

**Monadnock Regional School District
Education/Technology Meeting Minutes
May 22, 2024
SAU Conference Room, Swanzey, NH**

Members Present: Scott Peters, Gina Carraro and Edmond LaPlante.

Also Present: J. Rathbun, Superintendent, M. Caron and L. Aivaliotis, Recording Secretary.

1. **Call the Meeting to Order:** G. Carraro called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
2. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments.
3. **Go over feedback from administration regarding cell phone policy:** J. Rathbun commented that he is glad that the committee is bringing this issue up. The principals and the administration have not had an issue with the cell phones. At the elementary school level there is not a cell phone issue. The issue may be the apple watches but not a big deal. At the MRMHS level there is a lot of feedback from the administration. They are looking at the cellphone issue. He explained what they are doing to tackle the issue. They are trying to teach respect with the cellphones. The cellphones are not an issue in the classrooms. The hallways, bathrooms and the cafeteria is where there is an issue. It is believed that there will be an issue if they are banned altogether unless it is well thought out. The ends do not justify the means. The parents will say do not tell me my child cannot have a cell phone. J. Rathbun commented that he will be the one dealing with the angry parents. Is it fair to punish the 14 year old when the parents said to have the phone. The teachers are in charge and do not want the fight. E.LaPlante asked if the students and parents are asked to sign the handbook. They will know the rules. J. Rathbun said the parents do care but there is about 5%-6% who do not. It will take a lot of time away from the administration and it will be a lot to enforce. J. Rathbun said he does not see a lot of social media issues. J.Rathbun explained that school wide there are rules. The students know when they can use their phones based on the colored magnets. He commented that there are other issues to address such as vaping in the bathrooms, the dress code and unexcused absences. We have policies and rules in place but we have parents that take up a lot of the administration's time. It is compromising education. It takes a lot of energy. We need to get to a point to have the Board say to the parents stop calling for these issues. S.Peters said that we need to work toward something.
M. Caron joins the meeting. J. Rathbun suggested putting the cell phones in the bags. This is not an elementary school issue. The issues at hand are cell phones, the dress code, truancy and tobacco. S.Peters explained that we need to review the policies, find out where we are weak, see what needs to be done, make a plan, enforce and create a punishment. There needs to be something enforceable. Maybe an ad hoc committee with 3 meetings only. Matt Caron, a teacher at MRMHS, joined the discussion. J. Rathbun commented that years ago kids did not act as

badly as they do now. Parents are giving permission to be bad. There are kids that because of their parents they do not have to follow the rules. M. Caron commented that it is not a phone issue, it is what they are doing on the phones. He said that cell phones are not going away, embrace it and use it appropriately. **J. Rathbun leaves the meeting.**

4. Go over cross reference policies for cell phone review: The committee prepared a spreadsheet with a number of policies that they would like to review regarding the cell phone issue. S.Peters came up with a number of questions for the spreadsheet. They would like to get the administration, the staff and C. Czifrik involved in the discussion. The committee felt that they should stay on the cell phone issue first. M. Caron commented that if this can be addressed it stems from a lot of issues. If addressed it should be enforced. If we can make it a standard then we can make it part of Monadnock and it will impact the culture. He said it is being addressed but not enough.

5. Approval of the February 28, 2024 Ed/Tech Committee Meeting Minutes and the April 15, 2024 Ed/Tech Committee Meeting Minutes. MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to approve the February 28, 2024 Ed/Tech Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** G.Carraro. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes. MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to approve the April 15, 2024 Ed/Tech Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** G.Carraro. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

6. Setting the next meeting's date, time and agenda: The committee will meet on June 26, 2024. Review the cell phone policy, start the wellness/policy and discuss a new member for the committee.

7. Public Comments: There were no public comments

8. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: G. Carraro **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 PM. **SECOND:** E. LaPlante **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary