

**Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**(Approved Minutes)**  
**November 1, 2011**  
**Sullivan Elementary School, Sullivan, NH**

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

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

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

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

**1.PUBLIC COMMENTS:** J. Labadie thanked Sullivan Staff for all the refreshments.

**2. Consent Agenda: MOTION:** S. Ellsworth **MOVED** to accept the October 18, 2011 Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 11.257/0/0/3.743. **Motion passes. MOTION:** B. Barlow **MOVED** to accept the October 18, 2011 Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 11.257/0/0/3.743. **Motion passes.**

**3. Student Government Report:** J. Butterfield read the report from the Student Government President. He explained Red Ribbon Week was a success. The Football Team is getting ready for playoffs. The Student Government will be sponsoring a family in need during the holiday season.

**4. Business Manager’s Report:** J. Fortson explained the SAU #93 budget is in the overall district budget. The MS25 is ready to go to the State for the tax rate to be established. The issue with the River Valley Community College is still waiting for a signature. T. Kennett and J. Fortson are reviewing the Out of District students.

**5. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:**

**1.Correspondence and Announcements:** D. Mousette welcomed the Board to Sullivan Elementary School. Parent teacher conferences will begin and Gilsum will hold a Veterans Day Celebration on Thursday. On November 17, 2011 Gilsum will hold a Community Supper everyone is welcome.

J. Smith commented on a successful pumpkin carving. They brought 200 pumpkins to the Pumpkin Fest. Cutler has finished Red ribbon Week and the NECAP Testing. J. Smith commented everyone is excited about having the preschoolers at Cutler. The girls basketball team has formed and the boys are having tryouts.

M. Suarez reported the NECAP Testing is complete at Emerson. Parent Teacher conferences will begin soon.

B. Tatrow informed the Board parent teacher conferences are going well and it is business as usual.

J. Butterfield informed the Board the high school is no longer on probation from the NEASC. He is very pleased with all the hard work done over the past 5 years. Everyone has worked very hard but this is not the end. We are 5 years away from a NEASC team visit. The superintendent of corrections did a presentation at the Red Ribbon Week assembly and you could not hear a pin drop. The football team will be at the playoffs on Saturday. There was a successful dessert with the principal in Troy. Roxbury is next for dessert with the principal. The Special Olympic Team competed at Yankee Lanes. This is the last week of the marking quarter. The spring musical auditions are underway. J. Butterfield thanked the School Board Members who responded to the request of the School to Career students.

D. Hodgdon informed the Board Zach Creamer who is an eagle scout and senior at MRHS has decided to do his senior project on children coping with hair loss due to an illness. He will be doing a unique hat project. The presentation will be on Nov. 19, 2011 from 8-10 at the high school.

**2. Curriculum Report:** K. Craig listed the staff and the many committees that they are on. She commented on the hard work being done and the time they take to do the meetings. She explained there is a lot happening in the schools. She explained there is a technical problem with the Fast Forward it is off to a slow start.

T. Kennett has been meeting with the Special Ed. staff and the regular staff. He is taking the work started by K. Craig and breaking it down.

K. Craig informed the Board she and B. Barlow toured the Claremont School. The Claremont principal had met K. Craig at Emerson while she was principal there. The two schools shared ideas. K. Craig said there was great dialogue.

### **3. Other Issues of Importance:**

**a. Northern Schools Leadership Transition Plan:** D. Hodgdon reported D. Mousette will be retiring. Based on the vote by the School Board the Northern Schools will be looking for teaching principals. There are advantages and disadvantages to this issue. He reported he had emailed the Board regarding this. On the email he listed the advantages and disadvantages. These are factors that need to be looked at. He has planned a timeline. In November and December the Superintendent

and the Assistant Superintendent will look at the roles and responsibilities based on the principal job description. In December they will look at what staff will be needed to support the teaching principal positions. In January the parents will be informed of what is happening. In February they will select the teaching principal positions. March through June the new teaching principals will be working with D. Mousette and the Assistant Superintendent to provide support. They will look at what support and professional development will be needed. M. Morrison asked what other options are available. The options would be 2 teaching principals, a full time principal or part time principals. W. Felton commented teaching principals are a viable approach. All principals have teaching experience, when the District is in a better situation change back. J. Labadie cannot understand how a full time teacher can be a teaching principal. Is there any possibility that the Board may rethink this vote? She does not believe it is doable. R. Thackston commented that this was a clear directive from the Board but it is not over. W. Wright explained he was a teaching principal. He said it will work.

- 6. Board Chair Report:** R. Thackston explained the study committees from Gilsum and Sullivan have come up with recommendations. The Sullivan committee will recommend withdrawing from the Monadnock School district. The Gilsum study committee will recommend staying in the district. R. Thackston was told the Gilsum School could accommodate all the Gilsum students K-6. Withdrawing from the District will take a vote of the entire District. He asked that the Board keep the options open.

R. Thackston commented he is not in support of the 4% cut on the budget and he would not like the School Board to close the Sullivan School. If Sullivan leaves there would be a plan to close the school. We will operate under the assumption that the 2 buildings will remain open.

## **7. School Committee Report:**

- 1. Community Relations Committee:** B. Barlow informed the Board the committee did not meet. The Sentinel reported the district is off probation on page three. Thursday R. Thackston and B. Barlow will meet with the DOE Commissioner to discuss the MPR as part of the MS/HS renovations. The next meeting is on Nov. 15, 2011.

- 2. Education Committee Report:** P. Bauries reported the committee met and discussed the paraprofessional teacher exchange. K. Craig has asked to wait on the discussion until after mid-term. The committee received a Keys to Literacy Report. The committee discussed the school to career with J. Butterfield. Dick and Jane from SERESC met with D. Hodgdon, T. Kennett, K. Craig, the principals and the administration. The DINI committee broke into sub groups. The committee reviewed class size. J. Butterfield passed out his report with the master schedule. It was a wonderful report. It included room usage and class enrollment. J. Butterfield presented a proposal in 3 tiers for graduation. The motion from the Education Committee will go before the Policy Committee regarding the 3 tiers. Cheshire

Medical Center discussed Vision 20/20 with the committee. T. Walsh was commended for his effort to address obesity. The next meeting is on Nov. 9, 2011 at 10:30 AM. W. Felton commented on the 3 tier presentation.

**3. Facilities Committee:** E. Stanley reported the committee has not gone over the warrants as a full committee. D. LaPointe passed out the warrants. It was explained Cutler's proposed new roof will be on the Health and Safety list. The committee will need to discuss what needs to be put on the list. A lot of schools are in need of rewiring. Emerson needs to have roof work done. The list needs to be prioritized. E. Stanley commented the committee would like to keep the total amount of the warrant to \$250,000.00.

**4. Finance Committee:** P. Bauries explained the committee reviewed the 2012-2013 Budget. The committee invited N. Moriarty and W. Lechliden to sit in on the meeting. The Budget Committee is focusing on the \$31,777,000.00 amount. The key point is not to name any positions. There is still a way to go in the budget process. There are two teaching positions in the budget, full day kindergarten and Fast Forward. The committee discussed the NH Retirement increase as well as the increase in health care. The MS25 is complete and on the way to the State. The committee discussed an insurance trust warrant in the amount of \$50,000.00. The committee will be asking for a budget transfer tonight.

**5. Policy Committee:** M. Morrison explained the committee met and would be bringing policies to vote on at the next Board Meeting.

**6. Budget Committee Rep.:** The next meeting is on November 5, 2011.

**7. Negotiations/Human Resource Committee:** P. Bauries reported the committee has been meeting with the 3 unions on a regular basis. Things are moving nicely. The committee is waiting for the insurance costs. Hopefully the Board will have an agreed contract with all unions.

**8. CCC:**

## **8. OLD BUSINESS:**

**1. Chair Report on Sealed Minutes:** R. Thackston, J. Labadie, P. Bauries and W. Wright will meet to discuss the non-public sealed minutes. **MOTION:** M. Morrison. **MOVED** to approve the committee of R. Thackston, J. Labadie, P. Bauries and W. Wright to review the non-public sealed minutes and make a recommendation to the Board. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 10.199/0/1.058/3.743. **Motion passes.**

## **2. Other Old Business as may come before the Board:**

T. Kennett explained to the Board the out of district costs have come in \$270,000.00 over budget. To help with this deficit he is looking at one student coming back to the

district and the Camp Takodah proposal. He is also looking at the District owned vans to transport the students. He will forward the transportation proposal to the Finance and the Facilities Committee when ready.

**9. NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Motions from Facilities Committee:**

**2. Motions from the Education Committee:**

**3. Motions from the Finance Committee: MOTION:** P. Bauries. **MOVED** on behalf of the Finance Committee to move the monies for the purchase of a washing machine for the washing of mop heads and other cleaning items to the furniture and fixtures account. The account this is being transferred from previously was for the washing of uniforms, mop heads and other cleaning items by an outside contractor instead these are now being done in house. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **VOTE:** 11.257/0/0/3.743. **Motion passes.**

**a. Action on the Manifest: MOTION:** W. Felton **MOVED** the manifest in the amount of \$1,137,036.55. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 10.199/0/0/1.058/3.743. **Motion passes.**

**4. Other New Business as may come before the Board:** R. Thackston explained the QED issue is a SAU #38 issue. The committee will meet on November 16, 2011 at 7:00 PM.

**10. Setting the next agenda:**

**11. Public Comments:**

**12. 8:45 PM Enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II © Student Issue:** **MOTION:** B. Barlow **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II © Student Issue. **SECOND:** E. Jacod **VOTE** W. Wright, M. Blair, B. Barlow, M. Morrison, S. Ellsworth, P. Bauries, J. Labadie, E. Stanley, W. Felton, E. Jacod and R. Thackston. **VOTE:** 11.257/0/0/3.743. **Motion passes.**

**13. Return to Public Session:** J. Smith commented there are proof of residency forms that have not been returned to the school. He would like to have a letter composed to force the parents to return the forms to the school. R. Thackston explained there is a policy regarding this issue.

**14. 9:20 PM Enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Hiring of a Public Employee: MOTION:** S. Ellsworth. **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Hiring of a Public Employee. **SECOND:** B. Barlow.

**VOTE:** W. Wright, M. Blair, B. Barlow, M. Morrison, S. Ellsworth, P. Bauries, J. Labadie, E. Stanley, W. Felton, E. Jacod and R. Thackston. **Motion passes.**

**15. Report to Public Session:** W. Felton asked that the committee minutes be in writing. It was explained time is an issue. The committee meetings are scheduled close to the Board Meetings.

**16. Motion to adjourn: MOTION:** B. Barlow. **MOVED** to adjourn the Board Meeting at 9:24 PM. **SECOND:** S. Ellsworth **VOTE:** 11.257/0/0/3.743. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis  
Recording secretary