

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
Approved Minutes
December 1, 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, Richard Thackston, Lisa Carpenter and Eric Stanley. **Absent:** Tim Aho and unassigned seats from Roxbury and Surry.

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

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

The Keene Sentinel and B. Barlow are taping the meeting.

1. Consent Agenda: MOTION: W. Felton **MOVED** to accept the November 17, 2009 School Board Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 11.132/0/1.121/2.747. **Motion passes. MOTION:** W. Felton. **MOVED** to accept the November 17, 2009 Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 12.253/0/0/2.747. **Motion passes.**

2. Student Government Report: R. Skrocki reported to the board that the Student Government has approved their mission statement. He read the statement to the Board. The committee worked for four months on the mission statement. The vote on the committee was unanimous. **R. Thackston arrives.** He reported that the meeting today was organized and structured. They were able to get through the whole agenda.

3. Correspondence and Announcements: D. Mousette read a letter on behalf of the principals and the supervisors in the District. The letter was to inform the Board that it is the intention of the principals and the supervisors in the District to establish a bargaining unit.

4. Public Comments: N. Moriarty of Richmond commented on the Health Trust Article. He said that the wording is being approved and they should hear sometime soon.

R. Bauries commented in favor of the a 5% cut to the SAU staff salaries, an independent audit for the SAU, in order to have a clean slate for the new business manager and the use of the weighted vote on the SAU. He commented that the Monadnock Taxpayers would only support a 1 million dollar warrant for the NEASC Warrant. He spoke that he was not in favor of the sprinkler system at Mt. Caesar. He said to have doors in every room that go to the outside is cheaper than a sprinkler system. He said that they would support the 1 million dollars as agreed last year but they would not support an increase in the budget.

He said the board told the superintendent to cut the budget by 10% and he has not done that. He asked where the D. Stockwell settlement money is coming from. You need to show that in the MS24 and MS25. He said that it is time for the employees to share the tax burden. The 1.7 million suggested cuts do not effect education. You keep adding surplus.

E. Jacod of Gilsum commented that he was disappointed regarding the principals and supervisors establishing a bargaining unit. They are part of the management system and they need to be on the side of the management organization. They are supposed to be on the side of the District, to become a union that is lost.

D. Kaufman asked what the next step would be in regards to the union. K. Dassau explained that these are non-public issues. J. Fortson explained that this issue was just brought before us. There are no answers now. He asked if the absenteeism was more due to sickness. P. Bell reported that the nurses reported that the absenteeism is lower than last year. He would like a short term balance score card from the District. K. Dassau explained the different documents that would give that information. J. Fortson would look into that request.

5. Curriculum Report: D. Hodgdon reported that the science team is working on curriculum and will share that information with the Education Committee.

6. New Business:

7. Old Business:

1. MRSD Budget 2010-2011 and MRSD Warrant Article 2010-2011: The warrants without the numbers were reviewed. The new warrant would be the Health Trust and that would be placed at the third spot on the ballot. Warrant article number six on the draft regarding the undesignated fund balance to be placed in a School Building Fund as was done last year would be discussed. E. Jacod commented on the High School Renovation Warrant. He is presenting 2 articles for the Board to choose. The first warrant is in the amount of \$1,524,334.74 for the 2nd year of the high school renovations including contingencies and the other warrant is in the amount of \$1,194,334.74, the heating item for the 10 zones had been taken out. E. Jacod continued with his report. **MOTION:** E. Jacod **MOVED** to accept the bid from Robert Luopa Masonry in the amount of 9.625.00, which includes a 10% contingency. **SECOND:** W. Felton. **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie questioned the 10 % contingency. J. Fortson explained that it was for any unforeseen issues. R. Thackston commented that we are voting on the bid and trying to avoid coming back to the Board for an unforeseen issue. J. Carnie commented that he was not in favor of the

contingency. It was explained that this is a District contingency. This is not a cost over run for the bidder. J. Fortson commented that this is in a warrant article. **VOTE:** 12.153/0/1.121/1.726. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** E. Jacod **MOVED** that the Board accept the bid from Baaron Stage Curtains and Equipment in the amount of \$8285.20 which includes the contingency and the \$700.00 installation cost for Academic Production Services to perform the installation. **SECOND:** W. Felton.

DISCUSSION: E. Jacod gave the rationale for the curtains, purchasing the curtains versus repair. **VOTE:** 12.153/0/1.121/1.726. **Motion passes.** E. Jacod spoke on the items included in the Health and Safety Warrant. He explained that it has not been established or documented that the sprinkler system at Mt. Caesar is required. E. Stanley asked why E. Jacod was waiting until the next meeting to make a motion on the High School Renovation Warrant Article amount. E. Jacod commented that the Board did not have all the information. Copies of the information needed were handed out to the Board. **MOTION:** J. Fortson **MOVED** to remove Warrant Article Six from the Ballot Draft presented. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **DISCUSSION:** E. Stanley would support this due to the economy. **VOTE:** 13.274/0/0/1.726. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** J. Fortson **MOVED** to change the wording on Article Eight on the draft ballot. The funds to support Article Eight would come from any undesignated fund balance available on June 30, 2010. **SECOND:** E. Stanley.

DISCUSSION: E. Stanley suggested changing the wording to up to \$50,000.00. J. Fortson commented that if it says up to the board might agree on less. **VOTE:** 11.132/2.1/0/1.726. **Motion passes.** J. Fortson asked if the Board needs a motion to delete Article Seven K. Dassau commented that he does not believe that there is a need for a motion. E. Stanley stated that the Budget Committee agreed with the 2.3 million cut. E. Stanley asked if the Board would like to discuss his list of suggestion which amount to about \$760,000.00. E. Stanley asked about the cuts to the maintenance. K. Dassau said that he presented a budget appropriate to run the school district. There are no more recommendations to cut custodians. K. Dassau stated that we are not asking to get rid of teachers. The principals have contracts. You can not eliminate a principal. It stated that the reduction does not degrade student achievement. E. Jacod commented that the original motion was a target and not an absolute. The most important part was not to degrade education. E. Stanley stated that right now there is an increase of 23% for the health insurance. He does not see an effort being made to reduce the budget. J. Carnie would agree with E. Stanley that he does not see an effort to reach the target. He said that the public is expecting these cuts. They are not easy but we pay the administration to do this. He commented that the original motion was a good one. R. Thackston commented that it is costing people their homes. B. Barlow commented that nothing is forever and we can recover next year. W. Felton commented that we are taking over the role of the Budget Committee. We are here for the education in the District. E. Stanley commented that the Budget Committee made a recommendation to have the cost closer to the regional per pupil cost and it passed unanimously. J. Carnie commented that the Budget Committee came up with the motion. He does not believe that they would cut more than 2.3 million. **L. Carpenter leaves.** **MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** that the MRSD proposed 2010-2011 Budget be reduced to \$31,000,000.00. **SECOND:** R. Thackston. **DISCUSSION:** It was commented that the default number was not available. B.

Barlow said that he could not vote unless he knew where the cuts were coming from. J. Fortson could not vote in favor of the motion she does not know the cuts. E. Jacod commented that the school district is going in the right direction and the amount of benefit is relatively small versus the difference it would make putting the District over the edge. E. Jacod is concerned with the risk of the scale back. B. Barlow commented that the 10% is reasonable to hit it is not. E. Stanley commented that he went through the exercise to cut and he would like to go through his list. R. Thackston commented that everyone wants to cut the budget but not the target. J. Fortson commented that she has spent a lot of time going through the budget. It is wise for the Board to go through the budget. J. Carnie commented that the administration has to come up with the cuts it is their job. He commented that this is a good year to cut there are no contracts. E. Jacod commented that he has reviewed the budget but does not have any good suggestions. We can not attack legislative mandates or reduce quality of education. There is no easy answer. R. Thackston commented that some people that live here are employed here. He said that he can vote on the motion with a clear conscience. **VOTE:** 6.728/4.716/.809/2.747. **Motion passes.**

2. SAU Budget 2010-2011: J. Fortson explained that the following motions were being brought to the board from the Finance Committee to be recommended to the SAU Board. **MOTION:** J. Fortson **MOVED** to recommend to the SAU Board to return \$225,000.00 from the undesignated fund balance to the voters of the SAU and have it presented as a separate warrant article. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 9.895/0/2.358/2.747. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** J. Fortson **MOVED** to recommend to the SAU Board not to include the \$7500.00 for computer equipment in the SAU budget. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 9.8905/2.358/0/2.747. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** J. Fortson **MOVED** to recommend to the SAU Board to include the roof repair in the SAU budget. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie thought the budgeted amount was high but it was the right motion. **VOTE:** 11.074/0/1.179/2.747. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** J. Fortson **MOVED** to recommend to the SAU Board not to include the carpet installation in the SAU budget and put it off for now. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 12.253/0/0/2.747. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** J. Fortson. **MOVED** to recommend to the SAU Board to include the costs of a superintendent search as presented for \$8000.00 in the SAU budget with the hope that some of these costs could be reduced by doing as much of the work as possible in house. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** R. Thackston felt that the \$8000.00 was low. **VOTE:** 11.074/1.179/0/2.747. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** J. Fortson **MOVED** to recommend to the SAU Board to cut \$60,000.00 from the non-salaried accounts in the SAU budget for the 2010-2011 year and to cut salaries at the SAU 5% for the 2010-2011 year. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** G. White commented that the insurance number would probably come in lower. He would not support this motion. There was a motion to put salaries at 0% increase and to have the employee pay 3% more on the health insurance. The additional motion is to cut 5% of their salary and the \$60,000.00 to the non-salary account. This motion is mean spirited and effects people. This is an ugly motion and he would not support it. There is no list of the suggested \$60,000.00 cuts. E. Jacod commented that he would be voting yes on the motion. This motion is a way of addressing the problem by

spreading the burden. W. Wright said that he could not support this motion. R. Thackston said that he would not support this. The previous motion agreed upon hasn't lasted 2 weeks. **MOTION:** R. Thackston **MOVED** to replace the 5% salary cut with a 0% salary cut. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE on amendment:** 6.416/4.658/1.179/2.747. **Motion passes.** **VOTE on amended motion:** 9.895/1.179/1.179/2.747. **Motion passes.** J. Fortson commented that next recommendation is mute regarding the Board asking the SAU employees with contracts to take a 5% salary reduction in light of the previous motion. **MOTION:** J. Fortson **MOVED** to recommend to the SAU Board to seek having the Assistant Business Manager attend MRSD Board Meetings and finance meetings until a Business Manager is hired in order to help MRSD in the budget preparation process. **SECOND:** J. Carnie. **DISCUSSION:** It was commented that we are not asking for an additional job. We are asking for answers to questions. R. Thackston asked why a motion. J. Carnie commented that the Assistant Business Manager knows the numbers. We want him there to provide the numbers. K. Dassau commented that if the motion passes it is not the responsibility of the MRSD or the SAU Board it is K. Dassau's responsibility. **VOTE:** 8.874/1.179/2.20/2.747. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** J. Fortson **MOVED** to recommend to the SAU Board to seek additional agreed upon procedures audit done by an independent auditor. **SECOND:** J. Carnie. **DISCUSSION:** J. Fortson explained that the intent is to look at the controls and procedures. W. Wright commented that the current auditors do an excellent job. It was commented that this is for a clean slate for the new Business Manager. R. Thackston commented it is important that the Board read the auditors report. W. Wright commented that an audit is very expensive. **VOTE:** 9.086/0/3.167/2.747. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** J. Fortson **MOVED** that the MRSD Board Members seek to have the weighted vote used at the SAU Board Meeting. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **DISCUSSION:** It was commented that Monadnock should get their fair share. E. Jacod commented that the motion should be made early on. K. Dassau explained that the voters did not say to use the weighted vote. The State Board of Education said proportion it. There is no legal requirement on the weighted vote use. R. Thackston asked why the motion. The Board always gets what they want. It was commented that they did not at the last meeting. W. Felton commented that it does not sound like it is going to be a very friendly meeting. **MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to authorize the present Monadnock School Board Members to be allowed to use the weighted vote. **No Second.** J. Carnie commented that Monadnock pays the greatest percentage and it is time that the weighted vote is used. J. Carnie commented that he is disappointed that the weighted vote was never used. **VOTE:** 9.895/0/2.358/2.747. **Motion passes.** It was discussed that the opinion from the attorney regarding the weighted vote whether ADMA or ADMR would be discussed in non-public.

8. School Board Committee Report:

1. Community Relations Committee: B. Barlow reported that R. Smith is the donation ambassador for the committee. B. Barlow reported to the Board that the Football coaches gave their stipends back to the program and other contributions to

the program. Thank you. Two scholarships have been set up with the funds. They are \$100.00 each to go to football camp in the summer. The committee would be discussing a calendar of events until March at the next meeting. The next meeting is on Jan. 5, 2009.

2. Education Committee: The next meeting is on December 3, 2009 at 10:15 AM.

3. Facilities Committee: E. Jacod reported that there are two motions to come before the Board. *R. Thackston leaves.* **MOTION:** E. Jacod. **MOVED** to recommend to the Board to accept the second year of the 5 year High School Renovations in the amount of \$1,524,334.74. **SECOND:** W. Felton. **DISCUSSION:** It was commented that it would be better to wait on the heating equipment in order to get this passed by the voters. E. Jacod commented that a lot of these items need design work. J. Carnie commented that we told the voters we would keep it at 1 million. We need to keep that number. E. Jacod agreed with taking the \$500,000.00 from the building fund. J. Carnie commented that the \$500,000.00 was to be put toward the 1 million for a warrant article of \$500,000.00. E. Stanley commented that the items cost more by doing it in pieces. We could take the fire alarm system out. **MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to amend the motion to change the amount of the second year of the 5 year High School Renovations to \$1,093,508.00 with no contingencies. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **W. Wright and E. Jacod withdrew their motion.** **MOTION:** B. Barlow **MOVED** to amend the motion to change the amount of the second year of the 5 year High School Renovations to \$1,068,966.00. **SECOND:** J. Carnie. **VOTE on amendment:** 11.232/0/0/3.768. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** G. White **MOVED** to ask the taxpayers to withdraw \$250,000.00 from the capital reserve and to apply it to the \$1,068,966.00. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** It was commented that \$750,000.00 is very attractive to the voters and we have \$250,000.00 for the next year. E. Stanley commented that he felt that it is a good time to use the \$500,000.00. **VOTE on amendment:** 5.765.5.467/0/3.768. **Amendment passes.** **VOTE on amended motion:** 3.472/7.760/0/3.768. **Motion fails.** **MOTION:** E. Jacod. **MOVED** the High School Renovation Article in the amount of \$1,068,966.00 to be offset by \$500,000.00 from the building reserve fund. **SECOND:** J. Carnie. **VOTE:** 11.232/0/0/3.768. **Motion passes.** E. Jacod reported that the CRC has charged him with generating a list of items to be part of R. Smith's efforts. The next meeting is on Dec. 7, 2009 at 4:45PM.

4. Finance Committee: J. Fortson explained that the report was already done during the meeting. The next meeting is on Dec. 3, 2009 at 8:30 AM.

5. Policy Committee: W. Wright reported that the committee met. The policy on Retention and the policy on class advancement should be in the next packets. The next meeting is on Dec. 14, 2009.

6. Budget Committee: E. Stanley reported that the Budget committee met. They discussed the operating budget. The next meeting is on Dec. 17, 2009.

7. Cheshire Career Center: No report.

9. Action on the manifest: **MOTION:** G. White **MOVED** to accept the manifest in the amount of \$ 1,144,907.04. **SECOND:** W. Felton **VOTE:** 7.753/0/3.479/3.768. **Motion passes.**

10. Superintendent's Report: K. Dassau reported that E. Wammack's last day would be Dec. 16, 2009. There would be an SAU meeting on Dec. 2, 2009 in Winchester. K.

Dassau reported that they are looking into interim services until the Business Manager search is complete. The Board asked K. Dassau the composition of the search committee. After much discussion regarding the search composition the Board agreed on the following: W. Wright, J. Carnie, B. Barlow, E. Stanley, Winchester Rep., Hinsdale Rep., P. Bell and the Assistant Business Manager.

11. Board Chair Report:

12. Setting the next agenda:

1. Warrants

2. SAU Budget

3. MRSD Budget 2010-2011

4. Kauffman information packet

13. Public Comments: D. Kauffman commented on ways to advertise the \$31,000,000.00 budget proposal. He commented and asked about the principal's bargaining unit.

W. Lechliden was discouraged by the letter from the principal's regarding the bargaining unit. He also commented on small issues that he sees daily at the school. He commented that it would be irresponsible for the Budget committee to cut the budget 10%.

14. 11:30 PM Enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (e) litigation:

MOTION: E. Jacod. **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (e) litigation. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **Roll call vote:** E. Jacod, W. Wright, P. Peterson, J. Carnie, B. Barlow, W. Felton, R. Smith, E. Stanley, J. Fortson and G. White. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

The Board came out of non-public session and had a non-meeting to discuss the letter from the attorney regarding the weighted vote. No minutes were taken.

15. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: E. Jacod. **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 11:55PM. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording secretary