

April 17, 2018

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2018 (corrected)
Monadnock Regional MSHS, Swanzey, NH

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

Administration present: Lisa Witte, Superintendent, J. Rathbun, Director of Curriculum and Assessment and Janel 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. Public Comments: No public comments.

- 1. Student Representative Report:** Justin Bemis reported the Prom is scheduled for May 5, 2018, the theme is Hollywood and tickets are on sale. The MSHS had an assembly on addiction and alcohol awareness. The Student Government will have a Pep Rally for the upcoming vacation. Students are studying for their AP exams.
- 2. Destination Imagination:** J. Kuhn and the students who participated in the Destination Imagination competition informed the Board on what they gained by being a part of this team. The group present had won and will now move to the global challenge in Tennessee. **MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to recognize each student on the championship DI with swag in the amount of up to \$75.00. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE:** 9.001/0/2.119/1.880. **Motion passes.** The Board discussed the cost of the trip and the fundraising the group is doing. **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to extend \$3000.00 to the DI Team for their trip to Tennessee and to have the DI team approach the Board at the meeting prior to their trip to ask the Board to fund the remaining dollars not raised. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 9.001/0/2.119/1.880. **Motion passes.**

2. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

- 1. Motion to Consolidate Cutler Students into the MTC Campus:** **Tabled** **Motion:** to ask the administration to request a RFP for one, K-6 school on the MTC site also to ask the Superintendent to do a RFP to hire the appropriate firm to prove or disapprove D. LaPointe’s concerns at the Troy School. **DISCUSSION:** N. Moriarty

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said this should go to Finance. There are a lot of pros and cons, if it passes this will go on the warrant in January. **MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to send this to the Finance Committee. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** R. Colbert said a lot of study is needed. Have the conversation in an open forum not at the committee level. B. Bohannon said we already paid for the NESDEC Report. He would like to refer to that report. He commented he is a Swanzey representative on the Board and he wants to close a Swanzey school. He said this Board does not vote on a lot that comes back from committee. N. Mosher said the motion is too vague. S. Peters suggested having a special meeting. W. Wright said there is a lot of work to be done and it is a year long process. **VOTE:** 7.543/0/3.577/1.880. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to send this to the Education Committee **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** B. Bohannon suggested setting a date for the information to come back to the Board. B. Tatro said the committees would have to alter their schedules. S. Peters would suggest a special meeting to hear the committee reports. R. Colbert asked what this Board is asking the committees. N. Mosher said we need to tell the committees what we are looking for. B. Bohannon said he would like to ask Finance the cost on closing Cutler and adding space and rooms for the Cutler students to move to MTC, adding a MPR and cafeteria. Trane explained potential cost savings. N. Mosher suggested the Finance and Education Committees discuss this issue together. S. Peters suggested the Board send thoughts regarding this issue by email to the Finance and Education Committees. B. Bohannon said it is not a good idea to send it to Finance. We also need to address the concerns at the Troy School. N. Mosher would like to refer this at the least to Education. **VOTE:** 8.664/2.242/0/1.880. **Motion passes.**

2. Teacher Appreciation Luncheon: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to supply a luncheon for all personnel in the District during the Teacher Appreciation Week. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **VOTE:** 11.120/0/0/1.880. **Motion passes.**

3. Deliberate on Splitting Finance from Facilities/Capital Improvement at the Committee-Level: E. Stanley said if we want to look at the District we really need to separate the committees. L. Steadman explained why Education and Finance joined together in the first place. It was commented Finance and Facilities has expressed that they would like to stay together. S. Peters asked what is expected from these committees for the rest of the year. E. Stanley explained what the Facilities had done with the 5 year no plan. **MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to split Finance from Facilities/Capital Improvement at the Committee-Level. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **VOTE:** 5.359/4.686/1.075/1.880. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: W. Wright **MOVED** to approve the Finance Committee assignments as follows: K. Wheeler, W. Wright, N. Moriarty and S. Peters. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **VOTE:** 10.906/0/.214/1.880. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to approve the Facilities Committee assignments as follows: R. Colbert, E. Stanley, W. Wright, N. Moriarty and B. Tatro. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **VOTE:** 10.906/0/.214/1.880. **Motion passes.**

3. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

1. Board Chair Report: L. Steadman would like to remind the Board any requests for information, comments or complaints must go to the Superintendent and Board Chair rather than the administration. L. Witte explained this is to ensure she is in the loop. L. Steadman informed the Board Camp Takodah will not be available for the Board Meeting. She also mentioned when the agenda is packed the meetings will be long so we will have to stay productive.

2. Operations/Superintendent's Report:

1. Preliminary Kindergarten Enrollment Number and projection: L. Witte passed out the kindergarten projection numbers. She does expect the MTC enrollment to go up and if history repeats itself the 9th grade will increase also. S. Peters pointed out preschool and kindergarten in regards to the consolidation.

2. Organizational Chart (District-Level): L. Witte presented an updated Organizational Chart in draft form but she has not had time to complete and she is still gathering information on staff. R. Colbert asked if L. Witte is absent who is in charge. L. Witte said it is a team approach. The administration would answer their appropriate situations asked of them.

3. Infrastructure and Safety Grant Update: L. Witte reported Cutler had received funds from the grant but not the other schools. She explained there is a potential for more funds but she is not sure where this District stands.

4. End of School Year Dates: L. Witte reported graduation will be on June 2, the last day of school for students will be on June 8 and the last day for teachers will be on June 14.

5. 2018/19 Budget Update: L. Witte explained the administration had made adjustments which resulted in a savings and would like to request the following positions: Early Learning Liaison, Out of District Court Liaison, Assistant Tech Specialist and a Librarian Media Specialist. R. Colbert is concerned there is no HR person. He feels there is weakness in the structure. L. Witte said she does not disagree. The administration did not propose the position in the last budget. N. Mosher would like to address the concern of the HR in the next budget discussion. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to accept the 4 proposed positions as requested by L. Witte. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 11.120/0/0/1.880. **Motion passes.**

L. Witte has informed the Board parents and students have been notified regarding academic requirements. We are monitoring student grades and we are confident all students will graduate.

3. Educational Report:

1. MRMHS Youth Risk Behavior Survey: J. Rathbun reported this survey is given all over the country. This is an opt-out survey. No parent permission is

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required. He has presented a partial report because the full report is 92 pages. He reported out on the highlights. We have dropped in alcohol and drugs but on suicide and bullying we have leveled or gone up. It is a big concern for us. He explained what the Wellness Committee is doing to address this issue. This data is sad to read. We have things in place.

2. Ferry Beach-Ecology School: J. Rathbun thanked the staff and faculty for attending the Ferry Beach trip. J. Rathbun and L. Witte went to Ferry Beach for the day. J. Rathbun said the staff at the Ecology School said the students were very polite.

3. Athletic Department Overview:

1. Cost/Sport: The cost per sport information was placed in the Board packets. The information shows Fall, Winter and part of the Spring Athletic Season costs. N. Mosher is looking for equity across the sports. R. Colbert asked if there are any other sports that pay. T. Cote explained the hockey players pay \$600.00. This is the only team whose Booster Club pays back \$16,000.00 to the budget. L. Witte was asked about the stipends and she mentioned they are low. They need to consider factors to make them level and fair. T. Cote said there are two girls who play on the Keene Hockey Team and they have to pay \$600.00 each to play. We have students from Fall Mtn. who play on the Monadnock Team and they pay \$1100.00 each to play. **C. McDaniel-Thomas leaves.** N. Mosher feels bad some students are not able to pay but on the other side we are cutting staff. We need a ceiling solution. We cannot keep pouring into this. E. Stanley explained the history of why the Hockey Team has to pay. He would suggest making it equitable, they have paid their dues. T. Cote asked what happens if a student signs up and does not pay. He also said there would be more students playing if they did not have to pay. **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to fund the Hockey Team at 100%. **SECOND:** R. Colbert. **DISCUSSION:** L. Witte asked where the funds would come from. T. Cote explained the players provide their own skates. **Friendly amendment:** to fund Hockey in a similar manner to other sports. **MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to amend the motion and to pay the cost for the girls to play on the Keene Hockey Team. **SECOND:** R. Colbert. **VOTE on amendment:** 9.785/0/.214/3. **Motion passes. VOTE:** 6.474/3.525/0/3. **Motion passes. MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to fund the Hockey Team in the amount of up to \$20,000.00 from any excess funds from the 2017-2018 unallocated fund balance. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **DISCUSSION:** The Hockey Team will be funded but use the unallocated funds if available. **VOTE:** 8.710/0/1.289/3. **Motion passes.**

2. Gate Receipts: T. Cote explained the purchases he has made with the gate receipts such as the Paul Breckell Sign and popcorn machines. Currently there is a balance of \$30,000.00 in the account. He explained there is a need for score boards and these funds could be used for that purpose. It is not fair for some teams to get the gate receipts and not others. It needs to be fair across the board.

4. Committee Reports:

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1. Education Committee: B. Tatro reported the committee met and discussed the following topics: Ferry Beach Ecology Trip, State Testing, Maker Spaces, STEAM, Teacher Evaluations, the proposed Homework Policy and the policy on class size. K. Stone at a previous meeting explained what he is doing to address the larger class size. N. Mosher would like to address class size. J. Rathbun explained the interventionists and the Reading Specialists help in the classrooms. It is a bigger conversation. **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to refer this issue back to the Education Committee to work on it more. **DISCUSSION:** L. Witte said we are meeting the policy requirements. **VOTE:** 7.757/1.121/1.121/3. **Motion passes.** B. Tatro reported the committee discussed STEAM in all schools. A team had worked this past summer with Yvonne Spicer to create an action plan for each school. Member from the District will be working with members from Winchester over the summer on STEAM. B. Bohannon mentioned Gilsum STEAM is coming up in the 4th year of the 5 year assurance. He would like to have the conversation about Gilsum.

2. Policy Committee: **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to amend the agenda and allow the Board to vote on 6 policies as a second read. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 10/0/0/3. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to accept Policy EHB Data Records and Retention as amended. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **DISCUSSION:** The amendment is to add “parent/guardian” where “parent” is stated. **VOTE:** 10/0/0/3. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to accept Policy IGA Parental Objection to Certain Courses. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher is against this policy. **VOTE:** 9.785/0/.21/3. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to accept Policy IHAM Health Education and Exemption from Instruction as presented. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **VOTE:** 9.785/0/.214/3. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to accept Policy IHBA-R Special Education Evaluation Procedure, Policy IHBA-R Procedural Safe Guards for Child with Disabilities and Policy IHBA-R Learning Disability Evaluation as presented. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **VOTE:** 10/0/0/3. **Motion passes.**

The Policy Committee will meet on April 24, 2018 at 5:00 PM.

5. Other Matters for Discussion:

1. Finalize Committee Meeting Times: The list of days for the committees to meet was passed out. N. Mosher said it is up to the Committee Chairs to set the day and time. L. Steadman said the Chairs have not responded. The CRC is meeting on May 1, 2018 and the Extra-Curricular is meeting on May 10, 2018.

2. Discussion-Expectations and Investment in Committees: S. Peters said at first the committees met for a long time. We need to do our homework. We have not

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set a standard. The referrals to the committees should be more specific. R. Colbert said he felt there was some good discussion at the committees but he felt time was wasted. What is the purpose? Not a good use of time and effort. N. Mosher said he feels the same way. E. Stanley said when a committee brought a motion to the full Board it was in written form with a rationale. N. Mosher said he will not participate until higher frequency and goals are set. S. Peters said the committees were bringing charters to the Board. Maybe the committees could set goals. R. Colbert said the committees are not effective. It was commented to change the committees or we have too many. N. Mosher said not all Boards have 10 committees. The administration has to attend a lot of the meetings. L. Witte said there is a level of preparation prior to the meetings. J. Rathbun said he spends a whole day to report out and that time is not spent on the kids or staff. L. Witte shares the frustration and what is the purpose. She is worried about making sound decisions late at night. E. Stanley said the committee worked when the appropriate administrator was present. L. Steadman would suggest deleting the Education Committee so J. Rathbun does not have to report twice. **MOTION: S. Peters MOVED** to suspend the Education Committee for the time being. **SECOND: B. Bohannon. VOTE: 5.690/4.309/0/3. Motion fails 2/3 vote required.**

The CRC will be meeting on April 18, 2018.

3. Update: Quotes on the Environmental and Structural Study at Troy: MOTION: N. Mosher MOVED to direct the Superintendent to obtain an environmental study on the Troy School grounds. **SECOND: B. Bohannon. VOTE: 10/0/0/3. Motion passes.**

4. Discussion-Newsletter Copy for Towns: L. Steadman suggested the CRC write something about the District for the town newsletters. B. Tatro said at one point Swanzy did not want school news. N. Moriarty said he has written something for his newsletter as his opinion. S. Peters would suggest the Board Chair write something for all papers.

4. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of the Manifest: MOTION: B. Tatro MOVED to approve the Manifest in the amount of \$ 1,190,366.90. **SECOND: R. Colbert VOTE: 10/0/0/3. Motion passes.**

2. Approval of the March 27, 2018 School Board Meeting Minutes: MOTION: B. Bohannon MOVED to approve the March 27, 2018 School Board Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND: S. Peters. VOTE: 10/0/0/3. Motion passes.**

3. Approval of the April 3, 2018 School Board Meeting Minutes: MOTION: B. Bohannon MOVED to approve the April 3, 2018 School Board Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND: B. Tatro VOTE: 10/0/0/3. Motion passes.**

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4. Approval of the April 3, 2018 Non-Public Meeting Minutes: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to approve the April 3, 2018 10:20 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **VOTE:** 10/0/0/3. **Motion passes.**

5. Approval of the April 3, 2018 Non-Public Meeting Minutes: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the April 3, 2018 10:30 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** N. Mosher **VOTE:** 9.785/0/.214/3. **Motion passes.**

5. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

- 1. Capital Improvement Plan**
- 2. Environmental Study Quotes**
- 3. Student Performance**
- 4. Organizational Chart**

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no Public Comments.

7. 11:01 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, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon **VOTE:** 10/0/0/3. **Motion passes.**

8. Adjournment: MOTION: N. Mosher **MOVED** to adjourn the Board Meeting at 11:11 PM. **SECOND:** R. Colbert **VOTE:** 10/0/0/3. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording secretary