

**Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**(Non-Approved Minutes)**  
**March 18, 2014**  
**Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH**

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

**Absent:** Unassigned seats from Roxbury.

**Administration present:** L. Corriveau, Superintendent, K. Craig, Assistant Superintendent, T. Kennett, Director of Student Services 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. Swearing in of New Members/Organizing/Election of Officers:** L. Corriveau asked for nominations for the Board Chair. **MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to nominate Pat Bauries as Board Chair. **SECOND:** B. Faulkner. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to nominate Richard Thackston as Board Chair. **SECOND:** Robert Smith. **DISCUSSION:** P. Bauries thanked W. Wright and B. Faulkner for their nomination but because this is the last year R. Thackston would be on the Board she would like to have him as the Board Chair. **VOTE:** 10.544/1.121/1.121/.213. **Motion passes.**

L. Corriveau turns the meeting over to R. Thackston. L. Corriveau thanked P. Bauries for all the work she has done for the children and administration.

R. Thackston asked for nominations for Vice Chair. **MOTION:** E. Jacod **MOVED** to nominate J. Carnie for the Vice Chair. **SECOND:** R. Smith. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to nominate M. Blair for Vice Chair. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **VOTE:** 6.305/5.484/.998/.213. **Motion passes for J. Carnie as Vice Chair.**

- 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** L. Corriveau informed the Board there are a lot of people in attendance concerned about the drama room being moved. J. Fortson has prepared a power point.

J. Butterfield introduced Kayla Blair and her coach T. Pickering. She is the State Champion in the 600 meter indoor track. R. Thackston presented her with a certificate of achievement from the Board. She will also receive a State Champion jacket from the Board. Congratulations Kayla!

J. Fortson presented her power point regarding the drama room. The Drama is not being cut but relocated. There will be more space available for the program. Room 105 is not up to code for a Drama Room. The SAU is moving to the High School. The cost for most of the move will be handled in house.

Kim Bohannon commented on the number of cuts in staff is extreme. She asked how the impact would affect the students. She asked if the teachers were notified, what the plan is and how many staff cuts. She would like the Board to address these issues.

Kate DeMasi and her son Josh DeMasi of Gilsum came before the Board. Kate read a letter her son wrote to ask the Board not to close the Gilsum School.

Lindsey Ellis of Gilsum encouraged the Board not to close the Gilsum School. She commented the school is the center of the town and the life line of the community. There are dedicated teachers and small classes. The long bus ride will hurt the kids. We need to come up with ideas to keep the Gilsum School open. You cannot close the school.

Karen Wheeler of Gilsum commented she does not want the Gilsum School to close. The school has small classrooms and good test scores. The school adds to the community.

Kim Tomer of Swanzey asked with the cuts in the guidance dept. will there be sufficient staff under the State requirements.

Jeannie LeClerc asked about the PE program at Monadnock for next year.

Rhonda Hull of Gilsum read a poem she wrote regarding it would be the best situation for her grandchildren to attend the Gilsum School. She would encourage the Board to keep the Gilsum School open.

Kelly Smith of Troy asked how the District will proceed after the cuts without compromising the student's education.

Michelle Colbert of Swanzey commented Mt. Caesar promotes respect and team work the administration needs to be held at that same standard. She commented it is not a very good working environment in the schools. She hopes the Board will address her concerns.

Lynne Rumba is concerned regarding any educational changes if any.

Dan Flynne from Winchester asked to speak to the Board. **MOTION:** B. Faulkner **MOVED** to allow D. Flynne a non-voter to speak. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 10.908/1.121/.757/.213. **Motion passes.** D. Flynne commented on the moving of the Drama Room. He said the staff should have been consulted. He also commented on the SAU staff moving to the high school building.

D. Coffman commented people should search for the facts regarding the Drama Room first. He encouraged members of the public to show up to the Board meetings more than once a

year. He thanked the Board for doing what the voters asked them to do. He asked the plan for the District. We have problems in the District. Look at the test scores. The Board and the administration are minority. We do not have the facts from the Board. We need a radical change.

Ed Jacod commented the Board discussed way to enroll more students at Gilsum. The school should stay open one more year to find ways to keep it open. We need to be creative.

L. Corriveau informed the audience the principals gave their staff needs per class policy and submitted it to the administration. Regarding guidance we looked at State standards. We will have two guidance counselors and a social worker at the elementary school. Regarding PE they also looked at State standards. The School Board Policy states 45 minutes of PE for grades 3 and up and 30 minutes for K-2. The PE teacher is based on seniority. K. Craig commented class size is per policy and the Board Policy has the classes smaller than what the State requires. She commented people are getting confused. The employees are District employees. They move around to where they are needed. The programs will stay the teacher may move. The reasons for the changes are reduced enrollment and budget reductions. L. Corriveau commented the Principals have their plans that they will present. We have a Strategic Plan. We are trying to get to the per pupil cost. Everything we do is on the website. The key data is encouraging in some areas and not so encouraging in others. The Budget Committee controls the bottom line. Get the costs down and improve the quality of education.

L. Corriveau explained the music program. He commented we love the arts. We want foreign language and want to add another foreign language teacher. We want to get an accelerated program at the elementary schools. The principals have said how many teachers they need based on enrollment. We want to expand the arts. We are known for the arts and athletics. We will build it up. Our numbers have gone down and we have had to make decisions. We cannot offer a class for 3 or 4 students. We are focusing on the needs of all the stake holders. We want people to move here. We appreciate these comments. We will not please everyone.

R. Thackston commented the old SAU 38 was housed in the White House which was dysfunctional. They are bringing the SAU to this building. The notices and changes to the staff are very hard but the administration is prescribed to do it by law. There is no way to justify the large staff with the decreasing enrollment. M. Colbert asked how many staff cuts were there. It was commented there are 24 staff cuts total in PreK-12. They are based on principal recommendations, driven by contracts and some seniority.

- 3. Consent Agenda: MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the March 4, 2014 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** E. Jacod **VOTE:** 8.424/0/4.363/.213. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the March 4, 2014, 9:32 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** P. Bauries **VOTE:** 8.424/0/4.363/.213. **Motion passes**

**MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the March 4, 2014, 10:19 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** E. Jacod **VOTE:** 8.424/0/4.363/.213. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the March 4, 2014, 10:33 Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** E. Jacod **VOTE:** 8.842/0/2.016/4.142. **Motion passes.**

- 4. Student Government Report:** Cameron Barth reported there was a Pep Rally on Feb. 21, 2014 recognizing the sports and clubs. The Interact Club in which C. Barth is a member of traveled to El Salvador to help build a house. When they arrived they were able to help with three houses. Before leaving the U.S. they packed items for the families in El Salvador. The musical Shriek was one of the best in awhile. Spring Sports are happening soon. The committee is meeting to think of ways to improve student grades. They will be asking area businesses to donate items which will be given to students with improved grades. The Destination Imagination Project Outreach is going to States. The Structure Team came in second and the team C. Barth is on came in second and will be going to the States in Nashua.
- 5. BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT:** J. Fortson passed out the MS22 for the Board to review. She also passed out a 5 year comparison of the MS22. She thanked everyone for the passing of Article Two and Three, the expansion of the science rooms and the Discovery Center.
- 6. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:** K. Craig passed out and has sent her report to the Board by email. She passed out a report from Kathy Shanks regarding the Fast ForWord Program and that it is a great bang for the buck. She commented the Shriek Production was the best ever. The Coach will begin work on focusing on student learning, monitoring and implementation.
- 7. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:**
  - 7a. Correspondence and Announcements:** L. Corriveau reported he has received a Winter Sports report from the Athletic Director. We want our kids to be involved. The best schools have kids involved in sports. Sixteen percent of our kids were involved in Winter Sports.  
  
Darlene Ayott has received the Guiding Star Silver Award promoting positive improvement of children.  
  
L. Corriveau informed the Board there will be a need for a number of non-public sessions.
  - 7b. Other Issues of Importance:** There are no other issues at this time.
- 8. BOARD CHAIR REPORT:** R. Thackston thanked the Board for the opportunity to chair this committee. He is often surprised of what people do not hear. The Town of Troy has had a large tax increase. He does not support closing the Gilsum School now but we cannot go forever. He is not sure of the options. The article to lower the cost per pupil by \$500.00 passed. The Board is very aware of the cost per pupil. We monitor our costs without eliminating education.

**R. Thackston will call for a recess.**

**9. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**9a. SAU 93 Committee:** R. Thackston will schedule a SAU Meeting a half an hour prior to the first meeting in May.

**9b. Budget Committee Report:** E. Stanley reported the Budget Committee will meet on April 29, 2014.

**9c. Cheshire Career Center:** W. Wright informed the Board J. Butterfield, P. Bauries and himself attended the Advisory Meeting at the CCC. They took a tour of the classrooms. The CCC would like to see more Monadnock students attend the program.

T. Kennett will be meeting with 20 of the top manufacturing companies in April to discuss the students in the SMART Program and the students in the high school.

**9d. Negotiations/Human Resource Committee:** E. Jacod reported the committee has not met.

**9e. Community Relations:** The committee has not met.

**9f. Finance Committee:** J. Carnie reported the committee met on March 12, 2014. There will be a few motions later in the meeting. The committee discussed the rationale of the administration move and the April non-renewals. J. Fortson spoke on the right to know and moving the Art Room. N. Moriarty spoke on the \$90,000.00 reduction in the budget and the fact it is a School Board decision on where they make the cuts. The committee discussed every warrant article. L. Corriveau spoke regarding the situation in Gilsum. Sixty-five percent or more of the voters voted to close the Gilsum School. The committee suggested a time line and a plan. J. Carnie commented the public has voted seriously. They have voted over 65%. They would have liked to keep it open for another year but as a committee and Board it would not be good to take a vote against the voters. Regarding the yearly reduction of \$500.00 on the cost per pupil the committee took a position of the Board should try. We face the declining numbers in the district it has a big effect on the increase of the per pupil cost. It becomes more difficult to justify keeping Gilsum open. The committee discussed Wilcox, cash handling guidelines and the fact the J's are unusable. J. Carnie commented the Finance Committee discussed in depth the closing of Gilsum.

**9g. Education Committee:** J. Carnie informed the Board the committee met on March 12, 2014. N. Moriarty discussed the Fast ForWord Program and his position that it is not the best for the district to eliminate the program. The Assistant Superintendent reported on the administration restructure. T. Kennett will be reducing a Special Ed. Coordinator and a Spec. Ed. teacher. It was commented if Gilsum closes the students would attend Mt. Caesar and Cutler. J. Carnie commented we need to look at all the schools. The committee discussed the Title One Program. The Education committee did not take position on the Technology Support Specialist. They discussed the World Language teacher and offering other foreign

language programs and the proposal for the restructure of the administration in the elementary schools.

**9h. Facilities Committee:** E. Jacod reported the committee did not meet.

**9i. Policy Committee:** This committee did not meet. They are scheduled to meet on March 25, 2014 at 6:00 PM.

**9j. Technology Committee:** This committee did not meet. They are scheduled to meet on March 25, 2014 at 5:00 PM.

**9k. Sports Committee:** This committee did not meet.

## **10. Old Business:**

**10a.** P. Bauries has received some of the Board evaluations. She will meet with R. Thackston to go forward with the evaluations.

R. Thackston would like to form an Elementary Study Committee to see what is in the best interest of the District. He would like to look at the entire package. L. Corriveau explained he would like to hire a consulting agency to look at our area with Keene. He would recommend a meeting with Keene then find the cost of consultants. He would like to bring someone from the outside into the Districts. The Budget Committee recommended this idea. R. Thackston commented L. Corriveau's idea should be separate. L. Corriveau commented we have a restructuring issue and the Gilsum issue. L. Corriveau explained after we hire the consulting agency it would be about 1-2 weeks before they could start. **MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** to create a Board Committee to look at the elementary school realignment and the closings. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **VOTE:** 12.787/0/0/.213. **Motion passes.**

## **11. NEW BUSINESS:**

**11a. Motions from the Education Committee:** **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** on behalf of the Education Committee to accept the Assistant Superintendent's proposal for the restructuring of the elementary schools in article 1 and article 2 of the report. **SECOND:** R. Smith. **DISCUSSION:** The rationale is the need to align best practices among the elementary schools. This will insure that practice monitored/implemented commonly in our elementary schools. The proposal calls for two co-directors with different focal areas (Ready for Kindergarten, birth to age 5 and the other an Elementary Turnaround Specialist). Declining population in both southern elementary schools together now is similar to the number of students at each Swanzey elementary school (Cutler /Mt. Caesar). E. Stanley asked how it would work with one principal at both schools. R. Thackston commented we need to pass this and put it to committee. R. Smith asked why it has to be sent to the committee. R. Thackston commented if the motion passes we are agreeing with K. Craig's proposal and then it will go to the committee to see how it will be implemented. **VOTE:** 12.787/0/0/.213. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** on behalf of the Education Committee to approve the hiring of an additional World Language teacher at the Middle/High School. **SECOND:** R. Smith.

**DISCUSSION:** It was explained currently we are unable to offer languages at the Middle School and we have French classes in the High School that are too large in size. A multi language teacher could address these areas of concern and open up opportunities for our students. **VOTE:** 12.787/0/0/.213. **Motion passes.**

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

**11c. Motions from the Finance Committee: MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** on behalf of the Finance Committee to approve the line item transfer of \$2500.00 from the Special Education equipment line to cover supplies purchased, within the same expense category. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 12.787/0/0/.213. **Motion passes.**

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

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

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

**11g. Action on the Manifest: MOTION:** B. Faulkner **MOVED** to accept the manifest in the amount of \$1,366,088.83. **SECOND:** E. Jacod **VOTE:** 12.787/0/0/.213. **Motion passes.**

**11h. New Business:** L. Corriveau reported Emerson Grade 3 will be going to the YMCA. There is a cost involved.

There will be an assembly with a Civil War reenactment.

L. Corriveau reported on the school fundraisers in the District. Class of 2016 will hold a Donation Dot fundraiser, Project Grad will hold a 3 on 3 basketball competition, Gilsum will hold a fundraiser to raise money for the Ferry Beach trip, Grade 6 at Cutler will sell tee shirts, ACCESS will hold a carnival at Mt. Caesar on May 16, 2014 and the PTG in Gilsum will sell go-go bags.

**Committee Assignments:**

**MOTION:** E. Jacod **MOVED** to appoint W. Wright as the Board representative to the CCC. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 12.787/0/0/.213. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** M. Blair **MOVED** to appoint M. Blair, W. Wright, L. Steadman and B. Faulkner to the Policy Committee. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 12.787/0/0/.213. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** E. Jacod **MOVED** to appoint E. Stanley, E. Jacod, B. Faulkner and B. Tatro to the Facilities Committee. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 12.787/0/0/.213. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** E. Jacod. **MOVED** to appoint W. Wright, E. Jacod, B. Faulkner, P. Bauries and R. Smith to the Negotiations/Human Resource Committee. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 12.787/0/0/.213. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** B. Faulkner **MOVED** to appoint P. Bauries and L. Steadman to the Wellness Committee. **SECOND:** R. Smith. **VOTE:** 10.908/0/1,878/.213. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to appoint M. Blair, E. Stanley and R. Smith to the Sports Committee. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 12.787/0/0/.213. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to appoint M. Blair, E. Stanley, B. Tatro and L. Steadman to the Technology Committee. **SECOND:** M. Blair. **VOTE:** 10.590/0/2.196/.213. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to appoint M. Blair, W. Wright, E. Jacod and L. Steadman to the Community Relations Committee. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **VOTE:** 12.787/0/0/.213. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** E. Jacod **MOVED** to appoint P. Bauries, M. Blair, W. Wright, B. Tatro and J. Carnie to the Education Committee. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** B. Faulkner is concerned the committee is the same on both the Education and the Finance Committee. The committees should have a different makeup. M. Blair explained the time of the meetings is a challenge. He does understand what B. Faulkner is saying. R. Thackston commented they are the most popular committees. P. Bauries explained the meetings are scheduled during the day because it is important for the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and the Business Manager to attend the meetings. J. Carnie commented the committee has not cancelled a scheduled meeting in 4 years and the minutes are up to date. It is convenient for the administration and it works. **VOTE:** 12.787/0/0/.213. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** E. Jacod. **MOVED** to appoint P. Bauries, M. Blair, P. Peterson, W. Wright, B. Tatro and J. Carnie to the Finance Committee. **VOTE:** 12.787/0/0/.213. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** R. Smith **MOVED** to appoint B. Tatro as the Budget Committee representative from the Board. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 9.833/0/2.953/.213. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to appoint B. Tatro, E. Jacod, P. Peterson and P. Bauries to the Elementary School Study Committee. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **VOTE:** 12.787/0/0/.213. **Motion passes.**

J. Carnie would like to vote on the SAU proposed guidebook at the May SAU Meeting. He would like to be able to review the book prior to the meeting. It will be emailed out to the Board Members.

R. Smith mentioned Conant has voted down the partnership with Monadnock regarding hockey. R. Thackston would like the Sports Committee to look at this issue, discuss it with T.

Stewart and then get back to the Board. P. Bauries commented she discussed this with T. Stewart and he said there are lack of funds and participation.

W. Wright reviewed the Board Meeting Calendar and he would request the Troy and Fitzwilliam Meeting places be changed in order that he may attend the meeting in Fitzwilliam, the town he represents. L. Corriveau commented the calendar was sent to the attorney it will be discussed in non-public session.

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

### **1. Hockey**

- 13. Public Comments: MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to allow Phyllis Maranott of Keene to speak to the Board. **SECOND:** B. Faulkner. **VOTE:** 12.787/0/0/2.213. **Motion passes.** P. Maranott would ask the Board to update the minutes on the website. They are out of date. J. Carnie would agree it is imperative to have the minutes posted and up to date.

Bethany from Roxbury asked how many SAU administrators would be moving to the Middle/High School building. J. Fortson explained 4 administrators will move to the Middle/High School along with 2 administrative assistants. The SSO will also be in the Middle/High School. T. Walsh, D. LaPointe and N. Richardson will move into the SAU building. Bethany commented she is concerned with people going to the school for the SAU. She is concerned with safety. L. Corriveau commented he has done this in other schools and it has worked.

D. Coffman would suggest the website for the minutes to go from newest to oldest. He commented on the 34 students in Gilsum and would encourage the Board to hear from the consultant.

Bethany of Roxbury asked if the Gilsum School was in the budget. R. Thackston explained it is in the budget and at this time the Board has no intention of doing anything different at the Gilsum School now.

*M. Blair and P. Peterson leave the meeting.*

- 14. 10:28 PM MOTION:** R. Smith **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:** E. Stanley **VOTE:** J. Carnie, B. Faulkner, R. Thackston, E. Jacod, E. Stanley, L. Steadman, R. Smith, B. Tatro, W. Wright and P. Bauries. 10.550/0/0/2.450. **Motion passes.**

- 15. 10:41 PM MOTION:** R. Smith **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II ( b ) Consideration of hiring a Public Employee. **SECOND:** E. Jacod **VOTE:** J. Carnie, L. Steadman, R. Smith, B. Tatro, W. Wright, R. Thackston, B. Faulkner, E. Jacod, E. Stanley and P. Bauries. 10.550/0/0/2.450. **Motion passes.**

**16. 10:50 PM MOTION:** E. Jacod **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II ( e ) Pending Litigation. **SECOND:** P. Bauries **VOTE:** J. Carnie, W. Wright, R. Thackston, R. Smith, E. Stanley, L. Steadman, B. Faulkner, E. Jacod, P. Peterson and P. Bauries. 10.550/0/0/2.450 **Motion passes.**

**17. Motion to adjourn: MOTION:** R. Smith **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 11:04 PM. **SECOND:** R. Smith **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis  
Recording secretary