

**Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**(Approved Minutes)**  
**October 4, 2011**  
**Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH**

**Members Present:** Ed Jacod, Bruce Barlow, Pat Bauries, Richard Thackston, James Carnie, Mike Blair, Jen Labadie, Winston Wright, Mike Morrison, Lisa Steadman and Phyllis Peterson. **Absent:** Scott Ellsworth, E. Stanley, William Felton 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:** M. Suarez, J. Butterfield, B. Tatro.

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

**1.PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**MOTION:** E. Jacod. **MOVED** to change the agenda. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 10.493/0/0/4.507. **Motion passes.**

**7:01 PM MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II © Student Issue. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 10.493/0/0/4.507. **Motion passes.**

**The Board returned to Public Session.**

**2. Consent Agenda:** **MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the September 20, 2011 Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **DISCUSSION:** J. Labadie commented she was not allowed to rebuttal during the meeting regarding the censure. She also said she did not attack the students and the teachers. R. Thackston stopped J. Labadie and explained this is not relevant to the minutes. The Board is voting on what happened at the meeting. **VOTE:** 9.80/0/.693/4.507. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the September 20, 2011 Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 10.493/0/0/4.507. **Motion passes.**

**3. Student Government Report:** Jill McLeavy reported on the Pep Rally and Spirit Week. The Student Government and the cheerleaders came up with the games for the Husky Spirit Week. The passing time of 4 minutes is a positive change. The teachers like it as well. Red Ribbon Week is in October against drugs and alcohol. The Student Government will hold a fund raiser to help offset the cost of Red Ribbon Week.

4. **Business Manager's Report:** J. Fortson explained she has gone back and forth with River Valley Community College on the process of billing them for the past use of the science labs and classrooms at the MS/HS. The motion in the minutes authorized the use of the science labs River Valley College but did not specifically state R. Thackston had the authority to sign the contract. J. Fortson has put together a motion. **MOTION:** B. Barlow. **MOVED** to have it understood that the contracts signed by Board Chairman Richard Thackston in 2010 and then Board Chairperson, Jane Fortson in 2009 between the Monadnock Regional School District and the River Valley Community College for the rental of classrooms and labs was done so with the approval of the school board(s) and was within their rights as Board Chairmen to do so in accordance with Policy BDB. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **DISCUSSION:** J. Fortson explained the amount owed by River Valley Community College is \$10,200.00. **VOTE:** 10.493/0/0/4.507. **Motion passes.**

5. **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:**

**1. Correspondence and Announcements:**

D. Hodgdon reported on a great Homecoming despite the rain.

M. Suarez reported MAPS Testing is complete and the NECAP Testing will begin. October 12, 2011 is Harvest Night at Emerson and on Oct. 14 there will be a visit to the Fire Station.

J. Butterfield reported also on a great Homecoming. He informed the Board at the Pep Rally on Friday grades 7-12 all attended. The MAPS Testing is complete and they are getting ready for the NECAP Testing. He said he was pleased with the results of the science NECAP Testing. Advisories continue and the administration is doing goal setting with the students. He reported he recently returned from Boston after attending an engaging schools and classrooms seminar. The school is on the right path and he is very pleased with the work being done.

**2. Curriculum Report:** K. Craig passed out the results of the Science NECAP Testing. It is hopeful that each student is proficient. We are improving in 8 and 11 but at grade 4 we are flattening out. There is good progress in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade but work still needs to be done. She passed out the information that compares each school in the area. The gap in the sub groups is widening. We are working hard with T. Kennett, the teachers and the principals to reduce the gap. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of Common Inquiry Tasks and all teachers K-6 will attend a Common Task Workshop in Nov. J. Labadie asked why Hinsdale was not on the comparison list because they did well on the testing and was there any interest in going to other schools that have done well to see what they are doing. K. Craig commented on the lack of time the teachers have to get out of the classrooms. We need to learn from people that do it right. M. Blair would like to see raw numbers rather than percentages.

K. Craig passed out information on the Summer School results. She explained this is the first time it has been collected. She explained we need to target the needs of the students and the amount of time allotted for each class should be the same. We need to be more consistent. The results are for students K-5. Some of the students are recommended from their MAPS results. K. Craig reported all 4 students at the High School passed.

**3. Other Issues of Importance: MOTION:** P. Peterson. **MOVED** to accept the resignation of Brenda Kelly from Emerson on June 30, 2012. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 10.493/0/0/4.507. **Motion passes.**

*L. Steadman arrives.*

D. Hodgdon passed out the enrollment sheet with the October enrollment numbers.

There is a need for non-public session.

T. Kennett presented a plan to the Board that could potentially save the District about \$500,000.00 in the Special Ed. Dept. He has been asked to identify ways to cut in the SAU #93 Budget. K. Craig explained the idea is to educate without going out of district. It is a collaboration with the YMCA in Richmond. We would like to build a program for our students in which the traditional learning does not work. Instead of traveling on a daily basis 45 minutes away the students would attend the camp which is 15 minutes away. That would be more time for learning. We will have one of our teachers oversee the program in order to make sure rigor and expectations are adhere to. The students will be able to get vocational training and may be able to graduate with their peers. T. Kennett explained the rest of the savings to the Board. He explained he would reduce the Assistant Director of Student Services to 220 days. The District will use the 2 vans that they own to transport the children. M. Morrison asked if the Wilcox Building could be used instead. T. Kennett explained he spoke to the Fire Chief and the cost to update would be extensive. He explained the program would be for 8 students grades 7-12 with ability to take more. Any more students over the eight would require additional staff. He explained he would bring the students and the parents to the facility to see if it is their choice. He would like to have the student and parent on board. T. Kennett explained there are three placements that this program would provide. There could be a savings on the transportation this year.

## **6. Board Chair Report:**

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

**1. Community Relations Committee:** B. Barlow informed the Board the committee met for the Meet Missy Suarez meeting. Each parent commented on how much they loved the staff at Emerson. Jake in particular loves Emerson. The committee had dessert with J. Butterfield in Swanzy it was a good discussion. Half the football team was in attendance and what a magnificent group of young men. We should be proud. The District has been awarded the Monadnock Conservancy \$5000.00 Grant. The

radio ads are not happening. Homecoming wet well but very wet. The next meeting is on October 18, 2011 at 6:30 PM.

**2. Education Committee Report:** J. Carnie reported the committee met on Sept. 29, 2011. A lot of the topics tonight had been discussed in the committee meeting. The committee discussed the Summer School and the NECAP results with K. Craig. The committee was not too happy with the results of the Summer School. There will be a motion regarding the Monadnock Conservancy grant in the amount of \$5000.00. The committee discussed the evaluations for SAU #93 employees. They will be done on an annual basis. The committee will discuss the District goals at their next meeting. Pay to Play is still on the agenda. There will also be a motion regarding graduation guidelines. The Finance and the Education Committees will meet on October 13, 2011.

**3. Finance Committee:** J. Carnie reported the Finance Committee met and discussed the 2012-2013 Budget. J. Fortson spoke on the 4% proposed budget cuts from the Budget Committee. The administration has asked for time to discuss this issue. The committee discussed the update on the health care and insurance costs which will be given to the 3 Unions. They discussed an assessment of the student computer needs regarding getting a plan in advance for each school. J. Fortson has uncovered charges made to Monadnock in SAU #38 but should have been charged to the other districts. The QED situation is still outstanding. The equipment is being held by MC2. The Board still needs to look at this.

#### **4. Facilities Committee:**

**5. Policy Committee:** L. Steadman reported the committee met and she emailed 4 policies to the Board. D. Hodgdon will try to copy the policies for the Board to vote on tonight. The committee will meet on October 25, 2011.

#### **6. Budget Committee Rep.:**

**7. Negotiations/Human Resource Committee:** P. Bauries reported discussions with the three Unions are ongoing. The big issue is health care. Hopefully there will be a presentation soon.

**8. CCC:** L. Steadman reported the 1<sup>st</sup> Advisory breakfast is scheduled for October 28, 2011. *J. Labadie leaves the meeting.*

#### **8. OLD BUSINESS:**

**1. Budget 4% Issue:** J. Fortson explained she was directed to bring a topical budget with the 4 % cuts. The 4 % cuts would equal about 2.1 million dollars. D. Hodgdon explained the administration's concerns are the implications of the reductions. They would like to know the flexibility. D. Hodgdon explained the administration went through the process. We did not quite get there but we were close. He asked that the

Board be cautious. The principal's thoughts are not what they want to do. D. Hodgdon will bring a proposal for the Northern Schools at the next meeting. Technology felt they could have a reduction in order to save. D. Hodgdon explained the information passed out is a quick look. The Board may have some other ideas. Always consider the education implications. We want to settle on a budget sooner than later. R. Thackston thanked the administration and explained this is nothing the Board will act on tonight. The Board and the Budget Committee will have their joint meeting on Nov. 5, 2011.

**2. Other Old Business as may come before the Board:** J. Carnie would suggest having someone review and release the sealed non-public minutes that do not need to be sealed any longer. **MOTION:** P. Peterson. **MOVED** to nominate J. Carnie to review the sealed minutes and recommend to the Board. **SECOND:** M. Blair. **VOTE:** 10.848/0/0/4.102. **Motion passes.**

E. Jacod asked if the high school has a football coach. R. Thackston answered Linwood Patenode.

M. Morrison asked to set priorities to set the budget rather than have the budget drive the priorities. M. Blair would agree with M. Morrison. He would applaud T. Kennett on being creative.

## **9. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **1. Motions from Facilities Committee:**

### **2. Motions from Policy Committee:**

**3. Motions from the Education Committee:** **MOTION:** J. Carnie. **MOVED** on behalf of the Education Committee to accept the Monadnock Conservancy \$5000.00 grant a pilot outreach in collaboration with the Swanzey Open Space Committee which will include four modules: early elementary, late elementary, middle school and high school students. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 10.898/0/0/4.102. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** J. Carnie. **MOVED** on behalf of the Education Committee to send to the Policy Committee through the full board, and with the approval of the Education Committee, the recommendation to accept the graduation exercise policy presented by both the Administrators and High School Principal. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 10.898/0/0/4.102. **Motion passes.**

### **4. Motions from the Finance Committee:**

- a. **Action on the Manifest: MOTION:** B. Barlow **MOVED** the manifest in the amount of \$1,268,992.91 **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 10.898/0/0/4.102. **Motion passes.**

5. **Other New Business as may come before the Board:**  
**The SAU #93 Board Meeting is scheduled for Nov. 1, 2011.**

**The SAU #38 Board Meeting is scheduled for Nov. 16, 2011.**

**10. Setting the next agenda:**

- 1. Literacy District wide**
- 2. Special Ed.**
- 3. Billing of Student Services**
- 4. MC2 QED**

**11. Public Comments:**

- 12. 9:12 PM Enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) for purposes stipulated by the Superintendent: MOTION:** E. Jacod **MOVED** to enter into non-public session for purposes stipulated by the Superintendent. **SECOND:** E. Jacod **VOTE** W. Wright, M. Blair, B. Barlow, M. Morrison, L. Steadman, P. Peterson, P. Bauries, J. Carnie, E. Jacod and R. Thackston. **VOTE:** 10.898/0/0/4.102. **Motion passes.**

- 13. 9:50 PM Enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Compensation, Hiring or firing of a public employee: MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to enter into non-public session for purposes stipulated by the Superintendent. **SECOND:** B. Barlow **VOTE** W. Wright, M. Blair, B. Barlow, M. Morrison, L. Steadman, P. Peterson, P. Bauries, J. Carnie, E. Jacod and R. Thackston. **VOTE:** 10.898/0/0/4.102. **Motion passes.**

- 14. Motion to adjourn: MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to adjourn the Board Meeting at 10:20 PM. **SECOND:** B. Barlow **VOTE:** 10.898/0/0/4.102. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis  
Recording secretary