

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2019 (Not Yet Approved)
Monadnock Regional, Swanzey, NH

Members Present: Winston Wright, Kristen Noonan, Nicholas Mosher, Scott Peters, Colleen Toomey, Karen Wheeler, Rob Colbert, Brian Bohannon, Lisa Steadman, Neil Moriarty, Eric Stanley. **Absent:** Betty Tatro and Unassigned seat for Swanzey.

Administration Present: L. Witte, Superintendent, J. Rathbun, Director of Curriculum and Assessment and J. Swanson, 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:** L. Steadman opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

a) **#Let’s CelebrateMRSD:**

i. **Lillian Sutton; NHAEOP Office Professional of the Year:** L. Witte informed the Board that L. Sutton has won NHAEOP Professional of the Year and was honored at a luncheon in the White Mtn. It is a great honor for Monadnock.

ii. **Ecology School:** J. Rathbun explained all of the 6th graders in the District attended the Ecology School. J. Rathbun also stayed Monday-Thursday with the kids. The principals attended on specific days and L. Witte also went for the day. It was a very positive experience.

iii. **Spring Concerts;** Troy School had a Spring Concert and they did a great job. Cutler will have their concert tomorrow. The High School Marching Band will have a BBQ and at the BBQ the Band and Sports teams will be honored for their championships.

iv. Deb Gove thanked the Board for the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon. She said it was great.

4. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a) Policies for Second Read:

i. IGCD/IMBC-Advanced College Placement: ` MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to retire Policy IGCD and update IMBC as presented by the NHSBA with recommended edits from administration. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes.**

ii. JLCA/JLCA-R-Physical Examination of Students: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to update Policy JLCA as presented by NHSBA with edits from administration and to retire JLCA-R. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes.**

b) Policies for First and Second Read (motion to leverage policy BGB and waive first read) MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** per Policy BGB the Board shall waive the requirement for a first and second read and take action on the following policies at the first read (this evening) This motion requires a $\frac{2}{3}$ approval. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** There is an urgency on the approval of these policies due to a Title One Audit. **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes.**

i. BCB-Board Member Conflict of Interest: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to update Policy BCB with recommended language from the current NHSBA sample policy. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **DISCUSSION:** N. Moriarty mentioned if a contract was being voted on certain members could not vote. S. Peters explained those of us with spouses working in the District cannot participate in the vote. S. Peters said the audit called this policy out of date. This policy is blended together because we want to keep some of our policy. **VOTE:** 9.787/.213/.757/1.122. **Motion passes.**

ii. BIBA-School Board Conferences Convention and Workshops: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to update Policy BIBA with the current NHSBA sample as presented. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 10.544/0/.213/1.122. **Motion passes.**

iii. DA-Fiscal Management Plan: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to notate Policy DA as last reviewed on 5/8/19 with no updates and to instruct the administration to provide both DA and DAF-2 when responding to the Federal Fiscal Monitoring Report. **SECOND:** K. Noonan **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes.**

iv. DID-Inventories: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to update Policy DID to a limit of \$5000.00 for capital depreciation to keep our general policy in line with policy DAF-6. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **DISCUSSION:** The administration did comment on the \$5000.00 limit. **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes.**

v. **DJ-Purchasing: MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to update Policy DJ with the legal references included in the current NHSBA sample. **SECOND:** N. Moriarty. **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes.**

vi **DJB-Purchasing Procedure: MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to update Policy DJB with the legal references included in the current NHSBA sample. **SECOND:** N. Moriarty. **DISCUSSION:** It was commented that the Board requires 3 bids and it should be in this policy or referenced. A friendly amendment to cross reference Policy DJE. **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes.**

vii. **DKC/DKC-R: Expense Authorization/Reimbursement (and form): MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to update Policy DKC as presented by committee and to retire Policy DKC-R. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **DISCUSSION:** The mileage forms are in the mileage policy. Staff are required to fill out the forms for reimbursement. **VOTE:** 10.544/0/.231/1.122. **Motion passes.**

viii. **DM-Cash in School Buildings: MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to update Policy DM with committee edits as presented. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes.**

ix. **GBEA-Staff Ethics: MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to update Policy GBEA with edits presented by committee. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **DISCUSSION:** This policy has not been updated since 1999. **VOTE:** 9.642/0/1.115/1.122. **Motion passes.**

MRI, Sheriff Riviera and Chief DeAngelis-Armed School Security Officer: L. Witte explained there has been a lot of conversation about the SRO and the SSO. We had a warrant article for an SSO which failed. We have a SRO and continue to have that position. We are discussing if we need an armed officer in the school, an SRO or an armed SSO. She did have a conversation with the Chief and met with the Sheriff and had a great conversation. J. O'Shaughnessy mentioned the MRI might be able to help with the armed SSO. Alan and Rich from MRI gave their background in law enforcement. Sheriff Riviera also explained his law enforcement background and mentioned the School Marshall. This is for situations like Monadnock. This individual will be trained and have jurisdiction while on site. Unfortunately, this may not happen soon enough. He did comment that it is important for the MS/HS to have their own person because there is plenty of work there. He mentioned the other towns with schools and they can use the local police or in some situations the State Police or Sheriff Dept. Chief DeAngelis commented that he would like to see Frank DeTurris armed and remain in the school. S. Peters commented the Board would need an action list of items to get our SSO armed.

Alan from MRI said jurisdiction is the issue and the Sheriff Marshall is a long way out. Sheriff Riviera explained the conversation about the School Marshall is being discussed on June 4, 2019. R. Colbert asked if Sept. 1, 2019 would be a reasonable time for the School Marshall. Sheriff Riviera said he could not say. Alan from MRI said the SRO is the way to go. There are so many advantages. They cannot recommend the armed SSO. The SRO is paid through the police dept but the District sends their share to the police department. The best of both worlds would be to turn F. DeTurris into a law enforcement person. R. Colbert said the issue is not the cost but to arm or not arm F. DeTurris. The opinion of the MRI is do not arm a civilian. It was commented the Chief feels he can work with F. DeTurris and make him a part time police officer. S. Peters explained in 2016 we wanted to arm F. DeTurris. L. Witte explained if you change F. DeTurris to a police officer it will change the relationship with the school. Sheriff Riviera said his recommendation is a SRO but move toward the armed School Marshall. Rich from MRI said to look at the benefits of having a police officer here every day. The first responder on site. Uniformed officers make the staff feel safe. The relationships with kids and families is huge. Liability has to be looked at. You will be on the hook. If it is a civilian the District will be accountable. B. Bohannon asked the cost of our SSO. It was explained it is about \$80,000.00 including benefits. Riviera mentioned that Brattleboro has a SRO and a SSO. Rich said that does happen in many Districts, only one person is armed. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to move in the direction of a SRO and a SSO. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **DISCUSSION:** Alan from MRI suggested partnering with the police enforcement. K. Wheeler said we would need a warrant article and it is unfortunate of the timing. B. Bohannon said he does not feel obligated to do a warrant article. We have zero public at the meetings. Our responsibility is to do something this year. R. Colbert would agree. We cannot wait any longer. Times are different. N. Mosher is concerned with school safety but he would like to ask the administration where the funds will come from and what will be affected. J. Swanson explained the administration has not looked at the budget in regards to this position. **MOTION:** K. Wheeler **MOVED** to table the motion until the next meeting in order to gather more information. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **VOTE:** K.Noonan-yes, W. Wright-no, K. Wheeler-yes, N. Mosher-yes, N. Moriarty-no, B. Bohannon-no, R. Colbert-no, E. Stanley-no, S. Peters-no, L. Steadman-no, C. Toomey-no.

3.16/7.579/0/1.122. **Motion fails.** **DISCUSSION:** B. Bohannon would like to hire a SRO and keep the SSO for next year. We have had a surplus and realize and appreciate we have reduced it but we will still have it. He also has gone through the budget and do believe we will have extra. K. Wheeler said there is a change in the Business Office and the surplus may be reduced. She does not agree on voting we need to look at the budget. She is also concerned by the public

reaction. N. Mosher asked the opinion of the administration. L. Witte said she does not have an opinion. We are still in the process of hiring positions. Still early in the hiring process. Hopefully, we do not have a lot of summer departures. It was asked if the Finance Committee should look at this. S. Peters said we have had people look at this position. Move in the direction of preparing budgetary estimates. We can work with the police department with the administration. B. Bohannon asked the Chief if he knew the cost of the SRO within \$5000.00. Chief DeAngelis said he cannot speak without the Town administrator or select board. The Chief said there are many stakeholders. L. Steadman said we have the estimates from years ago and we can inflate them. Alan from MRI suggested a motion to initiate the process. **Friendly amendment:** to initiate the process of engaging in the SRO Program and the SSO Program. **B. Bohannon and R. Colbert agree to the friendly amendment. DISCUSSION:** N. Moriarty said there is a 3 bid requirement. **VOTE:** K. Noonan-yes, W. Wright-yes, K. Wheeler-yes, N. Moriarty-no, N. Mosher-yes, B. Bohannon-yes, R. Colbert-yes, E. Stanley-yes, C. Toomey-yes, S. Peters-yes, L. Steadman-yes. 9.682/1.075/0/1.122. **Motion passes.**

c) Finance Committee Motions:

i. Approval of Budget Transfer for Floor Scrubber \$13,155.00:

MOTION: K. Wheeler **MOVED** to transfer in the amount of \$13,155.00 from Maintenance Supply to Maintenance Equipment for the purchase of a floor scrubber on behalf of the Finance Committee. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes.**

ii. Approve encumbering end-of-year fund balance for the following:

1. ELA Curricular Materials \$195,293.61: MOTION: K. Wheeler

MOVED to approve encumbering \$195,293.61 for ELA Curricular Materials for grades K-6 from the end-of-year fund balance on behalf of the Finance Committee. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** J. Rathbun explained the new curricular materials to the Board. N. Mosher will be looking forward to see how this program is working. **VOTE:** 9.682/1.075/.075/1.122 **Motion passes.**

2. Tractor \$34,000.00: MOTION: K. Wheeler **MOVED** to approve

encumbering \$34,000.00 for a new tractor from the end-of-year fund balance and to waive the 3 bid requirement on behalf of the Finance Committee. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **DISCUSSION:** R. Colbert would suggest a budget line item for replacement and recycling. J. Swanson explained a warrant article for the next budget cycle was discussed. **VOTE:** 10,757/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes.**

3. Truck with Plow \$44,931.00: MOTION: K. Wheeler **MOVED** to approve encumbering \$39,452.00 for a Chevy Truck with a plow from the end-of-the year fund balance on behalf of the Finance Committee. **SECOND:** N. Moriarty. **DISCUSSION:** D. LaPointe had received 3 bids. **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes.**

4. MRMHS Painting Hallways, Lockers and Doorframes \$76,600: MOTION: K. Wheeler **MOVED** to approve encumbering up to \$76,600 for painting from the end-of-the-year fund balance on behalf of the Finance Committee. **SECOND:** N. Moriarty. **DISCUSSION:** B. Bohannon said he has no problem with painting but this should go in front of the voters. W. Wright said if you wait a year the voters may reject it and the cost will go up. **VOTE:** 9.422/1.122/.213/1.122. **Motion passes.**

iii. All requests for encumbering end-of-year fund balance must go through the Finance Committee for approval prior to coming to the full Board on June 11, 2019: MOTION: K. Wheeler **MOVED** that all requests for encumbering end-of-year fund balance must go through the Finance Committee for approval prior to coming to the full Board on June 11, 2019. **SECOND:** N. Moriarty. **DISCUSSION:** E. Stanley would disagree. Something might come up and we do not want to limit ourselves. **VOTE:** K. Noonan-no, W. Wright-yes, K. Wheeler-yes, N. Moriarty-yes, N. Mosher-no, R. Colbert-no, B. Bohannon-no, C. Toomey-no, S. Peters-no, L. Steadman-no and E. Stanley-no 2.947/7.810/0/1.122. **Motion fails.**

d) Facilities Committee Motions:

i. Approve Warrenstreet Architects bid for the feasibility study \$26,000.00: MOTION: K. Wheeler **MOVED** to approve the bid in the amount of \$26,000.00 from Warrenstreet Architects for the feasibility study on behalf of the Facilities Committee. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **DISCUSSION:** K. Wheeler explained there were 2 companies that showed up for the question and answer meeting. Both companies received the same information and toured the buildings. J. Swanson had worked with Warrenstreet Architect before. She explained the process for the feasibility study, the preliminary report is due September 1, 2019. The State is looking at districts with preliminary plans. **VOTE:** 10.544/0/.213/1.122. **Motion passes.**

ii. Approve Class of 1969 Class Gift (bus wait structure at MRMHS): MOTION: K. Wheeler **MOVED** to approve the gift of a bus wait structure from the Class of 1969 as presented by the Facilities Committee. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes.**

e) **Ratify acceptance of resignation: MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to ratify the acceptance of the resignation. **SECOND:** R. Colbert **VOTE:** 6.689/0/4.068/1.122. **Motion passes.**

5. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

a) Board Chair Report:

i. **NHSBA Orientation:** L. Steadman and C. Toomey attended the NHSBA Orientation. C. Toomey said it was pretty interesting. She said there were mostly new Board Members.

ii. **Rules of Order:** L. Steadman commented on Policy BEDD and commented it is not advisable for the School Board to follow Robert's Rules of Order. She would like to ask the Policy Committee to look at Policy BEDD.

iii. **Senior Project Presentations 5/23, Scholastic Awards Night 6/5, Graduation 5/28 (ADP) and 6/8:** L. Steadman asked if there were any member attending the Senior Presentations and if so let L. Spencer know you are going. The Board should arrive at 9:45 PM for graduation on 6/8.

iv. **Cheshire Career Center Tours:** L. Steadman informed the Board the CCC tour will be scheduled over the summer.

v. The Facilities Committee will be meeting with Warrenstreet Architect on May 28, 2019 prior to the Budget Committee Meeting.

b) Operations/Superintendent's Report:

i. **Administrative Retreat:** L. Witte reported the administration will be at a retreat on June 17-19.

c) Educational Report:

i. **Split Grade Progression:** J. Rathbun reported on split grade progression as requested by the Board. He explained the difference between multi-aged and multi-grade. He said there will be professional development for the teachers to make them successful in the multi-age classrooms. There are teachers who want to try. J. Rathbun explained he was a multi-age classroom and he loved it. He will try and make it a two-year cycle. J. Rathbun explained the

other option for overcrowding was for Emerson to have the primary students and Troy to have the older grades. R. Colbert said it was not ideal. L. Witte commented this is a model that works. J. Rathbun explained this is a very popular model in smaller schools. N. Mosher is concerned with new staff being trained for the multi-aged classroom. J. Rathbun commented there are so many benefits. You are with the same teacher for 2 years. K. Wheeler commented it was great for her and her stepson. There were no negative issues. B. Bohannon would support it but not his choice. L. Steadman said there is no motion but we will have multi-aged classrooms.

ii. Classroom Capacity by Building/Class Size: J. Rathbun passed out information as requested by the Board on classroom capacity. The information is recommended by the DOE. We are not totally settled on the 2019-2020 plan. The principals are still hiring. S. Peters explained we have a policy with class size limits. J. Rathbun commented our conversation is how can we make sure we can give our kids what they need. J. Rathbun said the important information in regards to the feasibility study. J. Rathbun explained the principals are very creative. They will make it work. Every inch of Troy will be used. The office space may be tight. We want what is best for the kids first and then the adults.

6. OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

a. Straw Polling: The email from the attorney was in the Board packet. N. Moriarty commented you cannot use an email from 2016. L. Steadman said the process applies.

b. Superintendent Evaluation Process Update: W. Wright reported the committee has not met. We need to do what we did last year. K. Wheeler asked how we can make this happen. L. Steadman said the evaluation should have been completed. J. Rathbun explained we have a system that does the evaluation. If the Board has a process bring it to the administration and put it in the system. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to stay with the same evaluation process and initiate the process. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** L. Witte explained she would have to recreate the form on google, send it to the Board and the administrative team. She had done a self-evaluation as well. R. Colbert is uneasy with the person who is being evaluated is gathering and preparing the information. It was commented NHSBA should have an evaluation tool. L. Witte can send the information to the Board. L. Steadman will gather the information. **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes.**

c. Swanzey Board Seat Vacancy Update: E. Stanley explained there is a meeting set for June 6, 2019. There is someone interested in the position.

d. Budget Committee Liaison Report: B. Bohannon reported the Budget Committee is requesting the default budget information by early Sept. He commented the administration has done a good job in regards to the budget but be prepared for a lower proposed budget. They are requesting the wage sheets that had been provided in previous years. They will not stop asking. L. Witte explained they do not currently exist. We are recreating. We are working on critical items.

e. CRC is in need of members.

7. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. May 7, 2019 Minutes, May 7, 2019 Non-Public under c and May 7, 2019 Non-Public under b: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to approve the May 7, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes as amended, the May 7, 2019 Board Non-Public under c as presented and the May 7, 2019 Board Non-Public under b as presented. **SECOND:** N., Moriarty. **VOTE:** N. Moriarty-abstain, E. Stanley-abstain, L. Steadman-abstain, R. Colbert-abstain, B. Bohannon-abstain and yes for remaining members. **Motion passes.**

b. April 16, 2019 Sealed Meeting Minutes: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the April 16, 2019 Sealed Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **VOTE:** 8.561/0/2.197/1.122. **Motion passes.**

c. Manifest: MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of \$1,408,901.36. **SECOND:** N. Moriarty. **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes.**

8. Setting Next Agenda:

- 1. Authorize the business office to sign checks through the end of the fiscal year**
- 2. Authorize Superintendent to accept resignations and hire certified staff until September 2, 2019**
- 3. Encumber end-of-year fund balance**
- 4. Specials staffing (Art, Music, PE, Guidance)**
- 5. SSO-SRO**
- 6. Mileage Reimbursement**

9. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments.
10. **10:29 PM Non-Public Session: MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3,II (c) Matter which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/1.122 **Motion passes.**
11. **10:33 PM Non-Public Session: MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to enter into non-public under RSA 91-A:3, II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee. **SECOND:** N. Mosher **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes.**
12. **10:40 PM Non-Public Session: MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to enter into non-public under RSA 91-A:3, II (a) Compensation of any public employee. **SECOND:** E. Stanley **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes. N. Moriarty leaves during this non-public session.**
13. **Approval of a field trip: MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to approve the Senior Band field trip to West Forks, Maine **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes.**
14. **Sealing of May 21, 2019 10:40 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes until June 30, 2019: MOTION:** R. Colbert **MOVED** to seal the May 21, 2019 10:40 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes until June 30, 2019. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler. **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes.**
15. **ADJOURNMENT: MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 11:46 PM. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/1.122. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary