

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
Approved Minutes
September 28, 2010
Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH

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

Administration present: D. Hodgdon, Superintendent and D. Most, Assistant Business Manager.

Also present: B. Tatro, L. Sutton, J. Smith, 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: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the September 7, 2010 Public School Board Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** B. Barlow **VOTE:** 11.8/0/0/3.196 **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept September 7, 2010 Non-Public School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 11.8/0/0/3.196. **Motion passes.**

2. Public Comments:

3. Business Manager’s Report: D. Hodgdon reported that there is information in the board packets from J. Fortson. She is not able to attend this meeting because she is at the Budget Committee Meeting. D. Most is filling in tonight.

4. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

1. Correspondence and Announcements: J. Smith reported that there will be an assembly and presentation by the Connecticut Crime Scene as part of the grant from Pfizer.

B. Tatro reported Mt. Caesar will have their Open House and Ice Cream Social on Thursday at 6:30 PM.

T. Stewart reported that Ed Garrady was the speaker on Sept. 17, 2010 at the high school. He spoke of character and leadership. They would like to implement some of his suggestions. Monadnock had Husky Hoopla this past weekend.

K. Craig reported on a great open house at Emerson. The students will be taking the NECAPS this week.

D. Mousette reported that the Northern Schools held their ice cream social. The staff is doing assessments and goal setting. The Northern Schools Access Program has invited the students from Marlow to participate. The State encourages us to pool our resources.

2. Curriculum Report: K. Craig reported and reviewed the information on the State science test results that were in the Board packets.

3. SAU Meeting Motion: This would be discussed at the next meeting.

4. Other Issues of Importance: MOTION: P. Peterson. **MOVED** to accept the resignation of Kathleen J. Boyles as of October 15, 2010. **SECOND:** R. Smith. **VOTE:** 11.8/0/0/3.196. **Motion passes.**

D. Hodgdon invited the Board to the District's workshop day on October 11, 2010.

D. Hodgdon reported on a positive article that was in the Keene Sentinel.

5. BOARD CHAIR REPORT:

1. Chair Report:

a. Employee practice audit: D. Hodgdon reported that he spoke to a representative from the Employment Audit Company. He focused on a number of areas such as the job descriptions and performance appraisals. They discussed policies that may impact personnel issues, computer issues, bullying and harassment. They would recommend to picking an area to focus on. The cost is \$225.00 an hour. It is basically legal services. R. Thackston suggested starting after the SAU issue is complete and then work backwards. There is a need but we need to know what we clearly look like. D. Hodgdon would agree that ultimately we can do a lot of the work but we need to make a commitment to do it. We have to be determined. We have a lot on our plates.

b. SAU Withdrawal Update: The Board held their Deliberative Session on the SAU Withdrawal earlier this evening. The vote is set for October 26, 2010. **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to ask the Superintendent to confirm that the voting is published and clear in each of the towns. **SECOND:** R. Smith. **VOTE:** 11.8/0/0/3.196. **Motion passes.** J. Carnie mentioned that there may be a possibility that the clerks may need help from the School Board Members due to resistance in some towns.

c. Recommendation for Special Negotiating Committee: There will be a Negotiations meeting on October 18, 2010 at 5:15 PM at the MRMS/HS.

2. Goal Setting: Goal setting is scheduled for October 2, 2010 from 9:00AM to 12:00.

6. School Board Committee Report:

1. Community Relations Committee: B. Barlow reported that Richmond and Troy have endorsed the SAU withdrawal. Fitzwilliam is asking the status of the MS25. B. Barlow reported that an Audio Mixer is needed to allow Cheshire TV to broadcast the School Board Meetings. **MOTION:** B. Barlow **MOVED** that the District purchase an audio mixer with 16 channels and 16 microphones under \$700.00 in order to broadcast the MRSB Meetings on Cheshire TV and for other purposes that seem reasonable. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **VOTE:** 7.5/4.4/0/3.196. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: B. Barlow. **MOVED** to hold a quarterly update meeting on October 16, 2010 from 10:00 AM to noon. This meeting will be informational only with the Board chair and the Superintendent present. **SECOND:** R. Smith. **DISCUSSION:** B. Barlow explained that this is an attempt to get information out to the public. P. Peterson commented that the members are meeting to death. She explained that there are many opportunities to have the voters attend meetings and receive information. Other Board members felt the same as P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 0/11.8/0/3.196. **Motion fails.** **MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to approve the SAU Withdrawal Flier to be mailed to all District residence at the cost of \$2200.00. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **DISCUSSION:** D. Hodgdon explained that the funds are available from a previous vote only if there is a surplus. We are working with the auditors. He explained that there is a School Board Account for publications. **VOTE:** 11.8/0/0/3.196. **Motion passes.** The committee will be organizing thoughts regarding a letter to the Sentinel about the SAU Withdrawal. The next meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2010 at 6:30 PM.

2. Education Committee: J. Carnie reported the committee met on Sept. 16, 2010 and T. Walsh discussed the Fruits and Vegetable Program at Mt. Caesar. The trailers and the modulars were discussed and the committee decided to defer this as a long term long range goal. We need more information. D. Hodgdon brought information regarding the new Bullying Policy. We need to develop a policy. The committee discussed Kindergarten class size at Emerson and Gilsum. **MOTION:** J. Carnie. **MOVED** on behalf of the Education Committee to endorse and bring to the full Board a pilot program of "Nutrition and Wellness" for one year at Mt. Caesar, asking for full staff endorsement and a qualified substitute reading teacher in place. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 11.8/0/0/3.196. **Motion passes.**

3. Facilities Committee: L. Steadman reported on the Mt. Caesar Fire safety and the need for an architect, bids will be coming in. They discussed the need for long range necessary building upgrades to the SAU building. The winter fuel still needs to be locked in with a bid. The committee discussed the fact that the auditorium doors are not up to code. The previous doors were taken off because they contained asbestos. The replacement doors are not up to code. The cost of the new doors is about \$16,000.00. There is no motion tonight for the new doors. The next meeting is Tuesday at 6:00PM.

4. Finance Committee: J. Carnie reported the committee received a full report from J. Fortson. They also had a presentation from T. Walsh. **MOTION:** J. Carnie. **MOVED** on behalf of the Finance committee to accept the Budget transfer in the amount of \$2,000.00 for the Troy School. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** This is a one-

time transfer to purchase replacement equipment. The copier lease account will be adjusted downward in the 11/12 budget. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 11.8/0/0/3.196. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** J. Carnie. **MOVED** on behalf of the Finance Committee to accept the Emerson School Transfer in the amount of \$3000.00 from stipends account to Teacher substitute account. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** The regular education stipends account has extra due to realignment. The Teacher substitute account is in need to be retained due to actual expenses in prior years. K. Craig explained the rationale. **VOTE:** 11.8/0/0/3.196. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** J. Carnie. **MOVED** on behalf of the Finance committee to accept the High School Realignment Multi line budget transfer. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** This includes a number of items explained in the packet. **VOTE:** 10.7/0/0/4.3 (B. Barlow missing from vote) **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** on behalf of the Finance Committee to accept the transfer of \$4500.00 from the Food Service Supplement Fund to Emerson School for the Fruits and Vegetables program. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** The Food Service Supplement Fund has a balance of \$10,000.00 to make this transfer. All other schools qualify for the grant from the State of NH as they are in the reduced or free lunch program. Emerson does not qualify under the NH grant. **VOTE:** 11.8/0/0/3.196. **Motion passes.**

The Finance Committee discussed the sick day issue regarding payment for over the 120 sick days. It was explained that this is a contractual obligation under 11.3. C. Kahn explained that the 120 days is incorrect.

5. Policy Committee: W. Wright reported that the committee did not have enough members for a quorum twice. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to add E. Jacod as a member to the Policy Committee. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 11.8/0/0/3.196. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** E. Jacod. **MOVED** to remove S. Ellsworth from the Policy Committee. **SECOND:** P. Bauries. **VOTE:** 11.8/0/0/3.196. **Motion passes.** The next Policy Meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2010. D. Hodgdon reported that the Bullying Policy needs to be completed by Jan. 1, 2011. This is a major investment in time and energy. They want all parties to be involved in the process. J. Carnie commented that W. Wright made an effort to bring Policy BDG back to the Board but nothing was done. W. Wright explained that the policy was presented to the Board and sent back to the Policy Committee.

6. Budget Committee Rep.: E. Stanley reported that the Budget Committee is meeting tonight.

7. Cheshire Career Center: W. Wright reported there is a breakfast on October 15, 2010 at 7:30 AM. W. Wright has asked for information regarding the number of students attending the CCC from Monadnock and what programs they are enrolled in.

8. Negotiations/Human Resource Committee: The committee has several meetings scheduled with the Support Staff Union. The attorney for the School Board Negotiations, if needed is Attorney Steve Bragdon.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Motion from Policy Committee-Policy BDG: MOTION: J. Carnie **MOVED** to accept Policy BDG as presented by J. Carnie. **SECOND:** P. Bauries. **DISCUSSION:** D. Hodgdon verified that personnel issues would be excluded. J. Carnie commented some issues the School Board should not know in advance. **VOTE:** 11.8/0/0/3.196. **Motion passes.**

2. Modification of Collective-bargaining Units: This has been completed.

3. Town of Swanzey-Generator: E. Stanley explained he has not heard from the Town of Swanzey.

4. Other Old Business as may come before the Board: MOTION: P. Bauries **MOVED** to have the Business Manager release the individual names and cost for each employee for dental and medical insurance, contingent on a recommendation from our lawyer. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **DISCUSSION:** P. Bauries and B. Barlow withdraw their motion. R. Thackston would run this motion by Attorney Hoppock on Wednesday. C. Kahn suggested a scatter gram with no names. **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** that Joe Hoppock represent the Monadnock Regional School Board as their attorney. **SECOND:** R. Smith. **VOTE:** 11.8/0/0/3.196. **Motion passes.**

8. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Motion from Facilities Committee: None.

2. Motion from Finance Committee: None.

a. Action on the Manifest: MOTION: R. Smith **MOVED** to accept the manifest in the amount of \$1,907,476.16. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 11.8/0/0/3.196. **Motion passes.**

9. Setting the next agenda:

1. Generator

10. Public Comments: E. Kaplan questioned the need for the individual names for the health insurance. The committee can receive the information without the names. P. Bauries stated the committee needs this information and we need to be open to the public. E. Kaplan explained the information can be obtained by the individual plans. J. Carnie does agree with E. Kaplan and a scatter gram would give the same information. We need to make an effort to get the information to Pat's group to help them negotiate. M. Morrison said that he does not believe the public needs to know the individual names.

11. 9:05 PM Non-Public Session: MOTION: E. Jacod **MOVED** to enter into non-public session at 9:05PM under RSA 91-A:3 11 © Student Issue. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE: Roll call vote:** R. Smith, W. Wright, R. Thackston, L. Steadman E.

Stanley, B. Barlow, M. Morrison, P. Peterson, P. Bauries, E. Jacod and J. Carnie.
11.8/0/0/3.196 **Motion passes.**

12. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 PM. **SECOND:** B. Barlow **VOTE:** 11.8/0/0/3.196. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording secretary