

**Monadnock Regional School District
Education/Technology Meeting Minutes
Sept. 6, 2023
SAU Conference Room/Zoom, Swanzey, NH**

Members Present: Stephanie Lawlor, Scott Peters and Edmond LaPlante. **Absent:** Brian Bohannon.

Also Present: L. Aivaliotis, Recording Secretary.

1. **Call the Meeting to Order:** S.Lawlor called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.
2. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments.
3. **Approval of the July 26, 2023 Ed/Tech Meeting Minutes: MOTION:** S.Peters **MOVED** to approve the July 26, 2023 Ed/Tech Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** E. LaPlante. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Philosophy Statement: The committee brought ideas regarding nutrition to the meeting. They reviewed Policy JLCF Wellness and agreed with the opening statement. They would like to use that in their Nutrition definition. They would like to review the handbooks in all of the schools. They began discussing behavior and it was commented that the student growth depends on who is raising them. Is socially successful meaning law abiding citizens? Ready to Launch may be how they contribute to the community. It was discovered that there is one handbook for all of the elementary schools and a MRMHS handbook. For social/emotional S. Lawlor asked if they are using Choose Love in the elementary schools. The committee discussed tragedy in schools and having someone that the students could speak to in a safe place. Ready to Launch not just after graduation but when entering the next grade, a new adventure. The committee is not saying that the students are going to Harvard but preparing them for a path after high school. We need to ensure that every student has the key life skills to survive. S. Lawlor believes that there should be a class that teaches students things such as balancing a checkbook, filling out an application, being shown how to be a part of an interview among other things. After the discussion the committee came up with the following definitions either from this meeting or the previous meeting:

READY FOR SCHOOL: We believe that parents/guardians are responsible to send children to school who are ready to learn, meaning: appropriately fed, rested, clothed, and have the necessary tools such as supplies, homework, medication, snack, lunch, etc. However, when a student comes to school without any of these requirements, it is our moral obligation to fill the need. For students to learn and grow, these needs must be met first.

ACADEMICS: As each student progresses to the next level, they should remember, understand, and be able to apply the skills they have learned. Students are considered proficient when they

can apply the skills, and will have achieved mastery when they can analyze, evaluate, and create.

COMPETENCY: A competency is a state-defined standard of minimum learning for a given skill; it defines what a student should know or be able to do. Students are proficient when they meet competency standards.

PROFICIENCY: A student is considered proficient in a competency when they are able to demonstrate that they can remember, understand, and apply their knowledge (Bloom's Taxonomy).

COMPETENCY: We believe that every student should make continual learning progress. We believe that students should be measured often in order to ensure that growth is happening.

ACHIEVEMENT: We believe that achievement is both the proof and the celebration of growth over time. Achievement includes test scores, awards, and graduations.

WORK ETHIC : We believe that every student needs to be challenged, and should respond with effort within and outside of the classroom. We also believe that every student should learn to work independently to reach their goals. As students' progress into middle school, they should learn to work with diverse groups of their peers. As students' progress into high school they should learn how to plan their time in advance in order to reach long term goals.

ATTENDANCE: We believe that students must be present to learn the required competencies, but also to properly develop social skills, work ethic, and participate in field trips or extracurricular activities. When a student misses' school for any reason, it is the parents'/guardians' responsibility to ensure their child makes up the missed schoolwork.

NUTRITION: The Board recognizes the importance of proper nutrition and developmentally appropriate physical activity as ways of promoting healthy lifestyles, minimizing childhood obesity, and preventing other diet-related chronic diseases. The Board also recognizes that health and student success are interrelated. It is, therefore, the goal of the Board that the learning environment positively influences a student's understanding, beliefs, and habits as they relate to good nutrition and physical activity.

SOCIAL / EMOTIONAL: We believe that every student needs five key components to be successful in managing themselves and their relationships. They are self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making. As they grow and learn to manage their feelings, we provide safe spaces for students to express and confide in trusted adults.

The committee will work on Behavior and Ready to Launch at the next meeting.

BEHAVIOR:

READY TO LAUNCH

4. Presentation to the Board: S.Peters would like to start to think of what the presentation will look like when it is brought to the Board. This presentation will be done in October. There may be initiatives that may cost and be in time for the budget process. Do we want the administration to take our recommendations and let the committee know what they need? S.Lawlor commented with the social/emotional piece it is a lack of paras. How do we justify the need? There is time that is taken away from learning. S.Peters commented that is part of S.Lawlor's experience but maybe we should invite the administration and ask their advice. E.LaPlante is concerned with the grades after the presentation at the Board level. S. Peters took to the white board and made a diagram starting with SAT Testing. This is a National Test. There have been many State testing tools. The committee began to list a number of reasons why some students do not test well. They found one of many denominators was the behavior of the children possibly because of home issues. COVID also did play a part in the results. There are behavior issues in the schools. S.Lawlor commented that consequences are different for each child for the same defense. S. Peters mentioned that we need to crack the behavior at home. The students do not test at the same level. J. Rathbun is working with the Math Team. S.Lawlor mentioned the need for more Interventionists. S.Peters said we will be looking at the rules, the expectations, cell phones and look at behavior data to make policy. We cannot expect a change in one year. The committee looked at why the educational value does not continue in the 7th grade. S.Peters said that 7th grade is not as fun. S.Peters would like to do this exercise with J. Rathbun, a teacher and this committee with a topic and with the real data.

5. Setting the next meeting's date, time and agenda: September 27, 2023.

- a. Minutes
- b. Behavior and Ready to Launch
- c. Review Definitions with J. Rathbun
- d. Start to Create Slide Deck

6. Public Comments: There are no comments.

7. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: E.LaPlante **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 PM. **SECOND:** S. Peters **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary