

**Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Approved Minutes**  
**February 2, 2010**  
**Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH**

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

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

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

W. Wright opened the meeting at 7:00 PM. W. Wright informed the Board that the Swanzey Select Board has nominated Patricia Bauries to the vacant position on the School Board from Swanzey. **MOTION:** B. Barlow. **MOVED** to nominate Patricia Bauries as the new Swanzey School Board Member. **SECOND:** R. Thackston. **VOTE:** 8.616/0/2.142/4.242. **Motion passes.** P. Bauries was sworn in as the new Swanzey School Board Member by Moderator Hutwelker. **R. Smith arrives.**

**MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to change the order of the agenda. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **VOTE:** 11.074/0/2.20 **Motion passes.**

**Enter into non-meeting at 7:15 PM. MOTION:** J. Carnie. **MOVED** to go into non-meeting with legal counsel. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **VOTE:** 12.095/0/0/2.905. **Motion passes.**

**The Board returned to Public Session at 8:19 PM.**

**MOTION:** R. Thackston **MOVED** to change the order of the agenda and have the auditor's report at this time. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **VOTE:** 12.095/0/0/2.905. **Motion passes.**

**Auditor's Report:** B. Gallagher introduced Robert Vachon and Jared Vartanian the CPA's that conducted the MRSD Auditor's report for the 2009-2010 school year. R. Vachon reported that the District had a pretty good year. There would be a positive balance of over \$794,000.00. He explained the three financial sheets that are included in the audit. He said that an adverse opinion the Gatsby 45 was an issue. R. Thackston asked if the District should take care of this issue and hire an actuary. R. Vachon said that the District does not want an adverse opinion. He would suggest it.

**MOTION:** E. Jacod **MOVED** that the School Board respond to the petition of certification made by the Monadnock Association of Principals and Supervisors relayed by Attorney Hoppick. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 10.916/1.179/0/2.905. **Motion passes.**

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

- 1. Consent Agenda: MOTION:** R. Thackston **MOVED** to accept the January 19, 2010 School Board Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** B. Barlow **VOTE:** 10.916/0/1.179/2.905. **Motion passes. MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to accept the 6:30 January 19, 2010 Non-Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** K. Dassau asked how you could seal non-meeting minutes that should not exist. J. Carnie said that he does not know how you would do that. R. Thackston commented that J. Carnie was agreeing with K. Dassau. The School Board does not approve the 6:30 PM January 19, 2010 Non-Meeting Minutes. **MOTION:** J. Carnie. **MOVED** to accept the 10:30 PM January 19, 2010 School Board Non-Public Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **VOTE:** 8.558/0/3.537/ 2.905. **Motion passes.**
- 2. Student Government Report:** No report.
- 3. Correspondence and Announcements:** W. Wright thanked G. White for his service on the Board.

K. Craig reported that the first and second grades would be having their show on Feb. 10, 2010.

J. LeClair is doing a Service Learning Project to help the people in Haiti with the first and second grades at Emerson.

D. Dahl is not in attendance his building is being used for the Troy Town Meeting.

L. Sutton reported that the High Honors breakfast is scheduled for Feb. 11, 2010. She also reported that the Middle School held Career Day. Eighteen members from the public attended. It was very successful. She commented on how very proud they are of Cody Mansey the Spelling Bee Champion. On March 7, 2010 the Middle School will sponsor Monadnock Family Night at the Cheshire Ice Arena.

D. Mousette informed the Board that the Parent Teacher Group will sponsor a Family Night and all the proceeds would go to the Haiti Relief Fund.

- 4. Public Comments:** N. Moriarty suggested that the Board allow an hour for the non-meetings. He congratulated P. Bauries on her new position on the Board. N. Moriarty commented that there is no need for the employees to fear the health trust. It can only be spent on them. He said that it needs to be fixed.

**5. Curriculum Report:** D. Hodgdon reported on the NECAP Testing results. He passed out the results to the Board. He commented on the individual schools. He also passed out a copy of the letter that he sent to the Keene Sentinel regarding the test results. He commented on the increase in the results but explained that there is a huge amount of growth needed to allow the students to move forward.

**6. New Business:**

**a. 2009-2010 MRSD Audit Presentation:** Report already given.

**b. NECAP results:** Report already given.

**c. Business Administrator Search Committee:** R. Thackston commented that he understood that the search committee is at the discretion of the Superintendent. The Business Manager is for the monadnock District and the other Districts have their business manager. The composition should be heavily weighted by the Monadnock Board. He would ask the Superintendent to rethink the composition of this Committee. P. Bauries commented that she had questions for the candidates. E. Stanley would ask that the SAU members on the committee be advisory and not on the committee as a voting member. G. White commented that the new Business Manager is responsible for all the Districts. P. Bauries would be submitting her questions to L. Carpenter who is a member on the committee. J. Carnie said that he would echo E. Stanley's opinion and R. Thackston's opinion. He said that he has no problem with them voicing their opinion. He asked that the majority on the committee be from Monadnock. **MOTION:** E. Stanley. **MOVED** the MRSB formally ask the Superintendent that the 2 SAU administrative members on the Business Manager Search Committee other than K. Dassau give their opinion but not be allowed to vote. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** K. Dassau explained that he had served on 6 Business Manager Search Committees since 1989. He commented that some Board Members seem very concerned about the make up of the committee. E. Stanley commented that he would be concerned with someone being on 6 Business Manager search committees. R. Thackston said that it is like being divorced 6 times and point a finger at 6 different people and say it's not me. G. White commented that the last 2 Business Managers were verbally assaulted by some of the board and the public in the meetings. B. Barlow commented that maybe the Business Manager position is too big a job for one person. K. Dassau commented that P. Bell has been doing a great job helping as well as the business office. L. Carpenter stated that she had been on many searches and she can not believe cutting the HR Director. **VOTE:** 7.972/3.314/.809/2.905. **Motion passes.**

**7. Old Business:**

**1. MRSD Budget 2010-2011:** J. Carnie commented that the Finance Committee discussed the budget and would bring this issue up under the Finance Report.

**2. MRSD Warrant Articles 2010-2011:** The Board reviewed the warrant articles. K. Dassau explained that Attorney Apple would make a recommendation to the Board to throw out Article Three the Health Trust Article. It was decided that the Board would meet with the Attorney prior to the Deliberative Session to have a written opinion regarding this warrant. **MOTION:** J. Carnie. **MOVED** to see a written opinion from Attorney Apple prior to the Deliberative Session regarding Article Three. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **VOTE:** 12.095/0/0/2.905. **Motion passes.** The Board picked individual

Board Members that would move certain articles and speak to them at the Deliberative Session.

## **8. School Board Committee Report:**

**1. Community Relations Committee:** B. Barlow reported that the committee met and discussed the March vote. The information draft on the warrants is 90% complete. The committee would be preparing different videos regarding the warrants and the budget. He reported that the Selectmen meetings with the CRC are scheduled except for Richmond. The next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 16, 2010.

**2. Education Committee:** J. Carnie reported that the committee met Feb. 1, 2010 and had a nice presentation from D. Hodgdon on the NECAP scores. The committee plans to meet with the individual school principals. He thanked D. Hodgdon for all his work.

**3. Facilities Committee:** E. Jacod reported that there were two power outages and they are looking at the root cause. During the outage rooms lacked emergency lighting and this issue was brought to the committee by a parent. E. Jacod explained what is needed to make sure the areas have emergency lighting and the labor involved. E. Jacod commented that this is a serious issue that has to be dealt with.

**MOTION:** E. Jacod **MOVED** on behalf of the Facilities Committee to remove \$23,763.00 from the emergency building fund for emergency egress lighting for the high school/middle school. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** E. Jacod explained that the town authorities are aware of this issue. R. Thackston said that he does not believe that this issue needs to be done now. The overtime by the maintenance staff is an issue. J. Carnie commented that he agrees with R. Thackston. He is concerned that this is a safety issue. We need to be informed about the issue and move ahead reasonably. He said that the district has to address these issues on a regular basis. B. Mitchell explained the areas in the building that would be addressed. P. Bauries commented that the Board has not been cited on this issue. She does not feel it is an emergency and does not agree with the overtime. E. Stanley explained that a parent stated that it was total black out when the outage occurred. P. Peterson suggested prioritizing the black out issues during Feb. vacation. J. Carnie commented that the issue was brought to the Board and we gave suggestions to move forward with the critical areas without overtime. Do the most problem areas first. **MOTION:** R. Smith **MOVED** to move the question. **SECOND:** J. Carnie. **VOTE:**

12.295/0/2.905. **Motion passes. VOTE on the original motion:**

2.293/09.802/0/2.905. **Motion passes. MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** to direct the Maintenance Dept. and Facilities Committee to come back with a logical plan to address this egress emergency lighting issue without going into overtime. **SECOND:** J. Carnie. **VOTE:** 12.095/0/0/2.905. **Motion passes.** The committee discussed the contingency money for projects. E. Jacod reported on the MRHS Grandstand bleachers. He said that at this time he does not have a number included in the bid to remove the old bleachers. R. Smith commented that he would take care of removing the bleachers. A. Schmit explained the reason for the concrete pad under the bleachers and why it would work best. **MOTION:** E. Jacod. **MOVED** on behalf of the Facilities Committee to accept the bid from E&D Specialty Stands in the amount of \$106,784.00 for the MRSD grandstand construction. **SECOND:** R. Smith. **VOTE:**

12.095/0/0/2.905. **Motion passes.** J. Carnie asked for a report on how to get rid of the old bleachers. The auto scrubber has arrived at Emerson and the ceiling tile issue was discussed with the Student Government.

**4. Finance Committee:** J. Carnie reported that the committee met. They discussed the money the settlement agreement. They also discussed the Health Care Trust Warrant. The next meeting is on Feb. 11, 2010 at 8:30 AM. The Finance committee would like the Board to hang together in regards to the budget. He said that we have a situation that is pretty good. The Monadnock Taxpayers Association has agreed to support the proposed budget. If someone tries to add to the budget the ramifications could be bad. He would ask that the Board hold with the number agreed.

**5. Policy Committee:** The committee has not met.

**6. Budget Committee:** E. Stanley reported that the committee would be meeting on Feb. 16, 2010 which is the same as the Board's meeting. E. Stanley would speak to the Budget Committee Chair regarding the date.

**7. Cheshire Career Center:** W. Wright reported that there would be a breakfast on Feb. 5, 2010 at 7:30 AM at the Cheshire Career Center.

**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:** R. Thackston **MOVED** that the Board approve the manifest as signed by a majority of the Board Members tonight. **SECOND:** P. Peterson **VOTE:** 7.660/0/4.435/2.905. **Motion passes.**

**10. Superintendent's Report:** K. Dassau reported that there is no need for non-public session.

**11. Board Chair Report:**

**12. Setting the next agenda:**

**1. Deliberative Session Results**

**2. Budget Report**

**3. Disposal of bleachers**

The Board would be meeting with the Attorney for legal consultation on Feb. 6, 2010 at 9:00 AM.

J. Carnie wanted to go into non-public session to discuss an issue on the January 19, 2010 non-public minutes that were sealed but was not sure what letter under RSA to go under. He proposed the following motion: **MOTION:** J. Carnie. **MOVED** that our School Board Chair notify Attorney Hoppick of the decision rendered in the January 19, 2010 Non-Public sealed minutes so he can move ahead with the action.

**SECOND:** E. Stanley. **VOTE:** 7.537/0/4.558/2.905. **Motion passes.**

**13. Public Comments:**

**14 Motion to adjourn: MOTION:** G. White **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 11:37 PM. **SECOND:** P. Peterson **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis  
Recording secretary