

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
(Approved Minutes) corrected 6/7/16
May 4, 2016
Troy Elementary School, Troy, NH

Members Present: Betty Tatro, Cheryl McDaniel-Thomas, Phyllis Peterson, Scott Peters, Lisa Steadman, Karen Wheeler, Winston Wright, Joseph Smith, Nicholas Mosher, Mike Blair and Bob Mitchell. **Absent:** James Carnie and Eric Stanley.

Administration present: L. Witte, Superintendent and J. Fortson, Business Manager.

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. Public Comments:** M. Diven would like the Board to place the issue of the Gilsum Principal for the summer on the Board agenda.

G. Hoffman of 659 Swanzey Lake Rd. would like the District to be very selective on hiring coaches. He would also like all emails or phone calls from the school to his children to go through him first. He does not like an adult contacting his children. He would ask the Board to consider a policy.

C. Beauregard has been told he needs a certificate of insurance in order for his adult softball team to use the Mt. C fields. L. Steadman said a certificate of insurance from the league will do.

- 2. MINUTES: MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the April 19, 2016 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 9.682/0/0/3.318. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the April 19, 2016, 9:28 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** N. Mosher **VOTE:** 9.682/0/0/3.318. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: N. Mosher **MOVED** to accept the April 19, 2016, 9:40 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE:** 9.682/0/0/3.318. **Motion passes.**

- 3. Student Government Report:** M. Blair introduced the two student representatives to the Board, Tyler Blair and Joe Reppucci. They will be non-voting members. L. Kalloger had asked the entire student body for volunteers and Tyler and Joe came forward. Tyler Blair reported on the students who received the Conservation Award of Excellence on April 20, 2016. There was a Pep Rally for the Spring Sports Teams. The Prom Court was announced.

The prom is on May 7, 2016 and the tickets are almost sold out. Tomorrow is Project Crash. The NH Scholars will be going to the Fisher Cats Game tomorrow.

It was suggested to send a Board packet to the two student representatives.

4. Superintendent Report:

a. Correspondence and Announcements: MOTION: N. Mosher **MOVED** to approve a field trip to Boston for the 8th grade class on May 27, 2016. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 9.682/0/0/3.318. **Motion passes.**

Program Presentation for 2016-/17: L. Witte presented a Program Proposal to the Board. She explained the entire administration here tonight worked on this proposal. She explained in October the administration had a proposal for an additional Modified Core Teacher which the administration felt was an effective model and an important position. The slideshow feedback presentation was the biggest slice. In March the budget did not pass but the administration felt the position was still important. She explained the administration discussed behavior, disabilities and Special Education of the students. The discussion was what to do in a default budget to meet the needs of those students. The administration team has been meeting to discuss an action plan. Tonight they are presenting a plan and proposal to meet the needs of all students. The principals met with the staff at each school to discuss the proposal. The proposal is to develop and implement a Cognitive Program that will provide students in the District a grade level appropriate instruction and academic support. This proposal will involve 8 students in K-2 housed at Mt. C. and 11 students in grades 3-6 housed at Cutler. The proposal will also develop and implement a Behavioral Program in the District. This will support students K-6 with behavioral needs. There will be students in grades K-2 housed at Mt. C. and students in grades 3-6 housed at Cutler. L. Witte explained the intent is to do the proposal in the Default budget and there is a savings of \$36,000.00. L. Witte explained the other services needed for the proposal are at a cost savings of \$68,000.00. The intent of this was not to save. The overall Program Proposal is \$104,000.00 in savings. There are other considerations such as transportation, curriculum development, looking at the preschool as part of this shift to a skills program, additional furniture and curriculum supplies. The administration will have to meet with parents in an IEP meeting for parent approval. Finally the District will have to have State approval. This year they will pursue approval from the NH DOE for the Cognitive Program and next year pursue approval from the NH DOE for the Behavioral Program. At the MS/HS there will be a shift for the Resource Room and the location will be worked on. All programs to be used with existing staff. The MS/HS will have the Resource Room, the SMART Program, Life Skills and Remediation Reading. M. Blair would like the Board to digest the information and ask questions at the next meeting. **J. Smith arrives.** L. Witte explained this proposal is being made in order to meet the needs of all students. This is not a self contained program. The student in the Behavioral Program will not be there all day. They will be in there 40% of the time and hopefully it is only temporary. P. Peterson appreciates the report. L. Steadman expressed concern that we may be moving away from inclusion. Research shows it benefits students with or without discipline and if not at this time move towards it in the future. B. Mitchell thanked the CRC and the administration. He asked if these programs are similar to those that existed at Cutler and Mt. C. T. Kennett said yes and no and explained. L. Witte

said with State Certification the program can be used as a more self contained model and help keep more kids in the District. B. Tatro asked if there would be any kids coming back into the District. L. Witte said no. M. Blair would like the Board to digest the information.

b. Business Administrator Report: J. Fortson reported the SAU staff and the teachers contracts have been sent out. It is open enrollment for the employees to select their insurance. Along with the manifest J. Fortson has provided the bank balance. She said Policy KF Facilities Use Policy updated on 12/21/2010 states a certificate of insurance must be received and approved prior to the event on the calendar. This is to protect the District. She did not know the fields were being used.

5. BOARD CHAIR REPORT:

a. Chair Report: M. Blair commented the Board Bios were due tonight. He would ask the members to make sure they send them to L. Reinhart within the next few days. The Board will be reviewing the NESDEC Report. He would like to have a Board Retreat in either July or August. He would like to continue with the Legislative Round Table discussion and anyone interested who wishes to attend. He had attended the Swanzey Select Board Meeting on a different agenda item. He would like to have the Board engage in a conversation with the Select Boards in the District.

8:00 PM: M. Blair recessed the Board Meeting for a non-meeting to discuss with their attorney.

The Board returned to the Board Meeting.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MOTIONS:

a. Community Relations Committee: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** on behalf of the CRC to accept the Community Relation Committee Charter as presented. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher asked if this is a year to year charter. M. Blair said yes. It is to give direction for the committee, use as guidance and you do not need to reinvent the wheel. **VOTE:** 10.804/0/0/2.196. **Motion passes.**

S. Peters presented the Board with the feedback results from the Round Table Discussion at the MS/HS. The CRC gave specific questions to the staff who attended the discussion. There were anonymous answers that were discussed. The committee shared the information with the Superintendent and the principals of the schools. The process started in June of 2015. S. Peters stated the number of staff who participated in the discussions. A summary of the six questions were given to the specific committees to be worked on. He does not believe the committees have had a chance to address the issues. S. Peters would ask the committee chairs to take a look at the results. The #1 feedback is the staffing and the growing needs of the students. He suggested passing this to a third party to address the sessions and keeping the same six questions. M. Blair thanked S. Peters for championing that process and allowing the District to be better.

b. Policy Committee: MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy Committee to request that the NHSBA assist the MRSD in a Policy Manual Review.

SECOND: P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** L. Steadman explained the rationale. L. Steadman said the \$1200.00 is money well spent. J. Fortson asked if the funds would come from the next year's budget. L. Steadman said she would like to start sooner than later. There is a concern it will not be a thorough job. B. Mitchell has a high expectation of the attorney and the NHSBA and agrees with L. Steadman. W. Wright said it is needed. It was asked if there is a timeline to delay to another budget. If it is not a thorough job they will be liable. N. Mosher said it is a great idea but to be realistic in the expectations. He does not believe it will be thorough. L. Steadman explained there will be a written report at the end of the process. **VOTE:** 10.804/0/0/2.196. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy Committee to accept the Policy Committee Charter as presented. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **DISCUSSION:** M. Blair said the committee did a great job. **VOTE:** 10.804/0/0/2.196. **Motion passes.**

The Policy Committee presented the following policies to the Board for a first read: Policy BEA Regular Board Meetings, Policy BDA Board Organizational Meeting and Policy BDE Board Committee and Delegates.

The Policy Committee presented the group of 13 Technology Policies to the Board for a first read.

c. Extracurricular Activities Committee: S. Peters reported the committee met this evening and discussed a budget report on the individual sports. T. Cote has been working on the research and future process of the sports teams and will be reporting at the next meeting on May 17, 2016. The committee asked for additional information on the hockey team. The committee will discuss bringing a motion to the Board in June regarding the hockey team funding.

d. Negotiations: L. Steadman reported she and W. Wright were elected co-chairs. The committee discussed the failed contract.

e. STEAM: B. Tatro reported the committee met last night and will present the STEAM Charter to be voted on at the next meeting.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Food Service Update: L. Witte had asked T. Walsh to look at the current balances owed by the students. The bulk of the funds owed are at the MS/HS. The administration at the MS/HS has been as proactive as possible. T. Walsh explained 30% of the students District Wide are on free and reduced lunch. Troy is at 50% free and reduced lunch. L. Steadman asked if there is any success to encourage parents to fill out the Free and Reduced Lunch applications. T. Walsh explained the application is mailed along with the bill. Everyone wanting to enroll in the ACES Program must fill out the application. T. Walsh commented he had asked the Board for \$23,000.00 last year for the shortfall and this year the number will be around \$5,000.00.

8. NON-MEETING- Attorney Consultation: M. Blair and S. Peters recused themselves from the next discussion. They leave the room. L. Witte reported the Board did meet with their attorney regarding the \$510,000.00. They are addressing the issue and have asked the attorney what is the right thing to do. The Board took no action. They will wait to hear from the attorney who will discuss this issue with the DRA.

M. Blair and S. Peters return to the meeting.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Action on the Manifest: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of \$1,875,068.19. **SECOND:** P. Peters. **VOTE:** 10.804/0/0/2.196. **Motion passes.**

b. Other New Business as may come before the Board:

10. Setting Next Meeting's Agenda:

- a. NESDEC Study**
- b. Gilsum**
- c. STEAM Charter**
- d. Nurses**
- e. Proposed Program -Superintendent**

11. Public Comments: There were no Public Comments.

12. 9:10 PM Motion to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person. MOTION: J. Smith **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person. **SECOND:** B. Mitchell. **VOTE:** 10.804/0/0/2.196. **Motion passes.**

13. 9:30 PM Motion to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Setting Compensation: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to enter into non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Hiring of a Public Employee. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 10.804/0/0/2.196. **Motion passes.**

14. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: J. Smith **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 PM. **SECOND:** N. Mosher **VOTE:** 10.804/0/0/2.196. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording secretary