

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
Approved Minutes
January 4, 2011
Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH

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

Administration present: K. Craig, Assistant Superintendent, R. Matte, Special Ed. Director and J. Fortson, Business Manager,

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

“The goal of the Monadnock Regional Board is to be the Best School District in the State.”

R. Thackston opened the meeting at 7:12 PM.

1.Consent Agenda: MOTION: E. Stanley **MOVED** to accept the December 21, 2010 Public Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** R. Smith **VOTE:** 10.7/0/1.1/3.206. **Motion passes. MOTION:** P. Peterson. **MOVED** to accept the 11:30 PM Dec. 21, 2010 Non-Public Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 10.7/0/1.1/3.206. **Motion passes. MOTION:** P. Peterson. **MOVED** to accept the 10:15 PM Sealed Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 10.7/0/1.1/3.206. **Motion passes.**

2. Public Comments: R. Weinrib a member of the school food services program commented in support of the SRO. She said before the presence of the SRO the children fought that has since stopped.

A. Harrison a teacher in the Social Studies Dept. commented in support of the SRO. He explained the role of the SRO and how the SRO helps the student as part of the curriculum. An officer carries weight and the children respect that.

R. Foote, Sheriff and Swanzey resident commented in support of the SRO. He said interaction with the students and to have a first response of the SRO is important. He

said to get rid of the SRO is a mistake. He supports the Swanzey police and police presence in the school is important.

L. Maxfield read a letter from her husband who is a police officer in Keene and working so he is not able to attend. The letter was in support of the SRO. She read a letter she wrote in support of the SRO. She explained her children are seeing bullying, kissing, drug use and fighting in the halls. She said the SRO is important to the school. She said he has a positive attitude and loves his job. She said we are in an age where we need a SRO in the school.

R. Eccleston commented in support of the SRO. He said anything can happen anywhere and anyplace. He commented on the small amount it would cost the taxpayer to keep the position. He said he is a resource to the school, parents and taxpayers. He is in support of the SRO.

G. Betz a member of the MRSD staff passed out a letter to the Board.

J. Barth of Richmond commented in support of the SRO. He said with the new bullying laws it is important to have his presence. There is a sense of connection.

B.Hanninen a senior at MRHS commented in support of the SRO. She said the SRO is very personable and friendly and her goal is to become a police officer because of the SRO. She said the SROs have influenced her life.

R. Busick the Swanzey Police Chief spoke in favor of the SRO. He clarified that the police officers in Swanzey contribute over \$3000.00 to their health insurance. He said he is currently working on a the police budget and is not funding 1 position that would mean 11 officers for Swanzey and if the SRO is not funded that would be 10 officers. He introduced R. O'Connor the SRO. He read his job qualifications and the connections to the SRO position. He explained he and R. O'Connor made a presentation to the Finance Committee the committee said the budget was too much due to the covering of the summer months. R. Busick went back to the Town of Swanzey and came back with 20% cut from the budget. He presented it to the Finance Committee there was a motion no second. R. Busick was disappointed because it was not supported.

N. Moriarty asked the Board to stick to plan of 30.7 million for the proposed budget. The district is about \$2000.00 over State average per student. Richmond, Gilsum and Troy are behind on their taxes because people cannot pay their taxes. He congratulated L. Sutton on her unique cuts. He said he is not anti-police. He asked the Board to vote this item up or down on the merits of what value the SRO provides the MRMS/HS. He commented the safest place for the children is the school.

D. Coffman congratulated K. Craig and D. Hodgdon on their new positions. He is in support of the SRO but there is only so much the SRO can do. Drive accountability into others. The SRO cannot be everywhere we have to depend on others. He

commented the Board has to make tough financial decisions as they did in the Maintenance Dept. We have to do more for less due to the economy, look at every option. Eighteen to twenty teachers is a small number to cut.

R. Bauries spoke as the president for the Monadnock Taxpayers Assoc. He commented that most people are in favor of the SRO. He spoke to people at 8 schools regarding their SRO. The SRO was never the target. If something happened in another school the SRO could not help he is stationed in Swanzey only. The enrollment number is going down. We are suppose to have a truancy officer at each school. The SRO position amount is cut to \$74,000.00.

R. Thackston explained R. Busick may make comments when the Board discusses the elimination of the SRO motion.

3. **Student Government Report:** M. Butterfield reported the committee is trying to improve attendance by changing the time of their meetings. They are meeting at 7:00 AM. The committee had a raffle to benefit two local families and teacher appreciation. The students would like to be part of the principal's search. M. Butterfield spoke on behalf of a senior who could not be in attendance. She said he supported the SRO. The Student Government is very concerned with the budget cuts. They would encourage the School Board to attend the meeting to discuss this issue or hold a special meeting.

4. **Business Manager's Report:** J. Fortson reported on the direct deposit at the SAU and how beneficial it is.

5. **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:**

1. **Correspondence and Announcements:** L. Sutton informed the Board the 8th grade will be presenting Once on this Island which involves 35 students. Next week on early release day they will be doing activities around bullying and then all the students will watch the 8th grade presentation. The MS/HS will have mid terms the following week.

B. Tatro reported the 3rd grade musical is on Jan. 19, 2011. She would commend the staff for supporting 3 families during the holiday season. The children are ready to learn and warm after the holiday break.

M. Suarez would commend her staff for supporting 5 families during the holiday season with 3 car loads of item. The first and second graders will be doing the MAPS testing and the 5th and 6th graders later in the month will also do the MAPS testing.

T. Stewart sent out a newsletter to the parents along with the progress reports. Monadnock will be hosting the Monadnock Music Festival. Ten schools will participate in the festival. He commended the staff for gathering 12 boxes of foods for area families during the holiday season. On the early release day they will be wrapping up bullying. Jan. 19-24 the students will be doing mid terms.

J. Smith commended the Cutler staff and students for gathering items for several families and commended the paraprofessionals for gathering 30 boxes of food items for area families during the holiday season.

D.Mousette informed the Board the Gilsum Legion Post 85 and Sons of the American Legion donated \$1200.00 to the Northern Schools that provided warm clothing, boots, special gifts and Hannaford gift cards to 21 children in the two communities.

D. Dahl informed the Board Troy has lost a dedicated staff member, Hillary Nettleton. He said she was born to work with children. She will be missed.

2. Curriculum Report: K. Craig reported on Jan. 18, 2011 there will be a workshop on sexual harassment. K. Craig informed the Board of a security breach which happened on Dec. 23, 2010 at the SAU. The names, addresses and social security numbers became available. The issue was fixed. She explained they could see access was made but they do not believe it was hostile or malicious. She informed the Board regarding the Corrective Action Status of the District. She explained the team has met and will report after their meeting with the administrators and the DINI Team. The plan has been approved by the State and we are moving forward.

MOTION: P. Peterson. **MOVED** to have the Board authorize the Office of Business Management to allow D. Hodgdon to sign for SAU #38 as the Superintendent, to allow K. Craig to sign for SAU #38 as the Assistant Superintendent, to allow D. Crisafulli to sign for SAU #38 as the Assistant Superintendent and J. Fortson to sign for SAU #38 as the Business Manager until the end of this school year. If approved by Monadnock ask Hinsdale and Winchester to make similar motions at their next meetings **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 11.8/0/0/3.2. **Motion passes.**

- 6. Board Chair Report:** R. Thackston commented the District needs every position but we need to have the money and the people. The proposed 30.7 million dollar budget is a hard task to pay. If people are concerned the number could be raised at the Deliberative Session. The 30.7 million dollar proposed budget is a tax increase for every town in the district. We all recognize the need and the problems. We have other items. We need all day kindergarten, we need the 3rd year of the project and we need the sprinkler system at Mt. Caesar. Where do we cut? We are sacrificing education for benefits. He would question the process and is not happy with the results. The SRO was a big topic but never targeted. It is one of the positions the School Board can change or eliminate. We cannot modify any of the other compensation packages. This district will have fewer students in 10 years it is a proven fact. When do we let staff go? We have 20% less students and have not cut staff.

R. Thackston has scheduled the following meetings: Monadnock Management Committee-Jan. 11, 2011 at 10:00 AM, Assets to QED-Jan. 12, 2011 at 10:00 AM and the HS Principal Search-Jan. 14, 2011 at 6:00 PM. R. Thackston explained the principal search process is a multi-step process. The process will have interviews, finalists, the finalists will go before the administration and teachers, students and

parents and the Superintendent will bring a recommendation to the Board. He explained if the process fails it will start over again.

A Grievance Hearing is scheduled for Jan. 18, 2011 at 6:00 PM.

7. School Board Committee Report:

1. Community Relations Committee: B. Barlow reported the committee met tonight and reminded the Board of the Goal Setting Meeting on Jan. 15, 2011 from 9:00 AM to noon. He asked all to attend and participate. He had a lively exchange with Susan McNeal of the AIDS Services for the Monadnock Region and Dan Mitchell of the radio station discussing the packets given out by the AIDS Services for the Monadnock Region. A reporter told B. Barlow to expect Fox News to contact him. He said this is so low on the priority list. He reported the green sheet to be given out prior to the vote will have more information. B. Barlow has done a video suggesting reading to your children. He will get that out to the principals for comments. Jan, 18, 2011 is the next meeting prior to the Board Meeting. J. Carnie commented B. Barlow did an excellent job on the Dan Mitchell Show. J. Carnie explained he was not able to speak and D. Mitchell would allow any Board Member the opportunity to speak. J. Carnie agreed with B. Barlow let this issue go.

2. Education Committee: J. Carnie reported the committee did not meet. The next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 13, 2011 at 8:45 AM.

3. Facilities Committee: The committee did not meet. They are scheduled to meet on Jan. 11, 2011 at 4:30 PM.

4. Finance Committee: J. Carnie reported the committee has been holding very long meetings 3 to 4 hours long. He wanted the Board to understand the amount of time they have spent on the budget. We are in the process of dealing with the budget that should be cut 2 million dollars. Concerning the SRO \$90,000.00 is not a lot. It is very fair to give time to allow the police to discuss the issue. A motion was made with no second to bring this issue before the Board. It was explained Swanzey would pick up 20% and the District 80% but there was no second on the motion to bring it back to the Board. He said under Old Business we need to get to the 30.7 million dollars. The Finance and the School Board are aiming for the 30.7 million dollar proposed budget. The SRO is not a separate issue it is part of what we need to do to get to the 30.7 million dollar amount. He said the School Board voted on the Level A and Level B cuts. There are areas to cut in order to get to the 30.7 million dollar proposed budget number. He asked for 5 sheets from the administration in the areas of the paraprofessionals, stipends, MS/HS nurse, reducing the teams by one and the SRO. There are also two other suggestions from the Finance Committee to cut look at the sports program and the Northern Schools. They are not recommended by the Finance but need to be looked at. The discussion on the SRO has taken up a lot of time. He feels Swanzey needs to pick up a greater share of the SRO salary. He said it can be done a per diem basis. The question is how much time of the SRO do we need and how much are we going to pay. He would suggest dealing with the position on a 180 day basis.

5. Policy Committee: W. Wright reported the committee did not meet and will meet on Jan. 11, 2011 at 2:30 PM.

6. Budget Committee Rep.: The Budget Committee met on Dec. 28, 2010 and asked E. Stanley to bring their concerns to the Board. They are concerned with the cutting of Summer School. They are in support of looking for an alternative to the SRO. The Budget Committee also had a concern with cutting a Spec. Ed. coordinator at the MS and R. Matte said they would have to be creative. The test scores show an increase due to this position. The Public Hearing is scheduled for Jan. 13, 2011 at 7:00 PM and the Budget Committee meeting will follow.

7. Cheshire Career Center: W. Wright reported the CCC has not met.

8. Negotiations/Human Resource Committee: P. Bauries reported the committee has not met. She explained there is no agreement between the Board and the Support Staff Union even after mediation. R. Thackston explained he met earlier with D. Mousette of the MAPS. There are certain deficiencies that they do believe have a workable frame work. R. Thackston commented they will not have time to place anything on the warrant this year.

E. Jacod asked for a complete list of the committee meetings due to the volume. J. Fortson will compile a list and email the Board Members. .

9. SAU #93 Committee: N. Moriarty reported the committee is scheduled to meet on Jan. 6, 2011 at 6:30 PM.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Old Business as may come before the Board:

2. School Resource Officer: The Board will discuss this under Other Motions.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Motions from Facilities Committee:

2. Motions from Policy Committee:

3. Motions from Finance Committee:

a. Action on the Manifest MOTION: S. Ellsworth **MOVED** to accept the manifest in the amount of \$1,073,317.02 **SECOND:** P. Peterson **VOTE:** 11.8/0/0/3.2.
Motion passes.

b. Other Motions as Needed: At the last Board Meeting P. Bauries made the following motion: **MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** to discontinue the School Resource Officer in the 2011-2012 budgeting process in the amount of \$89,342.00. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. After discussing the issue L. Steadman made the following motion: **MOTION:** L. Steadman. **MOVED** to table the motion

until the School Board meeting on Jan. 4, 2011. **SECOND:** 6.5/5.3/0/3.2. **Motion passes.** At the present time Jan. 4, 2011 P. Bauries made the following motion: **MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** to take the motion off the table. **SECOND:** S. Ellsworth. **VOTE:** 2.2/8.5/1.1/3.2. **Motion fails.**

4. **2011-2012 Warrant Articles:** J. Fortson passed out the most recent draft for the warrant articles to the Board. She explained Article Three has increased by \$55,000.00 due the amount being added for the paving in order to get building aid. J. Fortson discussed the issue regarding the return of the building aid in the amount of \$630,700.00. She explained there are two options one is to have the funds go into the Capital Reserve and bank it for a future year or do not have an article and the funds will go to reduce the amount owed by the taxpayers. B. Barlow commented this is immediate tax relief if it goes into the general fund and then again next year. E. Jacod would agree with B. Barlow his concern is what if there are no funds as promised. J. Carnie commented the funds were to be used for the building. The project was sold to the voters because the building aid was to be used for the future project years. **MOTION:** B. Barlow **MOVED** to remove Article Five. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** W. Wright commented the funds were to be used for building projects. M. Morrison said this amount would go against the budget amount. J. Fortson suggested a note outside Article Three stating this Article will be reduced by \$630,700.00. E. Jacod asked if Article Three for the building project does not pass do we have to give the building aid funds back. J. Fortson said she asked the State and the District will keep what they have been given. **VOTE:** 8.4/3.4/0/3.2. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: J. Carnie **MOVED** that the proposed 2011-2012 MRSD budget number in the amount of \$30,734,596.00 be given to the Budget Committee. **SECOND:** P. Bauries. **VOTE:** 10.7/0/1.1/3.2. **Motion passes.**

5. **Other New Business as may come before the Board:** **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to change the budgeted amount for the SRO to \$50,000.00. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie commented this is a necessary position and he does not want to get rid of it completely but we need control and we need to ask Swanzezy to contribute. He suggested 180 days at \$200.00 a day, split health and retirement with Swanzezy and liability, training, conferences and fuel will be picked up by Swanzezy. M. Morrison would agree with the Chief he does not want to micromanage. B. Barlow commented we are talking about \$24,000.00. Let's get on with it. E. Jacod commented that we are asking the District to pick up for deficiencies of the parents. There should not be a need for a SRO. He said he will go along with the SRO but a concern that he does not work at other schools. W. Wright asked if the SRO is subject to command of the Chief and the School Board provides the funding. R. Thackston said the original contract was a shared cost. W. Wright said a memorandum of understanding needs to be done. **MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED to amend the motion** and to have a general memorandum of understanding between the Town of Swanzezy Police and the MRSD accomplished through the process. **SECOND:** R. Smith. **VOTE on**

amendment: 9.7/2.1/0/3.2. **Motion passes.** E. Stanley suggested telling the administration you have 30.7 million dollars and do what you have to do. J. Carnie commented we have talked about this for 6-8 hours and he has not changed his opinion. **VOTE on amended motion:** 8.6/2.1/1.1/3.2. **Motion passes.**

B. Barlow leaves the meeting.

10. Setting the next agenda:

11. Public Comments: P. Hearst commented she was personally offended by the comments made by E. Jacod regarding the students and the facts the parents are sending their children to school with needs. She said they are dealing with the cuts that are being made.

R. O'Connor the SRO thanked the School Board, friends and staff for supporting his position. His position is housed in Swanzey and stationed at MS/HS. There is a cruiser outside the building in case of an emergency. He commented on the students that have been dealt a bad hand and the special ed. students. He explained his training and that things are running smoothly and he would love to see it continue.

Chief Busick is in total agreement with the Memorandum of Understanding. He said the \$74,000.00 proposed budget is an honest and fair estimate. It is not fair to put the total on the Swanzey residence. We are trying to provide a safe and secure place. We have had great SROs and R. O'Connor is very qualified with a great background.

12. 10:50 PM Enter into Non-Public Session: MOTION: R. Smith **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Compensation to a public employee. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** E. Jacod, W. Wright, P. Peterson, P. Bauries, M. Morrison, E. Stanley, J. Carnie, R. Thackston and R. Smith. 9.7/0/0/5.3. **Motion passes.**

13. Return to Public Session: There is a request from the Finance Committee for the 5 pages from the administration on the 5 suggested areas to cut. The School Board's number is 30.7 million dollars for the proposed budget and there is a concern the Budget Committee will increase. J. Carnie wants to see the 30.7 million dollar proposed budget to go to the public. The School Board can take a position and say they will not spend more than 30.7 million dollars.

14. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 PM. **SECOND:** R. Smith. **VOTE:** 9.7/0/0/5.3. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording secretary