

Approved Minutes
MONADNOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD AGENDA
July 21, 2009
Monadnock Middle/High School, Swanzey, NH

Present: Jane Fortson, James Carnie, Robert Smith, Eric Stanley, Ed Jacod, Bruce Barlow, Phyllis Peterson, Winston Wright and Gene White. **Absent:** William Felton, Richard Thackston and Tim Aho.

Also Present: K.Dassau, Superintendent, D. Hodgdon, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and E. Wammack, Business Manager. Principals: B. Pickering, L. Sutton, K.Craig, D. Dahl, B. Tatro and D. Mousette

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

The Keene Sentinel is recording.

1. **CONSENT AGENDA: MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to accept the June 16, 2009 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Barlow **VOTE:** 10.053/0/0/4.947. **Motion passes.**
MOTION: P.Peterson **MOVED** to accept the June 16, 2009 Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 10.053/0/0/4.947. **Motion passes.** J. Carnie asked if some of the non-public minutes that were sealed should be opened. J. Fortson said that they would speak to that during non-public session.

2.**STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPORT:** There is no report tonight.

3. **CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:** B. Tatro informed the Board that Mt. Ceasar would be receiving \$4500.00 from the Hampshire Arts Grant.

K. Dassau reported that the switch gear issue would be taking place on August 7, 2009 until August 10, 2009. The power would be shut off in the high school.

4. **Public Comments:** N.Moriarty asked about the hiring of the 10 maintenance summer hires. He asked why the same field is cut twice in a week. He asked if the 10 summer jobs were advertised and commented on nepotism in the summer hires. He said that the Board should instruct the administration to terminate the maintenance summer hires. He asked about charging camps for the use of the fields and asked where that money goes.

5. **Curriculum Report:**

- a. **District Improvement Plan:** D. Hodgdon reported that the District Improvement Plan was developed about 2 ½ years ago in 2007. The process is to look at the systems and structure and implement plans to enhance student learning. There has been improvement but there could be more. He has a proposal for outside help from the SERESC. They would determine the effectiveness of the current organizational structure. They would compare programs and other services to other NH school districts and determine if changes need to be made to ensure success for all the students. The study would involve the teachers, administrators, support staff, school board and parents. The process would begin in September of 2009. The cost would be covered by the Title II A Grant. The SERESC is not a government entity and not for profit. D.Hodgdon is confident that after the application for the grant is submitted the District would be receiving the funds. He spoke to the person in charge of the grants. She is confident. He explained that this is a one shot deal. He has no intention of duplicating the NEASC. He hopes that this would improve the test scores and improve the way we do things here. D. Hodgdon commented that he would be overseeing the process. J.Fortson asked about the special ed. audit. B. Barlow commented that they should be 2 different

things. D. Hodgdon got here first. It is entirely a different animal. J. Bischoff commented on the stimulus money regarding special ed. She is not sure what the funds could be used for. She explained that it is like a line of credit. You get the money after you use it. She hopes to have more information soon. K. Dassau suggested that the ARRA money be on the next agenda. There would be a public hearing on the ARRA money estimated at \$520,000.00 and the BeTTYS money. **MOTION:** P. Peterson. **MOVED** that the District conduct a study from the SERESC Team. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **DISCUSSION:** E. Stanley. **MOVED** to amend the motion based on the District receiving any grant to cover the cost of the study at 100%. **SECOND:** R. Smith. **VOTE on amendment:** 10.053/0/0/4.947. **Motion passes. VOTE on amended motion:** 8.932/0/1.121/4.947. **Motion passes.**

- b. **High School Truancy Officer:** B. Pickering explained that he would be withdrawing the Truancy issue as of tonight.
- c. **Night School:** B. Pickering explained that this program is for at risk students. The funding would come from the 2210 and 51110 accounts. This would pay for stipends for teachers and an administrator. This is one tool that we are looking at. There is money in the account. E. Jacod asked if there were a minimum number of students for each class. B. Pickering explained that they would recommend 10 or more students. The students and parents would be a part of the plan. B. Pickering explained that we do not envision it out of control. He said that the Board needs to give it a chance. It was mentioned that transportation of the students is not paid for by the District. B. Pickering explained that the cost for the staff for night school would be \$10,000.00. Most of the staff members are qualified for at risk students. J. Carnie commented that anything extra is aimed at the at risk students and that he felt that there should be extra classes for those that want to excel. B. Pickering explained that he is engaged in that conversation with the staff. P. Peterson commented on the good work and nice job on the presentation by the staff. K. Dassau explained that all students are entitled to an education until 21 years of age or a diploma. **MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** accept the proposal as presented by B. Pickering and trust the administration to move ahead with the program. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **DISCUSSION:** E. Jacod asked that this is based on the fact that there are sufficient funding in the place described and if the program grows that the excess in the check book needs to go to the Board for review. G. White explained that the motion was outlined and explained. J. Carnie explained that we also discussed the minimum size of the classes. **MOTION:** E. Jacod **MOVED** that the motion is based on sufficient funding in place as described and if the program grows that any additional funding needs to go before the Board for review. **DISCUSSION:** K. Dassau explained that the Board would follow Board policy. P. Peterson commented that to get any program moving it is hard to get a minimum. One thousand dollars a class is cheap. This is very cost effective. E. Jacod commented that there should not be the minimum standard of 10 students but maybe 4 or 5 students. K. Dassau explained that this should be a standing agenda item. P. Peterson suggested looking at the numbers. It is a good start, keep an eye on it. **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to establish a minimum class size. **NO SECOND Motion fails. VOTE on the amendment:** 8.874/1.179/0/4.947. **Motion passes. DISCUSSION on amendment:** P. Peterson said to leave it to B. Pickering and not to tie him into the schedule. W. Wright commented that there is no person that would be denied a chance to get a diploma. **VOTE on amended motion:** 10.053/0/0/4.947. **Motion passes.**

6. New Business:

- a. **2009 Marauder's Contract:** E. Wammack explained the contract that was in the Board packets. R. Smith commented that he would not support the contract because when the students go to use the fields in September they are all beaten up. E. Wammack explained that the only charge was \$3000.00 for the season. **MOTION:** E. Jacod **MOVED** to accept the Marauder's contract but at a rate of \$6000.00 and to inform the Marauders that this is the last year that the Board would entertain this arrangement. **SECOND:** R. Smith. **DISCUSSION:** J. Fortson commented that Linwood Patenode and Gar-Wal repaired the fields at no charge. She would not like to see the fields torn up. The students should come first. She is not sure if she can support the contract. It was mentioned that the Marauders would have

between 4 and 6 games for the season and have a few practices on the field. B. Mitchell explained that the practice field was repaired at no cost but the Marauders do not practice on that field. The Marauders also agreed to call off the game if there was rain. They were very good about this last year. B. Pickering explained that the administration is in charge of canceling a game due to weather. **MOTION:** J. Fortson **MOVED** that the Marauders will not conduct their practices on the practice fields and to strike it on the contract. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** E. Jacod commented that we need to be reasonable it is part of the game-mud is part of it. **VOTE on amendment:** 10.053/0/0/4.947. **Motion passes.**

DISCUSSION on amended motion: J. Carnie is concerned that the Board is pulling the plug at the last minute. He is concerned with the wear and tear on the fields as well. He suggested that there be a charge per game on the number of games. E. Jacod would change his motion that the charge is \$1000.00 per game. R. Smith agreed. G. White commented that he recalls that \$5000.00 was too much before and they came back to the Board to have it reduced. They might go somewhere else if this passes. It is bad that we change the contract now. J. Fortson commented that this is the first time we have seen the contract. **VOTE on amended motion:** 4.288/3.472/2.293/4.947. **Motion passes.**

- b. **2009-2010 River Valley Community College Contract:** The contract with River Valley was in the Board packets. E. Stanley asked if there was a conflict with Night School. B. Pickering said there was not a conflict. **MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to accept the River Valley Community College Contract as presented in the packets. **SECOND:** Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie asked if it is costing the District any money. B. Pickering explained that the pros cut away the cons. They allow the science department to use special microscopes and we have the Running Start Program with them. Each staff is very respectful of each other. J. Fortson said that she is in favor of the motion. **VOTE:** 10.053/0/0/4.947. **Motion passes.**
- c. **Gym Floor:** The Board recessed in order to look over the gym floor. The information on the needed repairs was in the Board packets. B. Mitchell explained that the warrantee is for one year. The company has assured him that the repairs would be taken care of and how they would be resolved. R. Smith asked who was in the review of the floor prior to putting it down. He stated that the Facilities Committee never heard about the original floor being out of whack. B. Mitchell explained that members of the Maintenance Dept. were present. B. Mitchell explained that over time the finish will all turn the same color. The repaired pieces will blend eventually. The Board talked about getting someone to look at the floor other than the company that put it in. E. Jacod questioned whether it is possible to get a person that is not competing with that company. R. Smith said one that did not take part in the bid process. E. Jacod commented that you may not find one. **MOTION:** W. Wright. **MOVED** to begin remedial work on the gym floor as outlined by the company and to have B. Mitchell monitor the process as being done, to be in writing an extended warrantee on all of the repairs. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** N. Moriarty suggested having J. Tommila look at the floor. W. Wright and P. Peterson agree to have J. Tommila look at the gym floor. K. Dassau explained that there could be a conflict because J. Tommila wanted to supply the wood. **VOTE:** 7.695/2.358/0/4.947. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to contact Tommila Brothers for his professional opinion on the gym floor. **SECOND:** R. Smith. **DISCUSSION:** It was commented that Tommila should be contacted first and it was also mentioned that it should not be someone in the District. J. Carnie commented that he would rather see it without the motion. **W. Wright and P. Peterson withdrew their motion.**
- d. **Budget Direction 2010-2011:** **MOTION:** B. Barlow **MOVED** to have the Board direct the Budget Committee to seek to establish a budget for 2010-2011 that is 10% below the 2009-2010 Budget and have the Board direct the SAU Board to establish a budget similar as well. The proposed budget should not degrade student achievement. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **DISCUSSION:** G. White commented that it is a premature motion. The Board already cut one million-dollars from the last budget. K. Dassau explained that 10% is about 3 million dollars. B. Barlow commented for the Board not to make an effort is irresponsible. G. White said that the 10% cut is irresponsible. E. Jacod commented that we are setting a direction that we want to achieve. We have no way of mandating this but we need to paint a target. K. Dassau commented that there is no assurance about student achievement. J. Carnie commented that this is a directive to look at things in advance, an early warning. K. Dassau asked about the boundaries.

E.Jacod commented that this motion is not to establish the final standard but to set direction. E. Stanley commented that during the process everyone should keep a good attitude. **VOTE:** 7.695/2.358/0/4.947. **Motion passes.**

7. OLD BUSINESS:

8. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT:

- 1. Community Relations Committee:** The committee did not meet. The next meeting is on August 11, 2009.
- 2. Education Committee:** J. Carnie reported that the committee met on June 25, 2009. They discussed the 3rd music proposal. **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to accept the art and music changes as proposed by the elementary school principals. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 10.053/0/0/4.947. **Motion passes.** The next meeting is on September 3, 2009 at 10:00 AM. **MOTION:** J. Carnie. **MOVED** that the full Board accept the new diploma credit requirements as presented by the administration and supported by the Education Committee and the Policy Committee. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** The Board discussed PE class. **VOTE:** 10.053/0/0/4.947. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to accept Policy IKF as presented by the Education Committee. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 10.053/0/0/4.947. **Motion passes.**
- 3. Facilities Committee:** The committee held two meetings one on June 10, 2009 and the other on July 1, 2009. **MOTION:** R. Smith **MOVED** to accept the Mitchell Excavating bid for the Emerson School drainage in the amount of \$21,587.50. **SECOND:** E. Stanley **VOTE:** 10.053/0/0/4.947. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** R. Smith **MOVED** to accept the bid from Richard McIlvene in the amount of \$8500.80. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **VOTE:** 10.053/0/0/4.947. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** R. Smith **MOVED** that the Board offer the \$2860.00 to Interkal, seek the 5 year warrantee as promised in the contract and seek a release from future obligations. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **DISCUSSION:** E. Wammack explained the situation regarding the bleachers. The Finance Committee agreed with the recommendation. E. Wammack explained that there has not been any legal action as of now. E. Wammack explained the 2 different companies and the dates in question. **MOTION:** R. Smith **MOVED** to amend the motion to make an offer of \$2860.00 and to give E. Wammack authority to settle up to \$6760.00. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **DISCUSSION:** R. Smith explained that there are 2 contracts with different dates. **VOTE on amendment:** 10.053/0/0/4.947. **Motion passes.** **VOTE on amended motion:** 10.053/0/0/4.947. **Motion passes.** It was explained that there was no action from the Finance Committee on the snowplowing. The bleachers by the track need to go out to bid. There were many questions regarding the DOE. J. Fortson felt that the discussion should go back to the Facilities. The next meeting is on July 22, 2009 and July 29, 2009.
- 4. Finance Committee:** The Finance Committee met on June 25, 2009 and July 20, 2009. **MOTION:** J. Fortson **MOVED** to accept number one and number three of the proposed MC2 Transition Plan 2009-2010 dated 6-25-09 as presented by B. Pickering. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 10.053/0/0/4.947. **Motion passes.** J. Fortson explained that number two is still being discussed as well as number four on the proposed presentation. K. Dassau explained that class size needs to be looked at for the next agenda. **MOTION:** J. Fortson. **MOVED** to have the Board Chair talk to an employment attorney. **SECOND:** E. Stanley **DISCUSSION:** It was mentioned that a few issues have come about. G. White asked to have this conversation in non-public before the Board votes. K. Dassau asked who is an employment attorney. **J. Fortson and E. Stanley withdraw their motion.** **MOTION:** J. Fortson **MOVED** to direct the administration for better accountability of time for all employees. **SECOND:** J. Carnie. **DISCUSSION:** P. Peterson said that the Finance Committee questioned that accountability. A time sheet or a time card was mentioned. E. Jacod suggested going to the supervisor for the information. J. Carnie said that they want better detail. G. White commented that it is a contract problem. It is

dangerous territory and over management. It was commented that Finance needs the documents. K. Dassau said that he would agree with G. White. He said that the snowplow process is where it came out of and E. Wammack had no specific direction. E. Stanley said that it was very clear that they needed piece by piece broken down information. He said that the budget needs to start at zero. We did not get it. N. Moriarty commented that where he worked they had time cards. E. Wammack explained that he gave estimates in knowledge. Someone mentioned non-public session. J. Carnie said that he does not want estimates. **J. Fortson withdrew her motion. E. Stanley did not withdraw his second.** G. White commented that this motion would send out one big insult to all the employees in the District. **MOTION: J. Carnie. MOVED** to table the motion until non-public session tonight. **SECOND: P. Peterson. VOTE:** 10.053/0/0/4.947. **Motion passes.** **MOTION: J. Fortson MOVED** any excess money be returned to the taxpayers. **SECOND: P. Peterson. DISCUSSION:** This is in regards to the insurance. Overestimated funds. K. Dassau explained that the voters voted for a warrant article in March that directed the funds in the proper places. **VOTE: 4.223/4.716/1.114/4.947. Motion fails.**

5. Policy Committee: The Policy Committee met and has been discussing a stipend policy, advanced placement and college advanced placement. The next meeting is on August 31, 2009.

6. Budget Committee Rep.: The next meeting is on July 28, 2009 in Gilsum.

7. Cheshire Career Center: No meeting.

9. Action on Motion on the Manifest: MOTION: E. Stanley **MOVED** to accept the manifest in the amount of \$ 4,053,409.08 **SECOND: P. Peterson. VOTE:** 8.932/0/1.121/4.947. **Motion passes.**

10. Superintendent's Report: K. Dassau reported that there would be two non-public sessions. K. Dassau informed the Board that there has been a computer access issue that has affected Hinsdale, Winchester and Monadnock employee information. They feel that the issue has been solved. An email has gone out to all employees. The personal information was on the computer screen for less than 15 seconds W. Wright would like to thank Neil for his help on the problem.

11. BOARD CHAIR REPORT: No report.

12. SETTING NEXT MEETING AGENDA

1. Room usage

2. Two Public Hearings

13. Second Public Comments: W. Lechliden asked if the Board was going to ask the taxpayers for the 1 million dollars for the 5 year project. He said that the Budget Committee would have to work close with the Board to find the 3 million dollars in cuts. J. Carnie commented that it was a proposed project.

N. Moriarty asked why the towns do not pay the District monthly instead of quarterly. He congratulated B. Pickering and staff for the Night School proposal. He would suggest a high level class as well. He hopes that it works.

14. 11:50 PM Motion to enter into non-public session under RSA 91 A:3 II(b) Nominations: MOTION: B. Barlow **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91 A:3 (b) Nominations. **SECOND: P. Peterson VOTE:** E. Stanley, W. Wright, R. Smith, J. Carnie, E. Jacod, B. Barlow, P. Peterson, G. White and J. Fortson. 10.053/0/0/4.947 **Motion passes.**

15. 12:01 AM Motion to enter into non-public session under RSA 91 A:3 II (e) Litigation: MOTION: B. Barlow **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91 A:3 (e) Litigation. **SECOND: B. Barlow VOTE:** E. Stanley, W. Wright, R. Smith, J. Carnie, E. Jacod, B. Barlow, P. Peterson, G. White and J. Fortson. 10.053/0/0/4.947. **Motion passes.**

The Board came out of non-public session. G. White suggested if the Board was going to discuss people he suggested non-public session.

16. 12:27 AM Motion to enter into non-public session under RSA 91 A:3 II (a) Compensation of any public employee: MOTION: J. Carnie **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91 A:II(a) Dismissal of an employee. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** E. Stanley, W. Wright, R. Smith, J. Carnie, E. Jacod, B. Barlow, P. Peterson, G. White and J. Fortson. 6.951/2.293/.809/4.947. **Motion passes.**

The Board came out of non-public session. **MOTION:** J. Fortson **MOVED** to direct the administration for better accountability of time for all employees. **SECOND:** J. Carnie. **VOTE:** 7.760/1.179/1.114/4.947. **Motion passes.**

15. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: J.Carnie **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 1:28 AM. **SECOND:** B. Barlow **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
MRSD Recording Secretary