

**Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Approved Minutes**  
**December 15, 2009**  
**Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH**

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

**Administration present:** K. Dassau, Superintendent, D. Hodgdon, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, P. Bell, Human Resource Director and B. Gallagher, Interim Business Manager.

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

**The Board held a Non-meeting at 6:00 PM with the Board attorney.**

**6:30 PM Non-Public Session: MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) and (e). **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 8.78/0/0/6.22. **Motion passes.**

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

**1. Consent Agenda: MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to accept the December 1, 2009 School Board Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 8.78/0/0/6.22 . **Motion passes.**

**2. Student Government Report:** R. Skrocki reported that the Student Government met this afternoon. They discussed privileges for all students and the incentives. He reported that the government felt that the cuts to the proposed budget are contradictory to the School’s Mission Statement.

**3. Correspondence and Announcements:** K. Dassau introduced B. Gallagher as the new interim business manager. B. Gallagher spoke of his background.

K. Craig reported that the boiler was down at Emerson and the children had an extra day off. There was a little confusion about notifying the parents. The Holiday Show is Wednesday. The student population number at Emerson is up 8 students to 222 total.

D. Mousette received a letter from a professor at KSC regarding the veterans program. He said that he enjoyed the program. There would be a sing-a-long on Thursday all are invited. Happy Holidays to all.

B. Pickering congratulated the Fine Arts Department and the students for a wonderful Holiday Performance. B. Pickering reported that on March 2, 2010 they would be holding a Learning Fair. More information to follow.

B. Tatro invited the Board to the Welcome Winter presentation on Dec. 22, 2009. All are welcome.

**4. Public Comments:** N. Moriarty asked where on the agenda was the maintenance raises. He would suggest keeping the 31 million dollar budget. He said that he and E. Stanley gave a list of 2 million dollar cuts to choose from. He commented that the SAU employees are getting above the salary. The contracts need to be looked at by the attorneys. The early retirement, health choices and the trade health should have been looked at by the attorney.

**5. Curriculum Report:** D. Hodgdon reported that the independent group reviewing the District would be reporting at the end of the week to where we are at. The District Improvement Plan has been approved by the State. They reported that it was thoughtful and well written. He reported that the Fast Forward program is up and running and they have seen progress in students.

**NEASC:** B. Pickering would be passing out a rating sheet and NEASC standards to the Board. He reported that he attended a 21<sup>st</sup> Century 2 day workshop. He reported that we are doing the right things here in Monadnock. We have a lot more work but are moving in the right direction.

**6. New Business:**

**a. District information packet:** D. Hodgdon reported on the MRSD Profile. He reported that the information is provided once a year and may help D. Kauffman with his request. He said that the profile is on the web site.

**7. Old Business:**

**1. MRSD Budget 2010-2011:** K. Dassau explained that the information for additional cuts to the proposed budget were provided to the Board. J. Fortson explained at the Finance Committee the committee asked the administration to come back to the Board with the priority list to get to the bottom line. K. Dassau explained that the administration had the Level One cuts which could be done to adequately run the schools. He explained that there has been a default budget since 2000. A new list of cuts was passed out to the board. B. Pickering reported that there are three categories to cut from the non-personnel, which is a total of \$200,000.00 with a great concern on how that effect students but went there to save jobs. The next category was the support staff which they would cut both from the high school and the middle school. The last category was the certified staff. B. Pickering explained the staff cuts proposed and the total of all three categories was \$900,000.00. It was commented that the Level One cuts were proposed and a consensus of all the administration. Each dollar after the Level One cuts would affect the goals and student achievement, the District is close to a negative impact. B. Pickering explained that if the Board and the Budget Committee choose to support the 31 million dollar budget the accreditation would be in grave danger of being lost. How can we maintain the work that we are

doing. He would ask the Board to maintain the Level One cuts and let the public have the opportunity to vote on the budget. He respects the this exercise but would ask the Board to listen to the administration's recommendations. K. Dassau reported there are also cuts in the elementary schools. There are cuts to staff in reading, which concern him due to the fact that Monadnock is a District in Need of Improvement in one area reading. D. Hodgdon echoed the concern for the cut in reading and math at the high school. He commented that the paraprofessionals work directly with the special ed. Students, he would caution the cuts in this area. B. Pickering explained that the one on one aides would stay the same the other aides would be spread thinner. **B. Barlow suggested this discussion be tabled in order that the Fire Chief have the presentation on Mt. Caesar.**

**Report from the Swanzey Fire Chief:** Fire Chief Norm Skantze gave a presentation on the Mt. Caesar building. He reported that he has been working with the staff over the last few months. He asked why Mt. Caesar did not have a sprinkler system even though the other schools in the district did. He reported that the fire alarm system at Mt. Caesar has to be upgraded. He gave a power point presentation and explained areas of concern. He said that any building over 30,000 square feet is required to have a sprinkler system. He also has concerns in the portables. He said that there are unprotected areas of fire travel. The portables were supposed to be temporary. He reported that the school is not in compliance but he would work with the District. The plan for the bringing the water over to Mt. Caesar, the sprinkler plan and the upgrading of the alarm system is the right thing to do for the first year. He said that the District needs to respond because the timeline begins to tick. The process has started. You need to protect the population and the building. The sprinkler system would solve some of the problems. The doors exits are still there and need to be done.

**Return to the 2010-2011 Budget Discussion:** The Board discussed the suggestion of eliminating the structured study hall staff member. B. Pickering explained that the drop out prevention number is not good. B. Pickering explained that the late buses on the list are for grades 7-12. The buses are not just for sports but academics and support clubs. W. Wright explained that late buses were cut once before and it was a disaster. B. Barlow commented that E. Wammack reported that he had found \$160,000.00 in the budget and that would put us at \$32,700,000.00. E. Stanley asked why some items are more important than teaching staff. It was asked if the administration was going to look at an elementary principal for next year. K. Dassau asked the Board to let the administration run and make the recommendations. He would ask for the courtesy of the Board to let the principals run their buildings. B. Pickering said there is no good cut. Every dollar effects the accreditation. He reported that the assistant principals go beyond their duties. K. Dassau reported that the administrative collective bargaining group has a one year roll over. They are all certified in K-12. How would you choose? J. Carnie commented that the Finance Committee asked to bring the list to the full Board. He commented that the \$31,000,000.00 is on the table. He said that B. Pickering was told to deal with the number and tell the Board the list of cuts. He asked the Board to be careful if they are reconsidering the amount. He is not in favor of cutting aides and staff until all areas

are looked at. He said that E. Stanley, N. Moriarty and the Budget Committee have made suggested cuts. The number is \$31,000,000.00. B. Barlow explained that he is uncomfortable with the \$31,000,000.00, he has concerns with the high school and he would like to add \$700,000.00 to the budget. **MOTION:** G. White. **MOVED** to add \$700,000.00 back to the proposed 2010-2011 budget. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **DISCUSSION:** E. Stanley does not believe that this is a proper motion. J. Carnie would agree. W. Wright commented that the motion has to be reconsidered. J. Carnie commented that you could put the \$700,000.00 in if you take \$700,000.00 somewhere else. B. Barlow asked to put most of the teachers back and the late buses. K. Dassau explained that there is time for the board to meet again on the budget. It was commented that it would be crazy to get rid of the Resource Officer. B. Pickering explained that the Resource Officer was once a grant position and than the Board put it in the budget. E. Jacod explained that he never heard of a Resource Officer. B. Pickering commented that the principals respectfully sit and listen to what should happen in our schools. We are here 10-12 hours a day. He hopes that someday you value the efforts of the people that work here and if not fire us. We are living it. All positions are unique yet we still listen to what happened 20 years ago. J. Carnie commented that we had a vote taken putting in \$700,000.00 is out of order. This was a try to get to a number. This was agreed at the Budget Committee. E. Stanley asked for answers on his cuts. B. Pickering explained that his door is always open. People on the Board have come to ask questions. I have given answers and my opinion today. G. White commented that the SAU amount was changed and that was done without reconsideration. J. Fortson said that she does not like the motion. She still has a lot of questions. G. White commented that the 10% motion was never rescinded. J. Carnie commented that at the last meeting the \$31,000,000.00 motion was made and there were a lot more members present. J. Fortson moved that the motion was out of order. **G. White and B. Barlow withdraw their motion.** **MOTION:** B. Barlow. **MOVED** to eliminate the MS Spec. Ed. Coordinator, the vacant tech support position, the director of maintenance, maintenance supervisor, 2 maintenance positions and 2 high school custodians from the proposed budget. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **DISCUSSION:** B. Barlow commented if we cut \$400,000.00 we can give \$300,000.00. B. Barlow commented that he does not like the cuts. J. Carnie would agree. J. Fortson commented that the motion is out of order Someone that vote for the \$31,000,000.00 can make a motion to rescind. **MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to rescind the \$31,000,000.00 proposed budget amount. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie said that he has no problem rescinding the motion as long as the Board is going to do B. Barlow's suggestion. **VOTE:** 8.781/0/0/ **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** B. Barlow **MOVED** to eliminate the MS Spec. Ed. Coordinator, the vacant tech support position, the director of maintenance, maintenance supervisor, 2 maintenance positions and 2 high school custodians. The cuts total about \$400,000.00. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **DISCUSSION:** E. Jacod commented this motion would put the boat into the rocks due to the condition of the buildings. B. Pickering commented that he respects B. Barlow's motion. The administration has made suggestions to reduce the budget These items would effect student achievement beyond the classroom. The administrators have sat down for hours and considered the requests but struggling with the Board having the answers

on how to do it. E. Wammack commented that the principals are responsible for millions of dollars in the buildings. **MOTION:** L. Carpenter **MOVED** to table the motion until the Finance Committee reviews and a recommendation comes back to the Board. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **VOTE:** 3.321/5.460/0/ **Motion fails.** **VOTE:** 3.479/4.123/1.179/ **Motion fails.** B. Barlow commented that the administration has presented a list that is essential to maintain the quality of education. **MOTION:** B. Barlow. **MOVED** to adopt a 2010-2011 proposed budget in the amount of \$31,700,000.00. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** It was commented that the elementary schools were not discussed. J. Carnie asked for a point of order. He asked if a Board Member left is there a quorum. E. Wammack answered yes. *J. Carnie leaves at 9:44 PM.* J. Fortson explained that she would be voting against the motion in good faith. She would feel better with a larger Board present. B. Barlow commented that is bogus. B. Barlow said that he was sad that J. Carnie left the meeting. **VOTE:** 5.302/2.358/0/7.34. **Motion passes.** R. Skrocki and other members from the Students Government supported that administration and invited the Board Members into the schools.

**MRSD Warrant Articles 2010-2011:** The warrant article draft articles have been renumbered. The SAU warrant article now has the numbers. The total proposed SAU budget is \$1,983,215.00 and Monadnock share is \$1,169,082.00. The high school renovation article will state the \$500,000.00 offset from the article last year. The amount on Article Four includes the new alarm, water to Mt. Caesar and the plans for the sprinkler system and the other health and safety items. **MOTION:** E. Jacod. **MOVED** on behalf of the Facilities Committee to move Article Four in the amount of \$240,310.00. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** B. Mitchell informed the Board that the hot water tank is in very bad shape. It is an 800 gallon tank which would be replaced by 4 smaller tanks. This item has to be pulled out of the KBA summer projects. The repairs would not take place for 6-8 weeks due to the sequence of events. B. Michell commented that the issue is how long the boiler will hold. **VOTE:** 7.660/0/0/7.340. **Motion passes.**

**SAU Budget 2010-2011:** There were no questions from the Board.

**8. School Board Committee Report:**

**1. Community Relations Committee:** B. Barlow reported that a letter was sent to the Keene Sentinel on behalf of the CRC. The next meeting is Jan. 5, 2009.

**2. Education Committee:** **MOTION:** B. Barlow **MOVED** to send a letter to the science team involved in the science curriculum work on behalf of the board for the excellent work done. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **VOTE:** 7.660/0/0/7.340. **Motion passes.** The next meeting is on Jan. 7, 2010.

**3. Facilities Committee:** E. Jacod reported that the maintenance dept. did research on the supplies for the year. A list was presented to the Board to go out to bid.

**MOTION:** E. Jacod **MOVED** on behalf of the Facilities Committee to award Central Paper for the maintenance supplies as presented in the amount of \$29,339.72 a year for 3 years with up to a maximum of 7% each year. **SECOND:** G. White. **VOTE:** 7.660/0/0/7.340. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** E. Jacod **MOVED** on behalf of the Facilities Committee to accept G. White as a new member on the Facilities

Committee. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **VOTE:** 7.660/0/0/7.340. **Motion passes.** The next meeting is on Dec. 22, 2009.

**4. Finance Committee:** J. Fortson reported that the Finance Committee has an issue to present in non-public session. There is no date for the next meeting.

**5. Policy Committee:** **MOTION:** W. Wright. **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy Committee to accept Policy IKE Promotion and Retention of Students. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 7.660/0/0/7.340. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** G. White. **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy Committee to have the Swanzy Member serve the remaining term seat of Surry. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 7.660/0/0/7.340. **Motion passes.** The next meeting is on Feb. 1, 2010

**6. Budget Committee:** E. Stanley reported the next meeting is Thursday.

**7. Cheshire Career Center:** No report.

**8. Northern Schools:** L. Carpenter reported that the committee met in Gilsum and they toured the school. They are still in need of a community member from Swanzy. The committee discussed budgets and enrollment. The next meeting is on Feb. 11, 2010.

**9. Action on the manifest:** **MOTION:** G. White **MOVED** to accept the manifest in the amount of \$ 2,061.999.08. **SECOND:** B. Barlow **VOTE:** 6.481/0/1.179/7.340. **Motion passes.**

**10. Superintendent's Report:** **MOTION:** W. Wright. **MOVED** to accept the retirement of Sue Norton as of June 2011. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **VOTE:** 7.660/0/0/7.340. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** E. Jacod. **MOVED** to accept the retirement of Helena Smith as of June 2010. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 7.660/0/0/7.340. **Motion passes.** K. Dassau reported that the letters inviting members on the committee for the insurance bid have gone out. J. Fortson has received her letter. K. Dassau gave the composition of the committee. K. Dassau reported that the Business Manager search would start the first week in January. He thanked E. Wammack for his service to the District. He thanked P. Bell for helping during this time and he welcomed B. Gallagher to the Board.

**11. Board Chair Report:** J. Fortson thanked E. Wammack for his service.

**12. Setting the next agenda:**

**1. Warrants**

**2. MRSD Budget 2010-2011**

**13. Public Comments:** Dr. Kaplan commented that the teachers do not pick their insurance. He explained that the insurance went out to bid and there was a savings of \$500,000.00. He said that he appreciates the work the board does.

**14. 10:58 PM Enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) personnel :** **MOTION:** E. Jacod. **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) personnel. **SECOND:** B. Barlow **Roll call vote:** E. Jacod, W. Wright, L. Carpenter, B. Barlow, E. Stanley, J. Fortson and G. White. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

**15. Motion to adjourn:** **MOTION:** E. Jacod. **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 11:14 PM. **SECOND:** B. Barlow **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis  
Recording secretary