

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
Approved Minutes
February 16, 2010
Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH

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

Administration present: K. Dassau, Superintendent, D. Hodgdon, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and P. Bell, HR Director.

Also present: B. Tatro and D. Mousette.

The Board met with their attorney at 6:00 PM.

7:21 PM MOTION: G. White **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91 A: 3 II (e) pending litigation. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **VOTE:** 8.839/0/0/6.161. **Motion passes.**

Public Session: W. Wright opened the public meeting at 7:41 PM. The Keene Sentinel is recording the meeting.

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

1. Consent Agenda: MOTION: R. Thackston **MOVED** to accept the February 2, 2010 School Board Meeting Minutes as amended and make the suggested changes. **SECOND:** E. Stanley **VOTE:** 8.839/0/0/6.161. **Motion passes.**

2. Student Government Report: No report.

3. Correspondence and Announcements: K. Dassau introduced Matt Dillon and Judy Lundhl of Mt. Caesar. They did a study on the gymnasium/cafeteria room. They found from the results that the space is too small, unsafe and the BMI of the students is high. The results also showed that the BMI of the students in the district is an issue. They would like to form a committee and ask the School Board to put aside funds for an architectural study regarding this room. They would suggest a multi-purpose room which could also be used by the Town of Swanzey. R. Smith said that he is on board with this request.

K. Dassau spoke to B. Pickering on the issue spoken by a parent at the Deliberative Session. K. Dassau explained that he was told there was never a hit list. The safety concerns were brought to B. Pickering and he explained that the situation was not at the magnitude as the mother had stated.

D. Mousette explained that SERASC was going to meet in Gilsum at 6:30 PM.
B. Tatro informed the Board that there would be holding math night at Mt. Caesar.

J. Smith reported that the Cutler basketball team had an undefeated season and took the championship in their division.

The Boy's basketball team at Emerson also won the championship in their division.

The Girl's Middle School basketball team took the championship in their division.

4. Public Comments:

5. Curriculum Report: D. Hodgdon handed out information and updated the Board on the Fast Forward Program. He highlighted the new features. He reported on the reading growth that they have seen already. He reported that there would be a Literacy and Reading Workshop on March 19, 2010. The entire day is paid for by a grant. There would also be training in assessment and intervention for students which is also paid for by a grant.

6. New Business:

a. 2010-2011 School Calendar: D. Hodgdon explained that the 2010-2011 proposed calendar was closely aligned with the Keene School District calendar. He had received input from the principals, unions and administration. **MOTION:** R. Thackston **MOVED** to accept the MRSD 2010-2011 School Calendar as presented by D. Hodgdon. **SECOND:** R. Smith. **VOTE:** 8.839/0/0/6.161. **Motion passes.**

b. Deliberative Session Results: W. Wright asked if there were any comments. There were no comments.

c. Budget Report: E. Stanley reported that he thought the Budget Committee was meeting tonight.

MOTION: R. Thackston. **MOVED** to amend the agenda and add another item.

SECOND: E. Stanley. **VOTE:** 8.839/0/0/6.161. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** R. Thackston **MOVED** the Board instruct the Board's attorney to go before the Cheshire Superior Court regarding the counting of the weighted vote in the SAU #38. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **VOTE:** 7.660/1.179/0/6.161. **Motion passes.**

7. Old Business:

1. SAU Business Administration Search: K. Dassau reported that there was a meeting last Tuesday of the search committee. At that meeting more than the appointed MRSB members attended. He explained on December 1, 2009 he asked for volunteers W. Wright, E. Stanley, J. Carnie, B. Barlow, W. Lechliden, C. Duquette and W. Temmen. On January 2, 2010 he announced the composition of the committee and there were no objections. On December 7, 2009 he explained that an email from E. Stanley said that he knew a person that had applied for the position and he withdrew from the search committee. K. Dassau explained that a reference on an applicants application was a family member. K. Dassau felt that E. Stanley should

have recused himself from any further conversation regarding the search committee. He made a motion on Feb. 9, 2010. The search is not going forward and has been stalled. K. Dassau has contacted the SAU Board Chair to discuss these issues and no others should discuss these issues until resolved. E. Stanley asked who the family person was that has given a reference. E. Stanley explained that he was bringing a folder to L. Carpenter in which she left at a previous meeting. K. Dassau explained that the information regarding the candidates is confidential that is one reason for the appointed committee members. R. Thackston asked Attorney Hoppick about this issue. He said that School Board Members could attend the meeting without comment. That would be okay. K. Dassau asked if it was the opinion of the attorney that all 25 SAU Board Members could attend. He commented that the information is confidential. K. Dassau explained that there was no conversation to the Board Chair that all the members were going to attend. B. Barlow asked why suspend the search indefinitely. K. Dassau would fear distrust of the committee. This could jeopardize the search. B. Barlow would not be showing up at anymore meetings. K. Dassau would like to see the written opinion from the attorney. W. Wright stated that Board Members may attend but not participate in the conversation. K. Dassau said that all the Boards should know what has happened. This is the only Board that had other members attend the meeting. E. Stanley asked that he get the name of the family member on the reference. **MOTION:** R. Thackston **MOVED** to request the Board's Attorney ask the Superior Court to consider a request for a declaratory judgment in an emergency matter before any SAU meeting is held because it involves SAU personnel. **SECOND:** P. Bauries. **VOTE:** 4.493/1.179/3.167/6.161. **Motion passes.**

8. School Board Committee Report:

1. Community Relations Committee: B. Barlow reported the committee did not meet. The green sheet with the ballot information is almost complete. They continue to work on the videos for the warrants. The long term view of the committee is a vision and to see what being the best school district in NH looks like. The committee visited the Swanzey Selectmen and would be going to Fitzwilliam tomorrow. He said that the Mt. Caesar multi-purpose room is an idea they would be thinking about as well as the idea of sharing it with the town of Swanzey. The next meeting is at 6:00 PM prior to the next meeting.

2. Education Committee: It was reported that D. Hodgdon gave a presentation on the state testing results. B. Tatro and D. Mousette were in attendance and addressed issues related to the state testing. The Ed. Committee would be meeting with the principals and teachers to talk about the issues and to address the areas that need improvement. P. Bauries thanked D. Hodgdon for an excellent presentation. The next meeting is on March 4, 2010.

3. Facilities Committee: E. Jacod reported that the boiler shut down last night a water seal broke and is scheduled to be repaired on Friday. The committee discussed the emergency lighting issue and would be bringing a motion to the Board later. E. Jacod reported that E&D and SVE are working on plans for bleachers to submit to the building inspector. A motion would be brought to the Board later regarding the old bleachers. The committee discussed the issues relative to the past power outages. They have discussed this with PSNH. The committee also discussed the gym air handlers. The committee would be bringing a motion regarding the repair of the air

handler. It was reported that the stage floor in Troy would not be dealt with at this time. Servpro will clean the stage area prior to the curtain installation at Troy.

MOTION: E. Jacod **MOVED** on behalf of the Facilities Committee that the MRSD School Board to give the bleachers to be replaced under 2009-1010 Warrant Article Three to the Cheshire Fair Association and have the Board's Attorney draft a letter to be signed by Cheshire Fair Association's authorized signatory releasing in perpetuity, MRSD from any liability arising from the acceptance, removal, possession, or use of these bleachers. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **DISCUSSION:** This issue was okayed by the Swanze code enforcer. **VOTE:** 8.839/0/0/6.161. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: E. Jacod. **MOVED** on behalf of the Facilities Committee the MRSD School Board to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$10,000.00 from the Maintenance Expendable Trust to purchase materials required to address the MRHS/MS emergency egress lighting code deficiencies. **SECOND:** G. White. **DISCUSSION:** E. Jacod explained that this would permit the Maintenance Dept. to begin addressing the most serious deficiencies with straight time labor as available, when this work can be performed without disrupting school activities. **VOTE:** 8.839/0/0/6.161. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: E. Jacod. **MOVED** on behalf of the Facilities Committee that the MRSD School Board to approve the use of remaining \$25,000.00 from Warrant Article Six, Gym Improvements, of the 2007-2008 project year. This includes \$13,500.00 in liquidated damages and \$2860.00 retainage from the bleachers to move forward with quotes for upgrading the one working gymnasium air handler with new controls to ensure a fully functional until exists in the gym. **SECOND:** G. White.

DISCUSSION: E. Jacod explained that this is the first step of the 4 air handlers. This item is in an article that ends in June. B. Mitchell explained that the list has examples but it is not specific. If we do not use the funds in the article we loose the funds.

VOTE: 8.839/0/0/6.161. **Motion passes.**

4. Finance Committee: B. Barlow explained that the committee met and it was uneventful. The next meeting is on March 4, 2010.

5. Policy Committee: The committee has not met.

6. Budget Committee: No report.

7. Cheshire Career Center: W. Wright reported that he attended a meeting at the CCC and had a wonderful presentation on the programs. There would be an Advisory Meeting on Feb. 17, 2010.

8. Northern Schools: D. Mousette reported that he would be making a presentation to the Board on the recommendations from the committee in March or April.

- 9. Action on the manifest:** **MOTION:** G. White. **MOVED** that the Board accept the manifest in the amount \$1,107,054.83 **SECOND:** R. Smith **VOTE:** 6.639/0/2.2/6.161. **Motion passes.**

- 10. Superintendent's Report:** **MOTION:** E. Jacod. **MOVED** to accept the retirement of Linda Jakubowicz as of Sept. 2, 2011. **SECOND:** R. Thackston. **DISCUSSION:** R. Thackston would accept the motion with great regret. **VOTE:** 8.839/0/06.161. **Motion passes.** K. Dassau informed the Board that there is a need for one non-public session.

11. Board Chair Report:

12. Setting the next agenda:

1. Regular reports

R. Thackston asked to add another item to “New Business”. W. Wright explained that there is a policy for the agenda and adding “other items” anyone could bring up anything.

13. Public Comments:

14. 9:15 PM Non-Public Session: MOTION: P. Bauries **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91 A: 3 II (e) Litigation. **SECOND:** R. Thackston. **VOTE:** 8.839/0/0/6.161. **Motion passes.**

15. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: R. Thackston **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 PM. **SECOND:** R. Smith **VOTE:** 8.839/0/0/6.161.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording secretary