

**Monadnock Regional School District
(MRSD) School Board Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2017
Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH**

Members Present: Eric Stanley, Phyllis Peterson, Mike Blair, Betty Tatro, Scott Peters, Nick Mosher, Cheryl McDaniel-Thomas, Karen Wheeler, Bob Mitchell, Winston Wright, Lisa Steadman, Neil Moriarty and Robert Colbert

Administration Present: L Witte, Superintendent

Also present: L Heath, Note taker

“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:** Six Cutler 6th graders presented about their Ferry Beach Experience with the assistance of Marie Szymcik and Sara Blair. The explained that they had also set up stations in the MRMHS gym and shared with other students, parents and school board members during Step-Up Day. M Blair shared that the students fund raised to cost of this experience. L Witte let the board know that the district has secured some grant funding for next year. J Rathbun sought out the funds through this grant. P Peterson asked if the cost for this continually climbs. M Szymcik and S Blair explained that each student paid approximately \$300.00 for a total of \$30,000. M Blair also noted that every student in 6th grade participated. This allows for the students to meet peers that they will be attending school with the next year.

J Leclerc shared about the new Wellness Program that has been started in the Middle/High School. It started last year and they put on several different activities to raise awareness as to the drug and alcohol issues that are happening in the area and to give healthy alternative options to the students. She shared that as a result of her involvement she has been asked by the Mayor of Keene to be a part of an Ad Hoc Committee with the Keene City Council. She also let the board know that Lauren Bressett from the UNH Cooperative Extension helped to update the policy.

2. **MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION**

- a. **Finance**

- a. **Approve van bid, waiving minimum number of bid requirement if necessary:**
MOTION: K Wheeler, **MOVED** to approve the van bid as presented. **SECOND:** P Peterson **DISCUSSION:** N Mosher asked if this was coming out of the budget. E Stanley asked how the district goes about getting the bids. K Wheeler explained that David LaPointe went out and got them. E Stanley asked if it was in the paper. L Witte said that we do not. E Stanley asked why we don't go outside of Keene and then asked who got the bid. He also asked if other area dealers were approached. B

Tatro asked which van was being replaced. M Blair answered that it is the silver Windstar that is being replaced. **VOTE: 11.879/1.121/0/0 Motion Passes.**

b. Policy

- a. **Substance Misuse Policy: MOTION:** L Steadman to do a second read of the Substance Misuse Policy. **SECOND:** P Peterson **DISCUSSION:** L Witte said that she will need to do more research on this. **VOTE: 13/0/0/0 Motion Passes.**

3. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION

a. Student Representative Report:

- a. Lisa Spencer, Middle/High School Principal introduced Justin Bemis who will be one of the student representatives. He shared that he is the current president of Student Government, is involved in the Theatre/Arts program in the high school and has served his class for four years. M Blair welcomed him to the school board meeting.

b. Superintendent Report

- a. L Witte shared the administration's proposed operating budget. She has requested more information from the bus company. She feels that the board should approve the allocations made and then when the information is obtained, there will be possible reductions. **MOTION:** P Peterson to move the 17/18 operating budget forward and can choose to hold back late bus funding or not. **SECOND:** S Peters **DISCUSSION:** K Wheeler said that she would prefer to keep the late buses at 4, P Peterson said that she would take that as a friendly amendment and S Peters second. L Witte shared that this was an opportunity to keep the budget under the default number. W Wright asked if the board was to approve the bottom line. L Witte explained that it was not a number that is in stone. It's representational and the administration is asking the board to endorse the way it has been allocated. N Mosher said that the board is not just voting on a number as some has already been approved. L Witte shared that there have been other reductions. **VOTE: 13/0/0/0 Motion Passes.** L Witte said that she is hopeful that the information will be obtained by the end of July. S Peters asked that this subject be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

She shared information regarding the group that is working on the Strategic Plan. The mission/vision for the district was approved in July of 2016. She doesn't feel that the group is moving forward, so it has been moved to the Administration was to come up with goals. They have narrowed it to four. They are also looking at objectives and benchmarks. This will be revisited in July.

The board was informed about the last day of school meeting that she requested everyone attend. She conducted a survey of the staff with the following questions: Why do you do what you do? What makes you smile, laugh or makes you happy? And what can I do better? She received 184 responses and dropped them into a word frequency program and made a graphic of it. She did this with the first 2 questions and then she shared the results of what staff feels she does well, what she should continue and what she could do better. She then distributed wrist bands to the board as she had to the staff.

A grant has been given to Gilsum STEAM Program. MOTION: P Peterson to approve the Grant in the amount of \$994.22 SECOND: S Peters VOTE: 13/0/0 Motion Passes.

DHHS presented the district with an award celebrating the work to make sure immunizations are given and up to date. They reported that 99.86% of MRMHS is up to date and the state average is 97%. We were given an A.

Lastly, L Witte informed board members that beginning July 1, three board members would need to stop in to sign the manifest at the SAU.

c. There is no Business Administrators report.

d. Board Chair Report:

- a. M Blair would like to remind everyone to act appropriately at meetings and sub-committee meetings. There was some profanity used and he would like to remind the chair people that at any point a meeting seems to be going wrong, they can call for a recess and if it continues, the meeting can be adjourned or they could have people removed. We should behave in an exemplary manner. L Steadman said that there have been times when members have stepped away because a meeting has gotten heated. There is the ability for censuring should the need arise. She asked M Blair to explain what censuring is. He said that it is basically putting a member on notice that the behavior will not be tolerated.

e. The Technology Committee did not meet.

f. Long Range Committee:

- a. M Blair shared that the committee is getting smaller and encouraged members of the board to attend the meeting on Thursday, June 22 at 6:30 in the MRMHS Library. They are working through ideas and hoping to come up with thoughts on how to proceed.

g. Finance/Facilities Committee:

- a. They worked on policy DJ/DJB and the board should be receiving copies from Jane Fortson.
- b. The stage is being worked on this summer at MRMHS.
- c. The boiler at Fitzwilliam will have to be done next summer.
- d. Tuition will be discussed at the next meeting which is Tuesday, July 11 at Gilsum – 5:00 PM. N. Mosher asked if the committee was discussing what member towns are doing as part of the tuition setting process. K Wheeler said that L Witte shared information from ConVal. N Mosher stated that some member towns pay more than others.

h. Education Committee:

- a. B Tatro reported that they had met and had a very good presentation with all committee members in attendance. August 15 and 16 there is a training and 20 people are signed up which is comprised of both board members and teachers. Jeremy Rathbun spoke to the committee regarding Senior projects and explained that all seniors were required to use technology. The effectiveness of the homework

policy will be discussed at the next meeting which is July 11 at 6 PM following Finance/Facilities Committee. M Blair requested that the committees be mindful of the time as there is also a board meeting that evening.

i. **Other:**

- a. R Colbert brought up the Superintendent's decision-making authority and feels that perhaps it is time grant more authority. He is flabbergasted that the Administration doesn't have more authority. He used the approval of the Grant as an example and would like to explore this as her reports are always thorough. L Steadman shared that the board has come a long way. N Mosher agreed as meetings used to last until midnight/one AM. Now they run very efficiently. W Wright suggested that maybe the board needs to look at the timeline that Jane Fortson had provided. L Witte stated that there is a policy regarding gifts/donations and that currently the amount is set at anything higher than \$500.00. M Blair said that he echoes what L Steadman said. Previously, every nuance was discussed. There has been improvement and maybe the board feels that the number should be higher. This is something to keep a finger on and be aware of. He will keep this on the agenda. S Peters shared that he has been trying to identify useful things for new board members. He suggested maybe having a chart of what the Superintendent can approve so that the boundaries are clear. There is a new board member packet, but he is not sure it is being used as effectively as it could be. P Peterson likes to hear what L Witte shares but doesn't want to intrude on her authority.
- b. **Nancy Frazier Memorial** – M Blair said that they are not prepared with anything so this will be kept on the agenda.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. **Approval of the Manifest: MOTION:** B Tatro **MOVED** to approve the Manifest in the amount of \$2,000,181. **SECOND:** W Wright. **VOTE:** 13/0/0 **Motion Passes.**
- b. **Approval of the June 6, 2017 School Board Meeting Minutes: MOTION:** P Peterson **MOVED** to approve the June 6, School Board Meeting Minutes. **SECOND:** W Wright. **DISCUSSION:** P Peterson said that she would like to have added that she asked why Back to Basics was being taken out of Emerson, yet remaining in other schools. She was told by J Fortson that it was because of low enrollment. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/1.121/0 **Motion Passes with the addition.**
- c. **Approval of June 6, 2017 8:12 PM Non-Public School Board Meeting Minutes: MOTION:** P Peterson **MOVED** to approve the June 6 8:12 PM Non-Public School Board Meeting Minutes. **SECOND:** K Wheeler. **DISCUSSION:** L Steadman stated that under Issue # 1 it should be added that the student was present. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/1.121/0 **Motion Passes with the addition.**

d. **Approval of June 6, 2017 8:34 PM Non-Public School Board Meeting Minutes:**
MOTION: P Peterson **MOVED** to approve the June 6 8:34 PM Non-Public School Board Meeting Minutes. **SECOND:** W Wright. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/1.121/0 **Motion Passes.**

e. **Approval of June 6, 2017 8:44 PM Non-Public School Board Meeting Minutes:**
MOTION: P Peterson **MOVED** to approve the June 6 8:44 PM Non-Public School Board Meeting Minutes. **SECOND:** W Wright. **DISCUSSION:** Under Issue # 1 it should be made clear that the board cancelled. L Steadman said that wasn't the case. The sentence should read as follows: "L Steadman reported the specialists were to meet on June 7, 2017 at 4:00 PM." They wish to have "but cancelled stricken. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/1.121/0 **Motion Passes with the changes requested.**

f. **Approval of June 6, 2017 8:45 PM Non-Public School Board Meeting Minutes:**
MOTION: P Peterson **MOVED** to approve the June 6 8:45 PM Non-Public School Board Meeting Minutes. **SECOND:** W Wright. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/1.121/0 **Motion Passes.**

5. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

- a. SSO/SRO
- b. Strategic Goals
- c. Superintendent Authority
- d. Nancy Frazier Memorial
- e. Education
- f. Feedback on PSAT/SAT
- g. Timing of August 8 meeting – discuss possible move to August 1
- h. Next meeting July 11
- i. Discuss Retreat Dates – CRC hasn't met on this.

6. THERE WERE NO PUBLIC COMMENTS.

7. **Policy on Recurring motions:** S Peters asked if all non-certified staff had been renewed. He also asked if the board needed to encumber funds. M Blair stated that if there are funds and they are not encumbered, they will be rolled to lower taxes. S Peters shared that if there was additional money, could it be used for the stage. K Wheeler shared that David LaPointe felt confident that the work would be done well under budget. L Steadman made a motion to encumber funds. M Blair explained that there needed to be an amount and a contractual obligation. B Tatro asked if it could be put toward bussing. L Witte stated that the Administration is not recommending any encumbrances. L Steadman questioned if it was already in an expendable trust. L Witte said it would have to be put on the warrant. L Steadman suggested it could fund ACES. L Witte said that last year they encumbered \$200,000 for Special Education, but they couldn't encumber for ACES. K Wheeler shared that she feels it should be discussed. L Witte said that she feels we are in good shape. B Mitchell reminded that Jane

Fortson has been letting the board know that there wouldn't be much if any to encumber. N Mosher said that he feels that even if it is a tiny amount, it should go back to the taxpayers. S Peters asked about a transfer of funds for the Nutrition program. M Blair stated that it had been done. N Mosher asked if the Fitzwilliam boiler is on the warrant. M Blair shared that it has to be done within three years.

8. **8:42 PM Non-Public Session: MOTION:** N Mosher **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (l) Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally. **SECOND:** P Peterson. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0 **Motion Passes.**
9. **8:48 PM Non-Public Session: MOTION:** N Mosher **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91A: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.**
10. **9:15 PM Non-Public Session: MOTION:** S Peters **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91A:3 II (b) Consideration for hiring a public employee. **SECOND:** B Mitchell. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0 **Motion Passes.**
11. **9:30 PM Non-Public Session: MOTION:** R Colbert **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91A:3 II (a) Dismissal, promotion or setting compensation for public employees. **SECOND:** P Peterson. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0 **Motion Passes.**
12. **Adjournment: MOTION:** N Mosher **MOVED** to adjourn the Board Meeting at 9:45 PM. **SECOND:** P Peterson. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0 **Motion Passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Heath
SAU Business Office