

**Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Approved Minutes**  
**January 5, 2010**  
**Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH**

**Members Present:** Jane Fortson, Bruce Barlow, James Carnie, Gene White, Ed Jacod, Winston Wright, Lisa Carpenter, Eric Stanley, Phyllis Peterson and Robert Smith.

**Absent:** Tim Aho, William Felton, Richard Thackston and unassigned seats from Roxbury and Surry.

**Administration present:** K. Dassau, Superintendent, D. Hodgdon, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, D. Most, Assistant Business Manager and B. Gallagher, Interim Business Manager.

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

**The Keene Sentinel is taping.**

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

**1. Consent Agenda: MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to accept the December 15, 2009 School Board Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 7.66/0/3.414/3.926. **Motion passes.**

**2. Student Government Report:** R. Skrocki reported that the Student Government met with Mr. Karen and discussed student incentives to improve student life and the student community. The group would be reviewing a policy to put before the administration. The bulletin boards came in and would be distributed on Wednesday. He explained that the Student Government supports the Level One cuts but anything beyond that would degrade student achievement. E. Stanley suggested a Board Member attend the Student Government meetings. L. Carpenter commented that she may be able to attend a meeting from time to time.

**3. Correspondence and Announcements:** L. Sutton reported that the Middle School would be holding a Career Day on January 27, 2010.

J. Smith reported that the Cutler 4<sup>th</sup> grade would be holding a Choral Performance on January 13, 2010.

**4. Public Comments:** N. Moriarty commented on the comment regarding Columbine at a previous meeting. He said that children are the savest when they are in school. He commented that Monadnock is not getting their fair share at the SAU. He is in favor of using the weighted vote at the SAU. He hopes that there is an article on the warrant to withdraw from the SAU.

K. Cota commented that the cuts made by the Board are damaging to the accreditation. She asked how the Board can give themselves a raise at 150% and drop the budget by 10%. She commented on the Level One cuts by the administration. She also commented on the School Board micromanaging. She commented on the jobs that would be cut by the proposed budget and asked who would do those jobs. She commented on the motion to cut 10% without effecting student achievement. She said that is ridiculous everything affects the students. She commented that some of the people on the board are part of the Monadnock Taxpayers Association and that is why they are going after the budget.

P. Bauries commented that no one on the School Board is affiliated to the Monadnock Taxpayers Association.

D. Kauffman asked about the Principal's Bargaining Unit proposal. K. Dassau explained that the Board would be going into non-public session to discuss the just issued petition.

**5. Curriculum Report:** D. Hodgdon reported that he met with two members of the SERESC Independent study group. The group has gone to all the schools and met with the Ed. Committee and D. Hodgdon. They have noted positive items and noted consistent focus on work that needs to be done. They commented on PLC and pockets of excellence. They saw several areas to focus on such as early childhood, Spec. Ed. and children with disabilities. D. Hodgdon would be making a more in depth presentation to the Ed. Committee. J. Fortson read a letter to D. Hodgdon and the Science Curriculum Team on behalf of the School Board for the excellent work that was done.

**6. New Business:**

**a. Standards of Accreditation:** The information on the Standards of Accreditation would go to the Ed. Committee first and then back to the Board at a future meeting.

**7. Old Business:**

**1. MRSD Budget 2010-2011:** K. Dassau would be asking the Budget Committee to have the Default Sub-Committee reconvene to add to the default. K. Dassau explained that the administration did the exercise to get to the \$31,700,000.00 which was voted on at the last meeting. The administration put the late buses back into the proposed budget. He commented that 80% of the budget is staff. J. Carnie commented that he did not feel that the Maintenance Dept. had been dealt with in regards to cuts. He would suggest taking \$200,000.00 off the proposed budget and out of the Maintenance Dept. J. Carnie asked if there were any revenue numbers. B. Gallagher commented that he has not seen the numbers. They are usually the same as last year's unless we are aware of any target or reduction. **MOTION:** B. Barlow. **Moved** to rescind the motion to adopt a budget of \$31,700,000.00. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **DISCUSSION:** It was commented that with the passing of the motion the new proposed budget number would be \$32,411,502.00. **VOTE:** 8.037/3.037/0/3.926. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** J. Carnie **Moved** to have the MRSB support a 2010-2011 budget in the amount of \$31,500,000.00 and agree not to exceed that amount for the next fiscal year. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie was upset that

the Board did not address the Maintenance Dept. It was agreed that the Board would deal with it in the budget. He said that \$200,000.00 can come out of the Maintenance Dept. by eliminating 2 maintenance personnel and a maintenance management position. He said that the Board has an obligation to make cuts in all areas. It was commented that a message should be sent to the Budget Committee to let them know what the budget number should be. G. White commented at a Facilities Committee Meeting they asked for cuts but the Facilities Committee did not agree. No cuts were made by the Facilities Committee. K. Dassau commented that the cuts would effect student achievement. G. White commented that he does not agree with the motion. He would like the second part of the motion removed. J. Carnie commented that his suggested cuts to Maintenance would be done in non-public. E. Jacod commented the Board has addressed a lot of physical issues and a great deal is getting done and at a lower cost. They are saving by having it done in house. We are going in the direction of where we want to be. He asked the Board not to destroy the system. He would like to see a cut but this cut would hit the heart that has improved the situation. He believes that the number should be \$31,700,000.00. W. Wright commented that we hit the Maintenance Dept. each year. He does not believe he can support this motion. B. Pickering commented that E. Jacod said that it would take away the heart that is making it better. He said that could be said for all the departments. We are below the Level One cuts. We are still on life support with the accreditation. We have evidence that it is working. He is confident that the voters will support a number that would be different from the proposed. K. Dassau commented that the Maintenance Dept. had been cut on the Level One cuts and then the next stage of cuts. **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED a friendly amendment** to amend the motion and remove the words "and agree not to exceed that amount for the next fiscal year." **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie commented that he believes that there are duplications of duties in the Maintenance Dept. We are sacrificing the students with that Maintenance budget. W. Wright commented that he does not believe that people are doing the same job. E. Jacod commented that things are getting done because of the right assembly of personnel and knowledge. It is a huge mistake to take the \$200,000.00 out. K. Dassau commented that the SAU Business Manager was once the maintenance person and you need to see the impact with the decisions. **VOTE:** 6.951/4.123/0/3.926. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to determine that the \$200,000.00 cut from the Maintenance Dept. would be a management position and 2 maintenance personnel. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 6.951/4.123/0/3.926. **Motion passes.**

**2. MRSD Warrant Articles 2010-2011:** The Board reviewed the warrant articles. **Article One** was reviewed.

**Article Two:** **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** that the MRSB not support the 2010-2011 SAU #38 budget. **SECOND:** R. Smith. **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie commented that the board needs to challenge the weighted vote of the last SAU Board Meeting and to have an attorney present. He commented that the funds should have gone back to the voters. He would challenge the way the weighted vote is calculated. **VOTE:** 8.781/2.293/0/3.926. **Motion passes.**

**Article Three:** N. Moriarty explained the Health Trust Article. It was explained that the medical and dental premiums would come out of this account when needed. G. White commented that it was not explained that way. He thought it was only the surplus that went into the account to be used for the next year's premiums. J. Fortson explained that it is a trust fund that you draw from and the surplus is used the next year. **MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** the Board support Article Three as presented. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 9.895/0/1.179/3.926. **Motion passes.**

**Article Four:** **MOTION:** R. Smith **MOVED** to accept Article Four, the Health and Safety Article as presented. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 11.074/0/0/3.926. **Motion passes.**

**Article Five:** **MOTION:** B. Barlow **MOVED** to accept Article Five, renovations to the MS/HS Article as presented. **SECOND:** R. Smith. **DISCUSSION:** There were corrections to the article. The funds are for the renovations to the MS/HS and the \$500,000.00 is being applied from the 2009 School Building Capital Reserve Fund. **VOTE:** 11.074/0/0/3.926. **Motion passes.**

**Article Six:** **MOTION:** B. Barlow. **MOVED** to accept the wording of Article Six School Building Maintenance Expendable Trust (the dollar amounts are not set.) **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 11.074/0/0/3.926. **Motion passes.**

**Article Seven:** **MOTION:** B. Barlow. **MOVED** to accept Article Seven Special Education Expendable Trust Fund as presented. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 10.265/.809/0/3.926. **Motion passes.**

**Article Eight:** **MOTION:** R. Smith. **MOVED** to accept Article Eight as presented. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 11.074/0/0/3.926. **Motion passes.**

**Article Nine:** **MOTION:** R. Smith. **MOVED** to accept Article Nine as presented. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 9.961/1.114/0/3.926. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** J. Fortson **MOVED** to see if the MRSD would create a planning committee in accordance with RSA 194-C:2 to study the withdrawal from SAU #38 and the organization of a single district School Administrative Unit and further to raise and appropriate the sum of "up to" \$10,000.00 for the purpose of feasibility and cost study expenses with such amount to be funded from the June 30, 2010 unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2010. **SECOND:** J. Carnie. **DISCUSSION:** J. Fortson and J. Carnie both spoke in support of the motion. **VOTE:** 9.895/1.179/0/3.926. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** J. Carnie. **MOVED** to place the following NHSBA article on the ballot: To see if the voters of the MRSD direct the MRSB to support any and all efforts of the New Hampshire School Board Association to seek legislative appeal of RSA 273-A:12, Section VII., the provision in statute commonly referred to as the statutory "Evergreen Clause", to restore local control in the collective bargaining and school district budget process. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** W. Wright commented that this was advisory from the voters. **VOTE:** 9.895/0/1.179/3.926. **Motion passes.**

**3. SAU Budget 2010-2011:** Already discussed.

**8. School Board Committee Report:**

- 1. Community Relations Committee:** B. Barlow reported that the committee received the football scholarship money and would be handing the scholarships out at the Winter Sports Banquet. The CRC would be getting the word out about the use of the BeTTY'S Funds. The Selectmen meetings would start up again. The next meeting is on Jan. 19, 2010.
- 2. Education Committee:** J. Carnie reported that the Ed. Committee has not met. The next meeting is on Jan. 7, 2010
- 3. Facilities Committee:** E. Jacod reported to the Board that the Facilities Committee would be sending a letter of commitment to Fire Chief Skantze in regards to the sprinkler system at Mt. Caesar. Linwood Patnode would be attending a Facilities meeting on Jan. 12, 2010 to discuss the outdoor bleacher issue. The Troy stage would be finished by the Maintenance Dept. The fire separation wall at Troy would be completed in Feb. The Emerson boiler is running but there are two rooms that continue to be cold. **MOTION:** E. Jacod. **MOVED** on behalf of the Facilities Committee to continue using SVE for site plan work for warrant articles for the 2010-2011 school year. **SECOND:** R. Smith. **VOTE:** 11.074/0/0/3.926. **Motion passes.** There is a plan in place to have the hot water tanks replaced the week of Feb. 20, 2010. He explained that the second year of the projects would require the taking down of ceiling tiles. The committee would develop a letter to let the students and public know why the tiles have not been installed by funding from the BeTTY'S money. **MOTION:** E. Jacod. **MOVED** on behalf of the Facilities Committee to recommend to the board a budget transfer of \$1425.00 from new equipment to replacement equipment for the purpose of replacing the floor scrubber at Emerson which has a purchase price of up to \$6425.00. **SECOND:** G. White. **VOTE:** 11.074/0/0/3.926. **Motion passes.** The railings at the "M's" are complete, approved and under budget. The next Facilities Committee Meeting is on Jan. 12, 2010.
- 4. Finance Committee:** The committee has not met. The next meeting is Jan. 7, 2010 at 8:30 AM.
- 5. Policy Committee:** The committee has not met. The next meeting is on Feb. 1, 2010.
- 6. Budget Committee:** E. Stanley reported that the committee met. A motion was made for the \$32,411,502.00 proposed budget but it was defeated. The next meeting is on Jan. 14, 2010 at 7:00 PM.
- 7. Cheshire Career Center:** B. Pickering reported that he had received a school calendar draft from J. Logan and he sent it on to D. Hodgdon.
- 8. Northern Schools:** L. Carpenter reported that the committee has not met. They would be meeting in Gilsum on Feb. 11, 2010.
- 9. Action on the manifest:** **MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to accept the manifest in the amount of \$ 1,675,343.63. **SECOND:** R. Smith **VOTE:** 9.895/0/1.179/3.926. **Motion passes.**
- 10. Superintendent's Report:** K. Dassau reported that there is a need for a non-public session and a non-meeting.
- 11. Board Chair Report:**
- 12. Setting the next agenda:**
  - 1. Warrants**
  - 2. MRSD Budget 2010-2011**

### 3. Standards of Accreditation

**13. Public Comments:** D. Kauffman asked about warrant explanations. B. Barlow explained that information would be going out to the public from the CRC on behalf of the Board. He commented that he is disappointed in the maintenance discussion. There are no facts about mismanagement in that dept. It is irresponsible to cut \$200,000.00 from that dept. He does not feel that he was well represented by the Swanzey Representatives tonight.

C. Kahn commented that she is confused about the cuts. She said that the Board must be comfortable with the staff cuts, the NEASC situation and the maintenance department. She said that the School Board must all be happy with the cuts.

W. Lechliden asked if the cuts to the stipends and summer help funds were looked at to help reduce the budget.

B. Pickering commented that the administration has looked at the budget on a daily basis and taken away from student instruction.

**The Board would recess for a non-meeting.**

**14. 11:04 PM Enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) approval of non-public minutes : MOTION:** B. Barlow **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) approval of non-public minutes. **SECOND:** P. Peterson **Roll call vote:** E. Jacod, W. Wright, L. Carpenter, B. Barlow, E. Stanley, J. Fortson, R. Smith, P. Peterson and J. Carnie. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

**15. Return to Public Session:** J. Carnie commented on the most recent SAU Board Meeting in which the weighted vote was used. He would like an attorney's opinion and an attorney present at the Board's Meeting. He said that Monadnock needs to pursue a suit against the SAU #38. J. Carnie would like to know if the weighted vote was calculated correctly. We have asked for our attorney to be present but he has not been able to attend. W. Wright suggested writing a challenge to the SAU Chair regarding the vote and have the decision determined by a lawyer. E. Stanley would like to add that Monadnock not pay any legal fees due to the SAU #38 action. J. Fortson explained that we had an opinion from an attorney. J. Carnie commented that we need an impartial attorney. **MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to ask J. Hoppick to attend the next Board Meeting regarding the SAU #38 weighted vote issue and continue working with the Board on these issues. **SECOND:** J. Carnie. **VOTE:** 8.716/0/1.179/5.105. **Motion passes.**

**16. Motion to adjourn: MOTION:** E. Jacod **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 PM. **SECOND:** B. Barlow **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis  
Recording secretary