

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
Approved Minutes
November 3, 2009
Sullivan Elementary School, Sullivan, NH

Members Present: Bruce Barlow, James Carnie, Gene White, Ed Jacod, Winston Wright, William Felton, Tim Aho, Phyllis Peterson, Lisa Carpenter and Richard Thackston.

Absent: Jane Fortson, Robert Smith, Eric Stanley and unassigned seats from Roxbury and Surry.

Also present: L. Sutton, B. Tatro, B. Pickering, D. Mousette, J.C. Russell and J. Smith.

W. Wright opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

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

1. Consent Agenda: MOTION: W. Felton. **MOVED** to accept the October 20, 2009 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 9.492/0/1.012/4.487. **Motion passes.**

2. Student Government Report: R. Skrocki reported that the Student Government met today during school. Their goal is to complete the mission statement. It is work in progress. A Board Member commented that R. Skrocki has reported to the Board at a level that exceeds the Board's expectations.

3. Correspondence and Announcements: L. Sutton reported that they would be holding high honors breakfast on November 12, 2009 for the Middle School Students. The Middle School Football Team will be hosting the championship game on November 11, 2009.

D. Mousette welcomed everyone to Sullivan Elementary. He thanked the staff for the refreshments. He invited everyone to their Veterans Day ceremony on November 10, 2009 in Gilsum.

J. Smith reported that the homestead Garden Club went to Cutler and discussed gardening. They gave each student a spring bulb to plant. This was a great community relations event. They would like to have a junior branch of the garden club. J. Smith reported that the grant from Pfizer which they had received has been extended for 2 years. This is to purchase equipment to interact with other schools around the globe. A public hearing would be held at the next Board Meeting to see if the Board would accept the grant.

B. Pickering thanked the parents of the parent committee for the banners in the individual schools. The banners show that everyone in each school is part of Monadnock. B. Pickering reported that Monadnock beat Laconia. That is only the second time in history.

B. Tatro reported that there are parent teacher conferences this week. The Fast Forward Program is up and running.

K. Dassau passed out the newsletter from Emerson.

4. Public Comments: N. Moriarty asked that the Board bid out the health insurance.

It was commented on a letter that each Board Member had received from the Selectmen of Fitzwilliam. The letter notified the Board that they had asked for information from the business office and had not received it. K. Dassau and E. Wammack did not receive the letter. W. Wright would like to place this issue on the next agenda. It was commented that the CRC met with the Fitzwilliam Selectmen and this issue was never mentioned. The MS 25 and DOE 25 were mentioned. E. Wammack explained that both forms are being asked to be signed by the Board tonight.

5. Curriculum Report: B. Pickering reported on the letter from the NEASC. There are 4 items that they are asking for a response by April 1, 2010. He reported that the NEASC committee takes items that were discussed at the beginning of the whole process and ask how you are doing with them. They referenced all items completed. The District continues to make progress to get rid of the probation status but it will not happen overnight. T. Aho commented on the air quality issue. He said that in the report there are items that are not true and would not get fixed. B. Pickering explained that we need to fix items or prove we do not need to fix them. They are asking for specific items. We can only control here and now. J. Carnie commented that the report needs to be corrected regarding the air quality. B. Pickering said that he would go to the committee to fix the air quality issue. J. Smith commented that they have not heard from the NEASC regarding this issue. K. Dassau commented that the Facilities Committee and the Education Committee went over the items. He suggested that they go over the list of items again. R. Thackston commented that the Board needs to deal with the items in the letter. Deal with the problems now. B. Pickering explained that is what he is doing. J. Carnie explained that the Board has to address all the issues and the air quality is one of those issues. B. Pickering explained that he would be meeting with members of the NEASC and he would ask the question. B. Barlow suggested letting sleeping dogs lie. C. Kahn commented that she feels that there is an air quality issue and would like to see it tested.

D. Hodgdon reported on the science team, the literary team, the math mentors and the writing team. He reported that SERESC has started to meet with the principals and tour the buildings. The committee would then meet with the Education Committee. The Fast Forward Program funded by the ARRA IDEA Grant has started in most schools. D. Hodgdon would be reporting on that program to the Board regularly. D. Hodgdon passed out a brochure he prepared regarding on the curriculum committees.

6. New Business:

1. DOE 25/MS 25: E. Wammack passed out the DOE 25 and the MS 25 to the Board to get signed. E. Wammack explained that this is the annual financial report for the District. It has been prepared by the auditors and reviewed by E. Wammack and the DOE. E. Wammack reviewed the forms with the Board. The Board asked questions

regarding the forms. E. Wammack explained. **MOTION:** R. Thackston. **MOVED** to approve the DOE 25 and the MS 25 reports as submitted. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie explained that he would be voting no on the motion. He said that the Board should not vote on a report that they receive the same night. **VOTE:** 6.323/1.121/3.069/4.487. **Motion passes.**

2. Fitzwilliam Selectmen Letter: E. Wammack explained that he would be contacting N. Carlson regarding the letter. E. Jacod asked who at the SAU received the letter. At the most recent meeting between the CRC and the Selectmen from Fitzwilliam there was no reference to this issue. **MOTION:** W. Felton. **MOVED** to place the letter from the Fitzwilliam Selectmen on the next School Board agenda. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **VOTE:** 10.513/0/0/4.487. **Motion passes.** W. Wright suggested that the Board ask the Fitzwilliam Selectmen to attend the next board meeting with their original request.

7. Old Business:

1. MRSD Budget 2010-2011: The Board received a copy of the N. Moriarty suggested cuts to the purposed budget and the E. Stanley suggested cuts which came from the most recent Budget Committee Meeting. N. Moriarty also explained the motion moved by T. Ellsworth of the Budget Committee. The recording secretary read the motion which supported the superintendent's level one cuts, support the creation of a health trust warrant, support the Northern Schools Study and to revise the 10% to an average per pupil cost. K. Dassau explained that there was no action on E. Stanley's sheet. **MOTION:** W. Felton. **MOVED** to accept the sheets for informational purpose from the Budget Committee for consideration at a later date. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie referenced a 2.3 million dollar cut by the Budget Committee. He asked what amount was in the motion and what is a later date. W. Felton commented that this information was brought tonight and we should not consider it too fast. E. Jacod commented that we acknowledged their suggestions. G. White commented that the motion does not specify a 2.3 million cut. They said to support the Level 1 cuts. G. White suggested that the Board pass on this item and wait until the next meeting. J. Carnie would like a friendly amendment to have this issue discussion not to exceed 2 meetings. C. Kahn commented that T. Ellsworth's motion was to go with the Level one cuts. If it was told of a 2.3 million dollar cut she felt it would not have passed. She is surprised regarding the figure. **VOTE:** 9.334/0/1.179/4.487. **Motion passes.**

2. MRSD Warrant Article 2010-2011: K. Dassau explained that J. Fortson had asked for this agenda item. The Health Insurance Trust Article should be ready to look at the language for the next meeting. **MOTION:** T. Aho **MOVED** to put the health insurance out to bid. IPG did a perfect job. **SECOND:** J. Carnie. **DISCUSSION:** G. White commented that the Winchester Board, Hinsdale and the SAU all have to agree. He commented that we are only approving our portion. K. Dassau suggested bringing this issue to the SAU Board at the meeting tomorrow night. **MOTION** G. White **MOVED** that this Board spend up to \$35,000.00 for IPG's services. **SECOND:** W. Felton. **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie suggested no figure in the motion. **VOTE on the amendment:** 0/7.041/2.293/5.666. (W. Felton missing

from vote) **Motion fails. VOTE on the original motion:** 10.513/0/0/4.487. **Motion passes.**

3. SAU Budget 2010-2011: K. Dassau reported that every SAU Board Member has received the agenda and the budget for the SAU Meeting. He commented that the proposed budget includes a new roof and carpeting. It includes a 2.5% pool of money, staff changes and the staff contributing more to the health care. The budget is down 9.17% less than last year. E. Wammack explained that they are projecting a surplus of \$311,958.00 for next year. It was commented that there is not a 9.17% reduction. The budget is actually more because of the surplus. J.Carnie would like to put the SAU on the Board's agenda. The Board needs to look at the contract issues and the budget.

4. Northern Schools Committee: K. Dassau reported that the first meeting of the committee would be held on Thursday Nov. 12, 2009 at 6:30 PM in Sullivan.

5, Class Size under 10 Students: B. Pickering provided the Board with an updated list of the classes with less than 10 students. He explained to the Board the rationale for the sizes. J. Carnie suggested that this issue be presented to the Ed. Committee and then to the Board. **(R. Thackston leaves the meeting)**

8. School Board Committee Report:

1. Community Relations Committee: B. Barlow reported that the CRC would be meeting with the Swanzey Selectmen on Nov. 24, 2009. They are the last town scheduled. The advertisement program during the Keene High and Monadnock games is coming to an end. The committee discussed the Stockwell press release. The next meeting is Dec. 1, 2009. They would be discussing recognizing coaches and the football stipends that went back to the teams.

2. Education Committee: The committee has not met. They would be meeting after the Finance Committee on Thursday.

3. Facilities Committee: E. Jacod reported that the committee is discussing the duplication of duties in the maintenance dept. and the daily attendance of the maintenance staff and absences. They discussed the Troy curtain installation. The Mt. Caesar security system is near completion. A. Schmidt reported that the amount of funds set aside for the bleachers may not be enough. The ADA ramp and railing are scheduled to begin construction. The drawings for the locker room are being revised, the door is the issue. E. Wammack had reported that there is no new communication with Interkal. The next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 10, 2009.

4. Policy Committee: MOTION: P. Peterson. **MOVED** to accept Policy JH-Student Absences and Excuses as outlined and presented. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 9.492/0/0/5.508. **Motion passes.**

5. Budget Committee: There was no report. The representative was not present.

6. Cheshire Career Center: No report.

9. Action on the manifest: MOTION: G. White **MOVED** to accept the manifest in the amount of \$2,944,838.61. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **DISCUSSION:** T. Aho asked for

information on the status of the towns payments to the District. **VOTE:**
9.492/0/0/5.508. **Motion passes.**

10. Superintendent's Report: K. Dassau reported that there is a need for 2 non-public sessions. He commented that it would be courteous for the Board to let the public know if after the non-public sessions the Board would be conducting public business again.

11. Board Chair Report: Board Chair not present.

12. Setting the next agenda:

13. Public Comments: A. Garrapy a teacher in the District thanked all the principals in the District for their time given to the District.

E. Kaplan commented that the original motion regarding the 10% cut was not to affect student learning. A target is not always hit. There is a problem with the average per pupil. The stimulus money would increase the number. Be careful with the numbers when attempting to bring down the budget. Do not throw the baby out with the bath water.

N. Moriarty suggested asking the NEASC for a summary of the outstanding issues. He commented that the air quality has been screened by 3 companies. Get the reports. We do not need another air quality check.

T. Ellsworth clarified her proposed recommendation that she made at the Budget Committee Meeting. She said that she recommended the administrative Level One cuts.

14. 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 II (b) nominations. **SECOND:** J. Carnie. **Roll call vote:** E. Jacod, W. Wright, P. Peterson, J. Carnie, B. Barlow, W. Felton and G. White. (L. Carpenter and T. Aho missing from the vote) 7.695/0/0/5.508. **Motion passes.**

15. 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: II (e) litigation. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **Roll call vote:** E. Jacod, W. Wright, P. Peterson, J. Carnie, T. Aho, B. Barlow, W. Felton, G. White and L. Carpenter. 9.492/0/0/5.508. **Motion passes.**

16. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: J. Carnie. **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 10:34 PM. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording secretary