

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
(Non-Approved Minutes)
February 19, 2019
Monadnock Regional MSHS, Swanzey,NH

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

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) **Rep. Sandy Swinburne:** Rep. Swinburne told the Board about her job experiences and interests. She is very interested in public education. School funding is one of the main concerns. The burden on the poorer towns is unfair. She is on a committee with the attorney from the Claremont Decision. There is not enough pressure by the public to make a difference. The Senate Bill regarding stabilization looked promising. It would give \$7500.00 per student and redirect taxes not directly to the schools. The funds would also be directed to private schools and homeschooler. It is unfortunate. L. Steadman thanked Rep. Swinburne for attending.

b) **Rep. Craig Thompson:** L. Steadman explained Craig Thompson is not able to be here tonight.

3. **MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION**

a) **MTC/Nutritional Service Balance: Pilgrim Pines Donation:** L. Witte explained Pilgrim Pines has donated \$2476.55 to pay the unpaid food service balance at MTC. They had asked how they could help. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to accept the donation from Pilgrim Pines in the amount of \$2476.55 to pay the unpaid food service balance at MTC. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **DISCUSSION:** M. Szymcik commented Pilgrim Pines has donated in the past. They given out scholarships for the 6th grade Recognition Night at Cutler as well. **VOTE:** 8.787/0/0/4.122. **Motion passes. C. McDaniel-Thomas arrives.**

b) **Policies for First Read:**
i. **IGBD/IHBC**

ii. **EHAB:** N. Moriarty would like to have access granted on a need to know basis. He would like to have this in the policy.

iii. **GADA**

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

a) **Board Chair Report:**

i) **Committee Meeting on Election Day:** The Board agreed to cancel committee meetings on election day.

L. Steadman informed the Board she has viewed the video of the singing superintendents at the recent National Conference and it is great. She suggested the rest of the Board take a look.

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

i) **AASA National Conference:** L. Witte updated the Board on the AASA National Conference. She said the weather was not good but the conference was. She informed the Board on a number of speakers at the conference.

ii) **Hiring Update (Human Resources, etc.)** L. Witte explained the Default Budget and the Proposed Budget are so close that they have begun the hiring process for a number of positions. They will start the process for the HR job description next week and post the position.

iii) **SSO Update:** L. Witte informed the Board she has asked J. O'Shaughnessy to attend the March 19, 2019 meeting for the next steps. How to move forward in the process regarding the SSO.

iv) **Learn Everywhere:** L. Witte informed the Board the Learn Everywhere letter was in the Board packet. This issue is on the March agenda at the State Level.

v) **Legislative Update:** L. Witte informed the Board she does not have a legislative update. She was at the AASA Conference last week.

vi) **Governor's Commission Report on School Safety-Training Chapter:** L. Witte asked for this discussion be on the next agenda. L. Steadman would like to change the topic to the voting chapter.

c) **Educational Report:**

i) **Differentiation in the Elementary Schools:** J. Rathbun explained advanced academics at the high school is easier with AP courses and harder courses, at the elementary level it is more difficult because there is no legislation or funding for gifted or talented students. We need to meet students where they are especially in reading. Students who read have a step up. They are never at the same reading level. If a student in a lower grade is doing math at a 5th grade level by giving the 5th grade work, they may not get the skills needed. If students are craving a deeper knowledge we want to work with parents. We look at the WIN Time. What I Need Time. Is this perfect, absolutely not. If you separate the students by level, you will violate their Civil Rights. We want to be careful and keep them learning from each other. J. Rathbun explained at the high school level we do not have AP rules. There are a lot of different options. There is a less clear division on the Civil Rights Law. It was asked about

skipping a grade. J. Rathbun explained it is a process with a committee and the parents. It is parent driven. He said it is their constant mission of the elementary schools to have parent participation. The Title One mission is family outreach. J. Rathbun explained what the elementary schools do to keep parents notified on what is going on in their student's classroom. No matter how much we do there are still holes. Ask the teacher if there are concerns. J. Rathbun explained professional learning communities, new teacher mentors and professional development are available to the teachers. Title Two funds are used to bring in professional development. He said students on the higher end get less and those that do not succeed get more help. Title One funds are federal funds with guidelines. S. Peters asked if there was something we could add to enrich the students. J. Rathbun explained he would like to sit and discuss this with the administration. It is a big question with a lot of moving parts. The specialists are stretched and if not they could help on the other end of the spectrum. S. Peters would like to ask the administration what we can do to enrich the elementary students.

ii) Unfilled Absences: Information was handed out on unfilled absences.

How often teachers are out and how often other staff need to be pulled out of a class to cover the absences. There is a substitute pool but no one is taking the jobs. J. Rathbun explained we have a decent sub pool. K. Noonan asked how often teachers call out. J. Rathbun will gather that information but does not have it tonight. He did say a permanent sub would help and would be a huge benefit. **R. Colbert arrives.** B. Tatro commented Troy and Gilsum are too far away. J. Rathbun suggested training for the subs. B. Bohannon suggested \$126.00 for a sub per day. S. Peters would suggest this go on the next agenda. Look at the unspent funds in the salary line for permanent subs. J. Rathbun explained we are in compliance regarding coverage for Title One and IEPs. He has spoken to C. Woods. There is a critical shortage of Reading Specialists. A bonus which would require a sidebar agreement with the Union was suggested. N. Moriarty suggested increasing the rate for subs at Troy due to the shortage. N. Mosher would like to ask the administration to present their solution. L. Witte explained the issue with substitutes is not only a Monadnock issue.

d) Building Architect and Assessment Update: It was explained the Facilities Committee did not get 3 bids for the feasibility study. Does the Board want to hear from the architect or authorize the Facilities Committee to move forward with the feasibility study?

MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to authorize the Facilities Committee to move forward on the Feasibility Study. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 10.005/0/1.115/1.880. **Motion passes.**

e) Other Matters for Discussion:

i) Budget Cover Sheets: N. Moriarty is requesting the budget cover sheet which is a summary of people by school. This form was in the budget books prior to this year and he is asking for the information. **MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to request a summary sheet of the people by school in the same format as in prior years. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **DISCUSSION:** L. Witte explained the information on the staff and the students is in the book. The information being requested was previously in the books but done by hand. There were 4 out of the 11 members present who knew what form N. Moriarty was looking for. L. Witte explained the Budget Committee has not requested this information. L. Witte explained the administration is required to provide information to the Budget Committee that will help them do their job. **VOTE:** 1.075/9.831/214/1.880. **Motion fails.**

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. February 5, 2019 Minutes: MOTION: N, Mosher **MOVED** to approve the February 5, 2019 School Board Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** S. Peters **VOTE:** 11.120/0/0/1.880. **Motion passes.**

2. February 2, 2019 Pre-Deliberative Minutes: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the February 2, 2019 Pre-Deliberative Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** **VOTE:** 11.120/0/0/1.880. **Motion passes.**

3. Manifest: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** the manifest in the amount of \$1,191,749.36. **SECOND:** R. Colbert. **VOTE:** 11.120/0/0/1.880. **Motion passes.**

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no Public Comments.

7. Setting Next Agenda:

- 1. Substitute Rate from \$85.00 to \$126.00**
- 2. Unfilled Absences**
- 3. SSO Update**
- 4. Planning Chapter**
- 5. Unspent funds for floaters**
- 6. Future of Committees**
- 7. Board Goals Recap-New Board**

The Board discussed the SSO and guns on the campus. There are policies in regards to this situation.

L. Witte mentioned the portables at MTC will be coming down next week. J. Swanson explained M. Suarez has considered the renovations and all of the specials will be in other rooms until the end of the year. It is the hope to get the renovations done by the new school year. L. Witte explained educationally it is best not to have the renovations in process at the beginning of the school year. She has all the faith in M. Suarez regarding the best for the students. The Board would like to have an update on the renovations at MTC on a regular basis. R. Colbert would suggest a sketch of the project for the public. L. Witte is confident M. Suarez will notify the parents and do what she needs to do.

N. Moriarty would suggest sending the new Board Members the information from the NHSBA.

8. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: N. Moriarty **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 PM. **SECOND:** S. Peters **VOTE:** 11.120/0/0/1.880 **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary