

July 10, 2018

**Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**July 10, 2018**  
**Gilsum STEAM Academy, Gilsum, NH**

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

**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 called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
- 2. Public Comments:** There were no public comments.
- 3. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:**
  - 1. Policies for 1<sup>st</sup> Read: IMDA, BEDB, BEDG, BEDG-R, BEDH:** The Board reviewed the policies and will bring questions and comments to the next meeting.
  - 2. Approval of CRC Charter:** The CRC will bring the CRC charter to the next meeting for approval.
  - 3. Hiring authority through September 3, 2018: MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to authorize the Superintendent to hire staff on behalf of the Board through September 3, 2018. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler **VOTE:** 8.683/0/0/4.317. **Motion passes.**
- 4. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:**
  - 1. Board Chair Report:**
    - 1. Committee Assignments: MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the assignment of K. Buono to the Extra-Curricular Committee and the Negotiation Committee. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler. **VOTE:** 8.683/0/0/4.317. **Motion passes.**
  - 2. Operations/Superintendent’s Report:**
    - 1. Treasurer Appointment-J. Swanson:** J. Swanson would like to have 3 people come in on Mondays to sign the manifest.

**2. Donations: MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** To accept the following donations: \$1800.00 for uniforms for the Special Olympics from the Francis Hicks Memorial and \$1000 for the Wellness Committee from Cheshire Medical Center. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 8.683/0/0/4.317. **Motion passes.**

**3. Safety and Discipline at MRMHS-Lisa Spencer:** L. Spencer and Frank DeTurris presented and reviewed the student discipline information to the Board. L. Spencer explained the State requires the District to supply them this information. The Board asked questions of F. DeTurris and L. Spencer. F. DeTurris said the school is running well. They have a great relationship with the Swanzey PD. N. Mosher commented the information presented is a lot better than when he first came on the Board. L. Spencer and F. DeTurris both said vaping is an issue. E. Stanley asked if there is any education on vaping. L. Spencer said this year they may do more educationally. J. Rathbun said the Wellness Committee has big ideas on educating the students on vaping. L. Spencer has created a Google form for students and parents to notify her about bullying issues that are going on. It will be going out soon but it has to be run by L. Witte and J. Rathbun. L. Spencer informed the Board another student has taken over the Dude Be Nice concept. The Board asked questions on suspension and truancy. L. Spencer explained 90% of Ryan and Patrick's time is on discipline due to investigating the situations. She also said there are times when she has to step in and take the overflow. At a previous meeting R. Colbert had asked about an armed guard in the school. L. Witte commented having an armed person is problematic. This Board would have the conversation. S. Peters mentioned the previous Safety Committee did a side by side comparison on a SRO and a SSO. He would suggest someone find that information. L. Witte informed the Board there will be a meeting with all of the police and fire department heads in the District on July 19, 2018 at 10:30 AM. The response has not been great. The principals will meet with the administration to discuss their school emergency plans.

**3. Education Report:**

**1. STEAM at Gilsum and district 5 Year STEAM Plan:** J. Rathbun commented the big piece on the Gilsum STEAM was the conversation about a Charter School which did not work out. The plan was to increase enrollment to 100. We now have 66 students with 55% of the students from Gilsum. We are currently at capacity. If we want to increase the number of students, we will have to hire a teacher. There are still students interested in attending Gilsum but there is no waiting list. A. Noel is still turning away students. J. Rathbun said there is room but we need staff. He explained there is a push to get STEAM throughout the District. Gilsum has a STEAM day but will that work in the other schools. J. Rathbun will be meeting with each principal to discuss their school action plans. In the elementary schools they are integrating STEAM in the content areas. B. Bohannon commented we had a vote regarding STEAM because we thought it would be a charter school. We were grossly misled. Gilsum cannot meet the 100 student goal without extra resources. We have low numbers in Gilsum and we cannot financially support these numbers. At what point do we say we cannot support this plan. L. Witte said to be fair the parents like the student to adult ratio. N. Mosher would like to see the savings if we were to close the Gilsum

School. The Board reviewed the number of staff at Gilsum. J. Rathbun said the District has been working with KSC and Winchester teachers regarding STEAM. There are action plans throughout the District and STEAM has become part of the curriculum.

**4. Other Matters for Discussion:**

**1. Update on Fitzwilliam well repairs:** L. Witte reported as of 10:30 AM the drilling company had gone down 500' and had not hit water. She will update the Board at their next meeting.

**2. Update on Troy drilling and soil sample:** L. Witte explained there is no report as of yet from H.L. Turner regarding the drilling. They are collecting more data. The fire escape is included in the building evaluation which has not been completed.

**3. Update on other renovations:** L. Witte reported the abatement has been done and the new flooring has been installed. The Gilsum roof has been completed. The cost of the handicapped bathroom at MTC could increase due to a required power lift. There will be more information at the next meeting.

**4. Quarterly Grading Logs:** L. Steadman explained the administration does not have that information this evening. She asked if the Board would like this information that was requested by a Board Member. E. Stanley would like to know each teacher and what grades they gave to each student. N. Mosher would like that information to see if the students are being left behind. L. Witte said she is concerned this is a function of the administration to look at teacher data. It is part of the evaluation process. Teacher failure rate by name should not be made public. E. Stanley said it is part of the Board to know this information. N. Mosher does agree. L. Steadman said there could be danger in producing a report like this. S. Peters said we should be able to inspect what the administration is doing. Having the teacher's names on the report may not be valuable. He would suggest a report with the names removed. He would also suggest sending the report to Education to review. L. Witte said the teacher evaluation process has been updated and this is part of the evaluation. We do look at these things. We do not want to put part of the evaluation process out to the public. **MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to ask the administration to produce the quarterly grading log report. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** It was commented to receive a report without the student's names to track their progress. B. Bohannon asked if there are no student names or teacher names how will you follow the trend. N. Mosher said the name of the class is important. S. Peters said some classes are so small and could be identified. L. Witte said with MS the students are identifiable. K. Wheeler said this Board does not have a clear request of what we are looking for and she is not comfortable voting tonight. J. Rathbun said he has gone over the information and knows what has to be done and discussions with specific teachers and principals. He said we have a plan in place to work with the teachers. K. Noonan would like to know more about the evaluation process and information on non-renewals. W. Wright said we are medaling in a gray area and we do not need to be there. L. Steadman explained this report was generated by a previous administration and it did hurt the trust in the District. **E. Stanley and W. Wright will withdraw**

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**their motion.** N. Mosher said it is not an issue of trust. He knows more of what is in the manifest than our student's education. S. Peters would like to ask the administration to explain the current process at a future meeting.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA:**

**1. Approval of the June 19, 2018 School Board Meeting Minutes: MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to approve the June 19, 2018 School Board Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 5.443/0/4.238/3.319. **Motion passes.**

**2. Approval of the June 19, 2018, 9:05 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes: MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to approve the June 19, 2018, 9:05PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 5.443/0/4.238/3.319. **Motion passes.**

**3. Approval of the June 19, 2018, 9:15 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes: MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to approve the June 19, 2018, 9:15 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 5.443/0/4.238/3.319. **Motion passes.**

**4. Approval of the Manifest: MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the Manifest for 2017-2018 in the amount of \$ 1,086,214.99. **SECOND:** K. Noonan **VOTE:** 8.560/0/1.121/3.319. **Motion passes.**

**5. Approval of the Manifest: MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the Manifest for 2018-2019 in the amount of \$ 544,299.94. **SECOND:** W. Wright **VOTE:** 8.560/0/1.121/3.319. **Motion passes.**

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

- 1. DOE Audit**
- 2. CRC Charter**
- 3. SRO/SSO**
- 4. July 19 Meeting**
- 5. Policy 2<sup>nd</sup> Read**
- 6. Well-drilling**
- 7. Hockey**

**7. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There are no public comments.

**8. 9:22 PM Non-Public Session: 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:** K. Wheeler **VOTE:** 9.681/0/0/3.319. **Motion passes.**

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- 9. 10:09 PM Non-Public Session: MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler **VOTE:** 9.681/0/0/3.319. **Motion passes.**
- 10. Adjournment: MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to adjourn the Board Meeting at 10.16 PM. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler **VOTE:** 9.681/0/0/3.319. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis  
Recording secretary