

**Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**(Approved Minutes)**  
**December 20, 2011**  
**Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH**

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

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

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

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

**1.PUBLIC COMMENTS:** J. Labadie thanked the students, staff and J. Butterfield for allowing the Board Members to job shadow the students in the School to Career.

**2. Consent Agenda: MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the December 6, 2011 Public Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 13.708/0/0/1.293. **Motion passes. MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the December 6, 2011, 10:45 PM Non-Public Session Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** P. Bauries. **VOTE:** 12.650/0/1.058/1.293. **Motion passes. MOTION:** P. Peterson. **MOVED** to accept the December 6, 2011, 11:00 PM Non-Public Meeting minutes as presented. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 12.650/0/1.058/1.293. **Motion passes. MOTION:** P. Peterson. **MOVED** to accept the December 6, 2011, 11:10 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** S. Ellsworth. **VOTE:** 12.650/0/1.058/1.293. **Motion passes.**

**3. Student Government Report:** There is no Student Government Report.

**4. Business Manager’s Report:** J. Fortson explained most of the items will be discussed under the Finance and Facilities Reports.

**5. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:**

**1.Correspondence and Announcements:** D. Hodgdon read a letter from the NHSCA Board informing the Board of the appointment of Rebecca Russell to the Executive School Council.

M. Suarez informed the Board of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade Winter Program. She also reported on Thursday they will have an all school sing along all are invited. She thanked the staff, students and community members for helping to provide food and other items for area families during the holiday season. M. Suarez introduced Zach a

6<sup>th</sup> grader at Emerson. Zach explained to the Board why and how he coordinated a food drive for the Keene Food Bank. M. Suarez told Zach how very proud she and the school were of him. The Board gave Zach a round of applause.

B. Tatro commented that she was following a hard act regarding the work done by Zach. She informed the Board that there was a situation at Mt. Caesar in which the alarm system went off. It was a low water level and the school evacuated. The high school gave the children and the staff a wonderful reception. There was no warning. They were excellent hosts. Mt. Caesar was able to gather over 500 food items for the area kitchens. Both Richmond and Swanzey will receive the items. Thursday is welcome winter with hot cocoa for the children.

D. Mousette reported the Northern Schools had movie night in which they saw Polar Express. There were 100 plus students and parents in attendance. They also had a sing a long in which they had about 200 people in attendance. D. Mousette wished a Merry Christmas to everyone.

J. Butterfield thanked the Board Members who attended the School to Career shadow project. The students will be reporting at an upcoming staff meeting. The Holiday Concert was well received and on Friday all the students will attend the performance. Monadnock Cares Helping Hands was able to supply 19 baskets for area families. The radio station 1220 AM will be interviewing Monadnock Cares. Progress reports will be going out this week. He attended a workshop on what to expect at the next NEASC visit. He wished everyone a great holiday.

**2. Curriculum Report:** K. Craig commented that it was great to hear about the efforts of Zach and Monadnock Cares. She commented it is important in regards to the whole child. We need to measure on the success we are making in our children like Zach. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

**3. Other Issues of Importance: MOTION:** J. Labadie **MOVED** to accept the retirements of Peggy Evans, Deborah Stauseth, Catherine Croteau and Margaret Rouleau. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 13.708/0/0/1.293. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** J. Labadie **MOVED** to accept the resignation of Lisa Lackey on Jan. 4, 2012. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 13.708/0/0/1.293. **Motion passes.**

**6. Board Chair Report:** R. Thackston congratulated the high school on successful Christmas Holiday Show.

**7. School Committee Report:**

**1. Community Relations Committee:** B. Barlow informed the Board the committee did not meet.

**2. Education Committee Report:** J. Carnie reported the committee discussed the Sullivan School closing issue. They discussed RTI and the 3 tiered graduation proposal. The next meeting is scheduled for January 3, 2012.

**3. Facilities Committee:** E. Stanley reported the committee met and had an update on PSNH with no problems. D. LaPointe reported the lighting package is in Year 4 of the renovation project. It includes heaters, motors and every light being replaced. He reported on the PSNH 50-50 and the 59% return from the State. D. LaPointe reported the yearly energy savings will be between \$100,000.00 and \$200,000.00. J. Fortson informed the Board the District will be receiving over \$600,000.00 in reimbursement from the State from Year 2. The Facilities discussed and voted on the Health and Safety Warrant. The committee discussed the Troy School and how it comes up in conversation that things are not getting done in Troy. E. Stanley informed the Board of the items that have been done since 2008. The next meeting is on January 10, 2012.

**4. Finance Committee:** J. Carnie reported the Finance Committee will be presenting motions later in the meeting. The next scheduled meeting is on January 3, 2012.

**5. Policy Committee:** The committee has not met. They hope to schedule a meeting on January 10, 2012 at 6:00 PM.

**6. Budget Committee Rep.:** E. Stanley reported the committee will be meeting on December 27, 2011 at 7:00 PM.

**7. Negotiations/Human Resource Committee:** P. Bauries reported the committee is working on a new concept for how insurance is being provided. If all unions are agreeable we will have ratified contracts soon.

**8. CCC:** The committee did not meet. There are no scheduled meetings.

**8. OLD BUSINESS:** There is no Old Business at this time.

**9. NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Motions from Facilities Committee:** There are no motions from Facilities.

**2. Motions from the Education Committee: MOTION:** J. Carnie. **MOVED** on behalf of the Education Committee With approval of the Education Committee and recommended to the Full Board; to keep the Sullivan School open and defer any decision on Sullivan after the March vote by the Town of Sullivan and then look at the best educationally wise decision for the operation of the Northern schools. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie commented the committee looked at the educational and political impact of the closing. We will

wait for the proposal from the town. The committee did discuss the educational impact. It will be clearer in March after the vote. **VOTE:** 13.708/0/0/1.293.

**Motion passes.** B. Barlow commented the Board had a Northern Schools Study Committee and the result was to keep both schools open. He commented a deal is a deal. That is his position. It was commented that was the feeling of most of the Education Committee.

**MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** on behalf of the Education Committee, the Education Committee fully supports and asks the School Board to support the Administration's continued efforts with the RTI (Response to Intervention) and the Inclusion Program in reducing Special Education for the Monadnock District. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** K. Craig commented they are working to reduce the Special Ed. population in the District. They are asking the Board to support the direction in which the administration is going. **VOTE:** 13.708/0/0/1.293. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** J. Carnie. **MOVED** on behalf of the Education Committee and approved by the Education Committee and to bring to the full Board for acceptance the "Three Tiered Diploma" as presented by Principal Butterfield. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **DISCUSSION:** J. Butterfield presented information to the Board on the Three Tiered Diploma. He explained they are promoting choice rather than requirements. This will help the at risk students. Reducing the credits will have implications on the staff and budget. J. Butterfield explained the different tiers. He explained the school will recognize each tier with a special seal and it will be noted on the graduation program and on the transcript. M. Morrison supports the proposal but asked about the school ranking. J. Butterfield commented we have a system in place for that. E. Jacod asked if all the students school day is the same length. J. Butterfield explained when the students get close to meeting their requirements they do not have to have a full day but we are trying to change that with this system. E. Jacod has a problem pulling back credits to graduate. J. Butterfield explained this plan will be implemented in a year from now. M. Blair commented it is a great system. J. Labadie commented that she would love to see an on line class. B. Barlow commented on so many good ideas and giving students more choices is terrific. Taking a risk and not being penalized is huge. E. Jacod commented it is a huge mistake to shorten the day. J. Butterfield commented it will help out the at risk students that are failing and they will be able to stay with their class. We are meeting the State requirements and we want everyone to be a NH Scholar. **VOTE:** 12.875/.833/0/1.293. **Motion passes.** E. Jacod commented that he went through the School to Career shadowing and in one class they had 11 kids and some classes had less than 10 students. We have a serious problem.

3. **Motions from the Finance Committee:** **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** on behalf of the Finance Committee, the Finance Committee recommends that the full Board accept Warrant Article Three for health and safety repairs in the

amount of \$172,600.00. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 13.708/0/0/1.293. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** on behalf of the Finance Committee to send to the full Board a proposal for a warrant article to raise \$150,000.00 to continue the BASP with off setting grant reimbursement if applicable and to fund the warrant article with a “Trust” administrated by the School Board. **SECOND:** J. Labadie. **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie explained the committee had a lot of discussion and it was unanimous by the committee. We do not want to lose what we have started. We are going to write the grant and hopefully it will come through. It was commented we are asking the other towns to vote on a program in Troy and Gilsum. If we lose it, it will be hard to get it back. It was commented that the warrant will have a better chance if the program was for all the towns. B. Barlow commented this is the stepping stone to the entire District. **VOTE:** 13.708/0/0/1.293. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** on behalf of the Finance Committee to bring to the full Board the recommendation to set the out of District Tuition fee based on the current MRSD cost per student at \$15,900.00 and to set the Special Education out of District Tuition at \$25,000.00 with additional identifiable costs such as one on one aids, ect added to the base cost. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** The Board asked what other Districts were charging. J. Fortson commented the figure we have been charging for regular and special ed. has been the same for 3-5 years. **VOTE:** 12.875/0/.833/1.293. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** on behalf of the Finance Committee to send to the full Board a recommendation to stay on track exclusively with the HS/MS 5 Year renovation plan as recommended by the NEASC committee. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **DISCUSSION:** It was commented this is for morale support and to stay on the track we are on. **VOTE:** 13.014/0/.693/1.293. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** J. Carnie. **MOVED** on behalf of the Finance Committee to send to the full Board the using of up to \$52,000.00 of surplus from the 2010/2011, and 2011/2012 High School Health and Safety Warrant Articles to supplement the 2012/2013 High School Health and Safety Warrant Article. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 13.708/0/0/1.293. **Motion passes.**

- a. **Action on the Manifest:** **MOTION:** S. Ellsworth **MOVED** the manifest in the amount of \$2,066,896.95 **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 13.708/0/0/1.293. **Motion passes.**

## **10. Setting the next agenda:**

- 1. Principal Search**
- 2. Warrant Articles**
- 3. Budget**

- 11. Public Comments:** J. Labadie commented she shadowed Nick Dragon of the School to Career and he was the WMUR Home Town Hero. She commented he is an outstanding student.
- 12. Approval of Sealed Non-Public Session Meeting Minutes: MOTION:** M. Morrison **MOVED** to approve the November 15, 2011, 9:20 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 13.708/0/0/1.293. **Motion passes. MOTION:** P. Peterson. **MOVED** to approve the December 6, 2011, 9:55 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** J. Labadie. **VOTE:** 12.679/0/1.058/1.293. **Motion passes.**
- 13. 8:30 PM Enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (e) Pending Litigation. MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (e) Pending Litigation. **SECOND:** P. Bauries **VOTE** W. Wright, M. Morrison, S. Ellsworth, P. Bauries, B. Barlow, P. Peterson, L. Steadman, J. Carnie, M. Blair, J. Labadie, E. Stanley, E. Jacod and R. Thackston. **VOTE:** 13.708/0/0/1.293. **Motion passes.**
- 14. Return to Public Session: MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to seal the Dec. 20, 2011 8:30 PM Non-Public Minutes until the end of litigation. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 13.708/0/0/1.293. **Motion passes.**
- 15. 8:50 PM Enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Compensation of a Public Employee. MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Compensation of a Public Employee. **SECOND:** B. Barlow **VOTE:** W. Wright, P. Peterson, J. Carnie, L. Steadman, M. Blair, M. Morrison, S. Ellsworth, P. Bauries, J. Labadie, B. Barlow, E. Stanley, E. Jacod and R. Thackston. 13.708/0/0/1.293. **Motion passes.**
- 16. Motion to adjourn: MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to adjourn the Board Meeting at 8:58 PM. **SECOND:** B. Barlow **VOTE:** 13.014/0/0/1.986. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis  
Recording secretary