

*Approved Minutes*  
**MONADNOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**SCHOOL BOARD AGENDA**  
**Roxbury Town Hall, Roxbury, NH**  
**September 15, 2009**

**Present:** Jane Fortson, James Carnie, William Felton, Eric Stanley, Ed Jacod, Bruce Barlow, Phyllis Peterson, Winston Wright, Richard Thackston, Lisa Carpenter, Tim Aho and Gene White. **Absent:** Robert Smith  
**Also Present:** K. Dassau, Superintendent, D. Hodgdon, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and E. Wammack, Business Manager. Principals: J. Smith, B. Tatro, D. Dahl, B. Pickering, L. Sutton 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:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the September 15, 2009 School Board Meeting Minutes as amended. **R. Thackston arrives. SECOND:** B. Barlow **VOTE:** 11.074/0/1.797/2.129. **Motion passes. MOTION:** P. Peterson. **MOVED** to accept the September 1, 2009 Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 11.074/0/1.797/2.219. **Motion passes.**
2. **STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPORT:** Rob Skrocki reported that the Student Government met during school today. The meeting was not very productive, a lot of repetition. They reviewed last year and discussed the bulletin boards. A new idea was the fast pass for students to go to the front of the line in lunch in order that they can get to class. R. Skrocki explained that the students chose not to have a lunch in order to have a class that they wanted. Some of the teachers of these classes, which are usually advanced classes or honor classes allow the students to eat in their classes. K. Dassau explained that the Fair Labor Law does not require a lunch it is their decision.
3. **CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:** K. Dassau announced the passing of Dan Stockwell. There was a moment of silence in memory of Dan. The Board would be sending flowers to the Stockwell family.

The Budget Committee Meeting is on Sept. 24, 2009 at Emerson.

The principals reported on their upcoming open houses and ice cream socials. All are invited.

4. **Public Comments:** None.
5. **Curriculum Report:** D. Hodgdon reported that there are two issues of curriculum notes for the Board to be handed out and reviewed. The first sets of notes are writing notes. A writing team will be formed in the District shortly. It will be open ended. The second set of notes is the President’s Education Initiative Highlights by Commissioner. These are funds from the Stimulus Money and focuses on 4 different areas. Governor Lynch has signed on to this. On Sept. 22, 2009 the science results will be out. He will discuss it with the Education Committee and then at the next School Board Meeting share it with the Board. D. Hodgdon reported that the use of the ARRA Funds was approved by the State for the Fast Forward Program. This is getting started in October. He reported that the training is starting next week in Troy for the Fast Forward Program.

K. Dassau reported that there is a need for a Public Hearing to accept the \$5000.00 from the Plus Time New Hampshire.

## 6. New Business:

## 7. Old Business:

**1. Gilsum/Sullivan School Study 2010-2011:** The Gilsum/Sullivan School issue was a question from K. Dassau due to the fact that the administration would be looking to find the 10% to cut from the 2010-2011 Budget as instructed by the Board. He is asking if the Board would like a study committee to look at the Northern Schools. T. Aho asked D. Mousette to speak on the issue. D. Mousette commented that he does have thoughts but does not want to supersede the Board's thoughts. K. Dassau explained that the administration has to find 3 million dollars. He believes that all things should be put on the table. E. Jacod commented that the quality of education has to be considered. T. Aho commented to add two classrooms in Gilsum would cost \$500,000.00. J. Fortson explained that there is a past study that she would share with the Board. **MOTION:** E. Stanley. **MOVED** to establish an ADHOC Committee to study the Gilsum and Sullivan Schools. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **DISCUSSION:** It was commented that the charge needs to be clarified. J. Fortson read the charge regarding Surry. J. Carnie commented that the Board needs to form a purpose. What is the composition? J. Fortson read the committee for the Surry Study. R. Thackston agreed that the motion is too vague. E. Stanley commented that the purpose of the study is to look at the expenses and better the education in the full district as well as Gilsum and Sullivan. ***E. Stanley and B. Barlow withdraw their motion.*** **MOTON:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to consider all relevant issues associated with retaining the current configuration of elementary schools in Gilsum and Sullivan. Furthermore, to consider alternative arrangements consistent with the educational goals and objectives of the Monadnock Regional School District. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 8.746/3.004/1.121/2.129. **Motion passes.** J. Fortson reported on the formation of the committee as follows: 4 School Board Members, 3 Budget Committee Members, 2 Selectmen, 3 parents/community members, D. Mousette, another administrator and 2 teachers. W. Felton suggested a teacher from Swanzey. C. Kahn commented that B. Arguin showed interest to be on the committee. **MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the composition as stated by J. Fortson for the ADHOC Committee. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie commented that he does not want to see Swanzey over represented. The whole district should be represented. J. Fortson hopes to have at least one member from each town in the district. She will return to the Board with the names of the suggested members. **VOTE:** 10.636/0/2.235/2.129. **Motion passes.**

**2. Budget Meeting Date:** **MOTION:** B. Barlow **MOVED** to schedule the all day budget session on October 10, 2009. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 6.944/2.30/3.627/2.129. **Motion passes.** The meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM in the Annex at the high school. This is the Board's Meeting. There would be conversation at the Thursday Budget Committee Meeting on who will run the meeting the Board or the Budget Committee. The Board discussed the attendance at the meeting and if the Saturday Meeting is necessary. It would be appreciated by the administration to let them know if there would be people in attendance. There is a lot of work to be done prior to this meeting. K. Dassau commented that the process has been done in a variety of ways. The administration has been asked to reduce the budget by 10%. We are coming to the Board with big items, Sullivan School and all day Kindergarten are some.

**3. Healthcare Trust Fund Warrant Article:** J. Fortson asked N. Moriarty to present the Healthcare Trust Fund as this was his proposal. He provided information to the Board in their packets with questions and answers that he asked Sandra Rourke at DRA. The purpose is to create a trust account for health and dental premiums for the premiums owed by MRSD to the employees of MRSD. It would be limited to the expenditures for only health and dental. This account is not made to increase and to save. Any savings would go to the health insurance. R. Thackston and W. Wright said that it is a good idea. J. Fortson explained that the Finance Committee did vote to have the Board look into it and answer questions. **MOTION:** E. Jacod. **MOVED** to investigate the feasibility beyond the Healthcare Trust Fund presentation that was done. **SECOND:** R. Thackston. **VOTE:** 10.513/0/2.358/2.129. **Motion passes.**

## 8. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT:

1. **Community Relations Committee:** B. Barlow reported and handed out the schedule of the meetings with the selectmen. The CRC would be going to monthly meetings due to things being quiet.
2. **Education Committee:** J. Carnie reported that the committee met on Sept. 9, 2009 and had a report from D. Hodgdon on the District Improvement Progress Report. There would be questions and answers at the next meeting on Oct. 1, 2009.
3. **Facilities Committee:** E. Jacod reported that the committee met on Sept. 8, 2009 and discussed the asbestos issue at the SAU. The installation of the boiler is complete. E. Jacod reported that they have received the drawings of the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the 5-year plan from Kaestle Boos. We are in a position to do more than we could. Alan Schmidt would be contacting other schools to get information regarding their experience with the repair of their football bleachers. The Facilities would receive a report from A. Schmidt in October. The committee decided to repair the gym floor with the warranty work and to consider if the estimate is reasonable for additional work. E. Jacod reported on the past numbers for staff for the summer help. He commented on what is involved in the summer work. He said that there could be a plan to identify the summer staff and the issues earlier next year not to run into an issue and questions again. The next meeting is on Sept. 22, 2009 at 4:30 PM. E. Stanley presented a list of issues and current problems with the gym bleachers. **MOTION:** E. Jacod **MOVED** that the gym bleachers punch list be pursued by the in house maintenance organization for reasons of safety and operational reasons. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **DISCUSSION:** B. Mitchell suggested a bleacher technician do the repairs. He said that the cost is within the retainage. The retainage is to be used to cover outside services. **VOTE:** 12.871/0/0/2.129. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** E. Jacod. **MOVED** to add L. Carpenter as a member to the Facilities Committee. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **VOTE:** 11.850/1.021/0/2.129. **Motion passes.**
4. **Finance Committee:** J. Fortson reported that the Finance Committee met and discussed the Healthcare Trust Fund. E. Wammack reported that there should be a 1.3 million dollar surplus at the end of the year. They discussed the grants now going on. They discussed having a greater role on Spec. Ed. Funding. They are not sure where they would be taking it but they do not see the promised funding coming to the District from the federal government in the amounts that were supposed to be paid. The next meeting is on Oct. 1, 2009.
5. **Policy Committee:** W. Wright reported that the committee met. The committee presented the stipend draft to the Board. The Board commented on the paying of the stipends in March. They prefer the stipends be paid in December. The Board discussed the 70 % attendance at the meetings and the amount of the stipends. **MOTION:** R. Thackston. **MOVED** that the Board reconsider the 70% attendance issue regarding the Board stipends. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **DISCUSSION:** E. Stanley stated that he did like it but it maybe an issue. W. Felton asked if this is going to make a change. Are people coming on the Board to make money due to the fact that the position is more attractive? **VOTE:** 9.399/2.358/1.114/2.129. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** R. Thackston. **MOVED** to have the stipend amount for the Board Members at \$1000.00 and the Chair would receive \$1200.00 all stipends for the Board Members and the Chair would be paid in December of each year. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 7.034/3.479/2.358/2.129. **Motion passes.** The committee would be discussing advanced placement, audio recording and the Family Leave Act at the future meetings. The next meeting is on Sept. 28, 2009.
6. **Budget Committee Rep.:** The next meeting is on Sept. 24, 2009 in Fitzwilliam.
7. **Cheshire Career Center:** K. Dassau has asked the CCC Director to attend the October 6, 2009 Board Meeting.
9. **Action on the Manifest:** **MOTION:** G. White **MOVED** to accept the manifest in the amount of \$ 1,736,287.30 **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** Board Members questioned the funds in the

account to cover the manifest. The Board agreed to have a balance sheet on the last page of the manifest to affirm that the funds are available. **VOTE:** 9.650/1.021/2.20/2.129. **Motion passes.**

- 10. Superintendent's Report:** K. Dassau reported that there is a need for two non-public sessions. **MOTION:** R. Thackston **MOVED** to accept the postponement of Jan Parsons's retirement until June 2011. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 12.871/0/0/2.129. **Motion passes.**

**11. BOARD CHAIR REPORT:** No report.

**12. SETTING NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

- 1. Public Hearing**
- 2. CCC Presentation**

- 13. Second Public Comments:** E. Kaplan commented that the Board is grossly underpaid. He commented that he does not like to pay people for not working. Do the work and get the money you deserve. If you reconsider in the future suggest fee for service.

- 14. 9:50 PM Motion to enter into non-public session under RSA 91 A:3 II(b) Nominations: MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91 A:3 (b) Nominations. **SECOND:** B. Barlow **VOTE:** L. Carpenter, E. Stanley, W. Wright, W. Felton, J. Carnie, E. Jacod, B. Barlow, P. Peterson, R. Thackston, G. White, T. Aho and J. Fortson. 12.871/0/0/2.129 **Motion passes.**

- 15. 10:00 PM Motion to enter into non-public session under RSA 91 A:3 II (b) Litigation: MOTION:** B. Barlow **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91 A:3 (b) Litigations. **SECOND:** E. Stanley **VOTE:** L. Carpenter, R. Thackston, E. Stanley, W. Wright, W. Felton, J. Carnie, E. Jacod, B. Barlow, P. Peterson, G. White, T. Aho and J. Fortson. 12.095/0/0/2.905. **Motion passes.**

- 16. Motion to adjourn: MOTION:** W. Felton **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 10:24 PM. **SECOND:** P. Peterson **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis  
MRSD Recording Secretary