

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
Approved Minutes
August 17, 2010
Mt. Caesar Elementary School, Swanzey, NH

Members Present: Winston Wright, Ed Jacod, Eric Stanley, Richard Thackston, Lisa Steadman, Bruce Barlow, Robert Smith, Scott Ellsworth, James Carnie and William Felton. **Absent:** Phyllis Peterson, Mike Morrison, Pat Bauries and unassigned seats from Roxbury and Sullivan.

Administration present: D. Hodgdon, Superintendent and J. Fortson, Business Manager.

Also present: B. Tatro, L. Sutton, J. Smith, D. Dahl, D. Mousette, T. Stewart and K. Craig.

“The goal of the Monadnock Regional Board is to provide a *World Class Public Education* for every child.”

1. Consent Agenda: MOTION: R. Smith **MOVED** to accept the July 13, 2010 Public and Non-Public School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** W. Felton

DISCUSSION: J. Carnie asked that the issue regarding censure be on the next agenda.

VOTE: 10.6/0/0/4.365 **Motion passes.**

2. Public Comments:

3. Business Manager’s Report: J. Fortson explained the contract with River Valley Community College which was in the Board packets for review. **MOTION:** R. Smith **MOVED** to accept the contract between the Monadnock Regional School District and the River Valley Community College as presented. **SECOND:** B. Barlow.

VOTE: 10.6/0/0/4.365. **Motion passes.** J. Fortson informed the Board the checks would be run on every other Friday starting Sept. 3, 2010.

4. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

1. Correspondence and Announcements: T. Stewart passed out information to the Board from the NEASC. He handed out a letter from the NEASC and information. He explained that the high school has been removed from probationary status for the standards of Accreditation on School Resources for Learning but are still on probation for accreditation on Instruction and Community Resources for Learning. The NEASC listed the commendations and their recommendations. T. Stewart would like to establish a Site Council. He would bring more information on the committee proposal at a later meeting. T. Stewart mentioned the Five-Year Progress Report which is due on March 1, 2011. In this report all recommendations from the original report should be complete or in the final stages of completion.

L. Sutton informed the Board that the Middle School would have their Open House on Sept. 9, 2010. There will be a Family Pasta Night for the 7th graders, a parent orientation and then the 8th graders would join them for dessert. There will be a presentation on bullying for all.

K. Craig reported that they would be welcoming the staff on Friday and the new students as well. Emerson's Open House is on Sept. 15, 2010 where the families join together to clean the school yard and have hot dogs.

D. Mousette reported that the summer program had ended. There are 10 new students in the Northern Schools. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday the staff will be coming in for the intervention model.

J. Smith informed the Board that the Open House at Cutler is on August 30, 2010 with the parents involved.

D. Hodgdon informed the Board he had received a letter from the Swanzy Old Home Days Committee thanking the Board for the use of the school grounds.

D. Hodgdon reported that he and others from the District had attended the funeral of Lindsey Borden. He also received a letter thanking him and others for their attendance.

D. Hodgdon received a letter from the NH Board of Education stating that the District's Withdrawal Plan had been approved and meets the statutory requirements. D. Hodgdon thanked the committee for their hard work and dedication to the committee.

2. Curriculum Report:

a. SERESC: D. Hodgdon introduced Dr. Richard Ayers and Jane Bergeron-Beaulieu the people who conducted the study and prepared the summary of their findings. The executive report and summary was sent to the Board and the full report would be on the web site tomorrow. Jane Bergeron-Beaulieu gave the overview of the executive summary. They reported they felt welcome at every school and the staff was dedicated to the students. Dr. Richard Ayers discussed the commendations and the recommendations. Jane Bergeron-Beaulieu commented that the District is at a critical point and can use this information they gathered. People are open to do things differently. This is a blueprint toward the future. To help strengthen the programs to make sure all students achieve. Dr. Richard Ayers explained that the commendations and recommendations are similar between the SERESC and the NEASC. Jane Bergeron-Beaulieu commented that she did not see the same concepts and curriculum in all the elementary schools. She would suggest the same for when all the students come together in the middle school and are on the same page. R. Thackston thanked Jane Bergeron-Beaulieu and Dr. Richard Ayers for their work and report.

3. Superintendent's Report:

a. Computer Failure Issue: C. Boyle informed the Board that there are now systems in place so the recent computer failure would not happen again. The software update on the old server was the problem. No data was compromised. C. Boyle explained that there are 45 minutes of battery backup with an electrical failure. J. Fortson explained that the generator is not sufficient. E. Stanley mentioned that the Town of Swanzey mentioned the willingness to write a grant for another generator. E. Jacod would suggest finding out the watts of power for a fall back situation.

b. Other Issues of Importance: D. Hodgdon commended the Facilities Project Managers Search Committee for an excellent job. There were a lot of hours involved. There is a need for a non-public session for a number of nominations.

5. BOARD CHAIR REPORT:

1. Chair Report:

a. High School Update: R. Thackston commented on the letter from the NEASC as the road to redemption.

b. Full Day Kindergarten Study Update: R. Thackston hopes to see the Kindergarten Committee at the Sept. 7, 2010 meeting.

c. Facilities Manager Search: R. Thackston reported that the committee worked well and a recommendation should come shortly.

d. Meeting with NH Board of Education: R. Thackston asked how the Board would promote the decision made by the Board and the NH Board of Education approving the plan for withdrawal from the SAU. There are funds set aside to promote this to the voters. B. Barlow was in attendance and explained how well prepared the Board was on the presentation. The members present never spoke of the cost. They spoke of how this would affect the students and prepare them for the future. The NH Board of Education voted unanimous. It was a terrific meeting.

e. Employment Audit: R. Thackston would like to set up a meeting with the presenters, D. Hodgdon and himself would bring an executive summary back to the Board.

2. Goal Setting: R. Thackston has scheduled the Goal Setting Meeting for October 2, 2010. This meeting is open to all. He would like people to RSVP.

6. School Board Committee Report:

1. Community Relations Committee: B. Barlow reported that he has been in discussion with Cheshire TV to broadcast the School Board Meeting. The Holiday Music Presentations could also be broadcast. He would be bringing a motion to the Board later in the meeting. He would be briefing the Sentinel about the executive summary from SERESC. B. Barlow would be asking the Board to withdraw funds for

ads to promote the public forums for the withdrawal from the SAU. The next meeting is on Sept. 7, 2010 at 6:30 PM.

2. Education Committee: J. Carnie reported the committee has not met.

3. Facilities Committee: L. Steadman reported that the bid from KBA had come in but the committee has not discussed it yet. They discussed fire safety at Mt. Caesar. The fire Chief is asking why the alarm system is not complete. They discussed a search for a new plumber. She discussed the amount of work being completed and the amount of extra work T. Breen is doing. She mentioned that A. Schmit is handling the 1 million dollar project work and things are really coming along. The Facilities Committee would like to commend A. Schmit for the small things that make a big difference. They appreciate the work being done. There would be a motion coming later in the meeting. The next meeting is on August 24, 2010.

4. Finance Committee: J. Carnie reported the committee has not met.

5. Policy Committee: W. Wright reported that there was 100% attendance at the last meeting. There would be a motion later regarding Policy BDG. The committee discussed the issues the Board had asked them to look at. The committee discussed the employee use of cell phones and the Junior National Honor Society in which they came to the conclusion that this is not the correct committee to resolve. This issue should go to another committee. They discussed a hold harmless clause. They are waiting for the guidelines on the bullying process. The pre employment physical process will be discussed at a future date.

6. Budget Committee Rep.: E. Stanley reported the Budget Committee has not met. Their next meeting is on August 24, 2010. At this time they are not sure of the location.

7. Cheshire Career Center: W. Wright reported there has been no meeting.

8. Negotiations/Human Resource Committee: R. Thackston reported that the committee should be starting negotiations soon. He reported that an SAU Union will be starting. That is on the SAU level. The SAU will be meeting on Sept. 1, 2010.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

8. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Motion from Facilities Committee: MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** on behalf of the Facilities Committee to hire Service Master in the amount of \$7898.00 with no contingency to clean the gymnasium following the construction. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **DISCUSSION:** It was commented that there is partial responsibility of Baybutt. They may pick up part of the cost. L. Steadman commented that some of the dirt is not the fault of the vendors. This will get the gym cleaner than it has been in years. **VOTE:** 5.1/1.1/4.5/4.365. **Motion passes.**

2. Motion from Policy Committee: MOTION: W. Wright **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy Committee to accept Policy BDG as outlined in the packet. **SECOND:** R. Smith. **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie would urge the Board not to vote on this now. There were three areas that J. Carnie said he needed addressed and the updated version does not address the three. W. Wright commented that J. Carnie had given him his concerns but lost the paper. J. Carnie said that the School attorney belongs to the School Board. The School Board needs to get more control. We need to have a good attorney accountable to the School Board. When a decision is made by the School Board's attorney the School Board needs to know the decision. The School Board needs to be involved in the decision rendered. **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to table the motion and send it back to the Policy Committee. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **DISCUSSION:** R. Thackston asked that the Policy Committee take the concerns of the Board and look at Policy BDG and bring it back to the Board. J. Carnie commented that in a grievance situation the Board does not need to know. **VOTE:** 8.41/1.17/1.06/4.365. **Motion passes.**

3. Motion from CRC: MOTION: B. Barlow **MOVED** on behalf of the CRC to direct B. Barlow to establish an agreement with Cheshire TV to start broadcasting the School Board Meetings starting in Sept. only in the high school. **SECOND:** R. Smith. **VOTE:** 8.62/.85/1.17/4.365. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** B. Barlow **MOVED** on behalf of the CRC to authorize up to \$500.00 on advertising for the SERESC Study and the withdrawal from SAU 38. **SECOND:** R. Smith. **DISCUSSION:** B. Barlow explained the funds would be used to advertise the public forums. J. Carnie explained that there is money set aside for this purpose. J. Fortson explained the funds are available only if there is a surplus. They are not sure about the number. There are funds in the School Board Account. **VOTE:** 10.64/0/0/4.365. **Motion passes.**

9. Action on the manifest: MOTION: R. Smith **MOVED** the Board accept the manifest in the amount of \$ 2,064,089.30. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **VOTE:** 9.6/0/1.1/4.365 **Motion passes.**

10. Setting the next agenda:

- 1. Censure**
- 2. Town of Swanzey-generator**
- 3. R. Thackston and D. Hodgdon date for vote for SAU withdrawal**
- 4. Policy BDG**

11. Public Comments:

12. 10:00 Non-Public Session: MOTION: E. Stanley **MOVED** to enter into non-public session at 10:00 PM under RSA 91-A:3 11 (b) Nominations. **SECOND:** S. Ellsworth. **VOTE: Roll call vote:** R. Smith, W. Felton, W. Wright, R. Thackston, L. Steadman E. Stanley, B. Barlow, E. Jacod, S. Ellsworth and J. Carnie. 13.9/0/0/1.074. **Motion passes.**

13. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: B. Barlow **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 PM. **SECOND:** R. Smith. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording secretary