is covered by Primex Insurance as well as the District. He would like to say this is going to help. He does believe F. DeTurrus is great for the school. F. DeTurrus is a great foundation. He will not wear a uniform and will have a concealed weapon. F. DeTurrus is the answer to the problem. R. Colbert does support this but would like to know if this requires voter approval. S. Peters would suggest asking counsel and there would be a need to adjust the policy. L. Spencer said this would be the best of both worlds. It would be nice for Frank to be armed and not an SRO. **MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to allow the Board to proceed with finding out more information on insurance, legal counsel, the ability for the SSO to move throughout the District armed and a MOU. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **DISCUSSION:** It was explained Frank DeTurrus can carry a gun throughout the country. R. Colbert asked if there was any data on having an SSO in the high school and not the elementary schools. J. Rathbun explained half of the student population is at the high school. L. Steadman read statistics that support the SSO at the high school. **VOTE:** 8.924/0/0/4.076. **Motion passes.**

**School Safety Task Force:** It was explained the School Safety Task Force Report has come out and anyone interested may request a copy. There were many recommendations and we are headed in the right direction. The principal in Troy spoke about what is important in their schools to make them safe. They will be meeting every month. F. DeTurrus discussed grab bags in case of a shooting. J. Rathbun explained the schools have all had their safety meetings. The collaboration is a great strength. Homeland Security did an audit at Emerson but the report is not back yet. On October 6, 2018 there will be an active shooter drill at the high school. The Swanzey Fire and PD, Chesterfield Fire and PD as well as other law enforcement and fire will be in attendance. They have also reached out to other towns. There will be students here who will be doing role playing. They would like everyone else to stay away from the building on October 6, 2018.

**Letter to Cutler Families regarding the copper levels in the water:** D. LaPointe explained the copper levels in the water are not dangerously high. The District is taking the proper action. The letter is a precaution letter. They have turned off the old fountains and are only using the new fountains. He has also ordered two new fountains and have put a filter in the kitchen. The new fountains will not be installed until Christmas. B. Bohannon asked what is the cause. D. LaPointe said he cannot give an answer at this time. D. LaPointe said the new fountains and the water through the filter is fine.

**ii. Personnel and Hiring Update:**

**1. Social Worker Position:** J. Rathbun reported on the number of positions not filled in the District. C. Woods reported the District at this time does not have a School Psychologist. She would like to use the funding in the salary line to fund a .6 Social Worker for 15 students. We are not in compliance without those services. C. Woods reported we have had a few people apply and some of those people she would not want to work in the District. R. Colbert said if it is a salary item we can

address it in the budget. C. Woods explained it is a negotiated item. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to support the request and direct C. Woods to seek a solution for the .6 Social Worker and approve the needed transfer of funds. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **VOTE:** 8.924/0/0/4.026. **Motion passes.** J. Rathbun and C. Woods explained there have been some applicants for the open positions but some were not qualified, the 20-hour Title One position is tough to fill and the paraprofessional pay is an issue. S. Peters would like to ask counsel if it is possible to hire outside of the Union and pay more. J. Rathbun explained we are not out of compliance with the IEPs even with the open positions. He will ask L. Witte to speak on this issue at the next meeting.

**c. Educational Report:**

**i. Middle School VEX Update:** J. Rathbun passed out the list of VEX classes to the Board. These are the specials for the 7th and 8th graders. The students have 2 VEX classes a quarter and they run about 75 minutes a day. The students take PE twice a year. B. Bohannon asked if any of these are a pathway to the CCC. J. Rathbun said the biggest problem is not the lack of interest but the scheduling for the CCC. Keene and Monadnock have massive issue. S. Peters asked what classes are popular. J. Rathbun said the teachers create classes the students are interested in.

**ii. Student Mental Health:** J. Rathbun explained the District is working on a Health Curriculum K-12. There is a team of PE teachers at the high school working with staff and nurses. The upcoming January PD day will focus on health which is a big part in the mental health piece. Some of the staff recently were trained after attending a Mental Health First Aid Course at KSC and now will train other staff. The trained staff cannot diagnose. It is their job to look for the warning signs. It is a 4-hour training session.

The Board Member appointed to the Health and Wellness Committee is K. Wheeler and K. Buono has volunteered to also be on the committee.

**d. Committee Reports:**

**i. CRC-Swanzey Select Board Request:** C. McDaniel-Thomas was not present tonight.

**e. Other Matters for Discussion:**

**i. 17/18 Unallocated Fund Balance:** J. Swanson reported the number is not clear. The Auditors are still wrapping up the FY 17 Audit. The number may change so she is not comfortable stating a it.

**ii. School Supply Best Practices:** N. Mosher is concerned the District is asking families to donate items. J. Rathbun explained the items are on a wish list. There are parents who want to help and ask what they can bring. The District is stocked with cleaning supplies. J. Rathbun explained this is a communication error. There are parents who want to donate. It was commented the staff buy items for their classrooms because the process is too long. J. Rathbun explained the 7th and 8th grades have the long wish list. The teachers are helping those that cannot fill the list. B. Bohannon would like a more defined policy for reimbursement. J. Rathbun said we are consistently inconsistent. He will work with the administration to develop a better reimbursement process for the staff.

iii. **Parent Requests for Student Attendance at District Schools:** K. Wheeler had asked how many parents from Troy had requested to have their student go to Gilsum but told the enrollment was at the max. K. Wheeler is not present tonight.

**MOTION:** R. Colbert **MOVED** to supply the Board Secretary with the appropriate computer to complete the job we have tasked her with and accessibility to the internal internet. **SECOND:** K. Buono. **VOTE:** 8.924/0/0/4.076. **Motion passes.**

**6. CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. **September 18, 2018 Minutes:** **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to approve the September 18, 2018 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 11.243/0/0/.750. **Motion passes.**

2. **Manifest:** **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** the manifest for 2017-2018 in the amount of \$1,903,032.99. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 8.924/0/0/4.076 **Motion passes.**

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

1. **Substitutes, paras-IEP**
2. **School Safety Task Report**
3. **Cost to the CCC**
4. **Ask legal pooling-cap**
5. **NHSBA Training**
6. **School Supply**
7. **Schedule Change CCC**
8. **Band Director**

8. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Rob Skrocki reported the fundraising is going well. They have raised \$15,008.00 and making progress. The band played at each of the elementary schools and it was a good time. The payment for the trip is due November 1, 2018. R. Skrocki has been asked to come back on October 16, 2018 to report on the fundraising effort.

9. **Non-Public Sessions under RSA 91-A:3,II:** **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3,II 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:** K. Buono. **VOTE:** 8.924/0/0/4.276. **Motion passes.**

10. **ADJOURNMENT:** **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 PM. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 8.924/0/0/4.076. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis  
Recording Secretary