

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
(Approved Minutes)
October 7, 2014
Monadnock MS/HS, Swanzey, NH

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

Absent: M. Blair and unassigned seats from Roxbury.

Administration present: L. Corriveau, Superintendent, K. Craig, Assistant Superintendent and J. Fortson, Business Manager.

Also present: Linda Heath

R. Thackston opened the meeting at 7:45PM.

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

1. **Public Comments:** N. Moriarty asked why he was taken off the Technology Committee. He said he has something to offer and contribute. He would like to be added back on the committee. He commented there are only 42 kids at the Gilsum School and 9 are from other schools in the District. The cost for Gilsum is \$806,000.00. He would recommend closing the school.

Bob Mitchell of Swanzey asked what action the Board is going to take on the vote of no confidence. He commented 90% of the staff is in favor of the vote of no confidence. He asked what is happening and it should be made public.

W. Matson from Troy said Troy has the highest taxes and the smartest students. He asked what Board rep. had the voters support to close the Gilsum School. He said all except Gilsum raised their hands. He asked what Board rep. had voters support to reduce the per pupil cost by \$500.00. He answered every town. He commented the Board is obligated to make decisions based on the voter's wishes.

2. Consent Agenda:

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the Sept. 16, 2014 Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **VOTE:** 10.550/0/1.115/1.335. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the Sept. 16, 2014 9:34 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **VOTE:** 10.550/0/1.115/1.335. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the Sept. 16, 2014, 9:40 PM Non-public meeting minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Faulkner **VOTE:** 10.550/0/1.115/1.335. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the Sept. 16, 2014 9:50 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **VOTE:** 10.550/0/1.115/1.335. **Motion passes.**

3. **Student Government Report:** There is no student representative present. Linda Kalloger reported the students are at a soccer game and she will be reporting tonight. It is Husky Spirit Week. There will be a Pep Rally on Friday and the students will be voting on a King and Queen. There will be a bonfire on Friday and the students will decorate the halls.
4. **BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT:** J. Fortson passed out information on the adequacy money for the individual towns. She reported there will be an increase to Swanzey and Richmond which will make their tax rates go down. She reported the surplus is around 2 million dollars. R. Thackston asked if this surplus will go to the towns to reduce the amount needed to raise and appropriate. J. Fortson said yes. J. Fortson explained the areas in which there were savings. E. Jacod commented there are some towns which at times are tardy on their payment to the District. We need to have a surplus because some towns do not pay. Don't declare dividends if you can't pay the bills.
5. **ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:** K. Craig reported Emerson will be recognized by the State for coming off the list as a Focus School. They were the only school in the State. Troy surpassed the State on the NECAP results and Grade 11 did well on the Science NECAP test. K. Craig commented there is a lot of work to do as a result of the SAT. The students went down in everything especially math. We have a Math Coach for the high school. The Math Coach is making recommendations and we need to move the process down to the lower grades. The District has an SAT/ACT course going on this year. She passed out information on class size. She commented there are 10 classes with less than 10 students. She reported the issues regarding music and guidance are resolved. She passed out the newsletter from the Technology Instructional Specialist. She also passed out information on the workshop day. B. Tatro is concerned with the class size of 21 at Mt. Caesar. K. Craig explained they have supports in place. There have been 23 students at times in classes at Emerson.
6. **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:**
 - 6a. **Correspondence and Announcements:** L. Corriveau reported the official enrollment number is down 28 students. There is a concern around math on the SAT. He reported the District brought in literacy coaches and interventionists. We are seeing it take root. We are doing it in Math as well, Math Content Coaches. There is a critical shortage for Math and Science teachers. Cutler drinking water is safe to drink. We will recommend periodic testing. The STEM Discovery Center will be finished soon. They would like a plaque to hang in the Center and he would like feedback from the Board. L. Corriveau reported he will be meeting with Keene on October 20, 2014 at 9:00 AM to see how they can collaborate together to best serve the students. Keene has said align Monadnock's schedule to Keene's and more students could attend the CCC. We could ask Keene to adopt the hour calendar to help with the schedule. He will be meeting with Virginia Berry to discuss the sophomore class

attending the CCC. Fred Bramante of the 10,000 mentors presented to 60-70 students, community members and staff. He spoke to the students from the SMART Program regarding ELO mentors. It was a very successful day. L. Corriveau reported they are having difficulty with substitutes. He would like to have the Finance Committee look at this issue. We pay \$75.00 a day. He would recommend increasing the stipend. Area schools are getting between \$85.00 - \$100.00. Nurses receive \$140.00 a day. He commented he understands the Gilsum issue. The STEAM Academy has taken off. It is a remote issue. No matter what he would recommend taking the STEAM concept. The teacher attendance document was handed out. There will be an in-service day on Monday. Troy, Emerson and the HS science scores have increased. Math remains a real issue. We need to do something to help the teachers and the students.

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

- 7. BOARD CHAIR REPORT:** R. Thackston commented it would be beneficial to the students that attend the CCC to go to Keene all day. The students are wasting time on the buses. This is reasonable to consider. He would suggest the superintendent look into this. R. Thackston reported he and R. Smith have been working on the following motion for weeks which was handed out to the Board. The motion is to close the Gilsum School. **MOTION:** R. Smith **MOVED** to close the Gilsum School effective at the end of the current school year. The Superintendent to provide educational options for the Gilsum students for 2015-2016 school year. Educational options should consider working jointly with other districts as well as the cost associated with all options in addition to the option of sending Gilsum students to Swanzey schools. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **DISCUSSION:** P. Bauries commented this is a very emotional and financial issue. By bringing this forth you are throwing 33-34 students under the bus just like you did to the School Board Members. She would like to see a plan. Paying tuition to Keene will not save \$806,000.00. She would like to table the motion until the next meeting. **MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** to table the motion until the next Board Meeting. **SECOND:** B. Faulkner. **VOTE:** 5.548/6.118/0/1.335. **Motion fails.** **DISCUSSION:** E. Jacod commented he does not see how we can financially justify sending the kids to Keene. These students are going to generate relationships with students in this District. W. Wright commented he does not see any motion to send the kids to Keene. E. Jacod commented it was referenced at another meeting. The Superintendent will make a plan. J. Carnie commented he opposes the motion. He agrees with closing the school but not the rest of the motion. We have closed two other schools at the town's request. If we close this school it is our responsibility to educate those students. He has a problem with what the motion does to the Town of Gilsum. The people voted to close the school then bring the kids here to educate them. If we are taking action on the Gilsum School we should also do the \$500.00 per pupil cost. There are serious ramifications on the second half of the motion. **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to amend the motion to read as follows: Close the Gilsum School effective at the end of the current school year. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 4.426/5.361/1.878/1.335. **Motion fails.** P. Bauries would like a recorded roll call vote on the original motion. E. Jacod commented the sense around Gilsum is they would prefer the idea of going to Mt. Caesar and Cutler rather than going out of district. B. Faulkner will be voting no on the motion. There is no information on the savings or where they will go. E. Jacod is concerned there is a lot of work to do. The vote on the warrant was to close the school. There is now time to piece it together

before the end of the year. We need a plan and we need to move on this motion. P. Peterson said financially we do need to close the school however we need to come up with a plan and keep the students in Monadnock. She does not like the way it is written. B. Faulkner commented we cannot reduce by \$806,000.00. We need a plan. P. Bauries agrees with P. Peterson and B. Faulkner. You are putting the cart before the horse. We need the information on the savings and where the students will go and not to another district. This should have been decided prior to the motion. W. Wright commented this motion makes action happen. We need the time. He will vote to close. B. Tatro commented as an educator she loves what is happening in Gilsum but as the rep. for Swanzey they voted 2 to 1 to close the school. J. Carnie commented the Gilsum closing is necessary and should have been done but when we are talking about sending the kids to another District it should have been discussed at the SAU meeting. **VOTE:** R. Thackston-yes, W. Wright-yes, L. Steadman-yes, E. Stanley-yes, P. Peterson-yes, B. Faulkner-no, P. Bauries-no, J. Carnie-no, E. Jacod-yes, R. Smith-yes and B. Tatro-yes. 8.347/3.318/0/1.335. **Motion passes.**

R. Thackston leaves the meeting and J. Carnie takes over the meeting. J. Carnie calls for a 5 minute recess.

8. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

8a. Education & Policy: E. Stanley reported the committee met on Sept. 23, 2014. T. Kennett discussed the guidance services. The guidance dept. will meet to formulate a plan to address the current issue. Dr. Carey reported on how they will fix the instrumental lesson issue. SAT scores were reported. There is a concern in Math. The junior class had performed well in the Science NECAP. Troy did a great job on the NECAP. The Homework Policy is on the agenda. The Policy Committee will review the Student Athlete Extra Curricular Policy. The policy should pertain to all students involved in all activities. Dr. Corriveau would like to supply grades 6 and 12 with chrome books. He would like to put it in the budget. There is already \$45,000.00 in the technology line. E. Stanley explained the committee will be looking at the homework policy because not everyone is on the same page. This is a concern from the public. The music schedule was presented and everyone will receive lessons.

8b. Finance/Facilities: L. Steadman reported the committee has not met. She reported they would like to look at a schedule for regular testing of the drinking water. L. Steadman would like to address the substitute issue. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to increase the teacher substitute pay by \$10.00 per day from \$75.00 to \$85.00. (This motion did not originate in the Finance/Facilities Committee) **SECOND:** R. Smith. **DISCUSSION:** E. Jacod asked about the existing teachers to cover the classes. L. Corriveau mentioned there are not a lot of teachers who want to give up their prep period. J. Carnie would like the Education Committee to look at this and compare the pay with different areas. L. Steadman and R. Smith would like to vote on this today. **VOTE:** 7.714/0/2.953/1.335. **Motion passes.** The next meeting is on October 14, 2014 at 6:00 PM.

8c. Budget Committee: B. Tatro reported the Budget Committee met on Sept. 23, 2014. She informed the Board T. Kennett reported on the preschool program and the all day care

program. They discussed the NESDEC report, a planned administrative meeting with Keene and the chrome books. The Budget Committee will not be able to have a member on the Negotiations Committee because it was not agreed upon by all parties prior to the start of negotiations. The Math Content Coaches will be funded by Title II. The committee discussed the teacher evaluations and the failure rate on the chrome books. J. Fortson reported on the amount remaining in the budget and the fact that staff are still being hired. It was suggested a separate warrant for Mt. Caesar maintenance and the rest of the District maintenance on another warrant. The Budget Committee is waiting for the recommendations from the administration for the budget discussion.

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

8e. Sports Committee: E. Stanley reported the committee met. Lynn Johns is concerned with the athletic forms. N. Richardson, L. Patnode and L. Johns will meet to get a better process in place. There will be a motion regarding the elementary teachers who coach. The next meeting is on October 20, 2014 at 3:30 PM.

9. Old Business:

9a. IK Policy: M. Blair is not present at this meeting to explain.

9b. Monadnock United: The Resolution was reviewed by the attorney. There is no discussion.

9c. Tabled Motion-Music: This issue has been resolved.

9d. Other Old Business as may come before the Board: W. Wright reported the CCC Advisory Committee will be meeting on October 31, 2014 at 7:30 AM.

P. Bauries reported she had attended the 10,000 Mentors presentation and signed up to be on the committee.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

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

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

10c. Motions from the Sports Committee: MOTION: E. Stanley **MOVED** on behalf of the Sports Committee to allow any club advisor/coach to be authorized to leave school prior to dismissal to attend competitions only. **SECOND:** R. Smith. **DISCUSSION:** E. Stanley explained the coaches and advisors may not leave early for practice. K. Craig does agree with the MS/HS coaches but has concerns regarding the elementary teachers. The elementary principals are opposed to this. L. Steadman asked to review the coach nominations next time. K. Craig commented it has presented a challenge. B. Tatro explained she found coverage within the school. R. Smith suggested a substitute for an hour or two. K. Craig said it is a

good idea but there is a cost, teacher cost, coach cost and substitute cost. E. Stanley commented the cost of the coach is really nothing and most give it back. It is hard to find coaches. P. Bauries asked if the Sports Committee was aware the administration said no. E. Stanley is not aware of the procedure. R. Smith commented the administration present supported the motion. L. Corriveau said this is more complex. There was only one case this year. K. Craig suggested the MS/HS. R. Smith said district wide and L. Patnode would look into it. K. Craig said there is no question about the High School. L. Corriveau commented to trust the Athletic Director he can handle it. **VOTE:** 9.910/0/0.757/2.333. **Motion passes.**

K. Craig leaves the meeting.

10d. Action on the Manifest: MOTION: B. Faulkner **MOVED** to accept the manifest in the amounts of \$2,242,697.94. **SECOND:** P. Peterson **VOTE:** 10.667/0/0/2.333. **Motion passes.**

10e. Other New Business as may come before the Board: MOTION: R. Smith **MOVED** to allow the High School Band to travel to Disney World in April. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** L. Corriveau explained there are about 60 students going on the trip. The District has allowed this before. The students will have fund raisers and pay for their own trip. Any work missed will be made up by the students. **VOTE:** 9.910/.757/0/2.333. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to allow the French Class to travel to Quebec in February. **SECOND:** R. Smith. **DISCUSSION:** The students will have fund raisers and pay for their own trip. **VOTE:** 10.667/0/0/2.333. **Motion passes.**

L. Corriveau will have M. Suarez report on what happened this past Thursday at Mt. Caesar.

11. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

1. Administrative Assistant for AD/Assist. Principal (Finance Committee)

12. Public Comments: N. Moriarty would like to be put back on the Technology Committee. He corrected the Gilsum number to be \$806,000.00 as a savings.

W. Lechlinder informed the Board the Budget Committee has discussed the budget. They discussed the 2 million dollar surplus, what has been spent over the past 5 years and the savings with the closing of Gilsum. J. Carnie had informed the Board the Finance Committee had made recommendations to the Budget Committee back and forth. He hopes we do not run too late. There are fewer students. W. Lechlinder commented they have been waiting for the NESDEC study.

B. Tatro would like to have the Monadnock United on the agenda. J. Carnie suggested B. Tatro go through R. Thackston to get it on the agenda.

D. Cairns of Swanzey thanked the Board for allowing his children to go to Disney. They are part of the band. He asked when the Board would be addressing the July 15, 2014 Board Minutes.

13. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: E. Jacod **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 10:32 PM.
SECOND: P. Peterson **VOTE:** 10.667/0/0/2.333. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording secretary