

Approved Minutes
MONADNOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD AGENDA
September 1, 2009
Monadnock Middle/High School, Swanzey, NH

Present: Jane Fortson, James Carnie, William Felton, Eric Stanley, Ed Jacod, Bruce Barlow, Phyllis Peterson, Winston Wright, Richard Thackston, Lisa Carpenter and Gene White. **Absent:** Robert Smith and Tim Aho. **Also Present:** K.Dassau, Superintendent, D. Hodgdon, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and E. Wammack, Business Manager. Principals: L. Sutton, J. Smith, B. Tatro, K. Craig, D. Dahl, B. Pickering and D. Mousette

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

The Keene Sentinel is recording.

1. **Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 II(e)Litigation 6:34 PM: MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II(e). **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie objected to the 3 Board Members who voted on the original motion that granted this scheme to happen. They should not participate he said. W. Felton does not agree with the view point. J. Carnie would like to vote to see if the Board would like those members to vote. J. Fortson said that it is up to the Board. J. Carnie said that the Board can not stop them from voting but we should take a vote. ***W. Wright recused himself from the non-public session.*** E. Jacod asked what the 3 members originally voted on. J. Carnie explained that they voted to allow a District employee to use his health care as salary. P. Apple was asked about a conflict of interest with the members. P. Apple explained that he does not see a legal conflict of interest but appearance is different. There is no case law on this. The Board policy gives discretion. J. Fortson explained that it is up to the Board Member to decide not to vote. E. Jacod commented that a quorum would be an issue if the Board Members were to leave. J. Fortson said that the member could abstain and not leave. J. Carnie has a very strong objection to having the members that voted in 2002 stay and vote on this issue. G. White said that he will not leave and objected to the fact that it is referred to as a scheme. There are a lot of versions to the truth. This is an objection. **VOTE:** 7.818/0/1.121/6.061. **Motion passes.**

After coming out of non-public session P. Apple agreed to copy a policy to the Board Chair and the rest of the Board regarding the previous actions of the former superintendent.

2. **Board Member Nomination: MOTION:** G. White **MOVED** to nominate Lisa Carpenter of Troy to fill the remaining seat of Doug Lyman. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** It was explained that Lisa Carpenter was nominated by the Troy Selectmen. The Board asked Lisa questions. **VOTE:** 10.053/0/0/4.947. **Motion passes.** B. Mitchell who is a selectman from Gilsum swore Lisa Carpenter in as the new Board Member representing Troy.
3. **CONSENT AGENDA: MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the August 11, 2009 School Board Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** B. Barlow **VOTE:** 10.053/0/1.121/3.926. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** P.Peterson **MOVED** to accept both of the August 11, 2009 Non-Public Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 8.874/0/2.2/3.926. **Motion passes.**
4. **STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPORT:** Rob Skrocki reported that the Student Government met and discussed ideas for the upcoming Homecoming event. ***R. Thackston arrives.*** The Professional Learning Community Committees were introduced to the Student Government. The students are discussing the bulletin boards from last year and they would be discussing the hall passes soon. Homecoming is

scheduled for October 3, 2009.

- 5. CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:** B. Pickering reported that it was a positive opening day at the high school. It went very smoothly with the scheduling. Open house is scheduled for Sept. 10, 2009. Enrollment at the high school is 659 students.

L. Sutton reported that the middle school had a great opening day. The transition of the new 7th graders went smoothly. There are 310 students in the 7th and 8th grade. Sept. 3, 2009 is the date for the middle school open house. The students would be listening to President Obama's presentation on the television on Sept. 8, 2009. All are welcome.

D. Mousette reported that things went smoothly at the Northern Schools. He shared a hand out with the Board that showed that people remember people that have helped them rather than famous people that have not.

K. Craig reported that the beginning days at Emerson were great. Everyone was on the right bus and it was a smooth start. There are a number of new staff. She thanked everyone for their participation in the new staff day. She read some of the comments from the new staff members on the positive experience.

D. Dahl reported that everything went smoothly in Troy. They have redone the schedule. There are three schedules that work with the PLC Teams.

B. Tatro reported that it was a wonderful opening day. They have cut three classrooms which made more space for music and extra instruction. There are 324 students. She apologized for not informing the parents of the 10 extra minutes of the school day. The dismissal was off by 10 minutes.

J. Smith reported that there are 240 students at Cutler. The teachers role played bus safety and other issues for the children. Cutler also had extended their school day and neglected to inform the parents. It was with good intentions but he apologized.

D. Mousette explained that there are roughly 50 students at Sullivan and 24 at Gilsum. Sullivan is grades 1 and 2.

K. Dassau explained that there are 2 needed non-public sessions.

- 6. Public Comments:** Dave Carins commented that he is a supporter of the District but referred to the bus situation where the parents were not notified. He would like continued communication so that he may be the positive voice in the District.

N. Moriarty commented on a student at Mt. Caesar riding on the bus for 45 minutes.

N. Moriarty suggested that the Board place the medical premiums in a trust account. Put it towards next year's premiums. N. Moriarty said that he would like to have the Board put this on their agenda. If it is voted down he would prepare a petitioned article. He would also suggest that the Board bid health insurance carriers.

P. Bauries asked that if the non-public issue presented earlier to the Board has been completed that the Board disclose the amount and unseal the minutes.

C. Kahn explained that the health insurance went out to bid twice and the current carrier is lower than last year.

7. **Curriculum Report:** D. Hodgdon reported that it had been a very active summer with the District Committees. He handed out the student population at each school and explained that the numbers are down 54 students from last year. E. Jacod asked about the Pre K. It was explained that the District is required to education spec. ed. Students from age 3 to 21. This preschool keeps those students in the District. There are also regular ed students who go to the preschool. The ratio of spec. ed to regular ed. Students is more than 50-50.

Class Size: B. Pickering reported that he was required to report the classes that had below 10 students. That was the sheet he had presented to the Board at another meeting. He explained that a PE class had been eliminated. Astronomy was also eliminated. The numbers could be different due to the last registration of some of the new students. The student, parents and the teachers appreciate the opportunity to have the classes even if they are below the 10 students. We are going on a curriculum aspect. We have added credits to the graduation requirements. Night School has been adjusted. W. Felton asked about the advanced placement classes. B. Pickering explained that they are the same but a few less. B. Pickering reported that there are 3 or 4 students taking classes at Keene State College. We are taking advantage of the alternatives. B. Pickering explained that he would be meeting with Senator Kelly to discuss what Monadnock is doing for alternative teaching. He is one of three in the State to share the school alternatives with Senator Kelly. J. Fortson explained that the policy states that the Board has to approve the classes below 10 students. R. Thackston suggested that the Board wait until Oct. 1, 2009 for the official enrollment number. B. Pickering explained by canceling the few classes that they did saved a little money but what is the impact on education. He explained that the advanced placement classes impact the accreditation. J. Fortson suggested the 8th graders with the higher grades. L. Sutton commented that the 7th and 8th graders being separate from the high school students was one purpose of the middle school.

8. New Business:

1. **Facilities Study:** E. Jacod the Chair of the Facilities reported that action has been initiated regarding the duplication of work in the maintenance department. He has been handed the bag and has been gathering information. E. Stanley reported that the study directed by the full Board regarding duplication of process a motion recommended to the full Board that we do this through the budgeting process. E. Jacod suggested that the Facilities do some homework. **MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** that the study directed by the full Board regarding the duplication of process a motion recommended to the full Board that we do this through the budgeting process. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie commented that was not the idea. It was a request that the Facilities study this for duplication. Have the Facilities done one bit of work. He was under the impression that the committee was to look at the job descriptions and bring a recommendation back to the full Board. E. Jacod would agree with J. Carnie. He has only been chair of this committee for 5 days. R. Thackston would agree with J. Carnie and E. Jacod. The previous Chair resigned due to this issue. The committee is not ready to deal with this it is complex. W. Wright explained that he has no problem with this going to the budgetary process. E. Stanley commented that we have a Budget Committee. E. Jacod explained that we the Facilities Committee have a responsibility to be informed participants. He asked that he is given a chance to search this. R. Thackston would suggest putting this into the budgetary process by the motion. E. Stanley commented that 3 Facilities members may show up at a meeting on average. It needs to go to the budget process. J. Carnie asked who is responsible for the process. This is not the Budget Committee's issue. This issue was to find duplications of the process and then the issue goes to the full Board. This is a School Board issue. E. Jacod

suggested that the Board let a little time pass and if he can not get information in 6 weeks then he would be willing to hand the football to someone else. E. Stanley said that he would not participate in that part of the meeting. W. Felton suggested having a few committees look at this. E. Jacod commented that this motion is designed to absolve the Facilities Committee from taking a stand. There is not a lot of trust from the Board regarding a reasonable answer. He would abstain from the motion. R. Thackston commented that the motion was to send the process back to the Board and put it in the budgetary process.

It was an answer to the 60 day charge. J. Carnie explained that it belongs in the Facilities. That was the original intent. **MOTION:** J. Carnie. **MOVED** to amend the motion to give E. Jacod the period of time he requested, which is 6 weeks and to return a recommendation to the Board. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 8.716/1.179/2.2/2.905. **Motion passes.** E. Stanley commented that the Facilities Committee doing this would put the Board in a position for a law suit. R. Thackston agreed. **VOTE:** 5.772/1.179/5.144/2.905. **Motion passes.**

2. **Budget Transfer: Tennis Court Repair:** E. Jacod explained the two options for the tennis courts. **MOTION:** E. Jacod **MOVED** that the board hire Vermont Tennis Court to repair the tennis courts in the amount of \$14,245.00 which includes the 10 % contingency. The funds would be a transfer from the Maintenance Salaries Account to the Repair and Maintenance-Contractors Account. **SECOND:** R. Thackston. **VOTE:** 12.095/0/0/2.905. **Motion passes.**

9. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT:

1. **Community Relations Committee:** B. Barlow reported that the District would be able to broadcast public service announcements to promote Monadnock during the Monadnock and Keene Football Games thanks to SUR.
2. **Education Committee:** J. Carnie reported that the committee has not met.
3. **Facilities Committee:** E. Jacod reported that the SAU boiler is being installed. There is an asbestos issue which is easy to solve. B. Mitchell explained that they are waiting on the test results but work is continuing. **MOTION:** E. Jacod **MOVED** to accept the snowplow bids as follows: Lepistos Garage for the Troy School, John Holman for the Emerson School, Gilsum Garage for the Gilsum School and Mike Pappas for the Sullivan School and to authorize Earl Wammack to execute the contracts. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **VOTE:** 12.095/0/0/2.905. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to accept the fixed bid price from Weber Fuel for the 2009-2010 school year. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** R. Thackston commented that he is opposed to a fixed bid. It is a bad idea. **VOTE:** 9.953/1.021/1.121/2.905. **Motion passes.** Nothing would be done on the stadium bleachers until they receive the specifications. The next meeting is on Sept. 8, 2009.
4. **Finance Committee:** The Finance Committee has not met.
5. **Policy Committee:** The Policy Committee has not met. The next meeting is on Sept. 28, 2009.
6. **Budget Committee Rep.:** The next meeting is on Sept. 22, 2009 in Fitzwilliam.
7. **Cheshire Career Center:** The committee has not met. There are roughly 60 students from Monadnock that attend the CCC. E. Jacod asked for a list of the courses being offered. K. Dassau has asked the CCC Director to attend a Board Meeting in October.
10. **Action on the Manifest:** **MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the manifest in the amount of \$ 782,534.08 **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 10.053/1.021/1.021/2.905. **Motion passes.**
11. **Superintendent's Report:** K.Dassau welcomed Lisa Carpenter to the Board. He mentioned that the date of October 10, 2009 has been mentioned for the all day budget session. .

12. BOARD CHAIR REPORT: No report.

13. SETTING NEXT MEETING AGENDA

- 1. Budget Meeting**
- 2. Healthcare Trust Fund Issue**

14. Second Public Comments: No comments.

15. 9:50 PM Motion to enter into non-public session under RSA 91 A:3 II(e) Litigation Grievance:
MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91 A:3 (e) Litigation.
SECOND: B. Barlow **VOTE:** L. Carpenter, E. Stanley, W. Wright, W. Felton, J. Carnie, E. Jacod, B. Barlow, P. Peterson, R. Thackston, G. White and J. Fortson. 12.095/0/0/2.905 **Motion passes.**

16. 10:05 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, R. Thackston, E. Stanley, W. Wright, W. Felton, J. Carnie, E. Jacod, B. Barlow, P. Peterson, G. White and J. Fortson. 12.095/0/0/2.905. **Motion passes.**

17. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: J. Carnie **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 PM. **SECOND:** R. Thackston. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
MRSD Recording Secretary