

**Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**(Non-Approved Minutes)**  
**January 6, 2015**  
**Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH**

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

**Absent:** Mike Blair, Robert Smith, 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.

R. Thackston opened the meeting at 7:02PM.

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

**1. Public Comments:** N. Moriarty updated the Board on the Superintendent Search. The ad will be published tomorrow with a due date of February 17, 2015. The ad will be on School Spring and go to all the SAU offices. N. Moriarty would like to the Board to slow down Article Two, renovations to Mt. Caesar. We will have to pay taxes on this. There is no reimbursement from the State. Article Five is for the Emergency Fuel Fund and he does not agree with it. The cost of fuel has gone down. Article Six to place \$630,701 in the Capital Reserve Fund is unnecessary and that amount should go back to the voters.

K. Wheeler commented she has been attending many of the meetings over the past months. The NESDEC report highlighted items of importance but they are not being discussed. She has reached out to the Board and other committee members and they have not reached out to Gilsum. The Budget Committee spoke about closing Gilsum. No one is following the NESDEC report.

**2. Consent Agenda:**

**MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the December 16, 2014 Public Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** E. Jacod **VOTE:** 9.422/0/0/3.578. **Motion passes.**

J. Carnie commented he is not able to find certain minutes on the web site. They are in a different spot. The public has the right to go to look at the minutes. It is partly a problem with the software. He would like to see this addressed. R. Thackston does not agree the minutes have to be on the website but we have placed them on the website.

The School Board has never said this person is to do this and this is the job. We can hire a

student to manage the web site. Someone could make a motion under New Business. K. Pfeifer would ask the Board to give him until the next meeting to report back to the Board with a recommendation.

**MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the December 16, 2014 10:39 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 December 16, 2014 10:44 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.**

**MOTION:** B. Faulkner **MOVED** to table the discussion on the December 16, 2014 9:15 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes. **SECOND:** J. Carnie. **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 informed the Board she is working with D. LaPointe on the numbers of year 6 of the project. She is also working on the warrant articles.
5. **ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:** K. Craig asked K. Upton to speak about the Master Schedule. K. Upton reported the committee has a proposal regarding the Master Schedule for 2015-2016. The committee of parents, teachers, administration, staff and students has met several times. They looked at other schedules in NH schools. They would recommend the modified 5 block schedule. The committee has discussed this with the guidance and Unions. They are in the process of modifying the draft. The CCC is comfortable with the schedule. There will be more opportunities for the Monadnock students. This schedule agrees with Keene. **MOTION:** P. Peterson. **MOVED** to accept the Modified 5 block Master Schedule for the 2015-2016 School Year as presented by K. Upton on behalf of the committee. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 9.422/0/0/3.578. **Motion passes.** K. Craig thanked the committee. They have worked very hard.
6. **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:**
  - 6a. **Correspondence and Announcements:** K. Pfeifer had handed out the calendar of events to the Board and there will be a need to go into non-public session. He would like a list of names for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century in order to give out passwords. He would ask the members to contact him. Annually the NH Association of Schools Administration Champions of Children nominates members for their contribution to education. M. Suarez and A. Noel will be honored by the NH DOE at Plymouth State. K. Pfeifer informed the Board of a High School Special Olympics Penguin Plunge Fundraiser.

J. Carnie mentioned an article in the paper regarding the Common Core Meetings with the administration or liaison. He would like to have information presented publicly at these meetings. He asked if any of the meetings had occurred and was it with any of our administration. K. Craig commented she has been at the meetings where she speaks. K. Pfeifer attends the 8 meetings throughout the year. The Commissioner is an invited guest and at this time the School Board is not invited. J. Carnie is concerned what was brought forth. The Common Core Standards were shoved down our throats never adopted and never endorsed. We need to be concerned with the Federal Government's involvement in the Common Core and there are no public minutes. K. Craig and K. Pfeifer explained the tests the students take. They need to make competency, proficiency and then they move to the next grade.

**6b. Other Issues of Importance:** P. Bauries asked where people sign up for the upcoming election. K. Pfeifer explained the forms are at the high school at the SAU Dept.

- 7. BOARD CHAIR REPORT:** R. Thackston informed the Board he will be resigning from the Board Chairmanship. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve for the past two decades. He will be turning over the new chairmanship and would ask for a non-public session. P. Bauries asked if he is submitting a resignation in writing or verbally. R. Thackston will resign the chairmanship when the Board selects a new chair. P. Bauries commented at the last meeting you said that was your last "Chair Report" and phone calls were not answered this week so she assumed you gave up. R. Thackston explained he has a new phone. **MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** to change the agenda to nominate a new Board Chair. **SECOND:** J. Carnie. **VOTE:** 4.068/4.239/1.115/3.578. **Motion fails.**

**8. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**8a. Education & Policy:** The committee did not meet.

**8b. Finance/Facilities:** The committee met but did not have a quorum.

**8c. Budget Committee:** B. Tatro reported the committee met and voted on a Default Budget of \$30,594,030.00. In books and printed materials the committee left \$100,000.00 and in the equipment line the committee left \$165,000.00. There were comments made about not holding the Saturday Meeting. The committee has not set the budget. They will set it after the Public Hearing. The committee reviewed the warrant articles. It was explained if the Budget Committee reduces the budget by the Gilsum amount and a petitioned article is passed stating an amount to close the Gilsum School they are both binding and it would be a double hit. The committee had a discussion on a 5 year Capital Reserve Plan. They discussed the NESDEC Report. There was a discussion on recommending to the Board selling the Wilcox Building and the SAU, after the SAU Building was withdrawn. The committee discussed the \$500.00 per year per student reduction article. D. Coffman and N. Moriarty did research on enrollment of students and reduction of staff over the years.

**8d. Sports Committee:** The committee did not meet.

**8e. Community Relations Committee:** The meeting was not posted correctly.

**9. Old Business:**

**9a. Warrant Article: Article Two: 1.81 million for Renovations to Mt. Caesar:** P.

Peterson asked if this could be done in stages. L. Steadman asked to split it in half. D. LaPointe had some ideas. J. Carnie asked what took place at the meeting in which there was no quorum. R. Thackston commented a majority of the Board would like to hear from L. Steadman regarding the discussion. J. Carnie commented this is the problem with the current Chair. If you do not have a quorum you need to adjourn or recess to a time specific. R. Thackston commented it is an open discussion with members gathering information. J. Carnie would disagree. If you do not have a quorum you need to recess. They went ahead with the agenda. The discussion took place. L. Steadman explained the meeting was posted for 5:30 PM. We waited for E. Stanley to arrive from another meeting. J. Fortson and D. LaPointe had a friendly conversation about issues on the agenda. ***E. Stanley arrives at 8:31 PM.*** **MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to discuss Article Two and support as written. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** W. Wright commented Mt. Caesar has been waiting 20 years for renovations, they are due. He would support the article as is and let the voters decide. D. LaPointe commented we need to do this. This is the best way construction wise. This is the best bang for the buck and then move on to the MPR. D. LaPointe reviewed the items included in the 1.181 million dollars. The list was passed out to the committee. D. LaPointe commented the District should talk about getting rid of the trailers but it is not on this list. **VOTE:** 10.544/0/0/2.456. **Motion passes.**

**Article Three \$100,000.00 Health and Safety:** **MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to support Article Three in the amount of \$100,000.00 for Health and Safety items at the MS/HS.

**SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 10.544/0/0/2.456. **Motion passes.**

**Article Four \$63,500.00 Before and After Program:** **MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** to support Article Four in the amount of \$63,500.00 for the Before and After Program.

**SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** J. Fortson has worked with D. Ayotte and they would like to have the Expendable Trust in the amount of \$110,000.00 instead of \$150,000.00. **VOTE:** 10.544/0/0/2.456. **Motion passes.**

**Article Five \$50,000.00 Emergency Fuel Fund:** **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to support Article Five in the amount of \$50,000.00 for the Emergency Fuel Fund. **SECOND:** B.

Faulkner. **DISCUSSION:** P. Bauries asked what the oil budget was last year. She commented last year's costs were a lot higher. We already have a reserve in the budget. J. Fortson explained the Board voted on this article when the rates were a lot higher. We do not know where the prices will be in 18 months. **MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to amend the motion to fund this account up to \$5000.00 in which the funds would come out of the surplus. **SECOND:** J. Carnie. **VOTE on the amendment:** 9.546/.998/0/2.456. **Amendment passes.** **VOTE:** 10.544/0/0/2.456. **Motion passes.**

**Article Six \$630,701.00 Capital Reserve Fund:** **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to support Article Six in the amount of \$630,701.00 to be placed in the Capital Reserve Fund.

**SECOND:** E. Stanley. **DISCUSSION:** J. Fortson explained this is the amount returned to the District from the State for Building Aid. P. Bauries does not agree with this article. E. Stanley commented if we do not place this in the Capital Reserve we will have to pay for the entire MPR. B. Faulkner commented this is going back to the original purpose to offset construction. J. Carnie commented we told the public we will give it back to reduce taxes. The original article stated to reduce taxes. **VOTE:** 5.477/5.066/0/2.456. **Motion passes.**

**Article Seven Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Specialists: MOTION:** B. Faulkner **MOVED** to postpone discussion on Article Seven until after non-public session. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 9.469/1.079/0/2.456. **Motion passes.**

**9b. Request for Warrant Article from Bruce Johnson:** It was explained the article is a petitioned Article requiring the State to adequately fund education. **MOTION:** P. Peterson. **MOVED** to have Bruce Johnson's petitioned warrant article placed on our ballot. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** R. Thackston explained there is not a copy of the article available. B. Faulkner and W. Wright do not agree on placing the article on the ballot. **P. Peterson and B. Tatro withdraw their motion.**

**9c. Legislative Forum:** the Legislative Forum is scheduled for January 28, 2015 at 5:30 PM.

**9d. Discussion Superintendent meeting with the Commissioner:** This discussion took place earlier in the meeting.

## **10. NEW BUSINESS:**

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

**10b. Motions from Finance & Facilities Committee:** There are no motions.

**10c. Motions from Other Committees as needed:** There are no other motions.

**10d. Action on the Manifest: MOTION:** B. Faulkner **MOVED** to accept the manifest in the amounts of \$ 2,437,533.02. **SECOND:** W. Wright **VOTE:** 10.544/0/0/2.546. **Motion passes.**

**10e. Other New Business as may come before the Board: MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** on behalf of the Budget Committee to recommend to the Board the selling of the Wilcox Building. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **DISCUSSION:** P. Bauries commented she might support a study on the selling of the Wilcox Building. B. Tatro explained the recommendation came out of the NESDEC Report. W. Wright commented the Board should discuss this with the Town of Swanzy and is there another use for the building. E. Jacod commented we need to know the potential value of the property. L. Steadman would suggest this go to Finance and Facilities and go along with the long term plan discussion. E. Stanley commented this went to the voters years ago and the voters said to sell it. **B. Tatro made a friendly amendment for the School Board to study the sale of the Wilcox Building and ask the Facilities and Finance Committees to do that study. E. Jacod would agree. VOTE:** 10.544/0/0/2.456. **Motion passes.**

**10f. New Board Chair:** R. Thackston explained to the Board he will resign from the Chair position as soon as another Board Chair is nominated. **MOTION:** E. Jacod. **MOVED** to nominate P. Bauries as the Board Chair for the balance of R. Thackston's term. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to nominate B. Faulkner as the Board Chair for the balance of R. Thackston's term. **SECOND:** L. Steadman. **DISCUSSION:** P. Bauries and B. Faulkner commented on why they would like to be the Board Chair. **VOTE:** 5.183/5.361/0/2.456. **B. Faulkner is the new Board Chair.** B. Faulkner thanked R. Thackston for his many years of service to the District.

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

- 1. AD Hoc Presentation**
- 2. Web site Management**
- 3. Report on the agendas being posted in the towns**

B. Faulkner explained he will post a Board Meeting directly after the Budget Committee's Meeting on Thursday. **MOTION:** R. Thackston **MOVED** to schedule and post a Board Meeting for January 15, 2015 at 8:00 PM or immediately after the Budget Committee Meeting whichever is later. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie commented we have not discussed the budget and will be asked to vote on it after the Budget Committee Meeting. R. Thackston commented there is no budget to discuss. It is not the responsibility of the School Board. The Budget Committee generates the budget. **VOTE:** 8.347/2.196/0/2.456. **Motion passes.**

B. Faulkner informed the Board they will discuss Article One on January 15, 2015.

- 12. Public Comments:** K. Wheeler felt it was a great idea to address the minutes. She commented on the time frame in which they are available, the posting prior to the meetings and the order in which they are on the web site. She would ask the Board to add the agenda to the web site. She commented on the meeting in which she attended but there was no quorum. She felt uncomfortable about the topics being discussed. She commented on the Board reaching out to Swanzey regarding the Wilcox Building and wished she was given the same courtesy in Gilsum. She said if the Board is willing to have a meeting with Swanzey why not a meeting with Gilsum. If the school closes where will the kids go? L. Steadman explained the Finance and Facilities Committee did not make a motion to close the Gilsum School. K. Wheeler stated it was in the minutes.

M. Divens commented the Troy Selectman T. Matson is now on the School Board. She asked if that was a conflict of interest. She would like to see that addressed. K. Craig commented it is legal. He was selected by the Selectmen of Troy. The Board has nothing to do with it.

D. Coffman thanked R. Thackston for his years of service to the District. He would support Article Six. Mt. Caesar has not been attended to in years. He commented we do not need to study the Wilcox Building. The recommendation came from the NESDEC Report. Move toward what the voters want to see. This Board has been discussing a drug issue since fall and we do not have a policy. We need to do something more. The kids are saying they know

what is going on. It is awful. The Board needs to do something. There are two or more Board Members who have railroaded or derailed the conversation of others. The credibility is gone. It is awful and embarrassing to be represented by you. It is disruptive and not constructive. Work on the Drug Policy.

**13. B. Faulkner declares a 5 minute recess.**

**14. 10:14 PM The Board will recess for a non-meeting. T. Kennett leaves the meeting.**

**15. Public Session: MOTION:** R. Thackston **MOVED** to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the MRSB and the Specialists of the Monadnock District. **SECOND:** L. Steadman. **DISCUSSION:** The increase for the first year of the contract is actually 7.12%. **VOTE:** 7.590/2.933/0/2.456. **Motion passes. MOTION:** R. Thackston **MOVED** to place Warrant Article Seven on the ballot as submitted. **SECOND:** L. Steadman. **DISCUSSION: MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to amend Warrant Article Seven and add “the total increase for the first year of the contract is 7.12%” at the end of the second paragraph. **SECOND:** P. Bauries. **VOTE on amendment:** 10.544/0/0/2.456. **Amendment passes. VOTE:** 8.665/1.121/0/2.456. **Motion passes.**

**16. 11:00 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:** R. Thackston **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:** W. Wright **VOTE:** 10.544/0/0/2.456 **Motion passes.**

**17. 11:09 PM Motion to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Consideration of hiring of a public employee: MOTION:** R. Thackston **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Consideration of hiring of a public employee. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 10.544/0/0/2.456. **Motion passes.**

**18. Motion to adjourn: MOTION:** E. Jacod **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 11:13 PM. **SECOND:** P. Peterson **VOTE:** 10.544/0/0/2.456. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis  
Recording secretary