

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
Approved Minutes
November 17, 2009
Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH

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

Also present: L. Sutton, B. Tatro, B. Pickering, D. Mousette, D. Dahl, K. Craig and J. Smith.

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

Public Hearing per RSA 198: 20-b: to consider the acceptance of expenditures of unanticipated funds: Beyond Benign: MOTION: P. Peterson. **MOVED** to open the Public Hearing under RSA 198:20-b. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 11.074/0/0/3.926. **Motion passes.** J. Smith explained the Beyond Benign Grant that he is asking the Board to accept for Cutler School. The amount is \$10,000.00 over the next two years. The funds would be used to expand the internet. The students would interact with other children in classrooms throughout the world. If the funds are accepted this process would start immediately. J. Fortson asked the public if they had any questions on the grant. **MOTION:** P. Peterson. **MOVED** to leave the Public Hearing. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 11.074/0/0/3.926. **Motion passes. MOTION:** W. Felton. **MOVED** To accept the Beyond Benign Grant in the amount of \$10,000.00. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **VOTE:** 11.074/0/0/3.926. **Motion passes.**

1. Consent Agenda: MOTION: P. Peterson. **MOVED** to accept the November 3, 2009 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 8.716/0/2.358/3.926. **Motion passes. MOTION:** P. Peterson. **MOVED** to accept the November 3, 2009 Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 7.595/1.121/2.358/3.926. **Motion passes. MOTION:** E. Jacod. **MOVED** to amend and accept the November 3, 2009 Non-Public Meeting Minutes that were just approved. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 8.716/0/2.358/3.926. **Motion passes.**

2. Student Government Report: R. Skrocki announced the president elect Megan Butterfield. The Student Government discussed being more organized with an agenda for each meeting. They discussed the mission statement. Each member would be receiving a binder to hold the meeting information. The Fast Passes have been distributed and are working well. The bulletin boards have been assigned to each grade.

3. Correspondence and Announcements: D. Dahl reported that Troy Elementary School had their annual Grandparents luncheon. It went well with about 200 in attendance.

K. Dassau announced that the Middle School won the State Division One Championship in football. They are requesting championship jackets for the members on the team and the coaches. The cost is \$1900.00. **MOTION:** P. Peterson. **MOVED** to allow the District to purchase championship football jackets for the Middle School team member and their coaches in the amount of \$1900.00. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 11.074/0/0/3.926.

Motion passes.

4. Public Comments: D. Connell of Richmond commented that there should be a roll call vote on issues regarding the increase or decrease to the budget or proposed budgets. He said that the voters of each town should know how their representative voted. N. Moriarty of Richmond commented that he would like the Board to support the suggested cuts to the SAU Budget made by the Finance Committee.

5. Curriculum Report: D. Hodgdon reported that with help from other staff members he has applied for a \$150,000.00 Grant. This is a competitive grant. The funds would be used to establish a technology rich classroom. The room would be located at Cutler. The District should know if they are awarded the grant after the Thanksgiving break, D. Hodgdon reported that the SERESC process continues. The group spoke twice with the Education Committee. D. Hodgdon also reported on the new writing team that met. A survey went out to the staff. He would be sharing this information with the Education Committee in the future.

6. New Business:

1. Fitzwilliam Selectmen Letter: J. Fortson spoke to Selectman Tom Parker and he was going to try and make the meeting. She said that they were concerned with the overall appropriations and each town's portion. She would speak to E. Wammack about the selectmen's concerns.

7. Old Business:

1. MRSD Budget 2010-2011: E. Wammack explained that he has received a number of inquiries concerning the proposed budget. He explained that they have almost completed the budget.

2. MRSD Warrant Article 2010-2011: K. Dassau explained that this is a standing agenda item. The warrants are the same as last year with the dates and amounts being changed. A draft would be coming soon. The Health Trust Warrant would be new this time. J. Fortson explained that she and N. Moriarty felt that putting the Health Trust Warrant as Warrant Three on the ballot would be the best spot. This is up for discussion.

3. SAU Budget 2010-2011: J. Fortson explained that the Finance Committee met twice and would recommend the following motions to the Board regarding the SAU budget. **MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to recommend to the SAU Board that they return the \$225,000.00 of the undesignated fund from the SAU Budget back to the voters. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** A sheet with the projection impact information was passed to the Board. K. Dassau explained that the SAU Board can maintain a surplus as the selectperson do. He explained that there are capital improvements that need to be done and there should be a fund balance for unforeseen issues. K. Dassau passed out another sheet of paper that included the superintendent search cost, adjustment for the superintendent's salary when he retires, an adjustment for the 20% health insurance and the building repairs. He explained that the new sheet

would have an undesignated balance of \$81,000.00, which is 4% of the SAU Budget and a margin to maintain. J. Fortson explained that the next motion to be recommended to the Board from the Finance Committee was no salary increases for the SAU Staff and that they contribute 3% more to their health insurance. The next recommendation from the Finance Committee was to remove the Human Resource Director's position and the Technology Director's position. She explained that she asked that the motion be rescinded but it failed. She explained that in light of the SAU retirements and the resignation she would like to discuss the impact at the SAU if the positions were to be removed. J. Carnie commented that he would have liked the balance of the unreserved fund balance prior to this meeting. He explained that the \$225,000.00 should be given back to the taxpayers. As of June 2010 there would be a balance of about \$150,000.00. That is a reasonable balance. K. Dassau commented that this is not Monadnock's money. There are four Districts in the SAU. **R. Smith arrives.** It was commented that one might ask for the weighted vote to be used at the next SAU Meeting. K. Dassau explained that the sheet he passed out did not include salary increase for the SAU staff. W. Felton commented that the Districts should pay the bills first. J. Carnie commented that there is \$230,000.00 left as of June 2009, which is last year's money. W. Felton commented that the Districts have obligations to use that money. This is premature. B. Barlow asked about the Superintendent's severance. He asked if it needed to be in this proposed budget or the next budget. He is in support of the \$225,000.00 being returned to the taxpayers, E. Jacod would support the return of the \$225,000.00 as well. Another Motion the Finance committee asked to be recommended to the Board was a reduction of \$180,000.00 from the proposed SAU Budget. **MOTION:** G. White. **MOVED** to amend the motion in light of the new information he would suggest sending the motion back to the Finance Committee. **SECOND:** W. Felton. **DISCUSSION:** J. Fortson has contacted W. Temmen for the SAU Board to have an extra meeting. She has not heard from him yet. J. Carnie commented that sending the issue back to the Finance Committee would prolong the issue. Monadnock has to come to an agreement and go to the SAU Meeting with a proposal. J. Fortson said in light of the information she would like to go back to the Finance Committee for clarity with the written motion. **VOTE on amendment:** 6.916/5.337/0/2.747. **Motion passes. VOTE on amended motion:** 9.144/3.100/0/2.747. **Motion passes. MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** that the SAU staff receive no salary increase and they contribute 3% more to the health contribution. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **DISCUSSION:** J. Fortson gave the rationale on the increase of the insurance contribution. G. White asked if this would be for everyone at the SAU. The answer was yes. G. white commented that basically it was a cut for a lot of members of the SAU staff. W. Wright would like to see two separate motions on these issues. **E. Stanley and B. Barlow withdraw their motion. MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** that the Board recommend to the SAU Board that the staff at the SAU receive no salary increases in the proposed SAU budget for 2010-2011. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **VOTE:** 8.874/3.379/0/2.747. **Motion passes. MOTION:** E. Jacod **MOVED** to recommend to the SAU Board that the SAU employees contribute 3% more in the assumption employee health insurance. **SECOND:** J. Carnie. **DISCUSSION:** It was explained that the rationale was to get the percentage as close to the Monadnock's bargaining unit. **VOTE:**

8.781/3.472/0/2.747. **Motion passes. MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** the removal of the Human Resource Director position and the Technology Director position from the SAU Budget. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **DISCUSSION:** J. Fortson explained that this motion passed during the Finance Committee. J. Fortson explained that she made a motion to rescind the motion but it failed. E. Jacod commented in favor of keeping the Technology Director's position. He explained that the District has applied for a grant for a technology enriched classroom. This reduction may be at the cost of student achievement. E. Jacod spoke in favor of keeping the Human Resource position. He said that the organization is being pinched on all sides. He feels that if we reduce we will have issues. He is not convinced with the two cuts. P. Peterson commented that in light of the resignations she would not cut anymore personnel. K. Dassau explained the proposed reorganization of the Human Resource office and if you eliminate the HR Director, eliminating the HR coordinator as he suggested and then there would be nothing. At one time the business manager was doing the HR job, worked a lot and things did not get done. It was commented to maintain status quote at the SAU. **VOTE:** 3.479/8.774/0/2.747. **Motion fails. MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to recommend to the SAU Board to remain status quote with the staff at the SAU until we have new staff and then reevaluate the SAU. **SECOND:** W. Felton. **DISCUSSION:** E. Stanley would like to hear how an evaluation is being done. K. Dassau suggested a subcommittee to evaluate the SAU. J. Carnie said that the Board made a recommendation to the SAU Board to reduce the budget by 10%, \$180,000.00. There is a need to reduce personnel to get to that number. J. Carnie made a point of order there was a motion to cut 10% and status quote is not a cut. **VOTE:** 8.123/1.830/2.30/2.747. **Motion passes.** On the issue of reducing the budget by \$180,000.00 there was no motion. J. Carnie would like a discussion on the SAU budget with the SAU prior to the SAU meeting. **MOTION:** E. Jacod. **MOVED** that the SAU Board hold an SAU meeting at Monadnock on Dec. 16, 2009. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 12.253/0/0/2.747. **Motion passes.**

4. Northern Schools Committee: L. Carpenter one of the members on the Northern Schools Committee reported to the Board. The meeting was in Sullivan on November 12, 2009. There was excellent attendance by the members. A Swanze committee member is still needed. The meeting lasted for 2 hours. They discussed the issues and topics. The next meeting is on December 10, 2009 in Gilsum. The facilitator is a rotating role.

5. Class Size under 10 Students: J. Carnie explained that the Education Committee met and was given a presentation by B. Pickering and the committee voted in favor of the Class Size under 10 Report presented by B. Pickering. **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to approve the Class Size under 10 Report presented by B. Pickering. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 12.253/0/0/2.747. **Motion passes.**

8. School Board Committee Report:

1. Community Relations Committee: B. Barlow reported that the committee did not meet. They would be meeting with the Swanze Selectmen on Nov. 24, 2009. The next meeting is Dec. 1, 2009.

2. Education Committee: J. Carnie reported that the committee had a good discussion with the SERESC Committee. The Education Committee would have input and discussion with the SERESC Committee again.

3. Facilities Committee: E. Jacod reported that the committee discussed the duplication of duties regarding the maintenance dept. E. Jacod presented a survey to the 7 principals regarding any unresolved issues in their buildings. They also discussed the current performance of the maintenance dept. B. Mitchell commented at the meeting that the job tasks are unique. They discussed the curtain issue at Troy and the ADA ramp and railing project has a permit. The next meeting is on November 24, 2009. W. Felton suggested a written report in the Board packets to save time on the committee reports.

4. Finance Committee: J. Fortson explained that the committee asked K. Dassau to seek enlightenment on the weighted vote. They asked for K. Dassau to seek clarity on the weighted vote regarding the SAU and the four Districts. K. Dassau explained that he left a message with Attorney Apple and he has not returned the call. The next meeting is on Nov. 19, 2009 and Dec. 3, 2009.

5. Policy Committee: W. Wright reported that the committee met and discussed the policy regarding promotion and retention, the policy regarding ethics and the policy regarding the evaluation of the superintendent and the Board. These would be coming before the Board in the future.

6. Budget Committee: E. Stanley reported that the Budget committee met. There was a motion that came out of the meeting that was recommended to come before the Board. **MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to accept the Level One cuts made by the administration, to support the health trust warrant, support the Northern Schools Committee, to reduce the average cost per pupil closer to the regional per pupil cost, to have the administration look at the maintenance needs and reduce the cost, to evaluate the administration needs and to have the School board look at the administrative costs. **SECOND:** J. Carnie. **DISCUSSION:** E. Jacod asked if the number the Budget Committee was looking to cut was 3.1 million out of the proposed budget. E. Stanley said that the interpretation was 2.3 million. G. White explained that T. Ellsworth spoke to the Level One cuts because that was the only money part. Some of the members of the Board would like to see the motion in separate parts. E. Jacod commented that Level One cuts are part of the average per pupil cost. J. Fortson commented that until she sees the impact she would be voting no on the motion. W. Lechliden commented that there are places of concern in the budget and less impact toward students as well. There was no dollar amount in the motion.

VOTE: 7.602/3.537/1.114/2.747. **Motion passes.** K. Dassau explained to cut at the Level 2 cuts, 2.3 million you would need to eliminate 31 teachers and 11 support staff member.

7. Cheshire Career Center: No report.

9. Action on the manifest: **MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the manifest in the amount of \$1,094,213.21. **SECOND:** B. Barlow **VOTE:** 11.074/0/1.179/2.747. . **Motion passes.** L. Sutton reported that the Middle School Football Team would be holding their Sport Awards Banquet on Nov. 30, 2009.

10. Superintendent's Report: **MOTION:** R. Smith **MOVED** to rescind the retirement of Pam Weinrieb. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 12.253/0/0/2.747. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: E. Stanley **MOVED** to accept the retirement of Toni Raffelt as of June 2011. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 12.2353/0/0/2.747. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson. **MOVED** to accept the retirement of Diana Elkavitch as of June 2011. **SECOND:** W. Felton. **Motion passes.**

11. Board Chair Report:

12. Setting the next agenda:

1. Warrants

2. SAU Budget

3. MRSD Budget 2010-2011

13. Public Comments:

14. 10:00 PM Enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) nominations:

MOTION: W/ Felton. **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) nominations. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **Roll call vote:** E. Jacod, W. Wright, P. Peterson, J. Carnie, W. Felton, R. Smith, E. Stanley, L. Carpenter, J. Fortson and G. White. **VOTE:** 11.074/0/0/2.747. **Motion passes. (B. Barlow missing from vote)**

15. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: J. Carnie. **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 10:26 PM. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording secretary