

**Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**(Approved Minutes corrected 2/3/15)**  
**January 20, 2015**  
**Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH**

**Members Present:** Pat Bauries, Betty Tatro, Richard Thackston, Barry Faulkner, Winston Wright, Phyllis Peterson, Eric Stanley, Robert Smith, Ed Jacod, Mike Blair and James Carnie

**Absent:** Lisa Steadman and unassigned seat from Roxbury.

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

**Also present:** L. Aivaliotis, Recording Secretary.

B. Faulkner 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:** L. Ellis explained there will be a motion from the AD Hoc Committee regarding STEAM. At the last AD Hoc Meeting the administration suggested turning the Gilsum School into a Charter School. The funds from the State would be \$6300.00 a student instead of the \$3600.00. The cost per student would be \$11,000-\$12,000 rather than \$15,000.

K. Wheeler of Gilsum reported the AD Hoc Committee is working on how to expand and make the STEAM program a win, win situation. There will be a motion from the AD Hoc tonight and she hopes the Board supports it.

D. LaPointe asked the Board if the contracts on the warrant would be available at the voting area with the strike outs. B. Faulkner commented it would be up to the moderator. R. Thackston is a moderator and he would suggest an opinion from the Secretary of State. D. LaPointe asked why there is an 8½ hour work day in the contract. B. Faulkner said that is what came out of the negotiating sessions. It was a process of give and take. D. LaPointe asked if the vacation and sick days are based on the 8½ hour day. B. Faulkner said that was a great question. He commented at the Deliberative Session they will try to address these questions. D. LaPointe asked how much it will cost for an 8½ hour day. B. Faulkner said the paid lunches will cost \$191,000. B. Faulkner said he will have the numbers at the Deliberative Session. P. Bauries commented it is \$191,000 only for the lunches. J. Carnie commented the cost of the paid lunches were not in the contract and were not stated in the article. B. Faulkner stated they will get those numbers.

D. Cairns commented on the Board goals. He asked if there was an update on the Strategic Plan. He said in the current plan there is a high emphasis on community involvement. He

said the CRC was to meet prior to this meeting and it did not happen. The last posted minutes were from March 12, 2014 almost a year ago. You are not fulfilling your Strategic obligation. B. Faulkner explained the CRC Chair had a medical emergency.

D. Cairns commented in the Education/Policy Minutes the homework policy was referred to the CRC but that did not happen. Monadnock United was referred to the CRC but they did not meet. The Board needs to be held accountable. Do your job.

## **2. Consent Agenda:**

**MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the January 6, 2015 Public Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** E. Jacod **VOTE:** 9.546/0/1.121/2.333. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the January 6, 2015 11:00 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** E. Jacod **VOTE:** 9.422/0/0/3.578. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the January 6, 2015 11:09 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** W. Wright **VOTE:** 9.422/0/0/3.578. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** to accept the December 16, 2014 9:32 PM Sealed Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** P. Peterson **VOTE:** 9.422/0/0/3.578. **Motion passes.**

## **3. Student Government Report:** There is no Student Government Report.

## **4. BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT:** J. Fortson reported she has posted the MSDS, warrants and the MS 27 in each town in the District. P. Bauries has asked J. Fortson to send the forms electronically to the Board Members.

## **5. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:** K. Craig has included her report in the packet. K. Craig introduced Jennie Calhoun, the Literacy Coordinator. She updated the Board on the plan, history and how it developed with the staff at the beginning of the school year. There are good things going on and explained how it fits together. Kids learn comprehensive skills and how to organize visually. The staff came together and came up with a Strategic Plan for the next 5 years. They came up with a vision. They have worked very hard to meet all of the goals. Keys to Literacy taught the teachers the skills consistent to the best practices. They trained the building coaches. We have coaches in all the buildings, they are conducting the routines. She explained what the children are learning regarding the standards necessary to advance. Today they had a workshop day. A few teachers learned how to incorporate writing in their classes. Those teachers in turn shared with other staff. The staff is working hard and embracing it. She reviewed each grade and what they are doing regarding literacy. The District is very lucky to have these literacy leaders. B. Faulkner thanked Jennie Calhoun for her presentation and said the Board is happy to help and hear what is going on in the District.

**6. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:**

**6a. Correspondence and Announcements:** K. Pfeifer informed the Board they have completed Step one of 3. The Deliberative Session will be on January 31, 2015 then the voting in March. The fundraising calendar is handed out to the Board as well as the updated Policy JIH and JIH-R. K. Pfeifer would ask the Committee Chairs to hand in their articles for Education Matters. He updated the Board on the upcoming fundraisers.

**6b. Other Issues of Importance:** There are no other issues.

**7. BOARD CHAIR REPORT:** B. Faulkner commented the Board has had a couple of rough meetings and tough issues. He would like to conduct the future meetings by Robert Rules of Order. Roberts Rules provide a civil and reliable process allowing all to be able to speak and allow the Board Meeting to move along. He would like to inform the Board of a few rules. The Chair will rule on all orders and a 2/3 vote will close debate. He has 22 years of experience regarding the legislative body and follows Roberts Rules. He has a copy of Roberts Rules for the Board. There are rules to keep the meeting moving along. A motion to call the question is non debatable, it will come to an immediate vote. Point of order can interrupt the discussion and it is recognized immediately. Point of information to clarify can interrupt a discussion. Motions not on the agenda will be called out of order but if the Board is to disagree a vote will be taken. The deadline to place something on the agenda is the Wednesday before the agenda goes out. The public can force something on the agenda with 25 signatures. The Public will be allowed 15 minutes at the beginning of the meeting to speak and will be allowed to speak at the time of the topic. He would encourage the public to sit in the front of the room.

**8. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**8a. Education & Policy:** B. Faulkner informed the Board the committee discussed the Drug and Alcohol Use Policies, JIH-R and JIH. The committee will be recommending the procedure approved by the attorney.

*R. Thackston leaves the meeting.*

**8b. Finance/Facilities:** The committee met but did not meet.

**8c. Budget Committee:** B. Tatro reported the committee met and set the Default Number, voted on the warrants and will be meeting on January 27, 2015.

**8d. Sports Committee:** E. Stanley reported the committee met on January 12, 2015. They discussed the throwing events, moving the field hockey field by cutting down 5 or 6 trees. The committee discussed the pads being poured in the spring and an additional soccer/lacrosse field. There will be a motion from the Sports Committee to hold a Strategic Planning Meeting for future athletics. They discussed the gym class. They would like the gym classes to focus on sports that are being offered as extracurricular sports. They hope to get more students involved in sports that are being offered. Now, by the time the students get to the Middle School they have never heard of some of the sports. The Student Task Force committee will be meeting on Thursday at 8:25 AM. The committee consists of R. Schafer,

L. Patnode, parents and students. It is to try and get the kids to do the right thing. There are about 20-25 students participating. ConVal has approached Monadnock to join together with them in playing ice hockey. The committee had made a motion to have L. Patnode continue the conversation with ConVal. L. Patnode has not set up a meeting as of yet. E. Stanley informed the Board in order to hold State throwing events they all need to be held in the same area. They would like to have the throwing events by the field hockey field. K. Craig asked about the conversation of what is being taught in the elementary and MS. They are learning life-long physical activities in gym. If it is a shift you will need to discuss it with K. Craig and K. Pfeifer. E. Stanley commented the sports shift is a focus on different sports. K. Craig would suggest having a conversation.

**8e. Interim Report from the AD Hoc Committee on the STEAM Academy:** P. Bauries commented the AD Hoc Committee has been working hard on the original charge from the Board. She said at times the committee found it very challenging. The committee was asked to explore STEAM that exists in Gilsum for future and expansion of the education and financial costs. It is not how to keep Gilsum open but how to expand the STEAM program in the District. What is the STEAM Learning concept? In Sept. 2014 the district initiated the Gilsum program. There were to be 40 students in K-6. It is a hand on interactive approach where the students work together in groups based on their needs and aligned with core subject learning. The Board wanted to expand the concept. In Nov. 2014 the Board approved this study committee and asked for a preliminary report on Jan. 20, 2015. The committee discussed the STEAM Program with the other elementary schools. There were concerns with incorporating the program and time and training. The committee came up with four options: 1.) Continue STEAM at Gilsum and apply to be a Charter School, 2.) Expand the STEAM to all the 5<sup>th</sup> grades in the District in 2015-2016, 3.) Expand to all grades in Emerson or Troy, 4.) Keep the STEAM pilot program in Gilsum for a 5 year period. The committee would like to purpose the Gilsum School as a charter School. The only drawback is the application has to be submitted by Feb. 2, 2015. They would like to send out a survey to all the staff. We are the only School District in the State with STEAM or STEM. Gilsum is the only elementary school with the STEAM curriculum. The committee will have a motion later in the meeting. B. Faulkner would allow the committee to present their motion now. **MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** to have the MRSD School Board approve and move forward with the application process to the State of NH on or before February 2, 2015 to change Gilsum Elementary School to a DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOL. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **DISCUSSION:** P. Bauries explained the rationale. She said if the voters on March 10, 2015 vote to close the Gilsum Elementary School by submitting an application to the State of NH before February 2, 2015, the MRSD will insure that the MRSD will qualify for Federal startup funding. E. Jacod commented it is a safety jacket in the best of circumstances to continue the effort. He would strongly encourage the Board to vote in favor. It has a lot of potential benefits. **VOTE:** 9.669/0/0/3.331. **Motion passes.**

## **9. Old Business:**

**9a. Superintendent's Recommendation on Web Site changes:** K. Pfeifer explained there are no recommendations at this time. He is in the process of forming a committee and arranging a date to meet that is agreeable to all.

**9b. Discussion of Warrant Articles, Deliberative Session:** J. Carnie suggested having the cost items of the MESSA contract on the warrant. He read the law to the Board. He commented the previous warrant article addressed that issue. He would like to have the cost item figures in the warrant article. He said the previous contract stipulated the exact cost of the first year of implementing the health care. **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to amend the MESSA Contract Warrant Article by supplying the numbers for the total cost of health care for the first year. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** J. Fortson explained she cannot predict the health insurance plans. She will run this by DRA regarding exactly what the Board wants. J. Carnie wants the total cost associated with the first year of the contract. J. Fortson commented there is no exact number. *M. Blair arrives.* B. Tatro commented regarding the Sanborn issue and it was stated the public needs to be notified of the increase. J. Carnie commented this is a new contract the public is entitled not just the percentage of increase but the actual cost of the first year. **VOTE:** 6.305/4.486/0/2.120. **Motion passes.**

J. Fortson explained the Budget Committee or the Board did not vote on the Article to close the Gilsum School. The warrant will state not recommended by both the Board and the Budget Committee because no action was taken.

B. Tatro asked whether the 27 ½ hour week employee will move to a 30 hour a week employee and receive benefits due to the paid lunches. The public will need to know this answer at the Deliberative Session.

P. Peterson asked about the “Green Sheets”. M. Blair explained the CRC did not do the “Green Sheets”. The ballot information was in the newsletter. The CRC has not met because there were SAU meetings prior to the Board Meetings. B. Tatro volunteered to sit on the CRC.

P. Bauries commented Article One was presented without a number. She would like to see Article One always have a starting number for the public. B. Faulkner will suggest this to the Budget Committee.

K. Craig commented the members listed on the web site for the CRC are misleading to the public. The list is not correct.

J. Fortson explained Warrant Article One did not have a number prior to the Public Hearing last year. P. Bauries would like the Budget Committee to have a number. K. Pfeifer commented the law states it can be done during the meeting. D. Coffman stated W. Lechliders’ agenda had numbers to discuss. That is what the hearing was about. J. Carnie said the public has had a number. The School Board has always made a recommendation to the Budget Committee from the Finance Committee.

**9c. Procedures for electing chairman:** The attorney was asked if the process of electing the chair at the last meeting was correct. He said nothing was done wrong.

## **10. NEW BUSINESS:**

**10a. Motions from Education & Policy Committee:** There are no motions.

Amendment to Policy JIH/JIH-R-School Searches Using Dogs: **MOTION:** M. Blair **MOVED** to accept Policy JIH-Student Search and Seizure as presented. **SECOND:** R. Smith. **DISCUSSION:** E. Stanley commented on the importance of passing this policy. B. Faulkner commented this would give the administration the authority to have canine searches and he has a big concern. The District will be liable. The canine average for false positive searches is 75%. A lot of people will be traumatized. There are others ways to make a search. R. Smith commented the government is using the canine why not us. E. Stanley commented the kids are inconvenienced, that is not a problem. Keep the drugs out of the school. We have to do something. M. Blair commented this is another tool for the administration to use. This policy was brought to the committee by the administration. The current administration is in favor of this policy as presented. K. Pfeifer explained he has used the dogs in the past. M. Blair explained the changes to the policy. D. Coffman said to get this going. They want the drugs out of the school. **Friendly amendment:** to add the legal references back to the policy. M. Blair and R. Smith agree. **VOTE:** 9.669/1.121/0/2.210. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** M. Blair **MOVED** to accept Policy JIH-R Search of Students as proposed by the attorney and amended by the Policy Committee. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **DISCUSSION:** P. Bauries asked if you have probable cause and permission than what is the need for the dogs. M. Blair commented it is very difficult to search 500 student's lockers. The administration can search anytime. The canine searches allow for those areas that you do not have probable cause. B. Faulkner commented the police have trained dogs. E. Jacod commented you do not have the power of the dogs. K. Pfeifer explained when searching with the dogs the administration is allowed to enter the lockers not the police. W. Wright asked if the administration is obligated to notify the parents. P. Peterson asked if the areas included the bathrooms. The answer was yes. **VOTE:** 8.594/1.121/1.075/2.210 **Motion passes.**

### **10b. Motions from Finance & Facilities Committee:**

Approve expenditure for ecology field trip: J. Fortson informed the Board she had received 3 different bussing quotes for the ecology field trip. She informed the committee they are going with Thomas Charters. She did receive 3 bids. The funds will be coming out of the regular bussing account. There were extra funds due to the renegotiations. **MOTION:** M. Blair **MOVED** to accept the bussing proposal from Thomas Charters in the amount of \$5862.00 for the ecology field trip. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **VOTE:** 10.790/0/0/2.210. **Motion passes.**

### **10c. Policy BDE on Committee Quorums, Agendas, Minutes**

Refer to Committees or schedule for further action: J. Carnie would like the Board to start to follow our own policy. P. Bauries commented the committee meetings are posted and there is no meeting. Regarding the CRC she understands things happen but we owe it to the public to get out a cancellation notice. The Finance and Facilities Committee posted a tentative meeting. She has never heard of a "tentative" meeting being posted. J. Carnie

commented if we are not posting or there is no quorum the Board better own up. We need to follow our own policy.

**10d. Action on the Manifest: MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to accept the manifest in the amounts of \$ 1,185,946.56. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **VOTE:** 10.770/0/0/2.210. **Motion passes.**

**10e. Other New Business as may come before the Board:** There is no other business.

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

- 1. Green Sheets**
- 2. Web site Management**

**12. Public Comments:** M. Blair thanked the Board for passing the Policy JIH and Policy JIH-R. There are good kids at Monadnock and they need a good environment.

D. Cairns commented he appreciates the work being done by the Board. He appreciates J. Carnie commenting in regards to the Board being accountable for their policies. He understands the importance of volunteer work. How will the Board hold themselves accountable? The Board needs to provide the public with a Strategic Plan update.

J. Fortson read RSA 32:5 regarding when the budget number needs to be provided.

**13. B. Faulkner declares a 10 minute recess.**

**14. 9:54 PM Motion to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Consideration of hiring of a public employee: MOTION:** E. Jacod **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Consideration of hiring of a public employee. **SECOND:** W. Wright **VOTE:** 10.790/0/0/2.210. **Motion passes.**

**15. 9:59 PM Motion to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person. 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 adversely the reputation of any person. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 10.790/0/0/2.210. **Motion passes.**

**16. Public Session:** It was commented the District is hiring coaches before the School Board is voting to approve. The coaches should be notified upon Board approval.

**17. Motion to adjourn: MOTION:** M. Blair **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 PM. **SECOND:** R. Smith **VOTE:** 10.790/0/0/2.210. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura L. Aivaliotis  
Recording secretary