

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
Approved Minutes
June 7, 2011
Camp Takodah, Richmond, NH

Members Present: Ed Jacod, Bruce Barlow, Richard Thackston, Lisa Steadman, James Carnie, William Felton, Scott Ellsworth, Pat Bauries, Mike Morrison, Scott Ellsworth, Eric Stanley and Phyllis Peterson. **Absent:** Jen Labadie, Mike Blair and unassigned seat from Roxbury.

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

Also present: B. Tatro, M. Suarez, D. Dahl, T. Stewart and J. Butterfield.

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

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

2. Consent Agenda: MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the May 17, 2011

Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Barlow **VOTE:**

10.898/0/2.116/1.986. **Motion passes. MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the May 17, 2011 Sealed Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B.

Barlow. **VOTE:** 9.840/0/3.174/1.986. **Motion passes.**

3. Student Government Report: There is no report.

4. Business Manager's Report: MOTION: B. Barlow. **MOVED** to use the new weighted vote and have it the last two votes retroactive. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **VOTE:** 13.014/0/0/1.986. **Motion passes.**

D. LaPointe informed the Board regarding Smart Start energy for the school. This plan will provide a savings for the District. There are upfront costs which will be paid off in 3 ½ years with a savings of about \$4500.00 to each school. R. Thackston has suggested D. LaPointe and J. Fortson present this to both the Finance Committee and Facilities Committee.

D. LaPointe mentioned the cost of oil to the Board. He is asking the opinion of the Board regarding purchasing now or waiting. R. Thackston would suggest D. LaPointe

present a recommendation to the Board. E. Stanley suggested D. LaPointe present to the Finance and then a recommendation to the Board.

5. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

1. Correspondence and Announcements: D. Hodgdon reported L. Sutton is not able to attend the meeting because the Middle School is having their National Junior Honor Society Ceremony. He reported the MS had a successful Step Up Day. Monday is orientation for the 6th graders and graduation in on June 21, 2011.

T. Stewart passed out a newsletter which the parents received along with the progress reports. June 8, 2011 is the Senior Scholastic Awards. Saturday June 11, 2011 at 10:00 AM is graduation.

B. Tatro reported 3rd grade graduation will be on June 21, 2011 at 10:00 AM. She also reported 150 students have completed the Reading with Ribby. Those students will be marching on Alumni Field in Keene.

M. Suarez reported the 6th grade graduation for Emerson is on June 17, 2011. The PTO will be holding an ice cream social tomorrow. The 3rd and 4th graders will be attending Fort #4. Monday is Fun Day at Emerson.

2. Curriculum Report: K. Craig thanked the members present who participated in the MRSD Literacy Plan. She commented on a great job. She reported the SERESC Report has arrived and she will be presenting to the Education Committee on Friday. K. Craig reported Adult Graduation Night went very well. There were roughly 120 people in attendance.

Monadnock Regional School District Literacy Plan: K. Craig passed out the MRSD Literacy Plan Packet to the Board and members of the audience. B. Barlow reported the committee began the process of how can the District improve reading instruction. We have students throughout the District that need to reach their level. The group has set goals and an action plan. There will be a motion from the Education Committee later in the meeting. K. Craig explained the Literacy Team has been working very hard. She informed the Board the committee had consultants help with the process paid for by a grant. The committee is very proud of this report. We are at a really good place to put this plan in motion. This is positive work and achievable. She stated we want accountability and there will be an oversight committee to monitor this. M. Morrison was concerned with the scores in the 6th and 7th grades. K. Craig commented they are as well.

3. Other Issues of Importance:

- 6. Board Chair Report:** R. Thackston commented the Board will be negotiating with three unions and he would suggest bringing all three of the unions together in one meeting, serving lunch and iron out the issues. From that meeting more separate

meetings as needed. He would suggest June 21, 2011. This meeting would be referred to as a structuring hearing and layout a schedule of the meetings and come to as much common agreement.

R. Thackston informed the Board he met with the Swanzey Select Board and will discuss in non-public session under negotiations.

R. Thackston informed the Board D. Hodgdon will be taking a trip to Greece on Saturday and returning June 21, 2011.

7. School Committee Report:

1. Community Relations Committee: B. Barlow reported the CRC did not meet. There next meeting is on June 21, 2011 at 6:30 PM. B. Barlow reported Cheshire TV has been airing the Goal Setting Presentation. He reported the committee had a wonderful Select Board Meeting with Roxbury.

2. Education Committee: J. Carnie reported the committee met on June 2, 2011. The committee discussed Spec. Ed., the CCC with 67 students attending from Monadnock, Kindergarten and the number of children enrolled and the teacher exchange. The committee had a great presentation on the Literacy Plan. There were many questions. Grants were discussed, pay to play, which they would like the board to take a position and the discussion of 2 goals being discussed on a regular basis at the Ed. Committee meetings. The Ed. Committee will meet on Friday at 8:45 AM.

3. Facilities Committee: E. Stanley reported the committee met two weeks ago and are getting ready for the projects. The Gilsum elementary school has no ventilation in the roof, the plan is moving forward. The next meeting is on June 14, 2011 at 5:00 PM.

4. Finance Committee: J. Carnie reported the committee met and discussed the accurate student count as of October 2010 to have consistent data for the select boards regarding the funds owed to the District from the towns. The committee discussed the SRO. They discussed the insurance savings due to the percentage in savings. They discussed combining the MS and HS budget to simplify things. The Food Director made a presentation on an effective way to collect the funds due. D. Hodgdon discussed legislative issues and potential issues that could affect the district.

5. Policy Committee: L. Steadman reported the committee met on May 23, 2011 and reported the committee will be bringing policies later in the meeting to be approved by the Board all the policies are required by law. Some of the policies the committee will be looking at next time will be cell phone use by students, the new weighted vote, the elementary handbooks and others.

6. Budget Committee Rep.: E. Stanley reported the committee met. The Business Manager reviewed the town apportionment rates. E. Stanley invited the Budget Committee to the July 19, 2011 meeting. E. Stanley asked if it should be a joint meeting. R. Thackston will discuss this with W. Lechliden. The Budget Committee

would like clarification what the budget number is when the \$918,000.00 was added at the Deliberative Session and the use of those funds. W. Lechliden asked if the minutes from the Finance Committee and the Education Committee could be emailed to the Budget Committee Members. P. Bauries commented it is an issue of time regarding the minutes. This would be a committee decision. W. Lechliden would invite B. Barlow to present the District Goals Presentation at the next meeting on June 28, 2011.

7. Negotiations/Human Resource Committee: P. Bauries reported she would like to schedule the next meeting with the committee.

8. Cheshire Career Center: L. Steadman reported the Advisory Committee met and had a wonderful breakfast meeting. She reported Monadnock has the highest number of students attending the CCC. There are 67 students. L. Steadman reviewed some of the programs and the benefits after completing the program. She explained the transportation and tuition will be cut by the State due to the State budget. The school calendar for Monadnock and Keene are pretty close there are still a few days during the NECAP testing that do not match up. There will be a completion ceremony tomorrow night.

L. Steadman reported she attended the Wellness and Nutrient Policy Meeting. She reported the District is buying a lot more fruits and vegetables and the children are eating them. There is the idea of selling healthy snacks at the Husky House. Linda Rueben gave a presentation on Vision 20-20. How can we help move toward being a healthy community

8. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Board Goal Discussion: B. Barlow passed out the Ten Long-Range Goals, which he presented to the Board at the last meeting. He explained being the Best School District in the State in 5 years is achievable. The elementary schools need to focus on rigor and the high school on action. The accomplishment of these will bring fidelity and consistency. J. Carnie asked about goal #10. He asked if the average cost per pupil was the State average per pupil. B. Barlow explained it is the State average per pupil.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Motions from Facilities Committee: MOTION: E. Stanley. **MOVED** the School Board hire a person to attend the School Board committee meetings to take the minutes. **SECOND:** P. Bauries. **DISCUSSION:** E. Stanley commented it is hard to take the minutes and to be active in the conversation of the meeting. E. Jacod does agree but piece by piece. The CRC does not require this. It would be certain committees. R. Thackston commented allow the individual committees to choose. J. Carnie would like a bottom line figure. E. Jacod suggested each committee consider the subject at their next meeting. E. Stanley commented if he continues to do the meetings he will have the members in attendance and the motions only in the minutes. R. Thackston commented if the motion passes the

committee chairs will take responsibility on the necessity of the recorder. **VOTE:** 7.784/1.099/4.132/1.986. **Motion passes.**

- 2. Motions from Policy Committee:** **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy Committee to accept Policy EBBD-Indoor Air Quality as amended. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **DISCUSSION:** W. Felton would commend L. Steadman for having the information in the packet. He would suggest scheduling the other meetings differently in order to get all the information in the packets. **VOTE:** 11.124/1.891/0/1.986. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy Committee to accept Policy IHAK-Character and Citizenship Education as presented. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** It was explained this is required by the State. We do not have this policy. This is entirely new. J. Carnie questioned the policy and will not vote for it the way it stands. **VOTE:** 8.842/3.074/1.099/1.986. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy Committee to accept Policy IHCA-Summer Activities as presented. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **DISCUSSION:** L. Steadman informed the Board of some small changes. **VOTE:** 11.787/0/1.227/1.986. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy Committee to accept Policy IJO-Community Resources as presented. **SECOND:** W. Felton. **DISCUSSION:** It was explained we do not currently have this policy. We are required to have it. D. Hodgdon explained this is identified by the NHSBA that we are required to have this. J. Carnie commented the policy is heavily weighted on parent involvement but very little with regards to the community. He is not wild about this policy. D. Hodgdon commented some of the points in this policy are in other policies. **VOTE:** 10.998/833/1.183/1.986. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy Committee to accept Policy JG-Assignment of Students to Classes and Grade Levels as presented. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 13.014/0/0/1.986. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy Committee to accept Policy KED Facilities or Services-Grievance Procedure (Section 504). **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 8.842/4.172/0/1.986. **Motion passes.**

- 3. Motions from Education Committee:** **MOTION:** J. Carnie. **MOVED** the Education Committee approved and recommended to bring to the full Board the request to adopt the Literacy Plan district wide and ask the Board to send a letter of appreciation and thanks for the dedication and hard work put into this proposed program. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 11.956/1.058/0/1.986. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: J. Carnie. **MOVED** the Education Committee approved asking the Business Manager in coordination with the Athletic Director to negotiate with bus

companies to help with the Sports Program cost savings travel option and bring to the full board for consideration. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** It was asked if we are obligated to use First Student. It was commented the intent is to get the Business Manager to look at trying to negotiate with the company to deal with small buses if possible to have an ongoing conversation. J. Fortson informed the Board she has a meeting on Thursday with the bus company and this has been discussed. W. Wright commented this issue should go out to bid. R. Thackston commented there is no one else to go out to bid to. There is no other vendor. W. Felton commented this is a violation of the 48 hour rule not because of the content. **VOTE:** 11.956/1.058/0/1.986. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: B. Barlow. **MOVED** to accept the Cornucopia Grant in the amount of \$5000.00 and the Harris Center Grant in the amount of \$5000.00. **SECOND:** M. Morrison. **VOTE:** 13.014/0/0/1.986. **Motion passes.**

4. **Motions from the Finance Committee:** **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** on behalf of the Finance Committee to ask the administration to develop a system to comply and organize the correct district wide student count with name and address based on the October 1, 2010 count to share with each town's select board each year by October 30. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 11.956/1.058/0/1.986. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: J. Carnie **MOVED** on behalf of the Finance Committee which approved and to forward to the full Board the request from T. Walsh, Food Service Director to approve up to \$15,000.00 to cover the deficit. This will be transferred from the Food Expense Line Item #2560 which has a balance of \$22,750.00. **SECOND:** P. Bauries. **VOTE:** 9.675/2.241/1.099/1.986. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: J. Carnie **MOVED** on behalf of the Finance Committee to agree with the Budget Committee in allowing the Business Manager to combine the line items for the High School and the Middle School budget. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 11.956/1.058/0/1.986. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: B. Barlow. **MOVED** to accept the ARRA Stimulus Funds in the amount of \$161,074.41. **SECOND:** S. Ellsworth. **VOTE:** 11.787/1.227/0/1.986. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** to allow T. Walsh of Food Service to provide food services to the Keene Head Start at a profit to the District. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 11.124/0/1.058/2.819. **Motion passes. (E. Jacod missing from vote)**

5. Action on the Manifest. MOTION: B. Barlow **MOVED** the manifest in the amount of \$1,281,762.38. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 11.274/0/1.058/2.819. **Motion passes. (E. Jacod missing from vote)**

6. Other New Business as may come before the Board:

10. Setting the next agenda:

- 1. Pay to Play**
- 2. Policy to address 48 hour notice**
- 3. Policy to end meeting at 10:00 PM**

11. Public Comments: W. Lechlinder commented on the public perception of hiring a recording secretary when the Board is discussing the Pay to play issue. He commented having the joint meeting with the 3 unions is a good idea. P. Peterson commented classroom conduct of teachers should be addressed including issues of contracts. She suggested a letter from the Superintendent to the staff. M. Alexander commented there are individuals making their own decisions and the unions are not endorsing.

12. 9:50 PM Enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II-Negotiations:

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II Negotiations. **SECOND:** B. Barlow **VOTE:** E. Jacod, W. Felton, S. Ellsworth, J. Carnie, B. Barlow, M. Morrison, P. Bauries, W. Wright, L. Steadman, P. Peterson, E. Stanley and R. Thackston. **VOTE:** 11.831/1.183/0/1.986. **Motion passes.**

13. 10:20 PM Enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II Student Issue:

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II Student Issue. **SECOND:** B. Barlow **VOTE:** E. Jacod, W. Felton, S. Ellsworth, J. Carnie, B. Barlow, M. Morrison, P. Bauries, W. Wright, L. Steadman, P. Peterson, E. Stanley and R. Thackston. **VOTE:** 11.831/1.183/0/1.986. **Motion passes.**

14. 10:26 PM Enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II Nominations:

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II Nominations. **SECOND:** B. Barlow **VOTE:** E. Jacod, W. Felton, S. Ellsworth, J. Carnie, B. Barlow, M. Morrison, P. Bauries, W. Wright, L. Steadman, P. Peterson, E. Stanley and R. Thackston. **VOTE:** 11.831/1.183/0/1.986. **Motion passes.**

15. Return to Public Session: The Board has asked J. Fortson to gather information regarding the vice principals. They would like to know when they changed their number of days in which they work and the salary increase.

16. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: P. Peterson. **MOVED** to adjourn the Board Meeting at 10:55 PM. **SECOND:** B. Barlow **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording secretary