

**Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Approved Minutes**  
**March 16, 2010**  
**Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH**

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

**Administration present:** K. Dassau, Superintendent, D. Hodgdon, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, B. Gallagher, Interim Business Manager and P. Bell, HR Director.

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

Superintendent Kassau opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

M. Cloutier, School District Clerk swore in the newly elected Budget Committee Members: R. Haine. A. Thackston and A. Solomonides.

M. Cloutier swore in the newly elected School Board Members: S. Ellsworth, M. Morrison, E. Jacod, P. Bauries and L. Steadman.

The Keene Sentinel reporter is present.

K. Dassau explained that with the passing of a warrant article last year there are now 7 Swanzey Board Members on the Board.

**MOTION:** R. Smith **MOVED** to nominate R. Thackston as the Board Chair. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 11.794/0/1.071/2.135. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** to nominate J. Carnie as the Board Vice Chair. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 12.865/0/0/2.135. **Motion passes.**

R. Thackston explained how he would like to run the meetings efficiently. He explained what he felt were the issues at hand and that he would like the board to stay on task.

**MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to change the agenda. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **VOTE:** 12.865/0/0/2.135. **Motion passes.**

**SAU Business Administrator Search Committee:** Superintendent Dassau reported that he had attended the hearing last week and the Judge did not uphold the injunction to hold a SAU Board Meeting. He would hope that the SAU Board would be productive and set a

date to continue with the search. He asked if there are other members to serve on the committee in order that the Board would be satisfied with the committee. Ultimately the recommendation would go to the Superintendent who would recommend to the Board. R. Thackston asked that any Board Member interested in being on the search committee sign up on the committee sheet.

R. Thackston called a recess at 7:35 PM in order that the Board could consult with Attorney Hoppock.

The Board returned to Public Session at 8:02 PM.

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

**1. Consent Agenda: MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to accept the March 2, 2010 School Board Meeting Minutes as submitted. **SECOND:** B. Barlow **VOTE:** 10.743/0/2.122/2.135. **Motion passes. MOTION:** E. Jacod. **MOVED** to accept the March 2, 2010 Non-Public Minutes as submitted. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 10.743/0/2.122/2.135. **Motion passes.**

**2. Student Government Report:** R. Skrocki was in attendance but did not have anything to report.

**3. Correspondence and Announcements:** R. Thackston mentioned that the MS22 was signed by the Board Members.

K. Dassau reported that the Board should think about a high school principal search and that there is a need for one non-public session.

B. Tatro informed that Board that there is a third grade show at Mt. Caesar on Wednesday.

L. Sutton reported that the Skating Party sponsored by the Middle School was very successful about 100 parents and students were in attendance. She reported that Wellness Day is on Thursday about 18 different community members that work in the areas of wellness will be present in the school for the students.

D. Dahl is presently at the Emerson Troy Music Show.

D. Mousette reported that the Northern Schools would be hosting a spaghetti dinner to thank the community.

K. Craig welcomed the new Board Members. She invited the Board Members to visit the schools.

B. Pickering reported that 14 students went to Concord and received awards. In order to receive an award the student had to play 2 or more sports and have a B+ average. The District is very proud of the students.

**4. Public Comments:** C. Kahn spoke about comments she had heard about the Board from people in the community. The topics they spoke about were regarding the SAU, micromanaging, long meetings, the Business Manager Search, meetings with the attorney and pulling out of the SAU. She would suggest changing the direction of this Board and work together to achieve a common goal.

N. Moriarty thanked B. Tatro for solving the Reading Specialist issue. N. Moriarty volunteered to serve on the SAU withdrawal committee.

B. Barlow thanked the voters for passing the budget and the warrants. He commented on recent comments made by an individual at a previous meeting. He explained what he has done to contribute to the achievement of the students of Monadnock. He has donated time and money to the District.

Dr. E. Kaplan welcomed the new School Board Members and the returning members. He commented that there is a clean slate but there are still items that need to be done. We need to prepare our students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

E. Stanley informed the Board that the Wedding Singer Production was wonderful.

K. Dassau reported that the SAU Withdrawal Committee is scripted by an RSA. The Budget Committee should appoint their member and the moderator appoints the community members.

The Board reviewed the members on the individual committees. **MOTION:** R. Smith **MOVED** to accept the committee appointments as presented. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 12.865/0/0/2.135. **Motion passes.**

**5. Curriculum Report:** D. Hodgdon included in the Board packets information on the progress being made on the Fast Forward Program. He also included the National Common Core Standards and President Obama's Blue Print for Education. He informed the Board that the SERASC Study continues and the study information would be released next month.

**6. New Business:**

**1. 10/11 School Board Meeting Schedule:** **MOTION:** B. Barlow **MOVED** to accept the MRSB 2010-2011 School Board Meeting Schedule as submitted. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 12.865/0/0/2.135. **Motion passes.**

**2. Review Vote:** R. Thackston commented that the Board got what they wanted and there was no other discussion.

**3. New Board Orientation:** K. Dassau informed the Board that the Board Policy BIA New Board Member Orientation was in the Board packets. He would suggest that the Board schedule a date for the new member orientation and invite someone to

conduct the session. **MOTION:** S. Ellsworth **MOVED** to schedule an orientation on March 27, 2010 at 8:30 AM. **SECOND:** M. Morrison. **VOTE:** 12.865/0/0/2.135. **Motion passes.** R. Thackston will work with K. Dassau to schedule someone who is available to conduct the session. K. Dassau explained that Marie is ordering books for the new School Board Members. A hard copy of the policy book and a copy on line would be available to the Board Members to review.

**4. Monadnock Non-Union Contracts:** K. Dassau explained that W. Wright had requested that this item be put on the agenda. On April 15, 2010 there would be a nomination for the certified staff. It was commented that the Negotiating Team would be discussing the principal's contracts. R. Thackston asked that the Negotiating Team review the list and see if any action is needed. J. Carnie commented that the maintenance area needs to be taken care of in a timely manner and in the SAU as well. He would like the contracts with the "ongoing clause" to be reviewed. J. Carnie asked that the maintenance issue, the SAU contracts and which contracts have the "ongoing clause" be looked at. R. Thackston suggested that the Negotiating Team receive the list of concerns and bring a recommendation back to the Board.

**5. Teacher Public Communication through Students-Policy KBF, KBFA:** J. Carnie commented that he was not happy regarding the recent incident. He said that this information sent home was a political campaign. This action crossed the line and an action needs to be taken by the administration. He suggested a letter of apology to the parents and the School Board. K. Dassau explained that the School Board did discuss this issue and all are well aware of the situation. He said that they have addressed the situation.

**MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** to add additional items to the agenda. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 12.865/0/0/2.135, **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** E. Jacod. **MOVED** the Board request a SAU Board Meeting as soon as possible. **SECOND:** R. Smith. **VOTE:** 12.865/0/0/2.135. **Motion passes.**

J. Carnie would request that the Policy Committee take up Policy BDG School Attorney as soon as possible. He has a proposal to give to the committee.

## 7. Old Business:

### 8. School Board Committee Report:

- 1. Community Relations Committee:** B. Barlow reported that the committee met tonight. **MOTION:** B. Barlow. **MOVED** that the School Board approve the distribution of the "green sheet" next year with the content to be discussed. **SECOND:** R. Smith. **DISCUSSION:** E. Jacod commented that the sheet information was very valuable. **VOTE:** 11.794/0/1.170/2.135. **Motion passes.** B. Barlow passed out "The Vision Thing". B. Barlow reported that the Football Coaches gave back their stipends and in return scholarships would be awarded to players for camp
- 2. Education Committee:** J. Carnie reported that the committee did not meet. The next meeting is on April 6, 2010.

**3. Facilities Committee:** E. Jacod reported that there has been a lot of communication regarding the bleachers. Attorney Hoppock delivered the acceptance letter to the Cheshire Fairgrounds Association and copies have been returned to the SAU. The contract for the site work from with SUR has been accepted. B. Mitchell explained that it is a zero dollar contract. A. Schmidt explained that SUR should have the contract soon. SUR is donating all the site work. E. Jacod explained that the Troy work is complete. They have received an opinion from the Fire Chief on the removal of the fire escape. Brick work is needed at the high school. **MOTION:** E. Jacod **MOVED** to award the bid for brick work repair at the high school to Robert Luopa Masonry in the amount of \$52,565.70. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **DISCUSSION:** R. Smith asked why there was not a 24 hour advance notice. E. Jacod explained and apologized. A. Schmit explained that the renovation is not new construction and a contingency is important to be flexible and not to run over on the budget. **VOTE:** 10.634/0/1.170/2.135. **Motion passes.** It was suggested that an architecture proposal be put together for the Gilsum Courtyard. E. Jacod explained the issues at Sullivan and that they would be resolved in two weeks. The District has been asked by the City of Keene to participate in purchasing oil as a combined effort. B. Mitchell would prepare a recommendation for the Board. B. Mitchell updated the Board on an energy audit that was preformed by PSNH. They looked at all the electrical fixtures and PSNH would pay for 50%. They would finance the replacement cost on what they save each year. They would give an interest free loan based on savings and replace the fixtures. It was commented that the Facilities Committee Minutes are not posted on the website but would be soon.

**4. Finance Committee:** J. Carnie reported that the committee met last Thursday reviewed the legal accounts and the financial statements. The committee would be watching the settlement. He asked where the funding is coming from.

**5. Education Committee:** J. Carnie reported on the Education Committee. He said that the committee met and had an update from D. Hodgdon on SERASC. The committee is trying to meet with all the elementary school principals, the Middle School and then the high school. A detailed report was presented to the committee by L. Sutton. The next meeting is on Thursday March 18, 2010.

**6. Policy Committee:** The committee has not met but would be scheduling a meeting.

**7. Budget Committee:** The next meeting is on March 23, 2010 at 7:00 PM.

**8. Cheshire Career Center:** W. Wright reported that they would be scheduling a presentation by the CCC.

**9. Northern Schools:** L. Steadman reported that the committee is meeting on Thursday in Gilsum and she would be bringing a report back to the Board.

**10. Negotiation Committee :** The committee should consider if they would like an attorney present during negotiations or some kind of assistance.

**11. SAU Withdrawal Committee:** J. Carnie and E. Stanley are on the committee. The Budget Committee would appoint their representative and the moderator would appoint 4 members from the public. The superintendent would be a non-voting member. J. Carnie would encourage the moderator to move ahead. R. Thackston would contact the moderator.

E. Jacod asked B. Gallagher to review the paperwork for the expenditure from the emergency trust fund.

It was asked the cost of the interim Business Manager. The amount is billed to the SAU.

9. **Action on the manifest: MOTION:** S. Ellsworth. **MOVED** the Board accept the manifest in the amount \$2,162,622.04 **SECOND:** R. Smith **VOTE:** 112.804/0/1.061/2.135. **Motion passes.**
10. **Superintendent' Report:** The superintendent welcomed the new Board Members. He informed the Board that there would be teacher nominations at the next meeting. There is a need for one non-public session.
11. **Board Chair Report:**
12. **Setting the next agenda:**
  1. **Contracts-teacher-SAU**
  2. **Board Orientation**
  3. **Policy BDG**
  4. **SAU Withdrawal Committee**
13. **Public Comments:** K. Craig commented that the population at Emerson is not declining and that she is concerned about the load and the resources. R. Thackston commented that the Board should look at spreading the load again.
14. **10:20 PM Non-Public Session: MOTION:** R. Smith **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91 A: 3 II (e) Litigation. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **VOTE:** 12.865/0/0/2.135. **Motion passes.**
15. **Motion to adjourn: MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 10:31 PM. **SECOND:** S. Ellsworth **VOTE:** 12.865/0/0/2.135. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis  
Recording secretary