

**Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**(Approved Minutes)**  
**November 5, 2014**  
**Cutler Elementary School, Swanzey, NH**

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

**Absent:** Robert Smith, Lisa Steadman, Eric Stanley and unassigned seats from Roxbury.

**Administration present:** L. Corriveau, 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 7:36PM.

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

- 1. Public Comments:** Carey Peets a custodian in the District said she heard a rumor that she would not be receiving her health insurance benefits. R. Thackston assured her that was not going to happen.

L. Ellis of Gilsum is asking the Board for a 5 year commitment/agreement to keep the Gilsum School open. She said they need this time to get the grants and increase enrollment. There is a meeting tomorrow at 5:00 PM. She would invite the Board to attend the meeting to see what they are doing.

K. Wheeler of Gilsum commented ever since the Elementary AD HOC Committee was consolidated into the Education/Policy Committee she has not seen any discussion in the minutes. She would like the Board to form that committee to focus on the elementary schools in the District. Give Gilsum time. We have potential students put they are nervous because of an illegal vote. She is asking for a cost analysis and a guaranteed time.

M. Diven handed the Board information on STEAM and STEM. She commented we have a gem in Gilsum. We all love the program but how do we know without the time to collect data. This is the only STEAM Program in the State. We should build on this and watch our kids succeed. This is an investment. It needs to be looked at as an investment in our student's future.

- 2. Consent Agenda:**

**MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the October 21, 2014 Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** M. Blair. **VOTE:** 8.789/0/.757/3.454. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the October 21, 2014 10:13 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** M. Blair. **VOTE:** 8.789/0/.757/3.454. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the October 21, 2014, 10:20 PM Non-public meeting minutes as presented. **SECOND:** M. Blair **VOTE:** 8.789/0/.757/3.454. **Motion passes.**

3. **Student Government Report:** There is no Student Government Report.
4. **BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT:** J. Fortson passed out information on the tax assessment for each town. She will be discussing one additional item under the Finance/Facilities Committee.
5. **ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:** K. Craig passed out the agenda from the most recent workshop day. She thanked the lead teachers for their part in a successful workshop day. She also passed out the newsletter from the Technology Instructional Specialist. K. Craig introduced M. Suarez and A. Salzmänn who explained the Standards Based Report Card. They will implement the Report Card in December. A. Salzmänn and M. Suarez explained there are a number of opportunities for the parents to view the new report card.

It was asked of the principals what happened to the Fast ForWord Program. A. Salzmänn and M. Suarez explained it has been removed and replaced with what we are doing in literacy now. They do not see the program making a difference. They said there are far better programs in place. We have Keys to Literacy and bench marks twice a year. We have assessments weekly and monthly. A. Salzmänn explained we took kids out of the Fast ForWord and put them in another program and they are succeeding. It is a high cost program for a certain number of children.

**6. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:**

**6a. Correspondence and Announcements:** L. Corriveau passed out his hand written report. L. Corriveau informed the Board N. Richardson is here to report on the Crisis Response Plan. The Board will not be able to see all of the report but N. Richardson could answer questions and have a discussion. N. Richardson reported he has been working on this plan for about a year. He will have to meet with each principal to review the evacuation plan for each school. Where will the students go? This plan will supersede all plans in place. The State requires that we submit a plan for each school. L. Corriveau thanked N. Richardson for his leadership on this.

L. Corriveau reported K. Upton, W. Wright and himself met with the CCC at KHS. The proposal from the Fall Mtn. Superintendent is to allow the sending schools the choice of which Career Center is in the best interest of the student other than the CCC. W. Wright thought at first it was a good thing. He believes this will not be easy. It should be reviewed by an attorney. We do not want 67 of our students to say they do not like Keene and all

decide to go to Fall Mountain. L. Corriveau would recommend the Board go very slow on this recommendation and do more research. Our relationship with Keene is building. We want to support them. R. Thackston commented this is advisory. L. Corriveau commented we are developing a great relationship with Keene. We are discussing allowing students who go to the CCC to be allowed to take courses at Keene and allow Keene students to take courses at Monadnock. Keene has courses we do not have at Monadnock. There will be a NESDEC presentation on November 25, 2014. L. Corriveau passed out his draft budget proposal to the Budget Committee at a previous meeting. The number has changed since the handout. The GMR came in at 1% and J. Fortson had budgeted for 5%. The change will be a decrease in the proposed as well as in the default. The Budget Committee suggested buying items the district may want with the surplus. The Board has not had a discussion on the budget. L. Corriveau reported he attended a Student Leadership Conference. Students from Gilsum, Cutler and Emerson participated and made the District very proud. The STEAM Program is gaining excitement and it is suggested this idea needs to be expanded to another school. Cutler would be a good school for the program. In non-public the Board will be discussing aligning the Athletic eligibility with the Student Code.

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

- 7. BOARD CHAIR REPORT:** R. Thackston asked the Board to revisit the idea of an AD HOC Committee as suggested in October 21, 2014 Board Minutes. **MOTION:** M. Blair **MOVED** to create an AD HOC Committee for the formation and expansion of the STEAM Program. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** It was commented this is the responsibility of the Education Committee. There are a whole range of questions, not just one. It is not only the Education but the Facilities and Finance. J. Carnie commented this does not apply to only Gilsum. M. Blair suggests getting input from lots of different areas. J. Carnie is not opposed but concerned about expanding it at this time. We started off with Gilsum and with all the issues involved it bothers him to make this too big. People are asking for a commitment. He would like to narrow it down and deal with Gilsum and to see if it is feasible to deal with that particular item. We need to address the issue in Gilsum. He does not want it to be so broad. L. Corriveau reminded the Board the dedication of the Discovery Center will happen on Dec. 2, 2014. He understands the concern we want to separate Gilsum out. STEM and STEAM are the first in the State. We need this curriculum. The Gilsum School is a different issue. P. Peterson would like to address the Gilsum issues. She would like to know the financial aspects and how to help them get more students. B. Faulkner commented to close or not to close is not a simple question. We have failed to listen to the impact of the questions such as bussing and where will the student go to school. It is very important to make sure we have the knowledge and commitment. We have to gather the information, have a time frame and see how it fits into the budget cycle. J. Carnie is concerned the budget is closing in quickly. He would agree to look at the keeping it open. What is the benefit of the AD HOC? B. Faulkner commented the time frame is from now until the Deliberative Session. E. Jacod asked if by suggesting Cutler as a site with grades 3-6 and Gilsum K-6, are we skipping Mt. Caesar. B. Tatro commented Mt. Caesar and Cutler may be able to take one class at each level. M. Blair commented although this conversation is great we should not use this time to hash out all of this. We cannot solve this tonight. Have the AD HOC figure these questions out. R. Thackston asked if someone was to cut the proposed budget at the Deliberative

Session is that permitted. J. Fortson said it is and the Board would decide where to cut in the budget. The Default Budget has Gilsum in it. J. Carnie commented the motion is too vague. R. Thackston said the focus is the STEAM Program in Gilsum. P. Bauries would suggest adding Gilsum to the motion. **MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to amend the motion as follows: To explore the STEAM that exists in the Gilsum School and make recommendations for its future and expansion with the charge of determining education and financial costs and benefits. **SECOND:** J. Carnie. **DISCUSSION:** K. Craig commented the Budget Committee needs to be involved in this. J. Carnie said this is not just a budgetary item but education. It was commented there are inequities with the Gilsum children. Troy and Emerson students are excluded because of the transportation. J. Fortson needs to know educationally what the Board wants this program to look like and then she will come up with the numbers. M. Blair commented we have so many options, it is impossible for J. Fortson to come up with a number. **VOTE on amendment:** 9.546/0/0/3.545. **Motion passes. VOTE on amended motion:** 9.546/0/0/3.545. **Motion passes. MOTION:** P. Bauries. **MOVED** to have the AD HOC Committee report back to the Board at the second Board Meeting in January and with a final report by June 30, 2015. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 9.546/0/0/3.545. **Motion passes.**

R. Thackston reported he had been in contact with the Board's attorney and he advised the Board not to vote the Monadnock United Resolution as an item but to refer it to the CRC. This item will be placed on the agenda.

## **8. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**8a. Education & Policy:** M. Blair reported the committee met on October 28 and November 3. They discussed the STEAM Academy. They discussed two policies. There is a motion later on consolidating the Athletic Book and the Act of Misconduct in the Parent Handbook. All documents are not consistent. There was a report from the administration regarding the Master schedule, there are concerns. The next meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2014.

**8b. Finance/Facilities:** M. Blair reported the committee met on November 3, 2014. J. Fortson and D. LaPointe reviewed a list of items for the Health and Safety Warrant Article and a Mt. Caesar Warrant. They also presented a cost savings program from PSNH. The committee discussed the Gilsum AD HOC, the lower soccer fields and the throwing event plans. The next meeting is on November 12, 2014 at 6:00 PM.

**8c. Budget Committee:** B. Tatro reported the Budget Committee met. J. Fortson reviewed the Budget Oversight. The budget books were distributed. N. Richardson reviewed the status of the chrome books. L. Corriveau did a presentation on the proposed budget. It is estimated to be 1.5 million to bring the data at Mt. Caesar up to speed.

**8d. Community Relations Committee:** The committee has not met.

**8e. Sports Committee:** There is no report.

**9. Old Business:**

**9a. Administrative Assistant for AD/Assistant Principal:** M. Blair reported this was discussed at the Sports Committee.

**9b. Other Old Business as may come before the Board:** There is no Other Old Business.

**10. NEW BUSINESS:**

**10a. Motions from Education & Policy Committee:** **MOTION:** M. Blair **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy Committee to recommend to the full Board to accept Policy EBC Crisis Prevention and Response as presented. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** P. Bauries commented it does not say the Superintendent should submit. **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to amend the policy and remove to following from the policy: and further directs the Superintendent to submit the emergency response plans to the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Department of Safety. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **VOTE:** 4.068/5.477/0/3.454. **Amendment fails. VOTE:** 6.592/2.593/0/3.454. **Motion passes.**

The Safety Manual was emailed but will be in the Board packet for next time.

**MOTION:** M. Blair **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy Committee to recommend to the full Board to strike the entire section of the Substance Abuse Policy and add “refer to Acts of Misconduct” in the Student Handbook. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** P. Bauries would like to wait until the next meeting. M. Blair commented we have inconsistencies we need to get this done because the Winter Sports will begin. B. Faulkner commented the rules in the Student Handbook apply to all students. P. Bauries has a concern because it is time sensitive but agrees with the policy. **VOTE:** 8.471/0/1.075/3.454. **Motion passes.**

M. Blair would like to put Policy JIH-R on hold until he has a response back from the individuals reviewing the policy.

**MOTION:** M. Blair **MOVED** on behalf of the Education/Policy Committee to recommend to the full Board to authorize the principals to establish a committee to evaluate and review the Master Schedule. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 8.424/0/0/4.516. **Motion passes.**

**10b. Motions from Finance & Facilities Committee:** **MOTION:** M. Blair **MOVED** on behalf of the Finance/Facilities Committee to recommend to the full Board to hire Ross Gibson of the Richards Group to facilitate a Team Building Training Session in the amount of \$500.00. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to table the motion until there is more information. **SECOND:** P. Bauries. **VOTE:** 8.547/0/.998/3.454. **Motion passes.**

J. Fortson informed the Board the freezers in three of the schools require a person to check them twice a day. She would like the District to purchase three condensers in the amount of \$22,720.00 with half being returned by PSNH. Not only will it eliminate the person who checks the freezers but will save on electricity. **MOTION:** M. Blair **MOVED** on behalf of the Finance/Facilities Committee to recommend to the full Board to purchase the condensers

in the amount of \$22,720.00 with \$11,360.00 being returned back to the District from PSNH. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 9.546/0/0/3.454 **Motion passes.**

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

**10d. Action on the Manifest: MOTION:** B. Faulkner **MOVED** to accept the manifest in the amounts of \$ 1,707,562.34. **SECOND:** W. Wright **VOTE:** 9.546/0/0/3.454. **Motion passes.**

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

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

- 1. Administrative Assistant for AD/Assist. Principal (Finance Committee)**
- 2. SAU Interim Superintendent**
- 3. Tabled Motions**
- 4. Ross Gibson information in packet**

**12. Public Comments:** Melissa Fitzgerald supports the termination of the Fast Forward Program.

D. Coffman informed the Board he and N. Moriarty are putting together information about student enrollment and staff trends. This information can be updated yearly and easily. He would suggest having a Budget Committee Member on the STEAM AD HOC Committee. We want to see the education objectives, the vision and cost.

L. Ellis of Gilsum would like to be on the Gilsum AD HOC Committee.

K. Wheeler asked if the AD HOC Committee structure would be announced at the next meeting.

M. Diven asked how she is going to get people to sign up for the STEAM Academy knowing there is a committee looking at the program. B. Faulkner commented we do not control all variables.

**13. 10:35 PM Motion to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II ( c ) Maters 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 ) Maters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 9.546/0/0/3.454. **Motion passes.**

**14. 11:11 PM Motion to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Hiring of a Public Employee. MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Hiring of a Public employee. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **VOTE:** 9.546/0/0/3.454. **Motion passes.**

**15. 11:28 PM Motion to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (f)**

**Consideration of matters related to the preparation for, and or carrying out of, emergency functions. MOTION:** P. Peterson. **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (f) Consideration of matters related to the preparation for, and or carrying out of, emergency functions. **SECOND:** M. Blair. **VOTE:** 9.546/0/0/3.454. **Motion passes.**

**16. Motion to adjourn: MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 11:32 PM. **SECOND:** P. Peterson **VOTE:** 9.546/0/0/3.454. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis  
Recording secretary