

Approved Minutes
MONADNOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD AGENDA
Monadnock Regional High/Middle School, NH
October 6, 2009

Present: Jane Fortson, James Carnie, William Felton, Eric Stanley, Ed Jacod, Bruce Barlow, Phyllis Peterson, Winston Wright, Richard Thackston, Robert Smith, Lisa Carpenter, Tim Aho and Gene White. **Absent:** Unassigned seats from Roxbury and Surry.

Also Present: K.Dassau, Superintendent, D. Hodgdon, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and E. Wammack, Business Manager. Principals: J. Smith, B. Tatro, K. Craig, D. Dahl, B. Pickering, L. Sutton and D. Mousette

“The goal of the Monadnock Regional School Board is to improve student achievement.

1. **Public Hearing per RSA: 20-b: MRHS-Grant from Plus Time NH: MOTION:** B. Barlow **MOVED** to open the Public Hearing under RSA 20-b. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 12.095/0/0/2.905. **Motion passes.** B. Pickering explained that the funds from the Plus Time NH would be used to support staff development for extended learning, workshops and training. P. Bauries asked B. Pickering questions. B. Pickering responded. He said that the funds would be used throughout the year. Any staff development opportunities are specific of goals to the school and to improve education for all students. *W. Felton arrives.* Our purpose is to benefit all the students. These funds help to cover the cost without using the budget. The teachers that attend the workshops return and train the other staff members. **MOTION:** R. Smith. **MOVED** to close the Public Hearing. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 13.274/0/0/1.726. **Motion passes. MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the \$5000.00 from the Plus Time NH Grant and to have K. Dassau sign as the representative. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 13.274/0/0/1.726. **Motion passes.**
2. **CONSENT AGENDA: MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the September 15, 2009 School Board Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** B. Barlow **VOTE:** 12.095/0/1.179/1.726. **Motion passes.** The Non-Public Minutes would be discussed during Non-Public Session.
3. **STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPORT:** Rob Skrocki reported that the Student Government met today during second period. They finalized the Fast Pass, which was approved by the administration. There has to be mutual respect by each student. The Student Government does not have a mission statement. They would be working on establishing one and learn from other schools regarding the process. They would like to adopt a recycling plan, which would be discussed at their next meeting. *T. Aho arrives.*
4. **CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The elementary school principals informed the Board when they have scheduled pumpkin carving night or family night. B. Pickering reported that they are rescheduling the Homecoming activities for October 23, 2009. B. Pickering reported that he was invited to the State House and discussed the reimbursement of the building bond. The discussion was well received. D. Mousette reported that the district wide workshop was very successful. The students are now doing the NECAP Testing. D. Dahl reported that the training for the Fast Forward took place in Troy.
5. **Public Comments:** D. Connell spoke regarding the economy and his concerns. He explained that the Tax Payers Association supports the budget reduction of 10 %.

P. Bauries spoke in regards to the school web page. She said that it was difficult to find certain information. She commented on the ARRA Grant and asked if it went to the Education Committee at any time. She asked if the Finance Committee has a report on the ongoing grants.

N. Moriarty reported on the population numbers of the students in the district. He reported that since 1999 the population has been reduced by 25%. He said that the district is burdened with too many administrators, maintenance, nurses, secretaries and uniforms. He reported that he had requested a report on the number of aides. He would ask that the 10% cut to the present budget requested be brought up tonight.

K. Dassau reported that he sent out an email regarding where to look on the web page for information requested.

MOTION: W. Wright **MOVED** to change the agenda and have the Swanzey Old Home Day Request and the CCC Presentation reported now. **SECOND:** R. Smith. **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie asked that the budget be discussed under "Old Business". **VOTE:** 14.05/0/0/.950. **Motion passes.**

Swanzey Old Home Day Request: E. Wammack reported that he had been approached by the Old Home Day Committee to possibly have a carnival on the school grounds. They are requesting the use of the grounds on July 16-18, 2009. It is possible that they would share the proceeds after expenses with the district. K. Habibi of the committee explained that the carnival would take care of everything. They need use the grounds and water. She would need approval from the Board in order to try to secure the carnival. E. Wammack reported that the Facilities suggested reporting to the full Board. He said that the carnival has full coverage but would check with the district's insurance company regarding the insurance. The Board had questions. K. Habibi suggested a representative be present for the negotiations with the carnival and the committee. **MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** that the Board allow the Swanzey Old Home Day Committee the use of the Monadnock School grounds as their venue on July 16-18, 2009 with review of the contract. **SECOND:** R. Smith. **VOTE:** 13.029/0/1.021/.950. **Motion passes.**

Cheshire Career Center Presentation: J. Logan the director at the CCC passed out a promotional brochure to the Board. He also gave the Board a copy of the regional agreement and asked for input from the Board. He reported that there are 52 students from Monadnock attending the center.

6. **Curriculum Report: NEASC:** B. Pickering reported that he did update the website and put the recently submitted letter to the NEASC Committee regarding the facilities as requested by them on the site. There has been no response since the letter has been submitted and no new information.

Science Results: D. Hodgdon passed out the enrollment figures for October and they would be on the web site soon. He reported that he would be writing a letter to the editor of the Keene Sentinel regarding the science test results. He reported the results to the Board on the individual schools and explained that there is a lot more that we can do regarding science. The high school is requiring a third year of science as a graduation requirement. The Board asked D. Hodgdon questions and then there was conversation on the fact that at grade 4 the students do well, grade 8 not as well and grade 11 the percentage is even lower. D. Hodgdon reported that the science team is focusing on making sure we are addressing the gaps. The challenge in the district is we have many schools and they all need to be aligned. The team and the principals will review the test results. **R. Thackston leaves.**

7. **New Business: Swanzey Old Home Days:** This issue dealt with earlier in the meeting.

8. **Old Business:**

1. **Cheshire Career Center Presentation:** This presentation given earlier.

2. **2010-2011 Budget:** The Board questioned whether they would have a budget on Saturday October 10, 2009 that has the 10% cuts. It was commented that the meeting is not necessary if the cuts are not there.

MOTION: J. Carnie. **MOVED** to discuss the 2010-2011 budget and the previously proposed cuts. **SECOND:** T. Aho. **VOTE:** 9.492/2.358/0/3.150. (*R. Smith leaves*) **Motion passes.** B. Barlow explained that the intent of his motion was to challenge the Budget Committee to come in with a budget 10% below the present operating budget. W. Lechlinder explained that the Budget Committee is waiting for the administration's cuts at the Saturday meeting. J. Carnie commented that the Board needs to know the cuts before the Saturday meeting. E. Jacod commented that his recollection is the challenge was the 10% but that was not an absolute. K. Dassau explained that he welcomes this conversation. He reread the motion and it directed the Budget Committee to come up with cuts for the 2010-2011 budget 10% less than the present budget but the cuts should not degrade student achievement. The 10% is 3.2 million. You cannot cut 3.2 million and not hit student achievement. In order for the 10% you need to remove the "not degrade student achievement". K. Dassau explained that the administration cut \$750,000.00 and after that they would degrade student achievement. E. Jacod commented that the Board needs a menu and make selections without hurting the quality of education. We need to hear both sides. E. Stanley had commented that the budget needs to start at zero and be built up from there. K. Dassau and the administration commented that 10% would degrade student achievement. Some of the Board commented that they were disappointed that there were no proposed cuts tonight. J. Fortson would like to hear from the administration about what amount it would take to run the district while keeping in mind the current status of the economy. She would like this number on Saturday. *R. Smith returns.*

9. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT:

1. **Community Relations Committee:** B. Barlow reported that he and E. Jacod met with the selectmen from Sullivan. The selectmen asked that the Board look at the study fairly and thoroughly. The committee would be meeting the Fitzwilliam selectmen tomorrow night. The committee is running 2 ads during the Keene and Monadnock Football games. The next meeting is on Nov. 3, 2009.
2. **Education Committee:** J. Carnie reported that the committee met last Thursday. They discussed the science results. They discussed the DINI and the SINI committees. They also discussed the SERESC. The next meeting is on October 22, 2009. D. Hodgdon has a list of committees that would like a member from the Board to participate on.
3. **Facilities Committee:** E. Jacod reported that the staff at Mt. Caesar made a suggestion for a need for a multi-purpose room. E. Jacod would like this issue to be on the agenda. The committee reviewed the first year of the plan prepared by Kaestle Boos. Bidding the project as a whole or individually would be discussed at the next meeting. E. Jacod reported on the outstanding fire issues at Troy and Wilcox. This issue would be brought back to the Board at the next meeting. The Wilcox items could be completed during the Christmas break. It was suggested that an effort be made to sell the second year plan to the voters. Many of the projects are not visible to the public. E. Wammack has not heard back from Interkal regarding the recent offer. The repairs would be completed before the basketball season. Two outdoor bleacher companies have come to look at our site. It was explained that a site plan is required. The next meeting is on October 13, 2009 at 4:30 PM.
4. **Finance Committee:** J. Fortson reported that the committee met last week and went over the upcoming budget. They reviewed the financial reports and the MS24. The committee asked for overtime reports and student activity reports. The next meeting is on Oct. 8, 2009 and Oct. 22, 2009.
5. **Policy Committee:** **MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to accept Policy IHCD-Advanced Course Work/Advanced Placement Courses and LEB-Advanced Course Work/Advanced Placement Course that replace Policy IGCD-Advanced College Placement and Policy LEB-Advanced College Placement. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 11.850/0/0/1.971. **Motion passes.** The next meeting is on October 19, 2009 at 5:15 PM.

6. **Budget Committee Rep.:** W. Lechliden reported that the Budget Committee discussed the Health Insurance Trust. They discussed the 5-year pay as you go versus a bond. They discussed the issue of the 10% cut off the budget. W. Lechliden and B. Barlow would be preparing information for the public regarding the work that has been done at the high school but not very visible to the voters. The next meeting is on Oct. 27, 2009 in Sullivan.
7. **Cheshire Career Center:** W. Wright reported that J. Logan suggested a dinner for the Board prepared by the students if anyone is interested. He reported that he saw the new TV Studio. He would like the CCC contract on the next agenda.
10. **Action on the Manifest: MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the manifest in the amount of \$ 3,330,958.07 **SECOND:** B. Barlow **DISCUSSION:** The Board asked questions about certain items and either E. Wammack answered or would be getting the answers. **VOTE:** 10.829/0/2.2/1.971. **Motion passes.**
11. **Superintendent's Report:** K.Dassau reported that the proposed resolutions for the NHSBA are in the packets for review. **MOTION:** W. Felton. **MOVED** to accept the retirement of Cheryl Kahn as of June 2011. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **VOTE:** 13.029/0/0/1.971. **Motion passes.**
12. **BOARD CHAIR REPORT:** J. Fortson reported that she is working on the members for the Sullivan/Gilsum School Study Committee. She would be bringing a completed list to the Board soon.

13. SETTING NEXT MEETING AGENDA

1. Northern Schools Committee
 2. CCC Contract
 3. Classes less than 10 students
14. **Second Public Comments:** D. Coffman (of Swanzey) would like accountability for the funds in the budget being spent. He would like accountability for the attendance of the students and the staff. With the decrease of the population where are the cuts in the budget. The voters have spoken take an aggressive cut to the budget. You need to represent and make the cuts. He appreciated the science update and we need to address the issue with action. How are we managing the district?

Dr. Kaplan (of Gilsum) commented regarding the NECAP Science Scores. He said that the students in the 4th grade are not the same students in the 11th grade. You will not know for 7 years on how they are doing. The 11th graders are at the state average. Analyze the data correctly.

Betty Tatro (of Swanzey) commented on the Professional Learning Communities and the fact that is a giant leap. We are doing this as a district.

15. **11:15 PM Motion to enter into non-public session under RSA 91 A:3 II(b) Nominations: MOTION:** B. Barlow **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91 A:3 (b) Nominations. **SECOND:** E. Jacod **VOTE:** L. Carpenter, R. Smith, E.Stanley, W. Wright, W. Felton, J. Carnie, E.Jacod, B. Barlow, P. Peterson, G. White, T. Aho and J. Fortson. 13.029/0/0/1.971 **Motion passes.**
16. **11:24 PM Motion to enter into non-public session under RSA 91 A:3 II (c): MOTION:** E. Jacod **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91 A:3 (c). **SECOND:** R. Smith **VOTE:** L. Carpenter, R. Smith, E.Stanley, W.Wright, W. Felton, J. Carnie, E.Jacod, B.Barlow, P.Peterson, G. White, T. Aho and J.Fortson. 13.029/0/0/1.971. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: B. Barlow. **MOVED** to have the Board start the evaluation process for the Superintendent. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 13.029/0/0/1.971. **Motion passes.**

17. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: E. Jacod **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 11:59 PM. **SECOND:** P. Peterson **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
MRSD Recording Secretary