

September 4, 2018

**Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
(Non-Approved Minutes)
September 4, 2018 (corrected)
Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH**

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

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 2nd read and approval:**
 - 1. KBA, KBA-EL, KBA-R, KD (motion to retire):** MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to retire Policy KBA. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 12.241/0/0/.759. **Motion passes.** MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to retire Policy KBA-EL. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 12.241/0/0/.759. **Motion passes.** MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to retire Policy KBA-R. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 12.241/0/0/.759. **Motion passes.** *K. Wheeler arrives.*
 - 2. IMDA-Patriotic Exercise:** MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to accept Policy IMBA as presented. **SECOND:** K. Buono. **DISCUSSION:** S. Peters explained this will bring us into compliance. **VOTE:** 12.786/0/.214/0. **Motion passes.**
 - 3. EF-Food Service Management:** MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to accept Policy EF-Food Service Management as presented. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **DISCUSSION:** This is per RSA and a new policy. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**
 - 4. KLG-Relations with Police Authorities (and to retire KNAJ):** MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to accept Policy KLG as presented. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **DISCUSSION:** L. Witte explained this is per RSA. B. Tatro said this is a

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proactive move. S. Peters said this is an update from the 2016 audit. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0.
Motion passes.

5. JJJ-Access to Public School Programs by Nonpublic, Charter School and Home-Educated Pupils: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to accept Policy JJJ as presented. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **DISCUSSION:** This is per RSA. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

6. EBCA-Emergency Plans: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to accept Policy EBCA as presented. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **DISCUSSION:** This is an out dated policy. It was last updated in 1998. This update is a result of the audit. L. Witte explained the District does drills at least once a month. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0.
Motion passes.

7. EH-Public Use of School Records: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to accept Policy EH as presented. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **DISCUSSION:** N. Moriarty asked how would he know the sealed minutes exist. S. Peters said L. Sutton is in charge of the sealed minutes. L. Steadman explained the public cannot view the sealed minutes. W. Wright said things have been running fine. **VOTE:** 12.027/.971/0/0. **Motion passes.**

8. JICFA-Hazing: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to accept Policy JICFA as presented. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **DISCUSSION:** S. Peters explained this policy has not been updated since 1999. The language has been updated. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

9. JLF-Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to accept Policy JLF as presented. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** S. Peters explained the committee took a little more time on this policy. L. Witte explained not only are teachers obligated to report but every citizen in NH. The change in the policy strengthens the policy. K. Noonan asked about the staff training. L. Witte said they are still working on the training but it will be different at every grade level and school.

10. Policy KD: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to retire Policy KD. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **DISCUSSION:** S. Peters explained Policy KD was never updated. We updated Policy BEDH. The NHSBA does not acknowledge Policy KD. **VOTE:** 9.831/0/3.167/0. **Motion passes.**

4. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

1. Board Chair Report:

1. Committee Agendas: L. Steadman explained the Funding Committee has disbanded. They were not able to complete the work. It is back in the Board's hands. C. McDaniel-Thomas would like to thank the committee for all of their work. S. Peters would like to ask for the minutes from their meetings.

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L. Steadman asked the Board Members if they are interested in submitting a resolution to the NHSBA they may. There is no need for approval from the Board or Chair.

L. Steadman will be getting new name tags for those Board Members that need them.

L. Steadman is asking the committee chairs to prepare a rough draft for their future meeting after their committee meetings. It would be helpful for the administration to know what is going on and what to prepare for. L. Witte said the SAU Building is available again for the committee meetings. All committees will meet in the SAU Building except the CRC will be meeting at the Wilcox Building.

2. Operations/Superintendent's Report:

1. Troy Structural and Soil Report Update: D. LaPointe suggested the Board Members read the report and email questions or concerns since the report had just been received. This will be discussed at the Facilities Meeting. The Board did ask about the snow levels on the roofs. D. LaPointe said they are always aware of the snow levels and are checked. The soil testing report has not come back yet. He did say there were no concerns on the day of the testing. Everything seemed fine in his professional opinion. L. Steadman would like the report back by Sept. 18, 2018.

2. Safety Plans and Meetings: All of the schools have submitted their safety plans before the due dates. They will continue to work on the plans. This is in no way a final document. L. Witte has the dates of the school safety meetings available to the Board Members. This is confidential information but School Board Members may attend. L. Witte did report there will be an active shooter drill on a weekend in October.

L. Witte explained the Keene School District will be holding a Public Hearing regarding a change in start times for the students. The Public Hearing will take place on Sept. 11, 2018 at 7:00 PM. The KSD is looking for a high school start time of 8:45 AM. N. Moriarty commented if they change CCC we will sue them. It was commented the elementary school students would be affected.

3. Employee Handbook: L. Witte explained the Employee Handbook is in the packet. It is mandatory for the employees to review this handbook. L. Witte will send the redlined copy to all of the Board Members.

4. Expanded Medicaid-Update: C. Woods explained there is an amendment to He-M 101 which allows Districts to receive additional Medicaid reimbursement and help with mental health issues. She said the amendment is good. The intent is very good and is a way to support all students and give reimbursement to the schools.

5. School Funding 101: The School Funding 101 forum will be held on September 20, 2018 at 6:00 PM in the KMS.

6. Preschool Playgrounds: J. Swanson reported she met with Primex and D. LaPointe to inspect the playgrounds. There was discussion around the lack of age appropriate structures. The principals at the elementary schools have identified age appropriate structures and J. Swanson will forward them to Primex to see if they will work. J. Swanson said each of the 3 structures will cost \$6500.00 each. The estimated cost does not include installation. The District is looking at tuition from the preschools to offset the cost. B. Tatro asked if you could use IDEA funds. K. Buono asked if the PTOs might be able to help with the cost. K. Noonan asked about the Emerson playground.

3. Educational Report:

1. Current Class Size: The class size report was in the Board packets. Some of the classes exceed the District guidelines but not the State guidelines. R. Colbert is not comfortable with 24 students in a kindergarten class. B. Tatro would agree. It was mentioned that K. Stone had presented information to the Education Committee addressing the concerns of the larger classrooms. S. Peters asked if any principal has requested additional staff. L. Witte said no. The enrollment number may go down by October 1. There is no space at Troy to split classes. It was suggested to add more paraprofessionals. L. Witte said we have para positions open. There have been some candidates but have refused after knowing the amount of the entry level pay. R. Colbert said he has a conflict of interest having this conversation. It was mentioned to increase the pay for paras. N. Moriarty would object to this conversation. B. Bohannon would ask for feedback from the principals about the class size. Troy needs to address the crowding issue. S. Peters said he is concerned that having this conversation at the next meeting is not moving fast enough. **MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to empower L. Witte to reach out to the Association regarding a MOU for potential additional job description if necessary and to seek support from the administration on how to address class size in grades K-2. **SECOND:** R. Colbert. **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher said he does not want to react. He would like the administration to come back with a plan. L. Witte said the pay rate is why people are not accepting the positions. W. Wright will not vote on this motion. The administration will figure this out. B. Tatro said the large classes are taking away from learning time. S. Peters asked what the short term solution might be. J. Rathbun said the Reading Specialists are helping out. The interventionists and the Title One people are focusing on the primary grades that have Title One. We are using our staff to help with learning. It is good for now. L. Witte will report at the next meeting. N. Mosher would like to know the financial aspects. **VOTE:** 7.569/1.075/4.356/0. **Motion passes.**

2. #celebrate MRSD: J. Rathbun explained 480 people in the District were recognized for doing something right. How do we let our public know everything that is going on? Social Media will allow us to tell what is worth celebrating. We want to entice the public to get involved. Find things that are good and tag it with the # celebrate MRSD. L. Witte invited the Board Member to pick up a tee shirt to kick off the # celebrate MRSD. L. Witte informed the Board that the Band has been invited to the Outback Bowl. Rob Skrocki will be in attendance at the next meeting. There will be staff appreciation at the Football Home Game on Friday.

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3. Open Houses and School Photos: L. Witte passed out a list of the School Open House nights and a list of when the schools will be holding picture day. L. Witte would invite the Board Members to stop in and have their picture taken.

4. Other Matters for Discussion:

1. SRO/SSO: L. Witte had included 2 documents in the Board packets, the 2015 SRO/SSO comparison and the sheet of responsibilities. N. Mosher would like to cost of the comparisons.

2. SAU Operations Update: L. Witte will forward the SAU Manual red line version to the Board Members. She also mentioned the SAU Office Coordinator has been hired and during the budget season she would like to have the Human Resource Position in the conversation.

3. Teachers' Insurance Pool: L. Witte explained a summary judgment has been filed by both sides and we are waiting for a ruling from the judge.

4. CRC Letter to Select Boards: C. McDaniel-Thomas has put together a letter asking the select boards if it would be possible for individual Board Members to attend their meetings and have a discuss on different topics. N. Mosher would hope that the Board Members meet with their select boards on a regular basis. **MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to empower the CRC to polish and mail the letter out to all of the select boards. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of the Manifest: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the Manifest for the 2017-2018 school year in amount of \$ 16,772.67. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

2. Approval of the Manifest: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the Manifest for the 2018-2019 school year in amount of \$ 1,797,659.01. **SECOND:** W. Wright **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

3. Approval of the August 14, 2018 School Board Meeting Minutes: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the August 14, 2018 School Board Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **VOTE:** 10.122/0/2.876/0. **Motion passes.**

4. Approval of the August 14, 2018, 8:57 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes: C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to approve the August 14, 2018, 8:57 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 10.122/0/2.876/0. **Motion passes.**

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5. Notification of Resignation: L. Witte passed out a list of resignations, staff movement changes and paraprofessional placements.

6. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

- 1. Policy JIF**
- 2. Report on Troy soil**
- 3. School Start Time**
- 4. Band Accomplishment**
- 5. Class size**
- 6. Para openings**
- 7. SAU operations update**
- 8. Supplies teachers invest in their classrooms**
- 9. Insurance Pool**
- 10. Safety**
- 11. SRO/SSO**
- 12. PTO Contribution**
- 13. 7th grade supply list**
- 14. Motion to close Cutler and move students to MTC**

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS: There are no public comments.

8. Adjournment: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to adjourn the Board Meeting at 9:30 PM. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording secretary