

March 20, 2018

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)

School Board Meeting Minutes March 20, 2018

Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH

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

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. Call to Order by Superintendent:

a. Swearing in of newly elected Board and Budget Committee Members: L. Witte explained L. Sutton had sworn in Becky Karush and Kristin Noonan at an earlier time.

2. Public Comments: Kathleen Stark of Fitzwilliam and of the Fair Funding Of Monadnock Group would ask the School Board to form an AD HOC Committee to investigate a fair apportionment formula. She would like goals and guidance from the Board.

Robert Young of Fitzwilliam would support K. Stark’s comments. He would like to have a closer understanding of the formula. He is confident that this would reduce the amount of unhappiness among the towns. We need to focus on the students.

a. Student Representative Report: There is no Student Government Report.

3. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. Election of School Board Officers:

i. Board Chair and Vice Chair: MOTION: N. Mosher **MOVED** to nominate R. Colbert as Board Chair. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to nominate L. Steadman as Board Chair. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **DISCUSSION:** L. Steadman explained to R. Colbert the role as Board Chair. **VOTE:** W. Wright-L.S., K. Wheeler-L.S., N. Moriarty-R.C., N. Mosher-R.C., B. Bohannon-R.C., C. McDaniel-Thomas-L.S., B. Karush-abstain, R. Colbert-L.S., E. Stanley-R.C., B. Tatro-L.S., S. Peters-L.S., L. Steadman-L.S. 3.537/7.233/1.115/1.115.**L. Steadman Board Chair. Vice Chair: MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to nominate R. Colbert as Vice Chair. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler. **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to nominate S. Peters as Vice Chair. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** W. Wright-S.P., K. Wheeler-R.C., N. Mosher-R.C., N. Moriarty-R.C., B. Bohannon-R.C., C. McDaniel-Thomas-S.P., B.

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Karush-abstain, R. Colbert-abstain, E. Stanley-S.P., B. Tatro-S.P., S. Peters-S.P., L. Steadman-S.P. 3.167/6.76/2.243/1.115. **S. Peters Vice Chair.**

ii. SAU Chair, Treasurer and Secretary: MOTION: W. Wright **MOVED** to nominate L. Steadman as SAU Chair. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 11.885/0/0/1.115. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: N. Mosher **MOVED** to nominate W. Wright as SAU Treasurer. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **VOTE:** 11.885/0/0/1.115. **Motion passes.**

N. Mosher was asked if he was interested in the SAU Secretary position and he said no. **MOTION:** K. Wheeler **MOVED** to nominate W. Wright as SAU Secretary. **SECOND:** R. Colbert. **VOTE:** 11.885/0/0/1.115. **Motion passes.**

b. Evaluate Standing Committees (Policy BDE): MOTION: K. Wheeler **MOVED** to approve the committees as presented and to join Facilities and Finance together as one committee and Education and Technology together as one committee. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** R. Colbert asked what the purpose was for the committees when we have the discussions at the Board Meetings. S. Peters said each committee has a charter and they have brought it to the Board. He would suggest each committee reassess their charters. B. Bohannon asked if the committees have value if nothing is brought forward. L. Steadman asked each committee to discuss what they have done as a committee. C. McDaniel-Thomas updated the Board on what the CRC is doing, B. Tatro updated the Board on what the Education and Technology Committee is up to, K. Wheeler updated the Board on what the Finance and Facilities is doing, L. Steadman updated the Board on negotiations and the fact the committee will be negotiating 2 contracts this year, the MDEA which was a 1 year contract and the MESSA contract that failed, S. Peters updated the Board on what the Policy Committee is doing and the fact they will be working on the 130 backlog policies partly as a result of the NHSBA policy audit, E. Stanley updated the Board on the Extra-curricular Committee and the need for a total of 5 members for the committee, W. Wright updated the Board on the CCC and that they are working on the 20 year contract, B. Bohannon is the representative to the Budget Committee, he explained the committee sets the budget number but other than that not a lot of action and L. Steadman is the representative to the Wellness Committee they discuss nutrition and fitness. **VOTE:** 10.764/0/1.121/1.115. **Motion passes.**

L. Witte would like to have 2 Board Members for the sick bank committee.

c. Proposed Board Meeting Calendar and Standard Snow Dates: MOTION: C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** adopt the Board Calendar as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** W. Wright would suggest changing the date on November 6, 2018. B. Bohannon would suggest moving the meeting to November 7, 2018. C. McDaniel-Thomas and B. Tatro would take that as a friendly amendment. **VOTE:** 11.885/0/0/1.115. **Motion passes.**

d. 2018/19 School Calendar: L. Witte explained they have moved the conferences earlier in the year. The Unions have reviewed the calendar. **MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to adopt the 2018-2019 MRSD Calendar as presented. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **VOTE:** 11.128/.757/0/1.115. **Motion passes.**

4. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

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a. Board Chair Report:

i. Voting Results: It was reported the MESSA Contract did not pass.

ii. New Board Member Orientation NHSBA May 2, 2018: All Board Members are invited to go to the orientation and the cost will be covered by the District. K. Wheeler asked if there is going to be a meeting on how the School Board runs. N. Mosher discussed a new Board Member packet. N. Mosher would suggest the entire Board have an update. He would also like to see an organizational chart.

iii. Committee Assignments: L. Steadman will assignment the committees later in the meeting.

b. Superintendent's Report:

i. Snow Day Request: L. Witte explained the District had received a waiver last year regarding snow days but she had been informed that there are no waivers this year. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to make up snow days in excess of 6 days as proposed by the Superintendent not 5 days. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher asked if we have to do this now. L. Witte said families need to make travel plans and the District has to secure the rentals for graduation. L. Witte is concerned with reducing the school year for the kids. **VOTE:** 9.429/1.335/1.121/1.115. **Motion passes.**

ii. Update of District Clerk Position: L. Witte will draft a job description for the District Clerk position. She would like to commend L. Sutton for doing the role of the District Clerk.

iii. MTC Project: L. Witte explained she had a meeting with D. LaPointe and he would like to hire a Construction Management to take over the project in an attempt to move the process. This is for information only.

iv. Walk Out: L. Witte explained the School walk Out was scheduled for March 14, 2018 but that was a snow day. She said the walk out was on March 16, 2018. The walk out was very peaceful and held in the auditorium. It was a very positive experience.

v. Comprehensive School Climate Survey: L. Witte reported this survey will be in place of the Roundtable Feedback. Staff, parents and students grade 3 to 12 will be asked to take the survey.

c. Committee Reports:

i. Policy Committee: The Policy Committee presented 8 policies for a second read. **MOTION:** R. Colbert **MOVED** to accept Policy ADC, Policy GBED, Policy JICH, Policy EB/JLI, Policy DKC, Policy GBCD, Policy JIC and Policy IHCD/LEB as presented by the Policy Committee. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** K. Wheeler would prefer voting on the policies separately. S. Peters explained the policies were given out 2 weeks ago and he was hoping to not take an hour to discuss them. K. Wheeler has a concern regarding gum or a patch containing nicotine. She said what if a staff member is trying to stop smoking is it allowed. L. Witte explained we are a tobacco free School District. S. Peters would like to pass the policies and put that issue as a future agenda for the Policy Committee. N. Mosher would like Policy ADC, Policy GBED and Policy JICH to go back to the Policy Committee. He would add a friendly amendment and remove those three policies from the group to be voted on. R. Colbert and B. Tatro were in agreement. **VOTE:** 11.885/0/0/1.115. **Motion passes.**

ii. Cheshire Career Center: L. Witte informed the Board she had attended a meeting at the CCC and reviewed the contract with a member from the Dept. of Education, the Director of the CCC, the Superintendent from Keene and the Superintendent from Fall Mtn. The group worked on the revisions and it will go back to the Dept. of Education. She is hopeful the contract process will be complete by the end of the year. N. Moriarty is concerned there are not many students taking the tour of the CCC or attending the CCC. J. Rathbun said they have discussed ways to get more students to attend.

d. Other Matters of Discussion:

i. Update on Fiddler on the Roof Cancellation Impact: L. Witte said she held out as long as she could. She said the total cost of the production is about \$11,000.00. The ticket sales are about \$6000.00. Three tickets were refunded for Thursday's cancelled performance. She does not have a good sense of what was lost or gained. She will have more information at the next meeting. If we need to make up the funds that were lost we have funds in a Student Account.

ii. Turning District Documentation over to a Custodian: N. Moriarty stated that no one is allowed to keep these documents that are provided for a short period of discussion and then collected by the SAU 93 staff. These documents could be modified while in custody-after review. Such as, the US Senate document that was given to the president for security clearance in February 2018. **MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** have one copy stamped (on each page) "Master", dated and initialed by the SAU 93 Chair (on each page) hereafter called "Master". Have the Town of Swanzey Trustees store the master (s) in date sequence. Only SAU 93 clerk can retrieve a Master at the request of the SAU 93 School Board. Given the SAU 93 clerk is an employee of the SAU 93, the SAU 93 School Board will appoint an alternate person to retrieve the Master from the Swanzey Trustees. **No SECOND.** The Board will have a list of questions for the next meeting. W. Wright asked the purpose of the motion. N. Moriarty said the documents could be modified. L. Steadman would like to put this on the next agenda.

iii. Joint Meeting with Budget Committee: It was explained this is the Budget Committee's Meeting and W. Lechlinder will run it. There will be two topics besides the committee's monthly topics. K. Wheeler commented we do not have the MTC evaluation and assessment. R. Colbert would like to make sure D. LaPointe is present at the joint meeting.

iv. Apportionment-Policy DBF Advisory Committees to the Board: L. Steadman explained a group of people will be meeting on Thursday to discuss the apportionment. There is a question if the Board will form an AD HOC Committee or they will be on their own. The group calls themselves the Fair Funding Committee. C. McDaniel-Thomas commented the people who spoke during Public Comments were asking for support from the Board. S. Peters said we should be active participants. N. Mosher said the voters voted. L. Steadman said we had brought this issue to the Board and they said they do not want to be involved. K. Wheeler is not in favor of an advisory committee. L. Steadman would like to wait 2 weeks to discuss further.

v. Committee Appointments: CRC: B. Tatro, C. McDaniel-Thomas, S. Peters B. Karush and K. Noonan. Education/Tech: K. Wheeler, R. Colbert, N. Moriarty, W. Wright, B. Tatro and B. Noonan. Finance/Facilities: N. Moriarty, W. Wright, K. Wheeler, R. Colbert and B. Tatro. Extra-Curricular: K. Noonan, W. Wright, S. Peters and B. Tatro. Policy: S. Peters, W. Wright and C. McDaniel-Thomas. CCC: N. Moriarty. Wellness Committee: K. Wheeler. Sick Bank: B. Bohannon

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and R. Colbert. Budget Committee: B. Bohannon. Negotiations: W. Wright, S. Peters, B. Tatro, C. McDaniel-Thomas and B. Noonan. L. Steadman will bring the appointments back in typed form to the next Board Meeting for a vote. They will ask L. Sutton to update the website. The Policy Committee will be meeting before the meeting so the Board will vote on the membership of the Policy Committee. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to accept the membership of the proposed Policy Committee as presented. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler. **VOTE:** 11.885/0/0/1.115. **Motion passes.**

Members of the Board have requested an update on Student Performance. L. Steadman explained the administration is not ready to discuss it. N. Mosher wants to hear about the education aspect. There was to be a section on the agenda for education. L. Steadman said that is the function of the Education Committee. B. Bohannon commented we had asked for that information at the Cutler Meeting. N. Mosher said this is Board level information and it should come to the Board not the Education Committee.

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. **Approval of the Manifest: MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the Manifest in the amount of \$ 988,652.30. **SECOND:** R. Colbert **VOTE:** 11.885/0/0/1.115. **Motion passes.**

b. **Approval of the March 6, 2018 School Board Meeting Minutes: MOTION:** K. Wheeler **MOVED** to table the approval of the March 6, 2018 School Board Meeting Minutes until the next Board Meeting **SECOND:** R. Colbert. **VOTE:** 11.885/0/0/1.115. **Motion passes.**

6. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

1. Education Performance
2. Goals for Board
3. N. Moriarty-records
4. Apportionment-AD HOC
5. Fiddler on the Roof
6. Organizational Chart
7. Superintendent Performance Goals
8. Non-Meeting Negotiations
9. Policy ADC, GBED and JICH

It was asked to have a discussion on using hockey ticket sales to offset the hockey expense. They are trying to build a budget. S. Peters asked for the past practice on the gate sales. N. Mosher would like the updated sheet on Extra-Curricular participants and costs. L. Steadman will put this topic on the next agenda. B. Bohannon would like to know the policy in other Districts. L. Witte explained all gate receipts go into a general account. K. Wheeler would like to see the document T. Cote has created.

L. Witte would like clarification. She thought education topics were to go to the Education Committee first. J. Rathbun would like to know where we should report to. L. Steadman will put this as an agenda item. L. Steadman would like to hear from Title One.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Heather Schafer of the Fair Funding Committee commented the apportionment is a community issue. They want to come up with something that is fairer in order to

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bring the community together. There is a lot of research to do. We would like to have the School Board's expertise.

Robert Young would agree with everything Heather has said. We need to gather accurate data and would like the help of the Board.

- 8. 9:5 PM Non-Public Session: MOTION:** B. Bohannon **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:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 11.885/0/0/1.115. **Motion passes.**
 - 9. 9:45 PM Non-Public Session: MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II (e) Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation. **SECOND:** R. Colbert **VOTE:** 11.885/0/0/1.115. **Motion passes.**
 - 10. Public Session: MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to seal the March 20, 2018, 9:45 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes until the completion of any legal issues. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler **VOTE:** 11.885/0/0/1.115. **Motion passes.**
- L. Witte provided the Board with a fundraising calendar.
- 11. Adjournment: MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to adjourn the Board Meeting at 10:10 PM. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler **VOTE:** 11.885/0/0/1.115. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording secretary