

**Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Approved Minutes**  
**September 7, 2010**  
**Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH**

**Members Present:** Winston Wright, Ed Jacod, Eric Stanley, Richard Thackston, Lisa Steadman, Bruce Barlow, Robert Smith, Scott Ellsworth, Phyllis Peterson, Mike Morrison, James Carnie and William Felton. **Absent:** 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 August 17, 2010 Public and Non-Public School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** S. Ellsworth **VOTE:** 9.6/0/3.3/ **Motion passes. W. Felton arrives.**

**Full-Day Kindergarten Study Update/Presentation:** R. Thackston asked that the agenda be changed in order for the members of the Full-Day Kindergarten Committee could present their findings. P. Peterson reported it was a very active committee. D. Hodgdon reported that there are various levels of research that show that full-day kindergarten is an excellent start for students. It is believed that the earlier start will provide for a solid education. D. Hodgdon reviewed the research and the benefits for full-day kindergarten versus half day kindergarten. He said that this is a lifetime investment for the students. K. Bohannon, L. Ervin and B. Snow parents of students and members of the committee explained why they were in favor of full-day kindergarten. A kindergarten teacher explained the academic benefits of full day kindergarten. K. Craig explained how important and necessary full-day kindergarten is. D. Dahl reported 50 % of his students in Troy are in the socioeconomic category. He said that he is in favor full-day kindergarten and feels that it is a needed tool to make it in first grade. B. Tatro explained what she would need in order to have the full-day kindergarten at Mt. Caesar and the fact that others in the school would benefit. P. Peterson reviewed the information passed out to the Board. She reported on the cost to the District which is about \$203,745.00 and the budget. D. Dahl, K. Craig and B. Tatro explained the space that they would be using for the full-day kindergarten classrooms. R. Thackston summarized it and said it is basically 3 teachers needed and not receiving state funding for a few years. Every year we do not do this we are hurting our children and not getting the funds. E. Jacod commented that he felt this is one of the most important things we can do for our children. He said that we will see the benefits we need to do this now. E. Stanley commented that this can affect

100% of the students all of the time. P. Peterson would agree with E. Stanley. M. Morrison commented on the fact to make this work we need to partner with the parents. K. Craig commented that the principals are aware of that and it was stated in the SERESC report as well. J. Carnie commented that some students are not ready for full-day kindergarten. The State does not provide any funding and does not require full-day kindergarten. He is not sure that the budget numbers presented are accurate. The space size per student has to be looked at. He said the number is extremely optimistic. He would like to see the numbers kept for the increase over the years. P. Peterson explained the amount received by the State now for those students and what is anticipated in a few years. D. Hodgdon would also like to track the improvement of the students. P. Bauries and R. Smith asked B. Tatro about the need for the extra teachers. J. Fortson cautioned the Board regarding the estimated number for a new teacher. R. Thackston commented that we are not going to hire veterans. P. Peterson stated that the \$60,000.00 figure is an estimate. K. Ervin commented the cost will outweigh the impact on the district with full-day kindergarten. D. Kauffman commented that he supports the full-day kindergarten and he would assume that the Board and the Superintendent would communicate to the voters by mail regarding this issue. W. Felton commented that when there was no kindergarten students went to private kindergarten and those that had kindergarten were ahead of those without. J. Fortson explained the impact on the tax rate on a \$200,000.00 house is between \$28.00 and \$50.00 depending where you live in the District. B. Barlow commented that he would support full day kindergarten. J. Carnie stated that it is beneficial education wise but we need to look at the cost. E. Jacod commented that the State funding comes from the taxpayers. We are paying for it no matter what. P. Bauries commented on the declining number of students and the same number of teachers. She asked that the principals look to see if they can find the three extra teachers within the district. It was commented that the full-day investment is what the District saves over the next 12 years of the child, saving on 1 or 2 spec. ed. students. E. Stanley commented that the Board needs to look at full-day kindergarten and then look at the cost in the budget process. **MOTION:** P. Peterson. **MOVED** to have the School Board accept Full-Day Kindergarten throughout the Monadnock School District and budget for it in the 2010-2011 School Budget. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **DISCUSSION:** L. Steadman commented that Troy parents would move without the offering of full-day kindergarten. It was stated that parents would have the options of half day kindergarten. **VOTE:** 11.7/0/2.2/1.07 **Motion passes.** R. Thackston thanked the committee for all their work. He commented that this was one of the most worthwhile reports he had been presented. Thank you.

## **2. Public Comments:**

**3. Business Manager's Report:** J. Fortson explained that she contacted the State regarding the Building Aid. The district will be receiving the final payment for the 05-06 project in the amount of \$143,930.00 next year. In October the District would be receiving \$315,350.28 and then in April another \$315,350.28. J. Fortson would suggest using the funds to sell the next year of the project. J. Carnie suggested that issue go before the Finance Committee.

## **4. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:**

**1. Correspondence and Announcements:** D. Hodgdon welcomed David LaPointe as the new Project Facilities Manager and thanked J. Fortson for her information.

D. Mousette thanked the Board for approving the full-day kindergarten in the District. He reported that there are 17 kindergarten students in Gilsum. The Northern Schools are off to a great start. Open house for Sullivan and Gilsum is scheduled for Sept. 16, 2010.

T. Stewart reported that they had a nice opening to school for the teachers and the students. In October there will be a parent night with a bullying presentation. He commented on the appearance of the school and informed the Board that Wayne's crew worked very hard, double shifts and weekends.

K. Craig commented that she is very happy the Board approved full-day kindergarten. She also thanked the Board for her new role in the District. M. Suarez also commented on how happy she was on her new endeavor as the new interim principal at Emerson. Back to School Night at Emerson is Wednesday from 5:30-7:00.

D. Dahl thanked the Board for their decision on full-day kindergarten. He reported that school is off to a quiet start. Next Monday is open house for Troy Elementary.

B. Tatro reported that Mt. Caesar had a nice opening day with no big problems. Sept. 30, 2010 is their open house.

Cutler already had their open house and ice cream sundaes were provided by the PTO.

L. Sutton commented on how amazing the building looks. Thursday they will hold their open house along with a spaghetti dinner.

## **2. Curriculum Report:**

**3. SAU Meeting Motion:** R. Thackston reported that at the last SAU Board Meeting a motion was made regarding the SAU withdrawals. The Monadnock District owns the SAU building and a motion was made regarding the other Districts leaving. If the other Districts are successful in the withdrawal they would be vacating the building on June 30, 2011. This Board will ask the Finance committee and the Facilities Committee to find the cost and repairs and maintenance needs of the building and have Supt. Hodgdon negotiate the cost to the other Districts. Surry is not a part of the SAU. There was a question regarding the services that Surry may need or want from this district.

**4. Other Issues of Importance: MOTION:** R. Smith **MOVED** to rescind the June 30, 2011 retirement of Jan Parsons. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **VOTE:** 13.9/0/01.074. **Motion passes.**

## **5. BOARD CHAIR REPORT:**

**1. Chair Report:**

**a. Full-Day Kindergarten Presentation-Done**

**b. High School Update: Done**

**c. Town of Swanzey-Generator: Next Meeting**

**d. SAU withdrawal update-date to vote:** D. Hodgdon would prefer holding the vote as soon as possible. **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to schedule the Deliberative Session on Sept. 28, 2010 and the vote on October 26, 2010.

**SECOND:** R. Smith. **VOTE:** 12.9/1.1/0/1.074. **Motion passes.** The Chair asked that the Board go into the SAU office and sign the warrant. R. Thackston explained since there is only one article there is no need to rent the ballot counting machine.

**e. Recommendation for Special Negotiating Committee: MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** to direct the MRSB to appoint E. Stanley, L. Steadman, P. Bauries, W. Wright and R. Thackston as a Special Negotiating Committee solely for the purpose of negotiating the first contract with the new Principals and Supervisors Union. These appointments would not be for greater than one year and it should not be considered a permanent committee on the Board. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 13.9/0/0/1.074. **Motion passes.**

**6. School Board Committee Report:**

**1. Community Relations Committee:** B. Barlow reported the committee had a good meeting with the Swanzey Selectmen. Lee Perkins of Cheshire TV will be televising the Board Meeting in October from the high school. The committee discussed the SAU withdrawal plan. B. Barlow would be recording radio spots thanks to Linwood Patenaude. The next meeting is on Sept. 21, 2010 at 6:30 PM.

**2. Education Committee:** J. Carnie reported the committee has not met. The Finance and the Education Committee will be meeting on Sept. 16, 2010 at 8:45 AM and 10:30 AM.

**3. Facilities Committee:** L. Steadman reported the transition is working thanks to D. LaPointe. Tony Breen and Sharon Brusie have been helping out a lot. The committee is discussing and starting the fire alarm system. They will be selecting an architect. The summer work is complete except for the shower walls in the locker room. She thanked J. Fortson for the information on the reimbursement work. The committee will be coming with a motion regarding the fuel bid. The committee provided information regarding the architect. They commented that we need to move forward. D. LaPointe is concerned with another architect besides KBA. KBA understands the building and staff they are working with. Staying with KBA is best for all involved. The next Facilities meeting is on Sept. 14, 2010 at 5:00 PM.

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

**5. Policy Committee:** W. Wright reported the meeting was canceled because it was not posted. **MOTION:** J. Carnie. **MOVED** to appoint L. Steadman to the Policy Committee. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 13.9/0/0/1.074. **Motion passes.** J. Carnie would suggest Policy BDG be brought to the full Board if the Policy Committee has no quorum at their next meeting.

**6. Budget Committee Rep.:** E. Stanley reported the Budget Committee met on August 24, 2010 and took a tour of the renovated parts of the high school. The committee discussed the SAU Withdrawal. E. Stanley invited the Budget Committee to the Goal Setting Meeting. The Budget Committee will vote to send a letter in support of the SAU withdrawal.

**7. Cheshire Career Center:** W. Wright reported there has been no meeting. W. Wright would ask T. Stewart for the number of students attending the CCC.

**8. Negotiations/Human Resource Committee:** The committee had their first meeting with the Monadnock Support Staff. They are asking for a modification of the petition. They are asking for the 2 tech support specialists to enter into the bargaining unit. P. Bauries commented that the committee had no problem with this request. D. Hodgdon explained that the Board has to accept the modification. The Monadnock District Education Association is asking to have the nurses enter into the bargaining unit. **MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** on behalf of the Negotiations and HR Committee to allow the 2 tech support specialists to enter into the bargaining unit and allow the nurses to enter into the bargaining unit. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 12.0/1.9/0/1.074. **Motion passes.**

## **7. OLD BUSINESS:**

## **8. NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Independent Special Education Study:** **MOTION:** B. Barlow **MOVED** the MRSB approve a follow-up study on the special education program and services by the independent organization, SERESC, to be funded using grant funds at a cost of \$19,400.00. **SECOND:** R. Smith. **DISCUSSION:** B. Barlow commented in our current budget we spend more on spec. ed. than regular ed. SERESC knows the District and it is a no brainer it is covered by the grant. D. Hodgdon did say the funds could be used for something else if the Board chose not to do this. P. Peterson commented that the Board needs to look at regular ed. and spec. ed. D. Hodgdon commented a study like this will look at both. **VOTE:** 13.9/0/0/1.074. **Motion passes.**

**2. Motion from Facilities Committee:** **MOTION:** M. Morrison **MOVED** on behalf of the Facilities Committee to amend the motion to allow D. LaPointe to go out to bid for the oil or negotiate with the city of Keene whichever is in the best interest of the District. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **VOTE:** 13.9/0/0/1.074. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** on behalf of the Facilities Committee to move forward with KBA for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the potential 5 year project. **SECOND:** E.

Stanley. **DISCUSSION:** E. Jacod commented that KBA has done a good job for us and he would agree with the motion. E. Stanley would agree with what D. LaPointe said. L. Steadman commented that the Facilities Committee would be looking at the local firms for the Mt. Caesar alarm and sprinkler system. **VOTE:** 13.9/0/0/1.074. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** R. Smith **MOVED** that the MRSB direct the Education and Facilities Committee to determine if removal of the temporary classroom on the front of the MRHS and the modular classrooms at the back of the high school would be appropriate at this time. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **DISCUSSION:** This is a total of 8 classrooms. R. Thackston explained that the building principals would need to give their input. **VOTE:** 13.9/0/0/1.074. **Motion passes.**

9. **Action on the manifest:** **MOTION:** B. Barlow **MOVED** the Board accept the manifest in the amount of \$ 1,711,455.95. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 13.9/0/0/1.074 **Motion passes.**

**10. Setting the next agenda:**

1. Censure
2. Town of Swanzey-generator
3. Employee practice audit
4. Policy BDG

J. Carnie commented on the SAU Meeting regarding the Policy and Procedures Manual. He commented that it is up to this Board on who the Maintenance Supervisor reports to.

**MOTION:** M. Morrison **MOVED** that the next Board Meeting is scheduled for Sept. 28, 2010 at 7:00 PM in Swanzey. **SECOND:** W. Felton. **VOTE:** 12.9/1.1/0/1.074. **Motion passes.**

11. **Public Comments:** N. Moriarty commented that the Board policy states anything over \$5000.00 needs to go out to bid. SERESC and KBA should have gone out to bid. He said to do the process correctly.

W. Lechlinder would suggest the Board inform the public on what they are thinking regarding the warrants.

E. Stanley would challenge the people that criticize the staff, the school and the Board, see what is being done.

12. **10:037Non-Public Session:** **MOTION:** R. Smith **MOVED** to enter into non-public session at 10:37 PM under RSA 91-A:3 11 (b) Nominations. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** **Roll call vote:** R. Smith, W. Felton, W. Wright, R. Thackston, L. Steadman, E. Stanley, B. Barlow, M. Morrison, P. Peterson, P. Bauries, E. Jacod, S. Ellsworth and J. Carnie. 13.9/0/0/1.074. **Motion passes.**

**13. 10:45 Non-Public Session under 91A-A:3 II (a) compensation: MOTION: P.**

Peterson **MOVED** to enter into non-public session at 10:45 PM under RSA 91-A:3 11 (a) Compensation. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE: Roll call vote:** R. Smith, W. Felton, W. Wright, R. Thackston, L. Steadman E. Stanley, B. Barlow, M. Morrison, P. Peterson, P. Bauries, E. Jacod, S. Ellsworth and J. Carnie. 13.9/0/0/1.074. **Motion passes.**

**14. 10:55 Non-Public Session under 91A-A:3 II (b) Nominations: MOTION: P.**

Peterson **MOVED** to enter into non-public session at 10:55 PM under RSA 91-A:3 11 (b) Nominations. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE: Roll call vote:** R. Smith, W. Felton, W. Wright, R. Thackston, L. Steadman E. Stanley, B. Barlow, M. Morrison, P. Peterson, P. Bauries, E. Jacod, S. Ellsworth and J. Carnie. 13.9/0/0/1.074. **Motion passes.**

**15. 10:59 Non-Public Session under 91A-A:3 II (a) compensation: MOTION: P.**

Peterson **MOVED** to enter into non-public session at 10:59 PM under RSA 91-A:3 11 (a) Compensation. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE: Roll call vote:** R. Smith, W. Felton, W. Wright, R. Thackston, L. Steadman E. Stanley, B. Barlow, M. Morrison, P. Peterson, P. Bauries, E. Jacod, S. Ellsworth and J. Carnie. 13.9/0/0/1.074. **Motion passes.**

**16. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: E. Jacod MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 PM. SECOND: P. Peterson. VOTE: Unanimous for those present. Motion passes.**

**The Board had a non-meeting after they adjourned their regular Board Meeting.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis  
Recording secretary