

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board/Budget Committee Joint Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2024
Monadnock Regional Middle/High School, Swanzey, NH

School Board Members Present: Scott Peters, Edmond LaPlante, Lisa Steadman, Betty Tatro, Cheryl McDaniel-Thomas, Eric Stanley, Dan LeClair, Hannah Blood, Kristen Noonan, Jennifer Strimbeck, Gina Carraro via Zoom, **Absent:** Brian Bohannon and Jeff Cesaitis.

Budget Committee Members Present: Ed Sheldon, Nancy Carney, Betty Tatro, School Board Liaison, Anne Marie Osheyack, Wayne Lechliden, Virginia Doerpholz, Sarah Burgess and Jack Gettens. **Absent:** Bruce Murphy, Jon Hoden, Boug Bersaw, Robert Audette and unassigned seat from Roxbury.

Administration Present: J. Rathbun, Superintendent and J. Morin, Business Administrator.

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER at 7:00 PM: S. Peters called the meeting to order and did a roll call for the Board. E. Sheldon did a roll call for the Budget Committee.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS: The Board and Budget Committee Members gave fond memories of Neil Moriarty who recently had passed. The Board and the Budget Committee had a moment of silence for Neil Moriarty.

S. Peters introduced the new Board Member from Swanzey, Hannah Blood.

3. Celebrate # MRSD:

- a. Powerlifting Club Medal Swag:** The administration is still reviewing the details.
- b. Upcoming Graduation Ceremonies:** J. Rathbun explained that graduation is on June 8, 2024 at 10:00 AM. The School Board is invited and they should let L. Sutton know if they would like to attend and walk with the administration and staff.

J. Rathbun explained that the schools are wrapping up the end of the school year. Grades 3-8 are in the middle of State testing. Everyone is looking forward to Summer. J. Rathbun explained that he was able to go to the Ecology Class for the day with the entire 6th grade. The teachers and staff were very appreciative of the wonderful lunch provided by the Food Service. J. Rathbun thanked Lillian, Beth and Tom for preparing the lunch.

4. MATTERS FOR SCHOOL BOARD INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

- a. Elementary School Renovation Project Overview:** J. Rathbun passed out drawings for the renovations project at MTC. He said there will be a lot of action very quickly. MTC is project #1 followed by Emerson and hopefully Troy. Fencing will be put up on June 13

at MTC. The softball field will be moved and the playground will come down. It was explained that the playground can not be reused for safety reasons. MTC will be shut down for the summer. The administration will get the word out regarding the changes. The new softball field will be built this summer and the new playground will start being built on August 1, 2024. The septic is also a project at MTC that will need to be done. The Beyond the Bell Summer Program will be housed at MRMHS and the Troy School. J. Rathbun explained that they are ready to go, the permits have come in and are submitted to the town. The Administration team is working on the transition of the Cutler students to MTC. It is not only about the kids it is also about the staff. It was suggested to form a committee. We have never seen this consolidation as a reduction of staff. It is the hope of the administration to get work at Emerson and to have the additions up this winter. He commented that he and the staff would like to leave the Troy students at the Troy School during the renovations. This is what is best for the students. June 18 is the groundbreaking at MTC and the Board will plan the time and what it would look like. Hutter is ready. There had been a survey regarding what to call MTC with the consolidation of the Cutler students. Everyone agreed that MTC should stay that name. They would work on a logo and maybe name something after Cutler. There is also the issue of using the mascot from both MTC and Cutler.

b. District Organizational Chart Overview: The Organizational Chart was passed out to the Board and the Budget Committee. J. Rathbun explained.

c. Vacancies Report: The vacancy report was passed out to the Board and the Budget Committee. There has been great progress with filling in the vacancies. There are currently 28 vacancies and there are 4 interviews this week for elementary school teachers. J. Rathbun also said that there are interviews in the next few weeks. By the end of June the number of vacancies should be cut in half. E. Sheldon would like the report to show the start date. J. Rathbun said it may not show what you want. He will bring the information to the next Budget Committee meeting. ***D. LeClair leaves the meeting.***

d. Overview of MDEA (Monadnock District Education Association): J. Rathbun passed out information regarding the current MDEA Contract. The complete contract is on the website. The information passed out showed the steps, the health insurance buy out as well as the percentage paid by the district and the fact that the GMR came in at 18.4% instead of 19.5% which the district budgeted for. No information on the negotiations for the new MDEA contract was discussed. The Board asked the Budget Committee for motions regarding what they might want the Board to take into consideration for the upcoming contract.

e. Proposed Changes to the Budget Process: The Finance/Facilities Committee is proposing a spreadsheet on a proposed budget process schedule. The committees reviewed the information and the Board would ask the Budget Committee to reconsider the December 17, 2024 Joint Meeting date. The Board would suggest an earlier date.

f. Student Government Report: There is no Student Government Report tonight.

g. **Board Meeting Calendar & Goals Update:** The Board reviewed the spread sheet of the upcoming meetings and goal dates of the committees.

5. **BEGIN RECESS (Board):**

6. **MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BUDGET COMMITTEE ACTION:**

a. **Minutes of April 23, 2024: MOTION:** S. Burgess **MOVED** to approve the April 23, 2024 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** W. Lechliden-abstain and all remaining members-yes. **Motion passes.**

b. **Setting Next Meeting's Agenda June 25, 2024:** The next Budget Committee Meeting is on June 25, 2024. The committee will discuss changing the date of the Joint Meeting along with a number of issues.

c. **Adjournment: MOTION:** A. M. Osheyack **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 PM. **SECOND:** J. Gettens. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY: Yes/No/Abstain/Absent