

November 7, 2017

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
November 7, 2017
Cutler Elementary School, Swanzey, NH

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

Administration present: L. Witte, Superintendent and J. Fortson, 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. **Public Comments:** L. Steadman asked for a Moment of Silence for Lucas White a former student at MRMS/HS.

Jim Rousmaniere a Roxbury Selectmen commented on the article to change the formula. In the current proposal some towns may have to pay \$20,000.00 per student which is more than the biggest town. Roxbury has about 20 students. He would appeal to a sense of fairness.

Allen Bailey a Troy Selectmen would suggest considering the reverse formula to 25%-75%. He would be very happy with that formula. The 50%-50% is not the best but better than the proposal. Please consider it.

R. Colbert arrives.

2. **MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:**

- a. **Motion to create a warrant article amending district apportionment formula:** L. Steadman explained after the last Board Meeting the Chair had questions for the attorney. She explained there is no contract but legal minutes of the meetings which will be made available regarding the original apportionment formula. The proposed warrant is currently with the DRA. The financial analyst work is not done yet. RSA 195:7 is in the Board packets. The Board discussed information which is needed to make a decision. **MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to postpone the vote on the proposed formula change article until January 10, 2018 which is the day after the

deadline for petitioned articles. **SECOND:** E. Stanley **DISCUSSION:** K. Wheeler asked if there could be discussion. L. Steadman explained we have very little information from the attorney. P. Peterson said we have not done our homework. Do not put towns against each other. S. Peters said he was the original motion maker. N. Moriarty said discussion is out of order. There is no discussion after a postponing of a motion. There were members talking out of order. **The Chair called for a recess at 7:21 PM to bring the meeting to order. The Board returns to the meeting.** S. Peters is concerned that postponing the motion stops the homework and discussion. He does not agree with the postponement. **VOTE:** C. McDaniel-Thomas-no, L. Steadman-no, S. Peters-no, B. Tatro-no, R. Colbert-yes, W. Wright-yes, P. Peterson-yes, E. Stanley-yes, N. Mosher-yes, K. Wheeler-yes, N. Moriarty-yes, B. Bohannon-yes and B. Mitchell-yes. **Motion passes.** B. Mitchell would like to still have the information asked for regarding the formula. N. Moriarty would volunteer to contact KSC to help with the financial analyst information.

b. Warrant Article Selection: J. Fortson presented a list of warrant articles for the Board to agree or disagree in order that she can begin the process. Article One is the operating budget, Article Two is the continuation of the renovation to MTC, Article Three is Health and Safety, Article Four is the Before and After Expendable Trust which currently has \$10.03 in it. **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to have Article Four, Before and After Program Expendable Trust, as a place holder on the warrant. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** ??????. **Motion passes.** Article Five is the Special Ed. Expendable Trust which currently has \$360,000.00 in it, Article Six, Seven and Eight are for the contracts. J. Fortson reviewed the list of warrant articles the District has had in the past. **MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to have Article One the Operating Budget. **SECOND:** R. Colbert. **VOTE:** ?????? **Motion passes.** K. Wheeler explained the Finance and Facilities Committee will be discussing Article Two renovations at their next meeting. Article Three Health and Safety will also be discussed at the Finance and Facilities Meeting. N. Mosher asked why there is no template for the articles. L. Steadman said after the Board agrees on the articles there will be a template. **MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to have Article Five as the Special Ed. Expendable Trust Article. (J. Fortson would suggest the funds come out of the surplus if any). **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** ??????. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to have Article Nine as the article to receive and approve the reports. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** R. Colbert asked if there is any consideration on the number of articles on the ballot. Less is more. L. Steadman explained they have considered the amount. J. Fortson explained we will see the numbers and the tax impact. S. Peters is not in favor of this article. W. Wright would like to keep this article, it is important. **VOTE:** 5.230/5.361/2.410/0. **Motion fails.** **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** Article Two as a Capital Improvement Article specific to MTC. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 10.770/0/2.230/0. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to table the motion on Article Three Health and Safety until the committee hears from D. LaPointe. **SECOND:** P. Peterson **VOTE:** 2.947/8.939/1.115/0. **Motion fails.** **MOTION:** B. Mitchell **MOVED** to have the Article to listen to opinions on the warrant. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **DISCUSSION:** S. Peters is not sure there is a need for this article. B. Mitchell

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explained change would not send a good signal. K. Wheeler would prefer to see this as done in prior years. **VOTE: 8.471/3.241/1.288/0. Motion passes. L. Steadman called for a recess at 8:01 PM. N. Moriarty leaves the meeting.**

3. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

a. Student Representative Report: There are no Student Representatives present.

b. Superintendent's Report:

i. Parker Varney School-Manchester: L. Witte explained B. Bohannon had mentioned Parker Varney School and she did reach out to the school. The principal and the superintendent are not there. She did explain a lot of what they are doing we are doing. It is a lot like an ungraded elementary school bordering on leveling. She did not get a good sense of what it looks like. She did see the rate of growth on their own assessments not on the Smarter Balance. The school is in a transition of leadership. B. Bohannon explained we need to meet the needs on both ends of the learning curve. We need to have the conversation and let the Board know what may be needed to support both ends.

ii. ACES Update: J. Rathbun explained the District had received the 5 year grant for the ACES Program. He said MTC will receive \$97,875.00 per year for 5 years with no reduction, Emerson and the Middle School Programs will receive funds but they will be reduced over the 5 years of the grant. The grant is in the amount of \$1,262,464.83. The target date for the programs to restart is on December 6, 2017. We need to hire people and fingerprint them.

L. Witte updated the Board on Celebrate what is Right. She has received 240 letters and 200 people made nominations. L. Steadman would like to see the comments.

L. Witte will not be at the Nov. 21, 2017 Board Meeting. There is a need for a non-public session tonight.

L. Witte informed the Board J. Rathbun and his committee have been working on the homework policy and will report out in December or January and A. Saulzman and her committee have been working on teacher evaluations and will report out in March.

c. Business Administrator's Report:

i. J. Fortson reported out on 5 of the 6 towns in the District regarding the tax rates. Swanzey's tax rate is not back yet. She did a comparison with 2010 tax rates. She also updated the Board on the ADM/EV for each town. J. Fortson explained it is not the same company doing the property assessments for each town. L. Steadman did explain they are adjusted at the State level. L. Steadman would like that information for the next meeting. J. Fortson will not be in the SAU next week.

d. Board Chair Report: L. Steadman asked if a committee is going to change the date or time of their regularly scheduled meeting to check in with the administration. The administration has scheduled out months ahead.

e. Committee Reports:

i. Finance and Facilities: K. Wheeler explained W. Wright, J. Fortson, D. LaPointe and herself had a tour of MTC and Cutler. The Finance and Facilities Committee will be meeting on Nov. 9, 2017 at 5:30 PM. K. Wheeler explained we are still waiting for reports on the assessment and evaluation to come in.

ii. Community Relations: C. McDaniel-Thomas was named Chair of the CRC. She reported the committee met tonight and discussed the articles in plain English. The committee discussed additional meetings in order to get the articles in plain English done in a timely manner.

iii. CCC Committee:

1. Update: J. Rathbun reported the District has received a copy of the new contract. He will be attending the next CCC meeting.

iv. Policy Committee: S. Peters reported the committee has not met but will be holding an all day workshop on December 1, 2017 to correct the backlog policies, outdated policies and missing policies which are results of the policy audit.

4. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Approval of the Manifest: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the 2017-2018 Manifest in the amount of \$ 2,760,003.37. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE:** 11.925/0/0/1.075. **Motion passes.**

J. Fortson explained staff that coach and work in the District do not have to use personnel time if they have to leave for games.

b. Approval of the October 17, 2017 School Board Meeting Minutes: MOTION: W. Wright **MOVED** to approve the October 17, 2017 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** P. Peterson **VOTE:** 8.561/0/3.364/1.075. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to approve the October 17, 2017, 9:08 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **VOTE:** 8.561/0/3.364/1.075. **Motion passes.**

5. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

- 1. Meeting Minutes regarding the formula.**
- 2. Checks and balances to make sure programs work**
- 3. Warrant Articles**

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6. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** N. Mosher is speaking as a resident of Roxbury. He was disappointed in how things were handled tonight police had to be called. Follow general rules. It is part of the function to challenge, be respectful and open minded.

C. McDaniel-Thomas speaking as a citizen from Swanzey commented we are struggling on whether to address the formula. We need to work together and respect each other and even if we could manage to have a conversation without becoming divided she feels she could do it.

B. Mitchell speaking as a resident of Swanzey commented he fully supports the actions of the Chair.

Non-Public Session: There was no motion to go into non-public. L. Steadman explained she has felt uncomfortable since the beginning of school and has asked the SSO to be present at the meetings. She said N. Moriarty needs to settle down and it needs to end. N. Mosher commented the person you are speaking about should be present. We did not go through the process, there was no threat. It was excessive and he is disappointed. P. Peterson said she is frustrated because you cannot hear in this room. The procedure needs to be followed. L. Steadman said she was trying to speak to the motion. R. Colbert said we are in charge of promoting education. When we are televised it is embarrassed. If this behavior was from a student in the classroom the student would be removed. K. Wheeler said the Board should have the opportunity to challenge the Chair. L. Steadman said no one challenged the Chair. B. Mitchell said an action of the chair can be challenged. L. Steadman said Roberts Rules are a guideline. N. Mosher said N. Moriarty is not present and we should not be discussing this.

7. **9:16 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 unless such person requests an open meeting; however, this cannot be used to protect a person who is a member of you Board, Committee or Subcommittee. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 11.925/0/0/1.075. **Motion passes.**

8. **Adjournment: MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to adjourn the Board Meeting at 9:26 PM. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler **VOTE:** 11.925/0/0/1.075. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording secretary