

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2021
Zoom/Hybrid, Swanzey, NH

Members Present: Kristen Noonan, Winston Wright, Colleen Toomey, Scott Peters, Betty Tatro, Cheryl McDaniel-Thomas, Michelle Connor, Karen Wheeler, Brian Bohannon and Nick Mosher. **Absent:** Eric Stanley, Dan LeClair and Lisa Steadman.

Administration Present: L. Witte, Superintendent, J. Rathbun, Director of Curriculum and Student Assessment and J. Morin, 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. **CALL TO ORDER:** S. Peters called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. He explained the meeting is hybrid. The cameras and microphones are set up. He thanked those in the room for their attendance. He explained it is required to have a physical quorum

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** A. Salzman and K. Stone said they could hear the meeting well.

3. **CELEBRATE MRSD:** The Boy’s Baseball Team recently won their Championship. Congratulations! **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the traditional \$75.00 swag per student for the Boy’s Baseball Team. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **DISCUSSION:** B. Tatro would suggest increasing the amount. S. Peters explained the previous teams received jackets and then changed it to \$75.00 per student. B. Bohannon said to be consistent. K. Noonan said there is no policy on this. L. Witte does not believe there is a policy. **VOTE:** 9.002/0/0/2.998. **Motion passes.**

4. **MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:**

a. **District Mask Policy:** **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to reduce the current mask policy to optional unless >3’ distance cannot be maintained. To be reevaluated prior to the return to school in August. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **DISCUSSION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas asked what if there are groups of kids that cannot get vaccinated. S. Peters said that is a parent’s prerogative. N. Mosher commented that vaccinated and unvaccinated people wear masks. He said this is very aggressive and he is not in favor of it. M. Connor is concerned it may cause students issues such

as he wears a mask and she doesn't. L. Witte commented that many of the summer programs are outside and summer is a good time to see if this works. N. Mosher is comfortable with the change for the outside activities but indoors continue to wear masks. L. Witte explained outdoors no masks, this is shifting indoors. S. Peters explained little ones playing all together will have to wear masks. **VOTE:** 6.546/1.335/1.122/3.998. **Motion passes.**

b. Fall 2021 Reopening Concept: L. Witte explained this is the 2nd draft for the Reopening. Parents and employees were asked to complete a survey. The information on the 2nd draft was a result of the survey. There are a few revisions required by the State to access grant funds. The draft is due June 23, 2021. She would ask for any comments prior to the date. She had sent it out to parents and received 6 responses. It includes DHHS guidance and the NHIAA guidance. She does expect changes on the final version. **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the Reopening Concept documentation as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **DISCUSSION:** B. Tatro asked if we talked to the attorney about following DHHS and not CDC and we have an outbreak. L. Witte said that is a great question. Many districts follow DHHS due to lack of guidance. To follow DHHS we are working in our scope. It is a reliable source. There are about 10% of staff who are not vaccinated. It is not required and is optional. We are not actively tracking the staff. N. Mosher said he feels there may be issues the Board will have to deal with regarding some staff not vaccinated. **VOTE:** 8.789/2.130/0/3.998. **Motion passes.**

c. Bids for MRMHS 4 Classroom Addition: J. Morin explained the District received 5 bids for the 4 classroom addition. DEW Construction came in with the lowest bid which was in our budget in the amount of \$1,074,000.00. None of the companies would be able to start until the Spring. She has had good experience with DEW. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to award the MRMHS 4 classroom addition bid to DEW Construction. **SECOND:** M. Connor. **VOTE:** 9.002/0/0/3.998. **Motion passes.**

d. Motion to Encumber Unallocated Funds: S. Peters explained the Board will save a spot if there is a need to use unallocated funds. J. Morin explained the Emerson energy project in the amount of \$14,563.55 was brought up. This would change the lighting to LED. This project is in the CIP and listed at \$55,000.00. She did forward this to K. Barker. **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to bypass the District's 3 bid policy and to apply \$14,564.00 in FY21 unallocated funds towards the replacement of lighting at Emerson School by Eversource Energy. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 8.789/0/.213/3.998. **Motion passes.**

e. Budget Transfers: J. Morin presented two budget transfers, the first transfer is a request from L. Spencer from a number of budget lines to Classroom Furniture/Equipment in the amount of \$9400.00 and the other budget transfer request from J. Morin in the amount of \$197,660.00 coming from a number of budget lines will cover the retirement incentive. **MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to approve the budget transfers as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 9.002/0/0/3.998. **Motion passes.**

f. Manifest: **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** the manifest in the amount of \$3,295,329.78. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 9.002/0/0/3.998. **Motion passes.**

g. Rate of Pay for Summer School Faculty and Staff (Policy IHCA): L. Witte explained the summer pay is level at the MDEA contract and is at \$27.00 an hour. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to set the rate of pay for the summer 2021 outside of the school year pay to \$27.00 an hour. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** J. Rathbun explained Summer School, ESY, Beyond the Bell teachers are not included in this motion. F. Ashworth has a set number and Title One also has a set number. **Friendly amendment:** Not to include grant funded positions and to follow MDEA teachers. K. Noonan commented the contract should trump the policy. S. Peters called the motion out of order. S. Peters asked that the Policy Committee look at this item. J. Rathbun explained we are fully staffed for the summer and have junior leaders to help.

h. Approve Data Governance Plan (Policy EHAB): C. Czifrik explained the only change on the document is the date. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the Data Governance Plan documented in Policy EHAB for 2021/22. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher said we need to have this on the shelf to check the boxes but it is very difficult to read. L. Witte explained we currently enforce and implement all of them. We use this every day. It works. We have internal resources to implement the plan. C. Czifrik said it is basically the structure of regulation that we follow. It is basically an emergency plan. We cannot be 100% ready but we feel we are in a good place as far as security goes. We receive yearly training. **VOTE:** 9.002/0/0/3.998. **Motion passes.**

i. June 1st, 2021 Minutes: **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to approve the June 1, 2021 Public and two sets of Non-Public School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** K. Noonan **VOTE:** 8.789/0/.213/3.998. **Motion passes.**

5. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

a. 2021/2022 Instructional Plan: J. Rathbun presented the 2021/2022 Instructional Plan. He is presenting it as a first read. The curriculum cycle has seen major adjustments. We wanted to repeat 2019/2020. There are big changes in guidance. The School Board approved the District-wide position. This position will work with guidance and implement the guidance work with the school counselors and bring in the Wellness piece. Explore what our new wellness curriculum could look like, let's be flexible. We may look at this differently with the social emotional needs. We need to think about the next 5 years, we are getting to the end of the 5-year cycle. We are in need of looking at Math. ELA did not suffer this year but Math did. We will need to rethink and plan the next 5-year cycle. J. Rathbun and L. Witte are speaking to the principals about the change in the assessment. There will be a lot of conversation. L. Witte explained this is how we have presented Instructional Plan for the last 7 years. J. Rathbun explained the administration will get the curriculum leaders and principals together to figure out the priorities to focus on. The big focus is responsive classrooms. The curriculum leaders will meet in August. L. Witte reminded the Board the guidance counselors were hired as part of the budget proposal.

b. Preview of Educational Spec Survey: J. Rathbun explained he has had a

conversation with K. Barker regarding the survey. There are certain questions that need to be answered. It was explained the first group is the SAU administration and the Board who will be asked to take the survey. There are about 28 questions. Each group is not required to answer all of them because there are specific questions for the Board and the administration. The Board saw a sample of the survey. K. Barker wants to hear what you are thinking. The next survey will go to the building administrators, teachers, nurses, paras and it will be multiple choice. This is a lengthy process to get as many people involved. We will give the data to K. Barker. This survey will be emailed out tomorrow.

c. Operations/Superintendent's Report:

d. Demo of BoardDocs: S. Peters gave a demonstration of BoardDocs. He showed the Board where to find a certain policy on the website.

e. Policy Committee Progress & Plan to review referred motion: K. Noonan explained there were 2 motions referred to the Policy Committee from the Board. At our last meeting we did not tackle them but did discuss them. There are at least 7 different policies that could be part of the 2 policies. S. Peters explained the Policy Committee is planning on using most of the next meeting and working in depth comparing the 7 policies to the motion. It was explained that the 7 policies are updated with the NHSBA. K. Noonan explained we still have a backlog of policies. This past meeting, we had 6 policies and it took 2 ½ hours. S. Peters said this may take a while. S. Peters explained in D. LeClair's motions are stated in the positive not negative. It was commented the Board had received a letter from the staff opposing the policies presented. K. Noonan asked if it is the will of the Board to look at everything, C. McDaniel-Thomas commented we have a lot of this covered in other policies. We should let this lie for the time being. **MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to retract the recommendation for the Policy Committee to review the 2 motions made by D. LeClair on May 18, 2021. **SECOND:** M. Connor. **DISCUSSION:** it was commented that D. LeClair is not present tonight. K. Noonan said she could put the 7 policies in the packets. C. McDaniel-Thomas said it is premature and to put it to bed tonight. D. LeClair saw it on the agenda. **VOTE:** 9.546/0/0/3.454. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to oppose the 2 policies proposed by D. LeClair at the May 18, 2021 Meeting. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **DISCUSSION:** K. Wheeler agrees with the motion but D. LeClair is not in attendance. She is concerned this will be repeated if we vote tonight. K. Noonan commented D. LeClair did ask to be at the Policy Committee when this is discussed and he said he would be in attendance for the July Policy Meeting. **MOTION:** K. Wheeler **MOVED** to table the motion until the July 20, 2021 Board Meeting. **SECOND:** K. Noonan **VOTE:** 2.987/5.561/.998/3.454. **Motion fails.** **VOTE to oppose the 2 policies:** 9.546/0/0/3.454. **Motion passes.**

f. Policies for First Read:

i. EEAEA/EEAEA-R-Mandatory Drug and Alcohol Testing:

ii. IJOC/IJOC-R-Volunteers

iii. IKFA-Early Graduation: K. Noonan explained these are the policies for a first read. If there are questions or comments, please email. She has attached a few notifications

but not required to be approved by the Board, FYI

6. SETTING MEETING'S AGENDA:

- a. Approve Instructional Plan**
- b. Data Plan**
- c. Return to School Plan**
- d. Ethics Policy and Form**
- e. Approve Ed. Spec. Part 1**
- f. CRC Report**

7. Public Comments: Yvonne Peters of Troy could hear the meeting clearly. She said it was great to see everyone together. She heard they do not make the filled cookies anymore.

J. Morin explained the construction meeting went well.

8. 9:06PM Non-Public Session Under RSA 91-A:3-II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee: MOTION: C. Toomey **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3-II (b): The hiring of any person as a public employee. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 9.546/0/0/3.454. **Motion passes.**

9. 9:15 PM Non-Public Session Under RSA 91-A:3-II (a) Compensation of any public employee: MOTION: C. Toomey **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3-II (a) **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE:** 9.546/0/0/3.454. **Motion passes.**

10. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: C. Toomey **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 PM. **SECOND:** W. Wright **VOTE:** 9.546/0/0/3.454. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY:Yes/No/Abstain/Absent