

January 18, 2018

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)

School Board Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2018

Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH

Members Present: Phyllis Peterson, Winston Wright, Nicholas Mosher, Betty Tatro, Rob Colbert, Bob Mitchell, Karen Wheeler, Scott Peters, Neil Moriarty, Cheryl McDaniel-Thomas, Lisa Steadman, Eric Stanley and Brian Bohannon.

Administration present: L. Witte, Superintendent and J. Rathbun, Director of Curriculum and Assessment.

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. **Public Comments:** T. Matson congratulated the Board Members who collected feedback from different groups in Troy and Fitzwilliam regarding the reconfiguration.

B. Tatro arrives. He commented on the evaluation and assessments for Troy and Emerson and the millions of dollars to renovate the two buildings. He would ask for a 5 or 10-year commitment if the Board agrees on the reconfiguration. He is not happy with the reconfiguration being presented.

- a. **Student Representative Report:** There is no report.

2. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. **Warrant Articles in Plain English:** C. McDaniel-Thomas presented the draft for the warrant articles in plain English. She said some of the information is from a template of previous years. **MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to approve Article One in the Plain English as presented. **SECOND:** B. Mitchell. **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher has an issue with what is being presented. The information being presented is more involved than plain English. P. Peterson said she would have liked to have reviewed this information prior to this meeting. **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to empower the CRC to make final edits after the Deliberative Session. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 12.002/.998/0/0. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to table the motion to approve Article One in plain English until February 6, 2018. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 12.787/0/.214/0. **Motion passes.**

b. Troy/Emerson Reconfiguration:

i. **Review Stakeholder Pros/cons:** L. Steadman explained information was collected and presented to the Board regarding the reconfiguration. She would ask the Board to review the information and see if it is necessary to have information sessions. P. Peterson said she had collected responses from parents in Troy and Fitzwilliam. She was very surprised by the number of responses. It was 3 to 1 cons being more. S. Peters gathered responses from the teachers and

paras from both schools. The result was 4 to 1 cons to pros. W. Wright said the selectmen have not responded. A. Bailey said the selectmen discussed the issue. There was not a whole lot of discussion. The general response was they were not in favor. Community members listed pros regarding sports but cons led the responses. The Unions had concerns about teachers being transferred to the other school. Dr. Stone's concerns were the Emotional and Autism rooms. **MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to table the motion indefinitely for the reconfiguration of Troy and Emerson. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler. **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher would encourage the Board to vote in favor of the motion. W. Wright said we cannot bind future Boards. R. Colbert said once it affects specific member towns they say no even if there would be a savings. K. Wheeler said the motion is to assure the public. **MOTION:** N. Mosher. **MOVED** to amend the motion and ask the Board not to pursue any restructuring for the remainder of the school year. **Fails for lack of second. VOTE:** 6.395/6.605/0/0. **Motion fails.**

ii. Entertain Motion to Set Public Information Sessions: The Board will not hold information sessions.

c. NH School Board Association Proposed Resolutions: **MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to allow the Board Chair to vote on behalf of the Board at the Delegate Assembly. **SECOND:** R. Colbert. **VOTE:** 11.789/0/1.212/0. **Motion passes.**

L. Witte explained following the budget number on Warrant Article information was stated to explain the \$970,000.00 for Food Service and Nutrient. The Budget Committee suggested that same information be stated after the Default Budget number. **MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to support Article One as amended with language. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0.

3. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

a. Board Chair Report:

i. School Board Self-Assessment: L. Steadman passed out Board Self-Assessment sheets to the Members. She asked that they fill them out for the next meeting and bring them back.

ii. Circulate Internal Board Member Contact Information List: L. Steadman would like the contact information of Board Members to be updated. Cell phone information is important just in case a member is not able to make a meeting.

b. Superintendent's Report: L. Witte reported she had testified against HB 193. Her testimony was well received. She presented information on what she had said. L. Witte said the Board should pay close attention to HB 1452. She would be happy to speak on behalf of the Board regarding this bill. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to empower L. Witte to express the Board's feelings on HB 1452. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **DISCUSSION:** P. Peterson would like to thank L. Witte for standing up for the Board. R. Colbert would echo P. Peterson's comments. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to approve the out of state field trip to New York on February 25, 2018 for the band, Chorus and French Club. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

L. Witte informed the Board that the District has received approval for an upgrade to improve Cutler security cameras. The funding is 80% of the projected cost. This still has to be approved by the Governor's Council. It is on a first come first serve basis.

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There has been a request from M. Nelson to see if there is anyone interested in sitting on the Board for Cheshire TV.

L. Witte informed the Board of a few donations to the District: a donation in the amount of \$500.00 from Swanzey Mobil, a donation in the amount of \$500.00 in lumber from Craig Lugee and a donation of tickets to the Tyco Drummers valued at \$617.00 for band students.

c. Business Administrator's Report:

i. L. Witte reported the warrant articles have been approved by DRA and the remaining item is Article One to be uploaded.

d. Committee Reports:

i. **Education Committee:** B. Tatro reported the committee did meet with L. Spencer and J. Rathbun who presented the Program of Studies. J. Rathbun presented the information gathered from the committee who is reviewing the Homework Policy. The committee presented a draft. STEAM is doing well in the District. **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to accept the Program of Studies for 2018-2019 as presented. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** J. Rathbun explained the incoming freshmen will now be required to have 4 credits in Social Studies. R. Colbert is concerned with the age of the machines in the Tech Ed. room. Is there any intention of upgrading the machines? He also said if the machines are not being used, never mind. S. Peters asked when the administration would make a decision not to run a class for lack of enrollment. L. Spencer explained the process. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

ii. **Finance/Facilities:** K. Wheeler explained it was a short meeting. The committee charged L. Witte with some questions regarding the warrant articles, update on contracted services and a list of classes and class sizes for Troy and Emerson. The next meeting is on February 13, 2018 at 6:30 PM.

e. Other Matters of Discussion:

i. **Building Assessment/Inventory of Physical Plant:** R. Colbert would like to know the health of all the buildings before any foot print or blue print of the District. We need to look at the physical plant and make it look really attractive. N. Mosher said he does not believe there is support for a central elementary school, which leaves us with the individual elementary schools. It was commented we need to know the cost of a central elementary school before we invest in fixing all the schools. S. Peters would like to have that information. This could be a 5 years' project issue or what are the 3 top projects for each school in need of repair. R. Colbert said he would agree there are things that need to be done to keep the lights on and sometimes it is not worth the repairs. Cutler is past its life. **MOTION:** R. Colbert **MOVED** to have a discussion with the Budget Committee on the evaluation/assessment of the buildings and the physical inventory of the plant. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **DISCUSSION:** W. Wright said we have tried this and 2 people showed up. B. Tatro commented on the NESDEC report and the fact it stated to stay away from the little separate schools. B. Bohannon said he has no idea how much a central school will cost but the individual schools create device. The 1 high school model with a common goal is for the best education for the students. K. Wheeler does not agree with a central elementary school. B. Mitchell said the NESDEC report said we need to centralize but he does not believe it can happen. P. Peterson said we need to look at the impact on the students. Schools do not want to lose their identity. R. Colbert said financially we cannot centralize and keep taxes low. For the Board not to discuss options is wrong. We were elected to make difficult

decisions not to evaluate is irresponsible. B. Mitchell said Fall Mtn. has a half way solution. The towns take care of their own elementary schools. C. McDaniel-Thomas said we need to figure out a way to balance the emotional impact of the students and the financial impact. **VOTE:** 6.889/6.111/0/0. **Motion passes.** L. Steadman will talk to W. Lechliden about a time and place for the meeting.

ii. Process of replacing a District Clerk: It was explained the Board appoints the District Clerk. L. Witte will advertise in the Keene Sentinel and post the position at the beginning of March. The Board will receive the job description at the second meeting in February.

iii. Result and Impact of SB 193: L. Witte had already discussed this issue.

iv. St. Joseph's High School: L. Witte had received an email and it stated the St. Joseph's High School was not moving forward at this time.

v. Classroom Temperature: S. Peters explained he had heard the staff is struggling with the temperatures at Troy. It has been a challenge this winter. We do not have a policy on a minimum or maximum temperature. This issue should go to Facilities or Policy. R. Colbert said he heard there was no heat in the wooden structures. K. Wheeler said at the Facilities Meeting D. LaPointe said it was okay. B. Bohannon would like to hear from D. LaPointe first. **MOTION:** B. Mitchell **MOVED** to send this issue to Policy. **Fails for lack of second. MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to send this issue to the administration. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** S. Peters is concerned without a policy you are stuck with a judgment call. We should have a policy. L. Witte would caution about putting down hard numbers. You need to have the ability to make a judgment call. D. LaPointe is on the job. R. Colbert said this issue should not go before the School Board. **VOTE:** 10.881/.998/1.121/0. **Motion passes.**

vi. District Email Address Usage by School Board Members: **MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to have District emails sent to his personal email address not to the Board email. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **DISCUSSION:** L. Witte said the Board email is to protect the individual. It will open all of your personal information to the public if you use your personal email. E. Stanley would suggest changing Google. L. Witte said chrome books are available. N. Mosher said no confidential information should be sent to individuals. **VOTE:** 4.068/6.696/2.326/0. **Motion fails.**

vii. Law Enforcement Presence at Recent Board Meeting: N. Moriarty asked why there was a Swanzey police officer at the School Board Meeting at Cutler. L. Witte explained the topic on the agenda could have been inflammatory and that is why she called the police.

viii. Google Notification: N. Moriarty said he would like the email notices for meetings to be cancelled because the notice is 10 minutes before the meeting. **The Board agreed to skip over this agenda item.**

4. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Approval of the Manifest: **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the Manifest in the amount of \$ 1,442,553.67. **SECOND:** S. Peters **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

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b. Approval of the January 2, 2018 School Board Meeting Minutes: MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to approve the January 2 , 2018 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:**

5. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

- 1. Age of machines**
- 2. Budget/Board Meeting**
- 3. Warrant Articles Plain English**
- 4. January 8, 2018**
- 5. Deliberative Session results**
- 6. Assessment tools**
- 7. NHSBA**
- 8. Clarification of terms for School Board**
- 9. Filing for public office**

- 6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** George Hoffman asked if the District had legal authority for the reconfiguration. He said the cost of a new school would be 50 million dollars and the school budget would still be 30 million dollars. He commented on his daughter who no longer attends school due to bullying. He had asked the District for money in order for his daughter to get her GED. He felt the Board was bullying N. Moriarty tonight. **After at least 3 minutes of talking L. Steadman explained G. Hoffman had gone over the allotted amount of time.** G. Hoffman said you are limiting his time because you do not want to hear it.

D. Coffman commented on the central elementary school and the cost being between 20 and 50 million dollars. He was surprised that only 12 kids want to attend the CCC. We changed our schedule to align with KHS. **D. Coffman was over the 3-minute allotted time and L. Steadman asked him to finish up. MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to allow the public to speak for as long as it was needed. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.** D. Coffman commented if there is no homework in regards to the Homework Policy than the parents do not know what is going on.

George Hoffman commented it seems when you hear things you do not want to hear you stifle us. You need to treat the public better and you will have more people in attendance. He would agree with D. Coffman on the CCC.

A man from Troy said there are issues that are not clear concerning the reconfiguration. He has concerns for his children being on the school bus for a longer amount of time. R. Colbert said we need to do something but we have not made any decisions. The man from Troy suggested the elementary schools take care of their own schools.

The Board will recess.

- 7. 9:30 PM Non-Public Session: MOTION:** K. Wheeler **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 unless such person requests an open meeting; however, this cannot be used to protect a person who is a member of your Board, Committee or Subcommittee. **SECOND:** P. Peterson **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes. K. Wheeler leaves during non-public session.**

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8. **Public Session: MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to seal the January 18, 2018, 9:30 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes indefinitely and to review at the end of the school year. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE:** 12.243/0/0/.757. **Motion passes.**

9. **9:50 PM Non-Public Session: MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II (b) Consideration of the hiring of a public employee. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 12.243/0/0/.757. **Motion passes.**

10. **Adjournment: MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to adjourn the Board Meeting at 10:00 PM. **SECOND:** B. Mitchell **VOTE:** 12.243/0/0/.757. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording secretary