

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
(Approved Minutes)
December 3, 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 and Mike Blair.

Absent: Robert Smith and unassigned seats from Sullivan and Roxbury.

Administration present: L. Corriveau, Superintendent, K. Craig, Assistant Superintendent, T. Kennett, Director of Special Education 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:** Dave Cairns of Swanzey informed the Board his children came home from school concerned about the arena scheduling. He is concerned the honor students will not be able to take honor classes. He understands this is new and he does not understand all the details but he is concerned.
- 2. Cheshire Career Center:** L. Corriveau introduced Jim Logan director of the CCC. He is here to discuss the multi-year contract. He is a joy to work with and he is willing to work with us. J. Logan informed the Board the CCC is a regional center which strives to make it work for all students. He realizes the Board is concerned with the length of the contract. This contract is sent by the DOE. The calendar issue in the contract was amended. He is in contact with J. Butterfield regarding the calendar. J. Butterfield and L. Corriveau would like the agreement for 5 years. The State has said no. It is a 10 year contract with review in 3 years. If there is an issue prior to the 3 years it can be looked at. If there are any questions or concerns the State is the ultimate arbitrator regarding conflicts. R. Thackston asked what happens if the Board is unwilling to sign the contract. It was commented the State is involved because they pay the tuition. J. Logan does not know what will happen if the Board does not sign. E. Jacod explained we are required by the State to partner with a tech center. We all need to realize that it is not two sided. There are others involved. It was commented we have a good working relationship. J. Logan wants it to work to accommodate the students. He can call the State to get the answers to the Board's questions. P. Bauries asked when the contract needs to be signed. J. Logan explained the State has not asked for the contract. P. Bauries would like to put this issue on the Education Committee's agenda and then on the Board agenda on December 17, 2013. E. Jacod asked the penalty if we sign and break the contract. L. Corriveau explained the District would have to pay back the tuition and be assigned to another tech center.

- 3. Consent Agenda: MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the November 19, 2013 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** D. Coffman **VOTE:** 11.957/0/0/3.044. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the November 19, 2013, 6:45 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** E. Jacod **VOTE:** 11.957/0/0/3.044. **Motion passes**

MOTION: E. Jacod **MOVED** to accept the November 19, 2013, 10:32 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** P. Peterson **VOTE:** 11.957/0/0/3.044. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the November 19, 2013, 10:40 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** E. Jacod **VOTE:** 11.957/0/0/3.044. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the November 3, 2013, 10:48 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **VOTE:** 11.957/0/0/3.044. **Motion passes.**

- 4. Student Government Report:** Cameron and Kaley of the Student Government informed the Board the committee organized 27 holiday baskets and brought them to Troy Helping Hands for families this holiday season. This school year has gone very well with the new schedule. The Holiday Concert will be Thursday-Saturday. The basketball teams have begun their seasons.
- 5. BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT:** J. Fortson is asking for authorization from the Board to the Trustees of the Trust Fund for \$32,732.21 to be withdrawn from the expendable trust for the ACES Program. **MOTION:** R. Thackston **MOVED** to allow the Chair and the Vice Chair to sign and submit a request to the Trustees of the Trust Fund in the amount \$32,732.21.00 for the ACES Program. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 11.957/0/0/3.044. **Motion passes.** At the next Board meeting she will provide a draft of the warrant articles. She suggested any committee should submit their articles. The Public Hearing is on January 16, 2014.

6. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

5a. Curriculum Report: K. Craig informed the Board the Program of Studies will go to the Education committee and then the Board. Ron Upton the Math Dept. Chair is working with a consultant in the math dept. The consultant will observe in the classrooms. There will be an initial report at the Education Meeting. K. Craig passed out information on the students who received F grades and incompletes for the first quarter. The teachers are working hard with the students. E. Jacod commented homework has definite value. K. Craig commented the focus should be on learning and how much they know. How much should homework be part of the grade? E. Stanley asked if he should be concerned with the teachers of the students that have not completed the course or passed. K. Craig explained there is a consultant working with that dept. The numbers are very high in some cases. P. Peterson is concern we at the beginning of

the school year. K. Craig commented on the arena scheduling. We need to speed up the process. L. Corriveau has worked with arena scheduling before. We have a representative to help us with this. Today was an introduction to arena scheduling. The honor students will get the classes they need. D. Coffman asked for a question and answer on the arena scheduling. K. Craig commented that she does believe it will work it has in other places.

7. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

7a. Correspondence and Announcements: L. Corriveau explained the Board has his written report. He thanked the Board for his evaluation. The principal's inserts will be needed in the newsletter. Legislative Night in January and all are invited to hear from the representatives from Concord. He is asking the Board to allow an early release day on December 20, 2013 the start of Christmas vacation. He has presented the neat year school calendar to the Unions for their input. D. LaPointe and J. Fortson will update the Board on the Dept. of Safety report. D. LaPointe reported the Dept. of Labor walked through the school and pointed out areas of concern to D. LaPointe. These items need to be fixed. He mentioned paper needs to be removed from windows, toys, curtains, coffee makers, heaters, turtles and bathtubs need to be removed. Overstocks shelves need to be cleared and teacher's personnel items need to be removed. The teacher will be penalized if it is not done. There is just too much stuff. Closets that are now offices need to have a view panel. Frosted windows need to go. We need to do a good clean up. The State will be back to see if we have completed their recommendations. The principals will be responsible. We will need to keep it that way. **M. Blair arrives.** There will be a fine for every issue.

7b. Other Issues of Importance: T. Kennett reported the SMART Program will probably be full in the next few weeks. The program is going pretty well.

- 8. BOARD CHAIR REPORT:** P. Bauries explained we hope for a conclusion on what Sullivan owes us. We agreed J. Fortson would take care of that. There are motions later from Finance. The DOE approved the formula change and is standing by their decision. The Town of Troy has gone to the Keene Supreme Court regarding the formula. They have a petition against the MRSD. We have delivered the petition to our attorney. R. Thackston commented there is no opinion from the Attorney General. R. Thackston said the Board did not vote on the warrant article because it was a petitioned warrant article. We did not change the wording because you cannot change a petitioned article. He said it was defective and bad. Sullivan should have withdrawn in accordance of the RSA. They should have withdrawn in the 2 year time frame. J. Fortson explained the Board voted on the new formula on March 19, 2013. P. Bauries put the definition of a quorum in the Board packets. The NHSBA will be meeting on January 11, 2013. P. Bauries will try to attend. J. Carnie commented on the formula article, this was a petitioned article and approved by the State Board. The real issue is the State Board does not want to take a position for what they did incorrectly. There is no requirement that the local Board denied or accepted it. The problem is with the State School Board not with the School Board. This issue will be costly and impact the district. He would like to have a copy before tonight and would like to have it on the agenda to speak. It is a inappropriate warrant article that is where the problem occurs.

9. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

9a. SAU 93 Committee: There is no report tonight.

9b. Budget Committee Report: The committee will meet on December 16, 2013.

9c. Cheshire Career Center: W. Wright commented we have heard from J. Logan earlier in the meeting.

9d. Negotiations/Human Resource Committee: E. Jacod reported the MAPS are no longer a Union. They are now individually under their own contracts. The negotiations with the Specialists have slowed down. They are waiting for mediation.

9e. Community Relations: L. Steadman reported the committee met and had a long discussion on the warrant articles which they have not seen. We want to get the article so we can explain them to the public. The next meeting is on Dec. 17, 2013 at 6:30 PM.

9f. Finance Committee: J. Carnie reported the committee met on Nov. 20, 2013. There are a number of motions later. They discussed adjustments to the stipends, T. Pickering at his current stipend, T. Stewart presented the hockey proposal, the Sullivan withdrawal pay off and surplus. The committee discussed the budget, the SSO position, legality of carrying a fire arm, warrant articles, proposed budget and the associate principal position.

9g. Education Committee: J. Carnie reported the committee met on Nov. 20 and most of the discussion was on the Gilsum School. There has been no final decision. They discussed the problems, effect and issues on the district. The Gilsum budget is \$461,786.00. The cost per pupil is expensive for the district. We need a long term plan.

9h. Facilities Committee: E. Jacod reported the committee has not met. The next meeting is on December 11, 2013.

9i. Policy Committee: M. Blair reported the committee has not met.

9j. Technology Committee: M. Blair reported the committee had Talk with the Techy and it was not well attended.

9k. Sports Task Force: E. Stanley reported the committee has not met.

10. OLD BUSINESS:

10a. Other Old Business as may come before the Board: MOTION: J. Carnie **MOVED** on behalf of the Finance Committee to have the position of the SSO removed from the 2014-2015 proposed budget and placed in a Special Warrant Article. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** E. Stanley commented if it was passed and recommended by the School Board why not in the budget. The rationale is the petition warrant article called for the

position for the 2013-2014 school year. To now slide it into the proposed budget is incorrect. Also, there is a great amount of discussion on the concept of an SSO and it should be promoted to the voting public as a viable solution to the entire district. J. Carnie said there are a number of problems with the article it is better for the Board and the administration can define the duties. E. Jacod commented point well taken. Without a clear definition the items will not be resolved. Entering into a new article and understood by all is a good idea. We want to have a person to service the entire district it will not be a SRO. E. Jacod is very pleased with the success of the SSO. He does support the concept. D. Coffman commented he thought he was voting on an SRO last March, the position would be for the district with a job description that the administration provides. Do we need to go through this again? R. Thackston commented if it is put on the warrant he is sure it will pass. It is good to have clarification. This article was for one year. L. Corriveau explained he was told to put it in the budget. If it does not pass he will recommend the position. It is good for the staff and kids. **VOTE:** 11.957/1.058/0/1.986. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: E. Stanley **MOVED** to create a Sports Committee of the School Board. **SECOND:** M. Blair. **DISCUSSION:** E. Stanley explained the reasons for the committee as well as Leo's vision for the sports program. E. Jacod commented in March we need to decide how we will deal with all the committees. We need to give it serious consideration until we do a self-evaluation. Take a look at the other districts. We will have a number of committees that will not be able to have enough members present. E. Stanley agrees with E. Jacod we need to evaluate the committee. The evaluation process will take time and we need to start it now. We have way too many committees. We need to combine them together. P. Bauries agrees with E. Jacod with the Board evaluation. It was commented how far can we stretch ourselves. **A motion was made to table the motion. VOTE:** 5.528/7.487/0/1.986. **Motion fails.** R. Thackston commented there is always a concern to fill the committees. It is reasonable to let the committees come and go. The Sports Committee makes sense now. J. Carnie commented the committee was formed with Board Members and community members. If we form a committee of only Board Members what are the rules and the purpose of the committee. It is a bad time to do this. It needs to fit what we want to do down the line. He does not want a committee for one specific purpose. D. Coffman said he would sit on the committee. He is in support of it now. M. Blair is in favor of the committee. Hash out the items before they get to the Board. In L. Corriveau's evaluation he is asked to look at the organization of the sports. We need to look and study this committee it is an important issue for our community and students. It was commented the timing is off. We need to get through the budget season. It is not Leo's vision it is his notes, a broad view. E. Jacod commented it is a good idea but we are missing the vision, the grassroots. He is concerned with the load and the mindset. E. Stanley commented that E. Jacod missed what he wants to do entirely. P. Bauries stopped E. Stanley in the conversation and asked about the vision. He explained the vision. We have participation. It is organizing the participants. R. Thackston said to vote on this. **VOTE:** 9.941/3.074/0/1.968. **Motion passes. MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to add M. Blair, D. Coffman, E. Stanley and R. Thackston to the Sports Committee. P. Bauries explained E. Stanley could bring this to the Chair for consideration.

J. Fortson explained the Business Office is working very hard to get the LGC overpayments out to the past and present employees. She has placed a Public Service Announcement in the paper and on the website.

It was commented the District is being named in a suit against the Town of Troy. We have a Finance Committee Meeting tomorrow and we will review the information we have. What will happen if the Town of Troy does not pay? P. Bauries commented the attorney is unsure about the petition at this time. L. Corriveau would like to thank J. Fortson for getting the refunds back to the staff retirees. It is a lot of work.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

11a. Motions from the Finance Committee: MOTION: J. Carnie **MOVED** on behalf of the Finance Committee to accept the sports stipend list for the 2013-2014 year as presented. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** The rationale is these are more active sports requiring a greater amount of time on the part of the coaches. Also the Cross country and track coach, T. Pickering who has all three sports would have his stipend reduced by \$1900.00. **VOTE:** 10.858/1.099/1.058/1.986. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: J. Carnie **MOVED** on behalf of the Finance Committee to reinstate the Varsity High School Ice Hockey Program in the 2014-2015 school year at a cost to the district of up to \$8742.00. **SECOND:** M. Blair **DISCUSSION:** E. Jacod asked what league they would be in. M. Blair explained it will be Division 3. He explained it needs the stamp of approval for the fall. M. Morrison asked if transportation was included. **VOTE:** 11.787/0/1.227/1.986. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: J. Carnie **MOVED** on behalf of the Finance Committee to allow the MRSD to pay Sullivan \$41,350.00 their share of the 2013 fiscal year surplus refund, less the outstanding withdrawal expenses of about \$89738.00. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** The Town of Sullivan did contribute to the LGC insurance, and it is only right to return their portion, less what they owe the district for withdrawal expenses. J. Fortson met with the Business Manager from Sullivan and the amount was agreed on. **VOTE:** 13.014/0/0/1.986. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: J. Carnie **MOVED** on behalf of the Finance Committee to have the approved \$90,000.00 that was added to the 2014-2015 proposed budget, come from any surplus as of June 30, 2014. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie explained we cannot continue to add to the budget when we asked the Administration to propose less than last year's default budget figure. This amount puts the budget over the default amount. M. Blair informed the Board it was approved by the entire Board. He is not sure why it went back to the Finance Committee. We put it in at the last meeting and now Finance is taking it out of the surplus. E. Stanley asked if their needs to be a motion to reconsider. J. Carnie commented there is no proposed budget. We need to keep the cost per pupil down. E. Stanley explained it was voted on November 19, 2013. B. Faulkner questioned the surplus year. J. Carnie said it was not submitted the proposed budget to the Budget Committee. R. Thackston would like the Board to table the motion and make it part of the discussion after the Budget Committee

votes. **MOTION:** R. Thackston **MOVED** to table the motion until the budget proposal has been voted on by the Budget Committee. **SECOND:** M. Morrison. **VOTE:** 10.604/1.227/1.183/1.986. **Motion passes.**

11b. Motions from the Education Committee: There are no motions from Education.

11c. Motions from the Facilities Committee: There are no motions from Facilities.

11d. Motions from the Policy Committee: There are no motions from Policy.

11e. Motion from the Community Relations Committee: There are no motions from the CRC.

11f. Motions from Other Committees as needed: There are no other motions.

11g. Action on the Manifest: **MOTION:** B. Faulkner **MOVED** to accept the manifest in the amount of \$1,717,659.12. **SECOND:** E. Jacod **VOTE:** 13.014/0/0/1.986. **Motion passes.**

11h. New Business: L. Corriveau updated the Board on the fundraisers in the district. **MOTION:** R. Thackston **MOVED** to allow the Cutler 6th grade to go to Ferry Beach in Maine for a life science field trip May 29-30, 2014. **SECOND:** M. Blair. **VOTE:** 13.014/0/0/1.986. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: R. Thackston **MOVED** to allow early dismissal in the district on December 20, 2013 as recommended by the Superintendent. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 13.014/0/0/1.986. **Motion passes.**

L. Steadman asked about the school start times regarding the older students going to school later. K. Craig commented it is not new information. It has been looked at. The Board has not gone that direction. Research supports that.

12. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

- 1. Budget**
- 2. Warrant Articles**
- 3. NHSBA Resolutions**
- 4. Program of Studies**

13. Public Comments: Dave Cairns thanked the Sports Committee. He thanked K. Craig for addressing his concerns on the arena scheduling and he will call her with other questions.

14. 10:26 PM MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Hiring of a Public Employee. **SECOND:** E. Jacod **VOTE:** E. Jacod, J. Carnie, D. Coffman, B. Faulkner, M. Morrison, R. Thackston, L. Steadman, E. Stanley, P. Peterson, W. Wright and P. Bauries. 11.957/3.049. **Motion passes.**

- 15. 10:45 PM MOTION:** E. Jacod **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:** E. Jacod **VOTE:** E. Jacod, J. Carnie, D. Coffman, B. Faulkner, W. Wright, M. Blair, M. Morrison, R. Thackston, L. Steadman, P. Peterson, E. Stanley and P. Bauries.13.04/0/0/1.986. **Motion passes.**
- 16. 11:00 PM MOTION:** M. Morrison **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Approval of Sealed Minutes. **SECOND:** E. Jacod **VOTE:** E. Jacod, J. Carnie, D. Coffman, B. Faulkner, M. Blair, M. Morrison, R. Thackston, P. Peterson, E. Stanley, L. Steadman, W. Wright and P. Bauries. 11.831/0/1.183/1.986. **Motion passes.**
- 17. 11:05 PM MOTION:** E. Jacod **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:** E. Jacod **VOTE:** E. Jacod, J. Carnie, D. Coffman, B. Faulkner, W. Wright, M. Blair, M. Morrison, R. Thackston, L. Steadman, P. Peterson, E. Stanley and P. Bauries.13.04/0/0/1.986. **Motion passes.**
- 18. Public Session: MOTION:** R. Thackston **MOVED** to seal the December 3, 2013 11:05 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes until June 30, 2014. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**
- 19. Motion to adjourn: MOTION:** R. Thackston **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 AM. **SECOND:** M. Blair **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording secretary