

Monadnock Regional School District
Education/Technology Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2023
SAU Conference Room/Zoom, Swanzey, NH

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

Also Present: J. Rathbun via Zoom and L. Aivaliotis, Recording Secretary.

1. Call the Meeting to Order: B. Bohannon was asked to call the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

2. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

3. MRSD Strategic Education Plan: S. Peters explained that there are two documents under construction. The committee is working on the nested chart of strategies. The committee needs to understand the district's education philosophy. This committee will craft objectives that will pass from Board to Board and year to year. The committee was asked to come up with questions for the administration. They will interview J. Rathbun and use the document on the screen to get to the strategies. The problem statement was presented along with haves, have nots and what works in the district. J. Rathbun commented that he liked the problem statement. Most people on our Board and the committees have their own education experience. They see education from their viewpoint or as a child. We need to understand what education is. We need a clear understanding of how to be successful. Education is not a science and does not work on a flow chart. It is different for every child and every grade level. Under the Ready to Launch topic J. Rathbun explained that education is not a preparation for life. The purpose of the elementary school is not for Middle School, Middle School is not for the High School and High School is not to be ready for life. The committee is talking about out of high school and the next steps in the student's lives. S. Peters explained that they are talking about applying for a job, managing finances and not starving. We are talking about after the diploma. J. Rathbun commented that these are heavy duty questions. In 1995 18-year olds went into the military, college or trade school. Students who are 18 years of age today are not adults. Some of the 18-year olds are on their parent's insurance and phone program. B. Bohannon commented on preparing and empowering the path they choose based on their education experience. Maybe a more positive experience. The committee began a list of items in the Ready to Launch Category: being successful, competent, college ready, ready for work and applying for a job. J. Rathbun asked when you talk about ready for the workforce, what is competent. The committee suggested a list of life skills: laundry, being able to use the word processor, ready to live on their own, job specific skills, able to balance a checkbook, taxes and a resume. J. Rathbun asked how much responsibility for the life skills are the parents and the school. The committee reviewed the topics in the Just Right Category. E. LaPlante suggested having short, medium- and long-term goals for employment. J. Rathbun explained that the guidance counselors meet with the 9th graders to start the conversation about military, career and skilled labor. Grades 6, 7 and 8 have Career Exploration. J. Rathbun commented that the students need to know what they are signing up for if they sign up for the military. S. Lawlor suggested a representative from the military attend the

Job Fair. J. Rathbun commented that the students have the opportunity to job shadow, we have the companies but they find that they do not want someone following them and they do not know what to do with the students. S.Peters asked if we expected the kids to launch. S.Lawlor said yes. J. Rathbun asked if that is the responsibility of the school. B. Bohannon commented on education to get the students ready. J. Rathbun explained there are classes to address how to balance the checkbook. The parents need to take responsibility. They sign out the students and we have no control. The committee asked about the attendance policy. J. Rathbun explained you cannot fight the issue about the students not attending school. J. Rathbun commented that competency is what is able to be demonstrated. The committee discussed competency and achievement. J.Rathbun explained that with some it is not academic, it is social. You need to be careful with specific growth. The committee asked about the students staying back in the same grade. J. Rathbun explained that high school is credit based. If you earn the credits and have a passing grade you will go to the next grade. There is no way everyone who graduates receives 100%. It is credit based. He explained that the traditional grading is used but also competency is reported. If a student earns enough credits to graduate they will even if they cannot demonstrate success with a specific competency. MRMHS students are assessed on a mixture of participation, test scores, homework and demonstrating competency towards a specific standard. Elementary students are assessed on demonstrating competency toward specific standards. J. Rathbun explained grades 9-12 do not stay back unless they fail everything. He asked what the purpose of school was. We saw what happened when COVID came regarding social and emotional challenges. He was asked what happens when students are smart and test out. S.Peters commented that there are social and emotional and behavioral components. J. Rathbun explained that he had the smartest student in the 3rd grade but emotionally younger than the classmates. There is so much more in school than academics. S.Peters asked J. Rathbun if he would be able to work through the questions the committee came up with. J. Rathbun said I am 1 of 300 educators. Some of the questions are very philosophical but he will take a look at them. He will answer the questions as an Assistant Superintendent. The committee presented the beginning of a philosophy which is in the works.

4. Setting the next meeting's date, time and agenda: June 21, 2023.

- a. Minutes**
- b. Interview questions.**

5. Public Comments: There are no public comments.

6. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: B.Bohannon **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary