

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
(Approved Minutes)
August 16, 2011
Cutler School, Swanzey, NH

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

Administration present: K. Craig, Assistant Superintendent, T. Kennett, Director of Student Services and J. Fortson, Business Manager,

Also present: B. Tatro, M. Suarez, J. Smith, D. Mousette and J. Butterfield.

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

MOTION: M. Morrison **MOVED** to amend the agenda to consider the SRO position and change the composition of the Negotiations Committee. **SECOND:** J. Labadie.

DISCUSSION: M. Morrison asked for a friendly amendment and amend the agenda to consider the SRO position. J. Labadie would agree with the friendly amendment.

DISCUSSION: P. Bauries commented the Board has discussed this issue before time began. She informed the Board that this issue had been brought up during many Board Meetings. She asked how many times the Board needs to address this issue. E. Stanley informed the Board there is a new proposal from the Town of Swanzey. This vote will require a 2/3 vote. **VOTE:** 68.624. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** M. Morrison **MOVED** to amend the agenda and consider changing the composition of the Negotiations Committee.

SECOND: J. Labadie. **DISCUSSION:** J. Labadie has to remove herself from the committee due to family issues. **VOTE:** 14.765/0/0/.235. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to add the approval of the July 28, 2011 School Board Meeting Minutes to the agenda. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **VOTE:** 14.072/0/0/.928. (J. Labadie missing from vote) **Motion passes.**

R. Thackston summarized the most recent SRO proposal being submitted by the Town of Swanzey. **MOTION:** M. Morrison **MOVED** to adopt the SRO agreement submitted by the Town of Swanzey with the amendments. **SECOND:** J. Labadie. **DISCUSSION:** E. Stanley commented the \$62,000.00 is to allow the SRO in the school full time. He will not be available for special events. The Board should consider this one more time. He would support putting this on the ballot next year. **MOTION:** P. Bauries. **MOVED** to amend the motion and have the SRO work 7 hours a day and for 180 days at a cost of \$50,400.00. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** M. Blair commented the SRO does more than interact with the students. He interacts with the staff. P. Bauries commented this is a tiring discussion and the amendment would allow the SRO to cover a school day and give the attention to the students. S. Ellsworth commented bad things don't stop at

2:30 PM. We need to support this. The Town has met us in the middle. E. Stanley commented the \$62,000.00 is from the Town of Swanzey and that is what they can give us. J. Labadie commented the 8 hours are important. We are being stubborn and the town have come down three times. She is in full support, bite the bullet and put it on the warrant next year. J. Carnie commented that the Town has not come down 3 times. The Board decided we did not need an SRO for 12 months we changed it to 10 months. He is in favor of the \$50,000.00 and wanted to have Swanzey add as well. It is up to the Board to define the position. If we are paying we have the obligation of the hours and what the position is. There have been numerous votes on this position and we as a Board put \$50,000.00 in the budget in order to have a SRO. He is in favor of an amendment and if it fails point of order is to rescind the earlier action. R. Thackston called the motion and amendment out of order. **MOTION:** M. Morrison **MOVED** to reconsider the previous motion made on July 19, 2011 regarding the SRO. **SECOND:** J. Labadie. **VOTE:** 63.7%. (2/3 vote required) **Motion fails.**

MOTION: M. Morrison. **MOVED** to amend the composition of the Negotiation Committee and replace J. Labadie with E. Stanley. **SECOND:** J. Labadie. **VOTE:** 13.708/0/1.058/.235. **Motion passes.**

1.PUBLIC COMMENTS:

2. Consent Agenda: **MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the July 19, 2011 Public Meeting Minutes and the July 28, 2011 Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 9.840/0/4.925/.235. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** P. Peterson. **MOVED** to accept the July 19, 2011 Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 9.840/0/4.925/.235. **Motion passes.**

3. Public Comments: M. Blair commented on the SRO decision made by the Board. He said it is ridiculous to take the resource of the SRO. The Board should be ashamed of this. Give the resource to the new principal. How can we nickel and dime this? We need to spend the extra to have a resource for everyone.

J. Labadie would second everything M. Blair said. She is astounded we are so cheap. We are need to provide for all. We need to fund the sports and the SRO. We should be ashamed for pulling the support. We should hold ourselves to a hirer standard.

E. Jacod commented the school is a place for education. Law enforcement is a position in society to deal with criminals. This school is in Swanzey and should get the services from the Swanzey Police. The SRO does not do this for the other schools. In the past the students were expelled and the burden was put on the parents. He is opposed to the whole concept.

E. Kaplan commented the students arrive earlier and go home later. Things are not the same as in the old days. The administrative team will be impacted. They will have to deal with the issues with the SRO the problem gets taken care of before it goes to the classroom.

E. Stanley commented on the hope of not losing the new principal due to the SRO issue.

J. Carnie commented there has been a decision regarding the SRO and because some do not like the decision it is being brought up again. We are eliminating aides and teachers we need to quit focusing on the SRO. The \$50,000.00 was put there to have the town add more. The question is whether the school needs the SRO and at what cost. This was originally funded by a grant. He commented P. Bauries suggestion was a compromise. This will be brought up during Old Business.

4. Student Government Report: There is no report.

5. Business Manager's Report: J. Fortson reported T. Kennett, K. Craig and herself attended a collective Bargaining Seminar and P. Bauries will be joining J. Fortson tomorrow at the seminar. J. Fortson informed the Board a lower rate than budgeted on the NH Retirement came in. That is good news. She informed the Board the District should be ending the year with a \$500,000.00 surplus. She will email the number to the Board after the audit.

6. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

1. Correspondence and Announcements: D. Mousette, J. Smith, B. Tatro and M. Suarez all informed the Board that they are ready to begin the new school year. J. Butterfield informed the Board they are getting ready at the MS/HS for the new school year to begin. They are filling positions, discussing public relations with B. Barlow and discussing job responsibilities.

2. Curriculum Report: T. Kennett explained he had met with most of the Special Ed. staff. They are all very eager to start the school year.

3. Other Issues of Importance: MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the resignations of Charity Lanford and Rebecca Fortgang. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 13.078/0/0/1.293. **Motion passes.**

7. Board Chair Report: R. Thackston commented the Board has made a mistake tonight. He is not a fan of the SRO on the budget process. The Town of Swanzey is not being fair and the people being punished will be J. Butterfield. He understands and agrees with E. Jacod. We have children having children that have no clue. We have a really good principal. We have made a mistake.

8. School Committee Report:

1. Community Relations Committee: B. Barlow informed the Board the committee has not met. B. Barlow met with J. Butterfield. They will be scheduling a dessert with J. Butterfield in each of the towns. This will be open to the public. This should be done by Christmas. B. Barlow has sent another letter to the Sentinel and they might

print it this time. The committee will be discussing the 50th anniversary of the school and what they will do to celebrate.

2. Education Committee: The Ed. Committee has not met.

3. Facilities Committee: E. Stanley reported the committee met. The Gilsum project will be completed in August. The sprinkler system at Mt. Caesar is done and the alarm system is being programmed. The bleachers have come in damaged and were sent back. They will be purchasing oil soon. The system to track the work orders is up and running. This is a real positive for the principals and the administration. The next meeting is on August 30, 2011.

4. Finance Committee: The Finance Committee has not met.

5. Policy Committee: L. Steadman reported the committee met and will present 2 motions later tonight. The next meeting is on August 30, 2011.

6. Budget Committee Rep.: E. Stanley reported the Budget Committee is still looking for a number. The committee had a lot of conversation regarding the cost per pupil. They hope the Board has the same amount of conversation on the contracts as they did on the SRO. The next meeting is scheduled for August 23, 2011.

7. Negotiations/Human Resource Committee:

8. Cheshire Career Center:

R. Thackston declares a 5 minute recess.

9. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Pay to Play: R. Thackston informed the Board this will be discussed under a policy motion.

2. Cost per Pupil: L. Steadman mentioned reaching the State average cost per pupil in 5 years. P. Peterson suggested sending this issue to Finance and see what it would look like. E. Jacod commented whatever direction it should be a reasonable one. He would urge the Finance Committee to be gentle and cautious. We have already done a lot of trimming. J. Labadie asked if we had all the information to figure out the cost per pupil. R. Thackston asked that J. Fortson provide the information to the Finance Committee. E. Stanley commented if we maintain in 5 years we would be at the cost per pupil. W. Wright commented Fitzwilliam pays \$15,000.00 per pupil. We will never agree on the cost per pupil. P. Bauries suggested sending this issue to Finance.

Enter into Non-Public Session: MOTION: E. Jacod. **MOVED** to change the agenda to enter into non-public session for a student issue. **SECOND:** M. Blair. **VOTE:** 13.7.08/0/0/1.293. **Motion passes. Enter into non-public session.**

The Board returns to public session.

3. Other Old Business as may come before the Board: MOTION: J. Carnie.

MOVED to reconsider the action in the context of the SRO motion passed in Roxbury on July 19, 2011. **SECOND: P. Bauries. VOTE: 9.897/2.0606/1.751/1.293. Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Bauries MOVED to accept the SRO MOU presented tonight with 2 paragraph changes, 7 hours daily and up to 180 days a year, such costs not to exceed \$50,000.00 and agreement to reflect MRSD. **SECOND: J. Carnie. DISCUSSION: P. Bauries** commented we have gone through this process over and over again. This motion gives the school and the town the ability to say yes we want a SRO but the school specifies the number of hours and the cost. This is in the best interest to meet halfway. Send the MOU back to the Town of Swanzey. M. Blair commented we have a new principal it is a disservice to him. The 7 hours are not a true time. The students come in earlier and stay longer. There are students from other towns that come to the MS/HS. **MOTION: E. Stanley MOVED** to hire the SRO on a full time basis of not more than \$61,999.00. **R. Thackston ruled the motion out of order.** J. Carnie commented we are talking about \$50,000.00 an effort to try and do something. **MOTION: J. Labadie. MOVED** the School District donate \$12,000.00 to the town of Swanzey to cover the additional cost of the SRO. **R. Thackston ruled the motion out of order.** M. Blair asked if a student from Richmond gets in trouble do we charge Richmond. **VOTE: 10.066/2.584/1.058/1.293. Motion passes. MOTION: M. Blair. MOVED** to set the SRO salary at \$62,000.00 and amend the agreement with the Town of Swanzey. E. Kaplan advised you cannot make a motion until you rescind and you cannot increase the time, move on.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Motions from Facilities Committee:

2. Motions from Policy Committee: MOTION: L. Steadman MOVED on behalf of the Policy Committee to accept Policy EFCA School Lunch Payment Policy as amended. **SECOND: P. Peterson. VOTE: 12.609/0/0/2.39. Motion passes.**

MOTION: L. Steadman. MOVED on behalf of the Policy Committee to accept Policy IGDE Student Activities Fees as amended. **SECOND: J. Labadie. DISCUSSION: P. Bauries** would suggest the Finance Committee review this policy and come up with a proposal. L. Steadman explained there has to be policy in place in order for the Finance Committee to do their job. E. Jacod commented this has to be an absolute necessity. E. Stanley commented the coaches need to know their budgets, do not put the burden on the kids. M. Blair explained we need this policy for the Finance Committee to do their job. J. Labadie said it is ridiculous to charge the kids in public school. W. Wright commented we do not need to go that route. E. Stanley commented if we implement this the Board has to look at the other activities. A friendly amendment was made to change as follows: The coach or activity supervisor will endeavor to eliminate the necessity

of fees through fund raising wherever possible, eliminate the last paragraph. The policy will go to the Finance Committee. **VOTE:** 7.346/5.263/0/2.391. **Motion passes.**

4. Motions from the Education Committee:

5. Motions from the Finance Committee:

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

11. Setting the next agenda:

- 1. 2 Goals-Facilities and Per Pupil Cost**
- 2. Kindergarten update.**

12. Public Comments: E. Kaplan commented the School Board took themselves out of the decision on the policy.

13. 10:30 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:** P. Bauries **VOTE** W. Wright, M. Blair, W. Felton, B. Barlow, S. Ellsworth, J. Labadie, P. Peterson, P. Bauries, L. Steadman, J. Carnie, E. Jacod and R. Thackston. **VOTE:** 12.609/0/0/2.391. **Motion passes.**

14. 10:55 PM Enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II-Personnel Issue:

MOTION: J. Labadie **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II Student Issue. **SECOND:** P. Peterson **VOTE** W. Wright, W. Felton, M. Blair, J. Labadie, S. Ellsworth, P. Peterson, P. Bauries, J. Carnie, E. Jacod and R. Thackston. **VOTE:** 10.45/0/0/4.547. **Motion passes.**

15. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: E. Jacod **MOVED** to adjourn the Board Meeting at 11:55 PM. **SECOND:** P. Peterson **VOTE:** 10.45/0/0/4.547. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording secretary