

**Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**(Approved Minutes)**  
**March 20, 2012**  
**Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH**

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

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

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

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

**1.PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no Public Comments.

**2. Swearing in of New Members/Organizing and Selection of Officers:** M. Cloutier swore in William Hutwelker as the School District Moderator. M. Cloutier swore in P. Peterson, E. Stanley, R. Thackston and R. Smith as the newly elected Board Members.

D. Hodgdon will ask for nominations for Board Chair. **MOTION:** E. Jacod. **MOVED** to nominate R. Thackston as Board Chair. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 14.765/0/0/.235. **Motion passes.**

R. Thackston asked for nominations for V. Chair. **MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** to nominate J. Carnie as Vice Chair. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to nominate M. Blair as V. Chair. **SECOND:** S. Ellsworth. **DISCUSSION:** P. Bauries commented that she valued the commitment M. Blair has to the Board and the committees but if the Chair is unable to attend the meeting the Vice Chair takes over. She believes there would be a possible conflict of interest on the legal issues going on now. She will not be voting for M. Blair. E. Stanley commented M. Blair would do a perfectly fine job. **VOTE: Yes vote for J. Carnie and No vote for M. Blair:** 7.643/6.024/1.099/.235. **J. Carnie is Vice Chair.** R. Thackston commented either nominee would be fine. It is good to have young blood but we have so many incomplete items we will continue as is.

**Nomination for Treasurer:** **MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to nominate P. Bauries as treasurer. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 14.765/0/0/.235. **Motion passes.**

**Nomination for District Treasurer: MOTION:** W. Wright. **MOVED** to nominate Nancy Carlson as School District Treasurer. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 13.708/0/1.058/.235. **Motion passes.**

**3. Consent Agenda: MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the March 6, 2012 Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Barlow **VOTE:** 11.592/0/3.174/.235. **Motion passes. MOTION:** P. Peterson. **MOVED** to accept the March 6, 2012 Sealed Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. 11.592/0/3.174/.235. **Motion passes.**

**4. Student Government Report:** There is no report tonight.

**5. BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT:** J. Fortson explained the MS 22 is being passed around with the manifest. She would ask the Board to sign it and she would email the complete form before sending it to the State.

**6. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:**

**1. Correspondence and Announcements:** M. Suarez reported last week on early release day they continued the Keys to Literacy. This will continue in May.

J. Smith reported they will hold a talent show at Cutler on Thursday at 1:15 PM and Thursday at 6:00 PM.

B. Tatro reported tomorrow they will have an art show featuring every child. Next Wednesday they will hold a music show. They had a very successful math night. J. Smith, B. Tatro and the PTO conducted a meeting with 20-30 families whose children will be affected by the move from Mt. Caesar to Cutler.

D. Mousette reported Thursday Night will be Literacy Night with a light supper. March 29, 2012 is Dessert with the Principal. The Northern Schools have received a \$3500.00 grant from the NRA for the archery safety program which is headed by M. Morrison. D. Mousette thanked D. Hodgdon for his service to the District and leadership. Well wishes.

J. Butterfield informed the Board he is very happy to share that last week Lorna Watkins Barth had been selected as the 2012 NH Counselor of the Year and will be competing for the National School Counselor of the Year. The band is busy getting ready to go to Florida to be part of the Disney Sound Studios and participate in the parade. Dessert with the Principal happened last week. It was a small group but a very deep conversation. He will be in Gilsum next week. In the advisories the challenge is to identify ways to keep our schools safe. Next week they will prepare for an evacuation drill and the real drill on March 30, 2012. Monadnock hosted Destination Imagination and the Monadnock Teams did very well. Lydia Buonomano has won the Scholastic Book Club contest out of 6000 entries. She will be attending the premier of the Hunger Games. The school would like to honor the students and allow them to

attend the Hunger Games movie. The School will make the parents aware. One class will attend at a time.

D. Hodgdon reported on the compliments the school received from hosting the Destination Imagination Regional Meet on March 17, 2012. Monadnock did very well in the competition. D. Hodgdon read the names of the students that placed and participated. He thanked G. Kuhn and B. Kuhn for their work with the students.

**2. Principal Search Committee:** D. Hodgdon reported the committee is moving well and the nomination from the committee will be announced during the April 17, 2012 Board Meeting.

**3. Curriculum Report:** K. Craig reported she sent information to the Board in the packets. She reported to the Education Committee on Summer School and trying to be consistent on offerings and criteria and how to measure the growth. She presented a report on intervention and the paraprofessional teacher swap.

**4. Other Issues of Importance:** M. Blair thanked the Kuhns for their commitment of thirteen years to Destination Imagination.

**7. BOARD CHAIR REPORT:** R. Thackston informed the Board there would be a recount on the SRO vote. This will be held tomorrow and anyone available should attend. There will be 7 teams of 2 people. R. Thackston would like to personally congratulate Lorna Watkins Barth on her wonderful accomplishment. He is not surprised. R. Thackston offered the services of the SAU to the Winchester District on a fee basis. He would wish Sullivan well on their adventure after the voters voted to start the proceedings to withdraw from the District. He informed the Board that the budget year was built under the fact the Sullivan School would be closed. That is a cost savings of \$100,000.00 - \$200,000.00. The best situation would be K-6 grades in Gilsum. Whatever we do will be the best decision educationally not a money decision. There is flexibility in the small schools. Gilsum could accept students on a tuition basis. We have the ability to offer Sullivan SAU services on a fee basis.

**8. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**1. Community Relations Committee:** B. Barlow reported the District did okay with the warrants. Dessert with the Principal continues in Gilsum. B. Barlow contacted the Sentinel to do a profile on Lorna Watkins Barth. The next meeting is on April 3, 2012 at 6:30 PM.

**2. Education Committee:** J. Carnie reported the committee met on February 15, 2012. There are no motions from the Education or Finance Committee. The Education Committee discussed the Pay to Play issue with J. Butterfield but with no final decision. It will be on the agenda again on April 11, 2012. The committee discussed the Fast Forward Program, paraprofessional teacher exchange and effect on the overall operation. They talked about the Superintendent Search in regards to the Education Committee. E. Jacod asked if there are any thoughts on what the Ed.

Committee will be able to do regarding the search. J. Carnie commented that they can handle it and wanted to be involved in the search and possibly Sullivan. R. Thackston commented if the Board wants to move forward with Sullivan it has to happen now. R. Thackston would suggest they divide the work up.

**3. Facilities Committee:** E. Stanley reported the committee has not met and will meet on March 27, 2012 at 5:00PM.

**4. Finance Committee:** J. Carnie reported the committee reviewed the substitute information provided by J. Fortson. They will be making a decision at a future meeting and possibly implementing the agreed upon rates July 1, 2012.

**5. Policy Committee:** L. Steadman reported she has 4 policies to bring forward to the Board tonight. P. Bauries is concerned with the policy passed recently regarding pink eye. She has received comments from parents. L. Steadman does feel the policy addresses a wide variety of illnesses.

**6. Budget Committee Rep.:** The Budget Committee will meet on April 24, 2012.

**7. Negotiations/Human Resources Committee:** P. Bauries reported the contract with the MAPS is all set. The committee will bring it to the full Board in non-public tonight.

**8. Cheshire Career Center:** L. Steadman has nothing to report.

**9. OLD BUSINESS: MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to allow the District to close the Sullivan School as of July 1, 2012. **SECOND:** R. Smith. **DISCUSSION:** J. Labadie felt that it is premature to close the school. It will be at least another year in terms of closing the school. E. Jacod commented on the 2 year process to close the school. He would be concerned if the Board closed the school and things changed and we had to reopen it as far as enrollment would go. It would be a monetary nightmare. He would like the Board to think about this for another 2 weeks. L. Steadman would vote no. She was on the committee to look at closing Sullivan. It is our responsibility to educate those students. P. Peterson would like to look at it and make a plan. E. Stanley would like to hear from K. Craig. K. Craig commented that under one roof is good educationally. There are limited resources at Sullivan. It is a tight fit but the travel time is wasted between schools. It is not fair to the new principal applicants to have to wait. It is important to have them all under one roof. Ultimately it is the right thing to do. D. Mousette commented that the Northern Schools have the highest education ranks in the District. Do not disrupt the flow it would be detrimental. We do have money for teachers up there. It would turn things upside down. R. Thackston explained we need to have a vote of the Board to go the Education Committee to make a plan. E. Jacod would agree with K. Craig but the problem is us making a decision tonight. J. Carnie commented there is no emergency now. He would like to see procedural steps. R. Thackston commented the operation of the system is the process. W. Wright would agree but it is too fast wait until the next meeting. M. Blair

commented the Finance Committee discussed this issue and made no decision. It was commented we as a Board said we are not closing the school but have always discussed it. She would suggest not jumping into it. There are many pieces. J. Labadie commented that there is money in the budget. P. Peterson would like to table the issue until next month. P. Bauries would agree with the administration. K. Craig commented it benefits all the students under one roof. It was commented Sullivan has voted we need to make it work for all the students in Sullivan. J. Labadie amended the motion to look into this and come back and vote after the Education and Finance Committee have reviewed the needs. R. Thackston ruled that as not being an amendment. J. Fortson commented the next meeting is the renewal of contracts.

**VOTE:** 7.446/6.137/1.183/.235. **Motion passes.** R. Thackston would ask the Education Committee to place the Sullivan closing on their next meeting agenda.

## **10. NEW BUSINESS:**

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

**2. Motions from Policy Committee:** **MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy Committee to accept Policy BID Board Member Compensation and Expenses as amended. **SECOND:** S. Ellsworth. **DISCUSSION:** The Board questioned part C of the policy. **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to amend the motion to accept Parts A and B on the policy change until a legal ruling. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **VOTE on amendment:** 7.869/6.897/0/.235. **Motion passes.** **VOTE on amended motion:** 14.092/0/.693/.235. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy Committee to accept Policy DID Inventories as presented. **SECOND:** M. Blair. **DISCUSSION:** P. Bauries asked if we can legally do this. R. Thackston explained it is legal and a policy such as this becomes part of the default. J. Carnie commented the Budget Committee defines the default. J. Fortson commented it is planned replacement and can be part of the default. P. Bauries commented she would disagree with the building and grounds and vehicles on this policy. Let the voters know. She will vote no on the motion. E. Stanley commented we need a policy on a replacement schedule. J. Carnie will not vote for this motion. The RSA is wide open. J. Labadie read the RSA. R. Thackston would suggest tabling the policy until the next meeting. L. Steadman withdrew her motion as well as M. Blair.

**MOTION:** M. Blair **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy Committee to accept Policy JICB Scholastic Dishonesty as presented. **SECOND:** L. Steadman. **VOTE:** 14.765/0/0/.235. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy Committee to accept Policy KF Regulating the Use of School District Facilities as amended. **SECOND:** M. Blair. **DISCUSSION:** **MOTION:** R. Smith **MOVED** to amend the motion to allow only the staff and students use the Fitness Room. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **DISCUSSION:** W. Wright commented that the use of the room should be looked at. He would hate to see restrictions. J. Fortson commented there is no control on the use

of the room. R. Thackston commented the issue is not who but how the facility is controlled. R. Thackston would look to the Superintendent on how we oversee the facilities. That is the real issue. **R. Smith and E. Stanley withdraw their amendment. VOTE:** 12.875/0/1.085/1.067. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy Committee to correct the policy reference in Policy JICJ to include JICB. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 13.933/0/0/1.067. **Motion passes.**

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

**a. Action on the Manifest: MOTION:** J. Labadie **MOVED** the manifest in the amount of \$ 1,405,152.87. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 13.933/0/0/1.067. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** W. Wright. **MOVED** to change the November 6, 2012 Meeting to November 7, 2012. **SECOND:** S. Ellsworth. **VOTE:** 13.933/0/.835/.235. **Motion passes.**

**11. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:**

**12. Public Comments:** There were no Public Comments.

15 Minutes recess.

**13. Motion to go into Non-Public Session at 9:25 PM: MOTION:** P. Peterson. **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II © Student Residency Issue. **SECOND:** B. Barlow **VOTE:** E. Jacod, W. Wright, P. Peterson, J. Carnie, J. Labadie, B. Barlow, M. Morrison, E. Stanley, P. Bauries, L. Steadman, Mike Blair, S. Ellsworth, R. Smith and R. Thackston. 14.765/0/0/.235. **Motion passes.**

**14. Motion to go into Non-Public Session at 9:50 PM: 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:** B. Barlow **VOTE:** E. Jacod, W. Wright, P. Peterson, J. Carnie, J. Labadie, B. Barlow, M. Morrison, E. Stanley, P. Bauries, L. Steadman, Mike Blair, S. Ellsworth, R. Smith and R. Thackston. 14.765/0/0/.235. **Motion passes.**

**15. Motion to go into Non-Public Session at 10:28 PM: 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:** B. Barlow **VOTE:** E. Jacod, W. Wright, P. Peterson, J. Carnie, J. Labadie, B. Barlow, M. Morrison, E. Stanley, P. Bauries, L. Steadman, Mike Blair, R. Smith and R. Thackston. 13.708/0/0/1.293. **Motion passes.**

**16. Motion to go into Non-Public Session at 10:40 PM: MOTION:** R. Smith **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (e) Pending Litigation. **SECOND:** P. Peterson **VOTE:** E. Jacod, W. Wright, P. Peterson, J. Carnie, J. Labadie, B. Barlow, M. Morrison, E. Stanley, P. Bauries, L. Steadman, Mike Blair, R. Smith and R. Thackston. 12.650/0/0/2.350. (B. Barlow missing from vote) **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** to seal the March 20, 2012 10:40 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes until December 31, 2012. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 13.078/0/0/1.293. **Motion passes.**

**17. Motion to go into Non-Public Session at 10:50 PM: MOTION:** P. Peterson. **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Compensation of a Public Employee. **SECOND:** P. Bauries **VOTE:** E. Jacod, W. Wright, P. Peterson, J. Carnie, J. Labadie, B. Barlow, M. Morrison, E. Stanley, P. Bauries, L. Steadman, Mike Blair, R. Smith and R. Thackston. 13.078/0/0/1.293 **Motion passes.**  
**Return to Public Session: MOTION:** E. Jacod **MOVED** to accept the committee appointments for the Board Members as set by R. Thackston. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 13.014/.693/0/1.293. **Motion passes.**

**CRC:** B. Barlow, M. Morrison, L. Steadman, W. Wright and E. Jacod. **Facilities Committee:** S. Ellsworth, B. Barlow, R. Smith, E. Stanley and E. Jacod. **Policy Committee:** L. Steadman, W. Wright, E. Jacod and Mike Blair, **Cheshire Career:** W. Wright. **Education Committee:** B. Barlow, P. Bauries, J. Carnie, M. Blair, P. Peterson and W. Wright. **Finance Committee:** J. Carnie, P. Peterson, P. Bauries, R. Smith and M. Blair. **Budget Committee Rep.:** E. Stanley. **Negotiating Committee:** P. Bauries, R. Thackston, E. Jacod, W. Wright, L. Steadman, M. Morrison and R. Smith.

**18. Motion to adjourn: MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to adjourn the Board Meeting at 11:10 PM. **SECOND:** B. Barlow **VOTE:** 13.078/0/0/1.293. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis  
Recording secretary