

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
(Non-Approved Minutes)
December 6, 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:** 13.708/0/0/1.293. **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:**

3. 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

2. Curriculum Report: K. Craig reported on a lot of work being done in the District She attended the Leading and Learning Conference in Boston and spent time with the new teachers they were very enthusiastic. The training continues for the Keys to Literacy. They have emphasized that all teachers are teachers of reading and writing.

3. Other Issues of Importance: D. Hodgdon would like to commend the Negotiating Team on the number of hours they have put in to help move the process. There is a need for several non-public sessions.

- 6. Board Chair Report:** R. Thackston welcomed J. Carnie back and thanked him for the correction to the minutes. We did not know the correct RSA. He commented the School District has no debt which is a unique thing. The Budget Committee has asked the Board to come up with 4 % in cuts to the proposed budget. It is not easy to cut out items. We have a recommendation from the Budget Committee to close the Sullivan School. Any change should be one that least effects the education of the students. He would not want to see the Board move until the issue is reviewed. He recognizes the need for the District to cut. The cuts will damage the District. He would like to send the request from the Budget Committee to the Education Committee. He can vision a single school. Kindergarten through grade 6 in Gilsum with one principal but we need the Education Committee to review. If possible he would like a recommendation from the Education Committee in two weeks.

He commented that grants are blessings and a curse. We have had a wonderful program for 5 years. We have a wonderful program we do not know if we can run. Closing the school is less than the program. The issue with the SRO which was debated started as a grant. Is the grant sustainable and can we follow through with it. He would like to consider a committee to address the technology in the District. Are we going to deep with the cuts to get to the 4%? He has concerns when staff publically resign and abandon their position on the front page of the paper and then coach one of our teams. Personally that is no way for a coach to act.

7. School Committee Report:

1. Community Relations Committee: B. Barlow informed the Board that Dessert with the Principal in Richmond was cancelled. The Commission of Education has passed the issue of the MPR to the Governor. On Dec. 14 W. Lechlinder will be discussing the work of the Budget Committee to the Town Crier. B. Barlow will be recruiting individuals for the Board of Community Advisors. The next meeting is on Dec. 20, 2011.

2. Education Committee Report: P. Bauries reported the committee met on Nov. 30, 2011. They discussed the budget and there were concerns that making the number would reduce the educational benefits to the students. They discussed technology versus hard cover books. M. Blair and J. Labadie have agreed to investigate what e readers are available. K. Craig reported on the Boston conference.

3. Facilities Committee: E. Stanley reported Mt. Caesar alarm system is complete. Year two of the renovations is complete. The specs for the data wiring have been received. The bulb replacement in all schools is complete and there should be a \$20,000.00 savings. Year Four of the renovations will be a warrant for energy related

items. The Health and Safety warrant will go to Finance and is in the amount of \$232,500.00. The warrant for the MPR at Mt. Caesar is also going to the Finance Committee. The district has switched from PSNH to Glacier which was a savings for the District but now they have found another company with even more of a savings. There will be a motion later in the meeting. The schools are being very good about the oil usage. The next meeting is on Dec. 13, 2011 at 5:00 PM.

4. Finance Committee: P. Bauries reported the committee met on Dec. 3, 2011. They had a presentation on the Before and After School Program. The committee looked at the warrants. The committee discussed tech school books and the cost. J. Labadie and M. Blair will bring more information. The next meeting is on Wednesday at 8:30 AM.

5. Policy Committee: The committee has not met.

6. Budget Committee Rep.: W. Lechlinder reported the committee voted to recommend the closing of the Sullivan School. They are working through the budget. They have heard from the administration on the budget but there are no decisions.

7. Negotiations/Human Resource Committee: P. Bauries reported the meetings have been successful but as of yet there are no agreements. They are very close.

8. CCC: The committee did not meet.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Warrant Articles: J. Fortson is asking the Board if they would like the funds on Article Five to be raised and appropriated or from the surplus. **MOTION:** E. Jacod. **MOVED** that the Emergency Fuel Funds come out of surplus not to be raised and appropriated. **SECOND:** S. Ellsworth. **DISCUSSION:** N. Moriarty commented the warrant should be dated 2011-2012 for reference. **VOTE:** 13.582/0/1.183/.235. **Motion passes.**

2. Goals (Community Integration & Parent Involvement): B. Barlow spoke regarding the community integration and parent involvement. He said there are ways that this is being done. There are articles in the Shopper and letters to the Editor in the Sentinel. They have the Dessert with the Principal and they are ready to schedule the visits to the Select Board. The green sheets will be going out, they would like to have a talk series on the Freshman Academy and the Board of Community Advisors is in process. The Board will have a schedule of events and more volunteer involvement. On November 28, 2011 the CRC met with the selectmen of Gilsum and discussed the need to further the involvement of the parents in the education process in order to understand more of what is going on. He discussed with M. Suarez her thoughts on Fitzwilliam. He felt Emerson is one of the best places to get parent involvement in the school. He would welcome any input to take back to Gilsum. J. Carnie asked about Goal 10 average cost per pupil. He is concerned it is budget season and we need a meaningful conversation on this. He asked if it is going to happen in 4 or 5 years. It

needs to be looked at and it needs to be done next month. W. Lechluder commented the Budget Committee did not look at the warrants on the per pupil cost. The \$31,777,000.00 is roughly a 4% cut. He did say the 4% mentioned in the Sentinel. J. Carnie asked if the per pupil cost was considered when they came up to the number. W. Lechluder commented that the Budget Committee did take the per pupil cost into consideration. J. Labadie commented the goals are Community Integration and Parent Involvement the Before and After school program could be part of that. The \$31,777.000.00 was discussed. At the Gilsum Meeting the Board said the per pupil cost was an unrealistic goal. We have a civil obligation. We as a Board said we would not put budgetary before education. W. Lechluder commented if we are asking the voters for warrant articles we need to give on the budget side. R. Thackston commented he appreciates the way the Budget Committee approached this, not nice but honest. E. Jacod commented on the goal to be the Best School in the State but how can you be the best and bring the per pupil cost to average. We need to find the point to make the most we can. We will not meet goal 10. B. Barlow commented in September we reviewed the cost per pupil. We have discussed this and J. Carnie is out of order. He wants to bring it up. We have been there. He is out of order. R. Thackston he is not out of order. M. Blair would like the Board to do things and not just talk about it. E. Stanley commented we have to take a look at the cost per pupil. We need to look at how our district is set up. We have to remember we are down students and we have not done enough on the staffing cuts. We need to look at that. P. Peterson commented this is a healthy conversation. No one enjoys this but we need to look at it. There has been no stone unturned. She feels that there is now accountability for the education. We look at all dollars before we spend them. J. Carnie commented it was on the agenda under "Goals". We need to look at this number. For a long time we have not looked at the numbers. We have an obligation to the taxpayers. We need to move forward to get to the State average. This Board has not had this discussion on the budget. He does not believe the numbers in Gilsum were accurate. The warrant articles will have a major impact on the per pupil cost. W. Felton commented each year at budget time we are duplicating the situation. We have come off of probation. We should be able to maintain. Aspects of education should be considered to get the students ready for the world. What is absolutely necessary to effectively perform. We need to determine what is needed. J. Labadie commented that research shows the top ranking schools are at the highest cost. In a budget you get what you pay for. We have high special ed. rate and poverty rate what is essential has changed. The legal requirements have changed. It is our job to address and make sure these things are met. M. Blair commented when we discuss these goals they are the goals of the Board not B. Barlow's goals. R. Thackston commented on the goals. He said it troubles him to lose Surry and possibly Sullivan. They are wealthy towns. All the schools have free and reduced lunch, the beauty of the School District are the dynamics of each. They are different. We all have a vote and we have to come up with the best decision.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Motions from Facilities Committee: MOTION: E. Stanley **MOVED** to approve to utilize Light Tec as opposed to hiring an outside architect. This would be for energy projects only and architects would bid out for Design Building and Building changes for Year 4 and 5, by doing so we will not require outside bids. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **VOTE:** 14.765/0/0/.235. **Motion passes.**

2. Motions from the Education Committee:

3. Motions from the Finance Committee: MOTION: P. Bauries **MOVED** to allow the Business Manager and Facilities Director to purchase energy at the best available price. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 14.765/0/0/.235. **Motion passes.**

a. Action on the Manifest: MOTION: W. Felton **MOVED** the manifest in the amount of \$1,400,437.12 **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **VOTE:** 14.765/0/0/.235. **Motion passes.**

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

10. Setting the next agenda:

1. Update on negotiations

11. Public Comments: Dr. Kaplan thanked the Board for the refreshments at the staff meeting on behalf of the entire staff. He also commented on the per pupil cost. He asked that the Board discuss if it is a reachable goal.

E. Stanley commented that the District has saved more than \$400,000.00 over the year. Money is not the problem solver. We are making cuts in the best interest of the students and taxpayers.

N. Moriarty commented that closing the Sullivan School was not a proposed cut and transportation is not part of the per pupil cost. T. Kennett commented that the District is spending more on the 20% of Special ed. students than the 80 % of regular ed. students. N. Moriarty commented even if the 4% cut is true what about the three contracts. He commented that we need to look at priorities in the District. We have people living in poverty in the district. Whether you pay rent or own your home you are paying taxes.

A. Garrapy thanked the School Board for their work even though she does not always agree. She said we need to change the way we fund education. The State is not funding education correctly. (**B. Barlow leaves the meeting**)

12. 9:55 PM Enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a)Dismissal, promotion or compensation of a public employee: MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Dismissal,

promotion or compensation of a public employee. **SECOND:** W. Wright **VOTE** W. Wright, M. Morrison, S. Ellsworth, P. Bauries, P. Peterson, L. Steadman, J. Carnie, M. Blair, J. Labadie, E. Stanley, W. Felton, E. Jacod and R. Thackston. **VOTE:** 13.708/0/0/1.293. **Motion passes.**

13. Return to Public Session: MOTION: J. Labadie **MOVED** to seal the Dec. 6, 2011 9:45 PM Non-Public Minutes until June 30, 2012. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **VOTE:** 13.708/0/0/1.293. **Motion passes.**

14. 10:45 PM Enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Compensation of a Public Employee. MOTION: J. Carnie. **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Compensation of a Public Employee. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **VOTE:** W. Wright, P. Peterson, J. Carnie, L. Steadman, M. Blair, M. Morrison, S. Ellsworth, P. Bauries, J. Labadie, E. Stanley, W. Felton, E. Jacod and R. Thackston. 13.708/0/0/1.293. **Motion passes.**

15. 11:00 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:** E. Stanley. **VOTE:** W. Wright, P. Peterson, J. Carnie, L. Steadman, M. Blair, M. Morrison, S. Ellsworth, P. Bauries, J. Labadie, E. Stanley, W. Felton, E. Jacod and R. Thackston. 13.708/0/0/1.293. **Motion passes. (J. Labadie left during non-public session.)**

16. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to adjourn the Board Meeting at 11:20 PM. **SECOND:** M. Blair **VOTE:** 13.014/0/0/1.986. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording secretary