

**Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**(Approved Minutes – corrected 1/6/15)**  
**December 16, 2014**  
**Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH**

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

**Absent:** Unassigned seat from Roxbury.

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

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

R. Thackston opened the meeting at 7:00PM.

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

**1. Public Comments:** M. Divens commented and read part of an editorial which was in the Keene Sentinel. The editorial was written from a person who substituted in Gilsum. She commented on the excitement of learning. She explained a day at the STEAM program. M. Diven would ask the Board not to go backwards and vote to reconsider the motion regarding Gilsum. She commented on an upcoming motion regarding Nordic Skiing.

L. Ellis commented she heard there may or may not be a motion coming to the Board this evening regarding Gilsum. She reported the STEAM Ad Hoc has met. The committee has come up with 4 or 5 ideas. They had the idea of a North and South School STEAM Program. L. Ellis read her letter to the Board.

K. Wheeler thanked the Board for not voting at the last Board meeting on Gilsum. She commented she was not aware of the December 1, 2014 Finance/Facilities Meeting because the minutes were not on the web site. She would like the Board to address the issue of the minutes.

W. Hasbrouck of Gilsum is concerned there are motions made that are not listed in the minutes. Gilsum is a small town and he is a product of a small town. He received good work ethics at a young age. He would ask the Board to commit to keep the Gilsum School open for a 5 year period. He said it is not on the agenda so he does not expect the Board to vote on it. He would like the Board to give STEAM a change to develop and bring more students to Gilsum. Give them an opportunity to prove themselves.

R. Thackston commented the Board met on December 2, 2014 and the Finance/Facilities met on December 1, 2014. There was no time for the committee minutes to be put on the website. R. Thackston explained at the December 2, 2014 meeting he called the motion from the Finance/Facilities Committee out of order. He said the posting of the minutes on the website are not done as quickly as possible but it is not required. We have had this conversation many times. It is not required by the State to have them on the website. W. Hasbrouck asked if they could be posted on the wall. R. Thackston commented morally but the District does not have to.

N. Moriarty commented the Superintendent Search Committee met. K. Pfeifer is helping the committee. They are looking at another vendor. They would like to finish up the advertisement. The committee will not meet again until January 6, 2015. N. Moriarty commented on the reduction of \$500.00 per student over the next 5 year warrant article. He also said the proposed articles not including the proposed budget are in the amount of 2 million dollars. That amount is taxable. There is no refund from the State. He asked why there is a warrant article for an emergency fuel account. The fuel is the lowest it has been in 6 years. He also asked why there is a warrant for the \$630,000.00 for a School Building Capital Reserve Fund. That is all tax money. He would suggest doing renovations to Mt. Caesar in two years not one. The Budget Committee is making up the \$500.00 cuts and the School Board is adding 2 million dollars.

J. Carnie commented the minutes of every committee meeting and Board meeting need to be available in 5 business days. He stated a new RSA states when posting the minutes they also need to be posted on the website. It is ridiculous when the minutes are a month in arrears. Some situation needs to be looked at. J. Carnie mentioned the information in the Dec. 1, 2014 committee minutes contained information the Gilsum group would have wanted. R. Thackston stated the Board meeting was the very next day.

K. Wheeler was concerned the November 12, 2014 Meeting Minutes were not posted before the December 1, 2014 minutes.

M. Divens heard about the motion regarding Gilsum on the radio.

## **2. Consent Agenda:**

**MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the December 2, 2014 Public Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** B. Faulkner **VOTE:** 8.424/0/0/4.576. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** to accept the December 2, 2014 8:55 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** E. Jacod **VOTE:** 8.424/0/0/4.576. **Motion passes.**

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

## **4. BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT:** J. Fortson informed the Board she has received the State cost per pupil for 2013-2014. The amount is up \$122.00. The District is no longer at the

top we are in the mid range. The elementary cost per pupil in Keene is more than Monadnock but just the opposite for the MS/HS. There will be a motion from the AD later in the meeting.

- 5. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:** K. Craig thanked everyone for the celebration last week. She passed out an insert for the Program of Studies. We are working with Keene to increase the number of runs to the CCC. She would ask the Board to approve the Program of Studies in order to put it to press. **MOTION:** P. Peterson. **MOVED** to accept the Program of Studies as presented by K. Craig. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 6.592/.757/1.075/4.576. **Motion passes.** The staff is working very hard on the literacy initiative. J. Rathbun's report was handed out to the Board. K. Craig is very excited with the work going on in the District.

K. Upton reported F. Bramante of the 10,000 Mentors visited the school and met with students and community members. There are 30 students connected with mentors. P. Bauries is on the steering committee along with teachers. They are planning to have follow-up work done. The students took the PSATs and some of the scores are posted on the Balanced Score Card. The females outscored the males in reading and writing and the males outscored the females in math.

**6. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:**

**6a. Correspondence and Announcements:** K. Pfeifer reported he went to the NH Scholars Breakfast. River Valley and Fenton Family Dealership were acknowledged for their part in expanding the opportunities for the students and the well fair of the students. L. Corriveau sent the event calendar to the Board for their approval. **MOTION:** P. Peterson. **MOVED** to accept the event calendar as submitted by L. Corriveau. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 7.302/0/1.121/4.576. **Motion passes.** K. Pfeifer commented he would like to keep L. Corriveau's vision alive. He would like to thanks L. Corriveau and K. Craig, major contributors to the education of the students. He announced Monadnock is one of the top 50 schools in the State. He would like to acknowledge the hard work J. Fortson and D. LaPointe have done on the STEM Discovery Center.

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

- 7. BOARD CHAIR REPORT:** R. Thackston commented this will be his last opportunity to address the Board as the Board Chair. Society needs to educate the students, properly fund education and operate the schools. You are still better off to follow the same education path. He wishes everyone well.

**8. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

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

**8c. Budget Committee:** The committee did not meet. The committee is scheduled to meet on December 30, 2014. P. Bauries asked why Article One does not have a number for the

budget. W. Lechlinder said the Budget Committee is waiting to hear from the public at the Public Hearing. The Public Hearing is on January 15, 2015. P. Bauries asked if there is a CRC. R. Thackston explained the CRC will meet on January 6, 2015 at 5:00 PM.

**8d. Sports Committee:** The committee did not meet. **L. Steadman and R. Smith arrive.**

**9. Old Business:**

**9a. Warrant Article: Article Two:** R. Thackston would suggest splitting Article Two into two years. R. Thackston referred to the NESDEC report. D. LaPointe commented we have to relook at things if we are heading toward the one elementary school. We need to be able to plan where we are headed. He commented the 1.81 million is not for the entire building. There are options. R. Thackston would like to see the number at \$600,000.00. D. LaPointe said we need to look at that first. Do we want to spend \$600,000.00 and then a new school down the road? E. Jacod asked if there were items to look at first. B. Tatro suggested putting the funds the District will receive back from the State and put it towards this proposed \$600,000.00. She said the work is very well justified. She said the District has been spending a certain amount each year for renovations. If you do not keep up the buildings you will have to tear them down and start over. J. Carnie commented we have to look at this money the taxpayers will have to pay. The “5 year plan” was suppose to take care of what we need. The funds from the State were to go back to taxpayers. The article is a huge cost with no reimbursement from the State. We need to look to see if this is part of a long term plan. Look at the needs of the District, establish priorities and than what are we going to spend. This has not really been looked at. W. Wright commented we need to have a Capital Improvement Plan. Mt. Caesar needs to be fixed. They do not have a gym and it is not on the lists. We need a list for Mt. Caesar for this year. We need to look at this District. L. Steadman suggested building a larger Health and Safety Article. P. Peterson said they deserve a multipurpose room. E. Jacod would like D. LaPointe to come back with a revised list at the next meeting. R. Smith asked if there is a long term plan. B. Faulkner commented D. LaPointe knows what is important. E. Jacod suggested splitting the article the best we can. D. LaPointe will meet with the Facilities Committee regarding splitting the article into two years. R. Thackston said to list what needs to be done now.

**Article Three:** P. Bauries would agree with B. Faulkner we need to continue to maintain our schools. She said we have spent 6 years on the MS/HS. She would not agree with the amount for the Health and Safety Article. She said one or the other. L. Steadman explained the abatement will be done in only 5 of the rooms for the \$50,000.00. **MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** to delete Article Three from the list of Warrant Articles. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** It was commented the voters should be able to know about the issues and be able to vote. The asbestos abatement and stage repair need to be done. It will impact the operating budget. Do not hide it in the budget. E. Jacod would agree with \$70,000.00 instead of the \$100,000.00. B. Tatro commented the abatement is being done now. D. LaPointe stated the stage is structurally safe. L. Steadman explained we do not have funds in the Capital Reserve to make the improvements but we need to make the repairs. J. Carnie commented we have not put money in the Capital Reserve because we have spent 1 million yearly with a 57% reimbursement from the State. R. Thackston would agree with B. Faulkner

and let the voters vote. **E. Stanley arrives.** W. Wright would agree, let the voters decide. **P. Bauries will withdraw her motion and P. Peterson will withdraw her second.**

The Board will review the articles at the January 6, 2015 Meeting. R. Thackston informed the Board Bruce Johnson has a petitioned warrant article which will be in the next Board packet.

**9b. Attorney:** The Board will discuss issues with the Board in Non-Meeting.

**9c. Update on Finance Recommendations:** The committee did not meet.

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

## **10. NEW BUSINESS:**

**10a. Nordic Skiing Funding: MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to use up to \$1,000.00 from the retained fund balance that was set aside by the School Board at the June 17, 2014 meeting to fund the Nordic Skiing Team fees for the 2014-2015 sports season. **SECOND: B. Faulkner. DISCUSSION:** It was explained this recommendation is being brought forth by the Athletic Director. This amount would cover racing, pinneys, training for the athletes, NHIAA registration, passes for training and event fees. W. Wright commented he was glad to see it is back. E. Jacod asked if there is any new insurance. J. Fortson said no. B. Faulkner commented this is already budgeted for athletic purposes. They are not taking funds that would go to the students. P. Bauries asked if the funds are not used do they get carried over. J. Fortson would have to ask the State. P. Bauries asked if this was a new team. E. Stanley explained they had a team last year. R. Smith commented it is very important to have sports. B. Tatro commented we teach to the whole child. P. Peterson commented there is a lot of education that comes out of sports. It is very valuable. **VOTE:** 9.469/1.121/1.075/1.335. **Motion passes.**

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

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

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

**10e. Action on the Manifest: MOTION:** B. Faulkner **MOVED** to accept the manifest in the amounts of \$ 1,597,564.17. **SECOND:** P. Peterson **VOTE:** 11.665/0/0/1.335. **Motion passes.**

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

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

- 1. Warrant Articles**
- 2. B. Johnson petitioned article**
- 3. Legislative Forum**
- 4. Recommendations from Finance/Facilities**

## **5. Discussion Superintendent Meeting with the Commissioner**

- 12. Public Comments:** M. Diven commented we chose the STEAM Program. We chose to give it a chance. Let's do it.
- 13. R. Thackston declares a 10 minute recess.**
- 14. 9:15 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:** P. Bauries **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:** 11.665/0/0/1.335 **Motion passes.**
- 15. 9:32 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:** P. Bauries **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:** 11.665/0/0/1.335 **Motion passes.**
- 16. Return to Public Session: MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** to seal the 9:32 PM December 16, 2014 Non-Public Meeting Minutes until they accept or reject the offer. **SECOND:** R. Smith. **VOTE:** 11.65/0/0/1.335. **Motion passes.**
- 17. R. Thackston declares a Non-Meeting in order for the Board to discuss issues with their attorney.**  
**M. Blair arrives.**
- 18. 10:39 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:** P. Peterson **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. Bauries **VOTE:** 12.787/0/0/.213 **Motion passes.**
- 19. 10:44 PM Motion to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II ( a ) Compensation: MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Compensation. **SECOND:** P. Peterson **VOTE:** 12.787/0/0/.213 **Motion passes.**
- 20. Motion to adjourn: MOTION:** B. Faulkner **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 10:57 PM. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 12.787/0/0/.213. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis  
Recording secretary