

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
(Approved Minutes)
February 17, 2015
Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH

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

Absent: Eric Stanley, Robert Smith, Mike Blair, Barry Faulkner and unassigned seat from Roxbury.

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

Also present: L. Aivaliotis, Recording Secretary.

J. Carnie opened the meeting at 7:00PM.

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

- 1. Public Comments:** M. Divens passed out the STEAM Newsletter to the Board. She explained the kids are making igloos out of plastic containers and also said the Art part of STEAM is getting a push back. The AD Hoc will be meeting tomorrow and discussing ways on how to move STEAM throughout the District. She would invite everyone to come. On Friday the kids will have their NHDI presentation.

K. Pfeifer informed the Board, William Felton a former Board Member has passed away. J. Carnie commented on the number of years Bill had served on the Board and the amount of time. They acknowledged his contribution to the District. The Board had a moment of silence on behalf of William Felton.

2. Consent Agenda:

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the January 31, 2015 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** P. Bauries **VOTE:** 7.544/0/0.757/4.699. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the February 3, 2015 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** W. Wright **VOTE:** 8.301/0/0/4.699. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the February 3, 2015 9:02 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** E. Jacod **VOTE:** 8.301/0/0/4.699. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the February 3, 2015 9:09 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** E. Jacod **VOTE:** 8.301/0/0/4.699. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: R. Thackston **MOVED** to approve the Ballot Version of the Warrant Articles as passed at the January 31, 2015 Deliberative Session as amended. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 7.179/0/1.121/4.699. **Motion passes.**

3. **Student Government Report:** There is no Student Government Report.
4. **BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT:** J. Fortson reported she is getting the MS 22 ready prior to the March vote. She has been working on the Capital Improvement Plan and hopefully would like to bring it to the Finance/Facilities Committee in a month then to the Board. The Plan will be on the web site, continuously updated and will have the history, current and the future status.
5. **ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:** K. Craig reported on the curriculum cycle which is moving ahead under the direction of R. Schafer for Math and S. Masters for Language. This is a 5 year cycle. She reported they will have a Winter Academy for the students who are at risk of failure. The students have agreed to attend but they are not required. There will be a Professional Development Day on March 10, 2015. It is time for Kindergarten registration. In the Board packet is the update on the incompletes from the MS/HS. She also reported on the honor roll. She commented every school sent out a letter to the parents regarding the Winter Academy.
6. **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:**
 - 6a. **Correspondence and Announcements:** K. Pfeifer explained the Annual Report has gone to press and Education Matters to the Keene Sentinel to be completed. The Board has received the Charter School Application and the letter from the AD regarding a student's comment at a sporting event. K. Pfeifer listed off the many fundraisers for the upcoming month. **MOTION:** R. Thackston **MOVED** to allow the Girl's Softball Team as requested by Coach Coppo to travel to Connecticut to play softball. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 8.301/0/0/4.699 **Motion passes.** K. Pfeifer informed the Board the District has received \$500.00 from Summit Distributing, Exxon Mobil in the area of Science and Math. The District has also received \$500.00 from the Health Trust for staff wellness in Gilsum. **MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept funds of up to \$1925.00 from the Gilsum Recreation to help fund the Ferry Beach Ecology Trip. **SECOND:** R. Thackston. **VOTE:** 8.301/0/0/4.699. **Motion passes.**
 - 6b. **Other Issues of Importance:** There were no other issues.
7. **VICE CHAIR REPORT:** J. Carnie informed the Board a Resolution of Litigation with the Town of Troy has been decided. After the second appeal and the last appeal it was not accepted by the Supreme Court. The rehearing on a personal issue has been postponed due to a potential settlement. P. Bauries commented it was her understanding to have a hearing for clarification, why a settlement. K. Pfeifer said this conversation should take place in non-public.

8. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

8a. Education & Policy: The committee has not met.

8b. Finance/Facilities: The committee has not met.

8c. Budget Committee: B. Tatro reported the committee is scheduled to meet on February 24, 2015.

8d. Sports Committee: K. Pfeifer reported the committee met but did not have a quorum.

8e. AD Hoc Committee on the STEAM Academy: P. Bauries reported the committee will be meeting tomorrow. Mary LaTorneau will be present to overview programs and professional development opportunities for the teachers. The meeting will take place at 5:00 PM tomorrow. The Committee is moving along on the Charter School Application which is due on April 1, 2015. E. Jacod commented he has his own personnel opinion on the art in STEAM. He believes it belongs in any program. It is one of the principles in education for our young people. It belongs in any of our elementary school programs. Art is an elective and there are good options for the MS/HS student depending on the direction of the student. Music is important in the elementary, MS and HS electives. R. Thackston is kind of in agreement. The A in STEAM is between Engineering and Math, without Art you have a very sad world. You do not have the full ability to bring the E and the M together.

J. Fortson commented she did not see the minutes or the agenda from the AD Hoc Committee Meetings. P. Bauries said she did not post the agenda on the web site but emailed it to the committee members. She said the committee is not a sub-committee of the Board so there are no minutes. R. Thackston would suggest because it is a Board Committee it would be beneficial to have minutes posted. This is a big topic and minutes would be helpful. P. Bauries would be happy to it.

9. Old Business:

9a. Superintendent's Recommendation on Web Site changes: K. Pfeifer explained the meetings had been postponed due to weather. R. Thackston believes it would be beneficial to the Board to make a decision on this issue. He would suggest designating one person to be in charge of fixing the issue and making it work. It is a shame we cannot go to one person to put agendas and minutes on the web site. P. Bauries commented we have 2 web masters and a person responsible for the School Board postings. She asked if we are asking to hire someone or do on a full time basis. J. Carnie would suggest allowing K. Pfeifer one more chance and come back to the next meeting with a recommendation.

9b. MESSA Contract Language: J. Carnie explained he had asked the administration to have the Final MESSA Contract Language, the signed TA, the signatures for a quorum and information regarding page 36 of the contract. J. Carnie commented page 36 of the MESSA Contract which the Board voted on January 13, 2015 is different. He is asking where the TAs are. They are not in the packet. R. Thackston commented either the attorney or the Superintendent have them. J. Carnie commented neither has them. J. Fortson can provide the

ones she has but they are not signed. J. Carnie asked L. Steadman and R. Thackston to supply the TAs. Neither has them. They explained they went with the attorney and the attorney of the Union. L. Steadman and R. Thackston explained they signed the TAs and left them on the table. L. Steadman said she signed two for each issue but is not sure if they continued. She believes they did. P. Bauries commented the Chair, Business Manager and attorney should have the copies. K. Pfeifer commented he does not have them. J. Carnie wants to see the final contract with the signatures at the next meeting and if they are not available he would ask the Chair of Negotiations to resign. He does not see a quorum of signatures on the final contract. J. Carnie would ask K. Pfeifer to include the information in the packet, what was agreed and what was signed. R. Thackston asked J. Carnie if he doubts what was presented is what the committee agreed to. J. Carnie commented it is not unreasonable to bring it forth. R. Thackston commented the TAs may not exist. He will contact J. O'Shaughnessy. He asked if he believed the proposed contract is what the committee agreed to. There is nothing required to have a TA. P. Bauries commented if it is signed the contract is clear but what was presented to the Board was not clear. The signed TA would clarify what the contract is stating. R. Thackston commented there may not be a signed contract. He said he has done his very best by representing the committee. It is unreasonable on what is being asked for. J. O'Shaughnessy may not have it. He commented because J. Carnie does not like the contract he is going on a technicality. He said to go and petition the court after the vote by the voters. J. Carnie commented he has made an open request. It is a simple request to a committee. They should have the information if not put in writing that it is not done. This issue will go forward. He does not agree with the contract or how the Negotiating Team dealt with it. It should be available. He would like to know what agreements were made. It stinks the committee cannot make available the requested information.

9c. Other Old business as may come before the board: P. Bauries commented on the great job on behalf of the Maintenance Dept. regarding the removal of the snow in the parking lots and on the top of the buildings. She asked if the Reverse 911 is up and back to where it is suppose to be. K. Pfeifer explained they are working on it.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

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

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

10c. Action on the Manifest: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to accept the manifest in the amounts of \$ 1,581,097.97. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **VOTE:** 8.301/0/0/4.699. **Motion passes.**

10d. Other New Business as may come before the Board: L. Steadman commented the Board should hold their meetings in the new Discovery Center. K. Pfeifer and the Board Chair will discuss that issue.

B. Tatro explained she has been asked by people in the District if it is a conflict of interest to have N. Moriarty as the Chair of the Search Committee when in fact he has stated he would like Richmond to withdraw from the District. **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to ask the Board to determine whether N. Moriarty should continue to serve as the Chair for the

Superintendent Search Committee. **SECOND:** R. Thackston. **DISCUSSION:** R. Thackston felt it was offensive to question N. Moriarty as the Chair of the committee. As long as he is a voter and his town is in the District it is without question he is entitled to the job. He does not always agree with what he says but the whole notion is offensive. He is qualified for the job. L. Steadman commented it might be hard for the candidates to have a discussion with a person who would like to withdraw from the District. P. Bauries commented she would agree with R. Thackston. You are opening a big can of worms. You can look at many people and say that they have a conflict of interest. J. Carnie commented the idea of conflict of interest is offensive. **VOTE:** 7.179/1.121/0/4.699. **Motion passes.**

B. Tatro asked with the 5 Block Schedule do the teachers have as much contact time with the students. K. Craig answered yes and K. Pfeifer said maybe even more.

11. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

- 1. PELRB 305 in the packet**
- 2. Impasse Resolution**

12. Public Comments: M. Divens thanked R. Thackston for his time and diligence on the Board. She said she has not necessarily agreed but he is full of information. She thanked him.

R. Thackston leaves the meeting at 8:36PM. J. Carnie declares a 10 minutes recess.

13. 8:46PM Motion to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Consideration of hiring of a public employee: MOTION: P. Bauries **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Consideration of hiring of a public employee. **SECOND:** P. Peterson **VOTE:** 7.303/0/0/5.697. **Motion passes.**

14. 9:00 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: 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:** W. Wright **VOTE:** 7.303/0/0/5.697. **Motion passes.**

15. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: W. Wright **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 PM. **SECOND:** P. Peterson **VOTE:** 7.303/0/0/5.697. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording secretary