

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
(Approved Minutes)
December 18, 2013
Monadnock Regional MS/HS Swanzey, NH

Members Present: Ed Jacod, Barry Faulkner, Pat Bauries, Winston Wright, Dan Coffman, Phyllis Peterson, Mike Morrison, Richard Thackston, James Carnie, Eric Stanley, Lisa Steadman, Robert Smith and Mike Blair.

Absent: Unassigned seats from Sullivan and Roxbury.

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

P. Bauries opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

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

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS: There are no public comments.

2. Consent Agenda: MOTION: E. Jacod **MOVED** to accept the December 3, 2013 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** W. Wright **VOTE:** 10.730/0/1.058/3.213. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: E. Jacod **MOVED** to accept the December 3, 2013, 10:26PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** W. Wright **VOTE:** 10.730/0/1.058/3.213. **Motion passes**

MOTION: E. Jacod **MOVED** to accept the December 3, 2013, 10:45 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** W. Wright **VOTE:** 10.730/0/1.058/3.213
. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: W. Wright **MOVED** to accept the December 3, 2013, 11:00 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Faulkner **VOTE:** 10.730/0/1.058/3.213. **Motion passes.**

3. Student Government Report: There is no report tonight.

4. BUSINESS MANAGER’S REPORT: J. Fortson informed the Board she will be reviewing the warrant articles later in the meeting.

5. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

5a. Curriculum Report: K. Craig mentioned to the Board she had sent her report out to the members by email. She reported the focus on literacy is on the front burner. The common assessment data is due in January and she will forward the report to the Board. They will be bringing in a consultant to train the staff. The high school scheduling is going much the same. The arena

scheduling has been put on hold while the students meet with their counselors to see what classes they need.

6. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

6a. Correspondence and Announcements: K. Craig reported for L. Corriveau. She reported she and L. Corriveau as well as others attended a leadership and education dinner where Jennie Calnan of Emerson was recognized as one of the finalists for teacher of the year. K. Craig mentioned the endowment meeting and that the minutes are available. There was 100% attendance at 4 of the elementary schools for parent teacher conferences. The MS/HS conducted 304 parent teacher conferences. The Legislative Night will be on January 30, 2014. The Board will be receiving the balances score cards from the principals in January. K. Craig informed the Board L. Corriveau will be having jury duty. Troy elementary has received a \$500.00 Exxon Mobil grant. **MOTION:** R. Thackston **MOVED** to accept the Exxon Mobil Grant in the amount of \$500.00. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **VOTE:** 11.7870/0/0/3.213. **Motion passes.** D. Coffman asked if the completion of the scheduling will still be done by the end of January. He asked if the safety report was on the web site. There are a lot of changes and a lot of questions concerning the report.

K. Craig reported on three fundraisers. The cross country team, The Fish and Game Club and the Class of 2015 will hold fundraisers.

6b. Other Issues of Importance: There are no other issues at this time.

7. BOARD CHAIR REPORT: P. Bauries reported the Finance Committee ran out of time and was not able to discuss the CCC contract. She will open up that discussion to the full Board regarding the voting of the contract. W. Wright spoke regarding the contract. L. Corriveau had mentioned he does not believe a ten year contract needs to be done. The schedule needs to be worked out. J. Logan has done an excellent job trying to iron things out. The schedule has always been an issue. E. Jacod commented we can make the deal with the CCC or scramble to make a deal with someone else. There is no one else. We have no choice. P. Bauries informed the Board she attended the endowment presentation. She asked that the Board read the information and it will be on the agenda of the next Finance Meeting. She mentioned some of the minutes to the committee meetings are behind. She would encourage the committees to put their minutes on line. P. Bauries assigned E. Stanley, D. Coffman and R. Thackston to the Sports Committee. She did not assign M. Blair due to his position as the Girl's JV Coach. It would be a conflict of interest. E. Stanley commented when voting it should be the discretion of the member. P. Bauries commented as Chair it is her option to assign the members to the committee. D. Coffman would object. He stated M. Blair is not in attendance at the moment. R. Smith commented this is ridiculous. P. Bauries stated that the objection is noted. R. Thackston commented that he would like to have M. Blair on the committee. He has been balanced, fair and ethical. Do not believe in the Chair's decision but we do have a system in place on the appointment procedure. L. Steadman commented we need to vote per policy.

8. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

8a. SAU 93 Committee: There is no report tonight.

8b. Budget Committee Report: E. Stanley was not present at the Budget Committee Meeting on December 16, 2013.

8c. Cheshire Career Center: The Board had received a report earlier in the meeting.

8d. Negotiations/Human Resource Committee: E. Jacod reported the committee will be meeting tomorrow at 4:00 PM. After the holidays they will begin the mediation process.

8e. Community Relations: E. Jacod reported the committee met tonight and discussed the draft for the green sheet. They are very concerned with the time frame. They do not have the details regarding the warrant articles. We need to look at the format to be included in the newsletter. The committee will be meeting prior to the next Board Meeting.

8f. Finance Committee: J. Carnie reported the committee met on Monday and 90% of the discussion was about the budget. They also discussed the payoff with Sullivan and the Troy petition.

8g. Education Committee: J. Carnie reported the committee was not able to meet long due to the long discussion at Finance. They were able to discuss the program of studies.

8h. Facilities Committee: E. Jacod reported the committee met on Monday. They will be bringing two motions later in the meeting. The Wilcox Building will be complete in 3 weeks. The Husky House issue should be given to the Sports Committee. The trailer will need funding to provide heat and get it internet ready. There may be a need for roof work. At this time the ACES Program has been placed out in the trailer per the principal. L. Steadman is concerned with the insurance on the trailer. It was commented the conversation on the ACES Program did not come to the administration. E. Stanley commented the Facilities Committee approved the trailer for storage and the other for sale. It was commented Finance approved the trailer for the ACES Program. R. Thackston commented there is space in this building for the ACES Program. **MOTION:** R. Thackston **MOVED** to instruct the building principal and Superintendent not to use the Js for anything else besides storage after the winter break. **SECOND:** R. Smith. **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie would like to see the minutes from the Finance Meeting regarding the ACES Program. He said J. Butterfield came before the committee to use the Js for storage for anything else they would ask for Board approval. K. Craig would agree there is space in this building. P. Bauries commented if the building principal approved the trailer for the Program he would have had to go to Finance for monies. R. Thackston recalls a meeting in which we were going to remove the Js. He was concerned years ago the trailers were a fire trap. **P. Peterson arrives. VOTE:** 11.957/0/1.058/1.986. **Motion passes.** E. Jacod informed the Board the District had an opportunity to purchase another sander. There will be two motions from the Facilities later in the meeting.

8g. Policy Committee: The Policy Committee did not meet.

9. OLD BUSINESS:

9a. Budget: J. Fortson mentioned the \$60,000.00 increase with the lane changes to the default and the budget reduction of \$60,000.00 for the SSO. The other change is the \$90,000.00 increase for the expansion of chrome books for the 5th and 11th grades.

9b. Warrant Articles: Article One is the budget and the number is set by the Budget Committee.

Article Two is Phase Six of the renovations to the MS/HS. The district will receive 56% reimbursement from the State. J. Fortson provided a list of the renovations. D. Coffman asked if the 56% reimbursement could be listed on the article.

Article Three is in the amount of \$150,000.00 for health and safety renovations to the area elementary schools. Emerson and Troy will receive the repairs if this article passes. J. Fortson provided the Board with a list of the repairs to be done.

Article Four is for the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund. The current balance in the account is \$264,000.00. J. Fortson informed the Board the target amount was \$250,000.00. The District has received 2 students one for \$145,000 and \$150,000. There is another student today but she is not sure of the cost. J. Fortson would prefer the funds come out of the surplus.

Article Five is in the amount of \$150,000.00 for the Before and After Program. There is \$90,000.00 in the expendable trust. Darlene Ayotte supplied the Board with a budget for the programs. M. Morrison mentioned the amount for the Gilsom Program with only 23 kids.

Article Six is a place holder if and when the Board and Union ratify a contract.

Article Seven is in the amount of \$60,000.00 for the SSO.

J. Fortson explained DRA and the attorney will review the warrant articles.

It was mentioned that the SSO is using a lot of his time to write out his report. K. Craig would like the report to be in non-public session. J. Fortson felt that it was time consuming possibly a summary not a detailed report. P. Bauries suggested a very broad overview.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

10a. Motions from the Finance Committee: MOTION: J. Carnie **MOVED** on behalf of the Finance to reduce the proposed budget by \$700,000.00 with the reductions listed: 5 teachers-\$325,000.00, S/E coordinator-\$20,000.00, Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent benefits-\$30,000.00, FastForward 3 aids-\$25,000.00, Restructure athletic Director-\$30,000.00, Dept. Head restructure-\$25,000.00, 1 Assistant Principal-\$107,000.00 and possibly 2 teachers-\$65,000.00.

SECOND: R. Smith. **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie explained the committee spent a lot of time on this issue. The committee asked the administration to reduce 1 million and 1.5 million and show the affects of the cuts. The committee had the discussion about Gilsom but did not take a position on closing it this year. The committee had a great deal of discussion. There are expectations by the town to reduce the budget and not everyone will be happy with the cuts. This is a reasonable attempt by the committee. B. Faulkner asked where the 7 teachers being cut are coming from. J. Carnie explained it was a discussion. They were in the 1 million dollar cuts and the 1.5 million dollar cuts. The committee took specific items and came up with this figure. Most of the cuts are from the high school. B. Faulkner commented that this process is damaging and he will not vote for it. D. Coffman commented we have been reducing for 3-4 years. The Budget committee asked the Board to come in

under the default and they did. The Finance Committee asked for 1 million in cuts as well as 1.5 million in cuts in order to get closer to the cost per pupil. He does not disagree with all of it but does disagree with the process. K. Craig commented the administration has spent a number of hours on this. These are not arbitrary cuts and in their minds the students come first. M. Morrison said to make Gilsum a magnet school if not say no and save \$520,000.00. We are losing 7 teachers. Which is worse for the quality of education? R. Thackston commented it is a recommendation from the Finance Committee now it is up to the Board to vote. The process is valid and correct. The enrollment has declined but the budget has not. L. Corriveau had said they could work with the \$700,000.00 in cuts. M. Blair informed the Board he voted against the motion in the Finance Committee meeting. J. Carnie commented this is not easy. The Finance Committee has spent a lot of time on the budget. The Budget Committee did not take a vote to get the proposed budget below the default. They have not really looked at the budget. L. Corriveau had suggested looking at Gilsum in another year. It is a major issue that needs to be looked at. There are finance issues as well as political issues with closing the school. The cuts are reasonable but not perfect. E. Jacod commented if we were at the State cost per pupil our budget would be \$24,000,000.00. K. Craig commented the administration will do what the Board has asked. It is a difficult time for the community. **VOTE: Roll call vote:** E. Jacod-yes, W. Wright-yes, P. Peterson-yes, J. Carnie-yes, D. Coffman-yes, B. Faulkner-no, R. Smith-yes, M. Blair-no, M. Morrison-yes, E. Stanley-yes, P. Bauries-yes, L. Steadman-yes and R. Thackston-yes. **Motion passes.**

10b. Motions from the Facilities Committee: MOTION: E. Jacod **MOVED** on behalf of the Facilities Committee to accept Article Two in the amount of \$1,364,000.00 for Phase 6 of the renovations for the MS/HS. **SECOND:** R. Smith. **VOTE:** 14.072/0/0/.928. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: R. Smith. **MOVED** to accept Article Three in the amount of \$150,000.00 for health and safety issues at the area elementary schools. **SECOND:** M. Blair. **VOTE:** 14.072/0/0/.928. **Motion passes.**

10c. Motions from the Education Committee: MOTION: J. Carnie **MOVED** on behalf of the Education Committee to accept the final draft of the "Program of Studies" presented by the Assistant Superintendent. **SECOND:** M. Morrison. **DISCUSSION:** K. Craig commented that it was a good collaborative effort and she would encourage the Board's support. M. Blair is concerned with the waiver for PE. He said PE has value. **VOTE:** 14.072/0/0/.928. **Motion passes.**

10d. Motions from the Policy Committee: There are no motions from Policy.

10e. Motion from the Community Relations Committee: There are no motions from the CRC.

10f. Motions from Other Committees as needed: MOTION: J. Carnie **MOVED** to nominate E. Stanley, R. Thackston and D. Coffman to the Sports Committee. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **DISCUSSION:** M. Blair asked why he would not be nominated. P. Bauries explained her comments from earlier in the meeting. **MOTION:** R. Thackston **MOVED to amend the motion** to include M. Blair on the Sports Committee. **SECOND:** R. Smith. **DISCUSSION:** R. Thackston commented any topic with a conflict of interest the member could choose not to be involved in the discussion. M. Blair has been a coach for three years and did not participate in the discussion with a conflict of interest. E. Jacod is concerned that in his function as a coach he reports to the AD and there is a

personnel issue on how he runs the department. M. Blair said that is not the case and furthest from the trust. D. Coffman commented the committee has to come back to the full Board for votes. J. Carnie is not in favor of the motion. There is a real or perceived conflict of interest. Being a coach should be focused on the team. M. Blair commented that he is the chair of the Technology Dept. and has his own tech business, he is a coach and will not take the stipend, he purchased sneakers for his team and bought 22 equipment bags. He cares about the kids. **VOTE on amendment:** 10.998/2.241/.833/.928. **Amendment passes. VOTE on amended motion:** 10.998/2.241/.833/.928. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: W. Wright. **MOVED** to authorize the Chair of the MRSD to sign the renewal agreement with the CCC. **SECOND:** R. Smith. **VOTE:** 11.791/1.099/1.183/.928. **Motion passes.**

10g. Action on the Manifest: MOTION: B. Faulkner **MOVED** to accept the manifest in the amount of \$1,424,148.14. **SECOND:** R. Smith **VOTE:** 11, 916/0/2.156/.928. **Motion passes.**

10h. New Business: There is no new business to discuss.

11. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

1. Vote on warrant articles

12. Public Comments: There are no public comments.

13. 10:20 PM MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Hiring of a Public Employee. **SECOND:** W. Wright **VOTE:** E. Jacod, J. Carnie, D. Coffman, B. Faulkner, M. Morrison, M. Blair, R. Smith, E. Stanley, P. Peterson, W. Wright and P. Bauries. 11.875/0/0/3.125. **Motion passes.**

14. 10:40 PM MOTION: R. Smith **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect the reputation of any person. **SECOND:** R. Thackston **VOTE:** E. Jacod, J. Carnie, D. Coffman, B. Faulkner, W. Wright, M. Blair, R. Smith, M. Morrison, R. Thackston, P. Peterson, E. Stanley and P. Bauries. 12.974/0/0/2.026. **Motion passes.**

15. 10:50 PM MOTION: M. Morrison **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Compensation of a Public Employee. **SECOND:** E. Jacod **VOTE:** E. Jacod, J. Carnie, D. Coffman, B. Faulkner, M. Blair, M. Morrison, R. Thackston, P. Peterson, E. Stanley, R. Smith, W. Wright and P. Bauries. 12.974/0/0/2.026. **Motion passes.**

16. Public Session: MOTION: R. Thackston **MOVED** to seal the December 18, 2013 10:50 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes until June 30, 2015. **SECOND:** R. Smith. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

17. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: M. Morrison **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 PM. **SECOND:** D. Coffman **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,
Laura L. Aivaliotis, Recording secretary