

October 17, 2017

**Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**October 17, 2017 (corrected)**  
**Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH**

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

**Absent:** Robert Colbert and Bob Mitchell

**Administration present:** L. Witte, Superintendent and J. Fortson, Business Administrator.

**Also present:** Justin and Talee, Student Representatives and 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 came to speak about the proposed formula change. He would like to remind the Board we went to court about this issue. We need to look at the contract. He would suggest the Board not vote tonight but gather all of the information first. We need to know the plans for the future regarding the school buildings in the District. We have a moral obligation to the towns that were affected by the 75%-25% formula change. He would suggest the Board go back and review the contract.

Mr. Bailey does not agree with the 50%-50% proposal but to go to a 25%-75% formula. We fund the schools through property taxes, 58% of the tax bill is for the school. It is a head tax in a perfect world. He would agree with a 25%-75% formula.

D. Batchelder would echo the comments of the previous speakers. When the public decides to educate the students it must their responsibility. The correct funding model is the one suggested by Mr. Bailey. ***B. Bohannon arrives.*** It does not make sense for certain groups to pay more due to the number of students. We need to share the responsibility.

Zach Morrell, a senior at Monadnock along with his mentor Mathew Caron presented his Senior Project to the Board. Z. Morrell explained the purpose of his senior project. He explained there is a lot of bullying in the schools. The school culture needs to change. Students need to be involved in the community and the community needs to be involved in the schools. Z. Morrell explained there is a poster contest for the elementary students to bring awareness about bullying and there are about 60 HS students and 40 MS students who have joined the Dude Be Nice group. Z. Morrell also wrote a speech about anti-bullying and presented it to the MS/HS. He had recorded the speech and played it for the Board. The group will have many activities throughout the school year to bring attention to anti-bullying. He might present his speech to the elementary students but he might have to leave some

information out. The administration will be reinforcing the policies in regarding to bullying and the Wellness Committee will be inviting Monadnock Mental Health to speak to the staff. The administration would like the support of the Board. Nice job Zach.

## 2. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

**a. Motion on Funding Formula/Appportionment: MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to change the apportionment formula: **From:** apportionment of operational costs from 25% based on equalized property valuation and 75% based on average daily membership **To:** 50% based on 3 year average equalized property valuation and 50% based on 3 year average daily membership as of July 1, 2018, with no change being made in the present formula for apportioning capital expenses. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **DISCUSSION:** S. Peters explained his rationale: 1. the apportionment was last updated in 2013, and can only be adjusted every five years, 2. 50/50 creates a fairer distribution of cost for all towns and 3. 3 year averaging of both EV and ADM creates a more gradual timeline for tax reduction in Troy and Swanzey, but is a more fair/gradual timeline for the corresponding tax increase in Fitzwilliam, Richmond, Roxbury and others. L. Steadman would welcome the discussion but would hope there is no vote on the motion tonight. We need to do the research. N. Moriarty asked if this was put before the DRA. L. Witte explained this is currently being done in other towns. L. Steadman said this can be put before the attorney. N. Moriarty will contact the DRA. P. Peterson commented she sees this information provided by S. Peters and there is a large increase for Fitzwilliam. This is not fair. You can fund this District 23 different ways. N. Mosher said he was involved in the change 5 years ago. Some towns pay \$20,000 per student and other towns pay \$5000 per student that is the reason for the change. He would like to see a discussion to see what towns have for options. K. Wheeler would like to review the contract at the next Board Meeting. W. Wright said this article will divide the District. S. Peters said he brought this motion to get a discussion started. He said we need help from a Financial Analyst. N. Moriarty said a KSC Economic Department may do it for nothing. N. Mosher is not sure we need to spend additional funds for this. S. Peters said it is not the responsibility of the Business Office to do additional work. They have enough work already. J. Fortson is not our personal Business Office. **MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to table this motion. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler. **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/2.243. **Motion passes.**

## 3. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

**a. Student Representative Report:** Justin and Talee reported the juniors took the PSATs. There was a really good vibe on test day and it went very well. The students were inducted into the French National Honor Society.

### **b. Superintendent's Report:**

**i. Preliminary BOY:** L. Witte reported the official student enrollment number is 1670 as of October 2, 2017.

**ii. Budget Review:** L. Witte explained she and J. Fortson have met with all of the administrators to discuss the needs as a starting point. They are coming in a few hundred thousand dollars under the current budget. The budget books will be available next Friday.

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They will ask the DRA for information on apportionment this week. The Budget Committee has asked the administration to figure what a \$30,500,000.00 budget may look like. The administration is not prepared yet but would be sharing the information at the Saturday Meeting. L. Witte had sent emails out regarding the grant for the ACES Program. The funds will support the ACES Program in Troy, MTC and Cutler. There are typical terms for the grant which would be for 5 years and the funds will decrease over the 5 years. There is a need for a non-public session.

**c. Business Administrator's Report:**

**i.** J. Fortson explained she is just waiting for the paperwork from DRA regarding the tax rates. They are moving forward with the budget process and the books will be ready next Friday.

**d. Board Chair Report:** L. Steadman reported she along with N. Richardson, L. Witte and C. Woods attended a NHSBA Law Conference. She hopes for a successful annual meeting. She would like to have legal counsel review the warrants. L. Witte explained the warrants are reviewed by legal counsel. N. Mosher has complete confidence in the administration and if it is necessary they will seek to legal counsel. L. Steadman explained if a committee does not have a quorum she will attend if she is available.

**e. Committee Reports:**

**i. Finance and Facilities:** Finance and Facilities will be meeting on October 19, 2017 at 5:30 PM for a tour through MTC, Cutler and Gilsum. T. Walsh explained Trans World Service has been hired to collect the lunch debt.

**ii. Community Relations:** S. Peters explained the committee met and discussed whose job is it to get the word out to the community. The committee wanted to bring this issue to the full Board for discussion. N. Mosher said he is concerned with the plain English Warrant Articles, some of the articles are controversial per town. It may not be plain English. L. Steadman said the full Board will vote on the plain English before the information goes out. B. Bohannon does not have a problem with someone writing the articles in plain English, he would support being up front. S. Peters asked if the CRC can contact the Sentinel to put an article in. L. Witte explained press releases go through the superintendent for final review. L. Witte explained she can prepare a press release. P. Peterson said nothing goes out without the approval of L. Witte and L. Steadman. E. Stanley said people want to hear news sooner than later. L. Witte explained this is part of her job as an administrator but there is a need to prioritize on a daily basis. She would suggest the use of technology and looking at social programs. E. Stanley said he was happy there is a lot more information on Face Book than ever before. L. Steadman would suggest if there is a public announcement from a committee it should go to the superintendent, a Board Policy should go to the superintendent and then to the Board. The CRC will prepare the articles in plain English and forward them to the full Board for approval. Press releases from a committee to L. Steadman to L. Witte for approval with a 24 hour turn around. A press release on Face Book from a teacher is to be approved by the school principal.

**iii. CCC Committee:**

**1. Update:** W. Wright reported he attended a meeting at the CCC and it was one of the best so far. The ROTC Program is offered at Fall Mtn. and the CCC students have been asked to attend, this issue is still being discussed. There will be a meeting on November 8, 2017 at Fall Mtn regarding the ROTC. One of the biggest issues is the school calendar. This district has been without a contract for 8 years. Ken Burns has contacted the CCC to help in regards to programs. L. Witte explained she set the calendar to match SAU 29 but right before the first day of school it was changed. We schedule by hours. KHS is looking at starting school later in the day. L. Witte explained we had a meeting regarding the CCC contract and went line by line. We have been waiting to hear from the DOE. W. Wright said it is on the agenda. We should put it on the Board agenda.

**iv. Extracurricular:** E. Stanley reported the committee has not met.

**v. Education:** B. Tatro reported the committee met and A. Harricon of the Social Studies Department explained a K-12 Curriculum shift at the elementary to skills based. J. Rathbun presented the test scores which were in the Board packets along with a summary. He explained the real big changes happening at the school. The RTI team was not working. R. Schafer and L. Spencer felt a need to rethink the MS. There is a need to look at the culture and behavior, a need to focus on the whole child. The core classes will be in the morning and activities in the afternoon. This has already made a huge difference. It is early October and you can feel the difference. There are less behavior reports. The MS is also looking at the transition to 7<sup>th</sup> grade. AP information was passed out and also placed in the Board packets. There were 156 tests taken by 94 students. L. Steadman would like to have the Running Start information from J. Rathbun.

**vi. Policy:** S. Peters explained the Policy Committee is developing one or more policies around playgrounds. He would invite the administration to take part in the discussion. At the next meeting the committee will take apart the results of the Policy Audit. They will talk strategy to come up to speed on those policies. The next meeting is on October 24, 2017 at 5:00 PM.

**4. CONSENT AGENDA:**

**a. Approval of the Manifest: MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the 2017-2018 Manifest in the amount of \$ 1,184,860.51. **SECOND:** P. Peterson **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/2.243. **Motion passes.**

**b. Approval of the October 3, 2017 School Board Meeting Minutes: MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to approve the October 3, 2017 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** W. Wright **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/2.243. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to approve the October 3, 2017, 8:04 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/2.243. **Motion passes.**

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**MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to approve the October 3, 2017, 8:34 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/2.243. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to approve the October 3, 2017 Public Grievance Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/2.243.

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

- 1. Apportionment**
- 2. J. Fortson EV/Apportionment Tax Rate**
- 3. CCC Contract**
- 4. Number of students who receive college credit**
- 5. Manchester Model**
- 6. Ask the attorney what it would take to amend the formula contract**

- 6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Jim Rouminear commented on the funding formula. In a regional school district the towns are not alike it does not make sense that some taxpayers should pay more to educate in the same school. A change in the formula would hit Roxbury hard. He would like to compliment the Board on getting the information before making a decision.

E. Stanley said he attended the Dover Band Show and Monadnock did a great job. The field hockey team is in the playoffs and the football and track teams play Friday.

- 7. 9:08 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:** P. Peterson **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/2.243. **Motion passes.**

- 8. Adjournment: MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to adjourn the Board Meeting at 9:18 PM. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/2.243. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis  
Recording secretary