

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2019 (corrected 2/19/19)
Monadnock Regional MSHS, Swanzey,NH

Members Present: Winston Wright, Kristen Noonan, Nicholas Mosher, Rob Colbert, Brian Bohannon, Lisa Steadman, Neil Moriarty, Karen Wheeler, Karen Buono and Betty Tatro.

Absent: Cheryl McDaniel-Thomas, Eric Stanley and Scott Peters

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 7:03 PM.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

a) Linda Schofield-DOT-Roundabout: Linda explained the State is planning on putting in a roundabout near MTC, MRMS/HS and the SAU. As part of the project they need to obtain easements from the School District and town. She will be offering compensation for temporary construction. There are 3 parcels that would be affected. The DOT will pay \$.04-\$.09 per square foot. They will be advertising the project next month and construction will begin in June, continue through the summer and will not be completed until the fall. The minimum amount of compensation for each partial is \$500.00. When multiplying the square foot by the amount for each square footage it is under the minimum \$500.00 mark. The School District will be awarded \$1500.00. L. Witte and D. LaPointe has been interacting with the DOT for about 1 ½ years. L. Schofield passed out the plans to the Board to review. The Board asked many questions regarding safety of the children and the traffic flow as well as the fact MTC will be under construction at the same time. L. Witte explained all of the same concerns were addressed at the

meetings she and D. LaPointe attended. L. Witte explained she sent all of the information to the attorney. L. Schofield also explained the DOT is aware of the school events at the end of the year. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to grant signing authority to L. Witte and to accept the \$1500.00 from the DOT for the temporary construction easements for the roundabout.

SECOND: R. Colbert. **VOTE:** 9.758/0/0/3.242. **Motion passes.**

3. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION

a) School Year Calendar: L. Witte explained the workshop days are at the beginning of the year. L. Steadman would like the C and W in red on the calendar. J. Rathbun explained MRSD and the KSD line up as well as it can. They have worked with J. Logan and the new CCC Director to make the calendar as close as possible. **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the 2019-2020 School Calendar as presented. **SECOND:** K. Buono. **VOTE:** 9.758/0/0/3.242. **Motion passes.**

4. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

a) Board Chair Report:

i) Audio Recording of Meetings: It was commented there are people in the audience recording the meetings. L. Witte explained it is not required to disclose taping of the meetings under law. B. Tatro asked if someone requested recording the meetings. L. Steadman explained some folks asked what was said. W. Wright commented we should have a policy for recording meetings. K. Noonan asked if we have a policy for Cheshire TV.

ii) NHSBA Response on Articles Added after Budget Hearing: L. Witte explained it is permissible to add a non-monetary article after the Public Hearing.

b) Operations/Superintendent's Report:

i) Legislative Update-HB 678: L. Witte reported she had attended the hearing in Concord on HB 678. This bill would increase adequacy per student. She said it was a great hearing and there are a number of similar bills. Thursday there will be a bill on the stabilization grant.

ii) Learn Everywhere: L. Witte explained they had received 4 letters from the DOE regarding a Facilities Review and a Content Review. The letter stated there are no

funds available to the content review but they are looking into opportunities to create an entirely new program that would permit non-educational entities to grant students high school credit.

iii) Senator Jeanne Dietsch: Senator J. Dietsch explained her work with Senator J. Kahn on school funding. The funding has been under attack. She is trying to stop the funding cuts. Representative Ames from Jaffrey would recommend an increase in adequacy funding to help the taxpayers and to pay for the adequacy with a capital gains tax. To get a signature from the Governor is quite questionable. L. Steadman thanked Senator Dietsch for attending this meeting. Senator Dietsch commented MRMS/HS is beautiful.

iv) Senate Bill 247 Lead Testing: L. Witte explained the administration had sent out letters to parents of students in the 4 elementary schools regarding drinking water lead testing. Fortunately, we did testing already. The drinking water was fine except for one faucet in an unused cleaning area. They removed the faucet, testing was done and everything is okay.

v) AASA National Conference: L. Witte will be attending the AASA National Conference. She will be leaving on Tuesday and returning on Saturday. She will be in close communication with the administrators. J. Rathbun and the team will be making the decisions in her absence regarding snow days.

c) Educational Report:

i) English Language Arts: J. Rathbun included the District Literacy Plan in the Board packets. The District follows a balanced approach to the Literacy Plan. Whole word reading. Some of the students learn by repetition while others with phonics skills. The Literacy Plan approved by the Education Committee is more focused and clear.

J. Rathbun explained the Board asked for an analysis of what items we are working on to see progress. The 11th grade SAT scores are always at the State Level or above. The 6th graders as well are at State Level or above. The 11th graders no longer have a State Test, the SAT is the required test. The PSAT is the required test for the 9th and 10th graders. These tests are taken during the school day and are required. This is an assessment. N. Mosher would like to see a metric year after year in Math and ELA. We need to pick something and use it continually. J. Rathbun commented in ELA we have big concerns. The 7th and 8th grades are below the average in a big way. Grade level not a big increase year to year except individual students. The culture and climate have been a big element. It has been a huge amount of work to

have the best learning environment. The Literacy Plan is to create a balanced program, a living document, a balanced literacy approach. We have told teachers to use the less is more approach. What makes sense. J. Rathbun commented there is a concern for the 6th, 7th and 8th grade students not only in literacy but across most subjects. J. Rathbun commented if he could he would move the 7th and 8th graders out of this building. He discussed the transition to 7th grade and he said we should see improvement. KPI is a business term not an education term. The information on the report cards is being seen by the schools and reported out to the parents. J. Rathbun explained performance concerns are being addressed. They are happening now and should start showing. B. Bohannon asked if there was something the Board could do to address this issue. L. Witte explained we have a long term sub position and not one applicant. Supply and demand is an issue. In some areas it is a pay issue. N. Mosher said he liked the report on how the action plans are working. J. Rathbun explained it is difficult to have the conversation in a public meeting. You deserve the information but he would not like to turn back the issue of culture and climate. *N. Mosher leaves the meeting.* L. Witte explained a culture and climate survey was conducted focusing on getting information from the staff. The principals discussed the issues and gathered generally positive feedback. She would suggest running this survey in another year and capture the parents and students. This an opt in survey.

d) Other Matters for Discussion:

i) Deliberative Recap: L. Steadman commented a lot of people showed up for the Funding Formula Article. Most of the articles moved to the ballot as written. N. Moriarty asked for the language on Article One to be fixed. L. Steadman explained it is boilerplate.

ii) Warrant Articles in Plain English: B. Tatro and K. Noonan have drafted the warrant articles in plain english for the Board to review. The administration has been asked to get their reports in for Education Matters on March 4, 2019. L. Witte will ask for the drop dead date. The next Board Meeting will be too late. B. Tatro would ask the Board to review the warrants in plain english and email her with any comments, suggestions or corrections.

MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to ask the CRC to complete the warrants in plain english and submit to Education Matters. **SECOND:** R. Colbert. **VOTE:** 9.544/0/0/3.456. **Motion passes.**

iii) Superintendent Evaluation Committee Update: It was reported the committee has not met.

iv) **Building Capacity Report:** The Building Capacity Report was in the Board packets.

v) **Armed Officer Update and Discussion:** L. Witte explained the Board had requested an opinion from the attorney. That information was provided to the Board. L. Witte commented Chief D'Angelo supported an armed SSO. L. Witte said she supports the SRO Program only if a policy and process can be crafted to arm Frank. N. Moriarty would like to see something in writing. K. Wheeler would like to know if the SRO is able to go to other towns. L. Witte explained the SRO reports to the Swanzey Chief. R. Colbert commented there needs to be someone in the school to deal with an active shooter. **MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to continue with what the District is doing currently in regards to a SSO. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** It was commented Frank can bring a gun in the school. L. Witte explained we do have a policy to deal with bringing in a gun. **L. Steadman called the motion out of order. N. Moriarty would challenge the Chair. L. Steadman withdrew her comment on the motion being out of order.** N. Moriarty would like to see how we can have an armed SSO. L. Witte commented in October the Board was leaning toward an armed SSO. W. Wright commented an SRO would cost more money in the budget. It was commented the SSO can move around, there is no MOU, insurance okay and ask the lawyer to come up with a careful and creative policy for the SSO to be armed. The SRO would be employed by Swanzey with a MOU and will be able to be in Swanzey only unless we figure it out. **Friendlyndhc@mylec.com amendment:** B. Tatro would like to add until such a time that we have had an ad hoc or to add this topic to a standing committee's agenda with a proposal and then send to the Policy Committee. **Amendment fails N. Moriarty and W. Wright do not agree. VOTE:** 3.305/5.482/.757/3.456. **Motion fails.** **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to pursue an armed SSO **SECOND:** R. Colbert. **DISCUSSION:** It was suggested to look at existing policies in other districts and ask L. Witte to prepare a policy regarding an armed SSO. **VOTE:** 7.354/1.115/1.075/3.456. **Motion passes.**

vi) **Expanding Usage of Board Docs:** The Board will discuss this topic at a future meeting.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. **January 22, 2019 Minutes:** **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the January 22, 2019 School Board Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** W. Wright **VOTE:** 6.591/0/2.953/3.456. **Motion passes.**

2. January 28, 2019 Minutes: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the January 28, 2019 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** R. Colbert **VOTE:** 7.308/0/2.236/3.456. **Motion passes.**

3. Non-Public Meeting Minutes: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve the January 22, 2019, 6:36 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 8.787/0/.757/3.456. **Motion passes.**

4. Non-Public Meeting Minutes: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve the January 22, 2019, 10:30 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 8.787/0/.757/3.456. **Motion passes.**

5. Manifest: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** the manifest in the amount of \$1,701,625.87. **SECOND:** N. Moriarty. **VOTE:** 9.544/0/0/3.456 . **Motion passes.**

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no Public Comments.

7. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 PM. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler **VOTE:** 9.544/0/0/3.456 **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary