

**Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**March 1, 2016**  
**Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH**

**Members Present:** Pat Bauries, Betty Tatro, Joseph Smith, Barry Faulkner, Phyllis Peterson, Scott Peters, Lisa Steadman, Karen Wheeler, Winston Wright, James Carnie, Nicholas Mosher, Mike Blair and Bob Mitchell.

**Administration present:** L. Witte, Superintendent and J. Fortson, Business Manager.

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

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

B. Faulkner called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

**1. Public Comments:** G. Hoffman addressed the Board regarding a question of residency. He said the SSO was asked to drive to his house to make sure he was still living there. There was a question due to the fact someone saw him at another school and was picking his kids up after school at Monadnock. He was very upset and asked why the administration just didn't ask him for an electric bill. The SSO went on private property. He said Frank is supposed to be at the school. He would like the District to focus on education. He also wanted the Board to know a bus from Troy went back to Monadnock because of a student issue. The student was brought back into the school. He questioned bringing the student into the building with the rest of the students.

L. Steadman thanked B. Faulkner for his service to the District. It was a very hard year. We need to set a good tone for the next Board. We do have a policy related to the Board. She read the policy. We need a new tone for the new Board.

**2. 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:** J. 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:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 13/0/0. **Motion passes.**

**3. Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (b) Hiring of a Public Employee: MOTION:** J. Smith **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II (b) Hiring of a Public Employee. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie said the Board informed the Public that the Board was going into non-public under RSA 91-A:3, II (c) and we are now going under (b). The motion is out of order. The public is waiting. **J. Smith and P. Peterson withdraw their motion.**

**4. 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:** J. 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:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 11.712/.214/1.075/0. **Motion passes.**

**Return to Public Session: MOTION:** J. Smith **MOVED** to seal the March 1, 2016, 7:10 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes until July 1, 2020. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 9.682/1.121/2.196/0. **Motion passes.**

**5. MINUTES: MOTION:** J. Smith **MOVED** to accept the January 11, 2016 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 9.422/0/3.578/0. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** J. Smith **MOVED** to accept the February 2, 2016 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 10.804/0/2.196/0. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the February 2, 2016, 9:34 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** J. Smith. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/1.121/0. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the February 2, 2016, 9:42 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** J. Smith **VOTE:** 10.047/0/2.953/0. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the February 6, 2016 Pre/Post Deliberative Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** J. Smith. **VOTE:** 10.544/0/2.456/0. **Motion passes.**

**6. Student Government Report:** There is no Student Government Report.

**7. Superintendent Report:**

**a. Correspondence and Announcements:** L. Witte informed the Board Lydia Buonomano and Caroline Perrotta have been awarded the National Merit Scholarship. Kayla Blair and James Elmour are the top winners for indoor track and Jason Rosales, Kaitlyn Priest and Braeden Hout are the top winners for swimming. Gilsum School will travel to the State House in Concord. Troy, Emerson and Mt. Caesar will celebrate 100 day with a variety of activities. The Cutler 4<sup>th</sup> grade will be doing video announcements once a week. Troy is collecting cans for Helping Hands. L. Witte read the list of fund raisers going on in the District.

**MOTION:** J. Smith **MOVED** to accept the Badger \$1,000.00 grant for the Gilsum STEAM Academy and a \$200.00 grant for the STEM kids from the Montshire Museum. **SECOND:** M. Blair. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to approve the field trip to see the USS Constitution on May 27, 2016. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

**b. Business Administrator:** J. Fortson explained she had been asked by Vachon, Clukay & Company PC to fill out the Fraud questionnaire. She is asking the Board to sign the

completed document. **MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to approve the responses to the Fraud questionnaire and to allow L. Witte and B. Faulkner to sign the Fraud questionnaire on behalf of the District. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** J. Fortson said the information will be used and not put on the shelf. She will contact Vachon, Clukay & Company PC when needed. **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to postpone until the next meeting. **SECOND:** P. Bauries **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie and P. Bauries would like to have an opportunity to review the information. It was commented the Board had this information in the February 15, 2016 packet to review. **VOTE to postpone:** 5.548/7.453/0/0. **Motion fails.** **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie said it was not included in his packet and he does not receive the packets through email. B. Mitchell commented the Board is supposed to fill out the information. J. Fortson said this information is part of the audit in order to sign off. M. Blair said we hire the administration to do this. J. Carnie said the Board needs to look at this for at least one meeting. N. Mosher said J. Fortson is the best person to fill out this information. If anyone wants to do the work he will vote no. S. Peters said the Extra-Curricular Committee is discussing this issue. L. Steadman said a motion would have been for J. Fortson to fill this out. B. Mitchell said ultimately J. Fortson would fill it out but at least have the Board review it. **VOTE:** 8.561/3.318/1.121/0. **Motion passes.** P. Bauries is disappointed in the vote. She said no one really read this. You are not allowing the Board to fulfill their responsibility. N. Mosher said he read it.

**c. Other Issues of Importance:**

**8. BOARD CHAIR REPORT:**

**a. Chair Report:** B. Faulkner said his term is done on March 8, 2016. At the March 15, 2016 meeting the Superintendent will run the meeting until a Chair is elected. He is appreciative to the Board and the voters for serving in this very important job. There are a number of good candidates running. It is a very encouraging sign. The Board has accomplished the selection of the Superintendent. The Board is listening to others better but with a way to go. When focusing on the overall education of the kids we act as a Board. We are part of a team. We need to move toward the same goal. Good Luck and Best Wishes.

**9. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND \*MOTIONS:**

**a. Budget Committee Representative:** B. Mitchell reported that committee met on February 17, 2016. They discussed HS class enrollment. They were not satisfied and would like to have the J. Smith format. The committee reviewed the absenteeism of the District. The committee spoke of the \$510,000.00 hiding issue. They questioned the unpaid leave for the staff. The division of the Budget Committee and the Board at the Deliberative Session was discussed. They beat up the contract delivery.

**b. Community Relations Committee:** S. Peters reported the committee met earlier tonight. They have set dates for the Round Table Discussion for the MS/HS. They discussed a process to respond to social media when you cannot craft a response as fast as social media.

**c. Education Committee:** P. Bauries reported the committee met on February 15, 2016 and heard a presentation from T. Kennett on the Special Education and the coding process. They discussed the IDEA grants, the CPI Teams and the Special Education 5 year evaluation. L.

Carey reported the staff at Cutler voted down the School Wide Title I at Cutler. The next meeting is on March 7, 2016 at 6:30 PM. The Catastrophic Aid coming to the District is short along with other Districts. On the overall evaluation the District went well. There were some paper issues. J. Smith would like a copy of the evaluation.

**d. Technology Committee:** S. Peters reported the committee met and reviewed and approved the Charter of the committee. On March 17, 2016 the committee will work with N. Richardson to review the technology policies. The Technology Committee would like each committee to have a charter. **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to accept the Technology Charter as submitted. **SECOND:** M. Blair. **DISCUSSION:** P. Bauries is concerned with #3. The Board discussed #3. There was a friendly amendment to the box in the diagram as follows: Follows District Technology Budget Process. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

**e. Finance/Facilities Committee:** J. Carnie reported the committee met on February 15 and facilities discussed cold weather issues with D. LaPointe. J. Fortson presented the monthly expense report. J. Carnie explained the committee discussed the Deliberative Session being videotaped and possibly as a Senior Project. **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to allow the District to videotape the Deliberative Session and possibly as a Senior Project. **SECOND:** P. Bauries **DISCUSSION:** W. Wright would suggest the CCC and to encourage it as a senior project. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.** J. Carnie explained the committee discussed the use of the Gilsum School and information from K. Wheeler and L. Witte was reviewed. There are a few documents which are different especially regarding the Community Center. There was no final decision. We have half the information from Gilsum and we do not have the information from the District side. We will bring this up again at a future meeting and encourage the administration to gather more information.

**f. Negotiating Committee:** P. Bauries reported the committee has not met.

**g. Ad Hoc Committee on STEAM:** STEAM will be meeting on March 2, 2016.

**h. Policy Committee:** M. Blair reported the committee met on February 11, 2016 they discussed the policies in the Board packets. **MOTION:** M. Blair **MOVED** to accept Policy JLCK-Special Physical Health Needs of Students, Policy EEAA-Bus Safety Program, Policy BEDC-Quorum/Voting for Full School Board Meetings, Policy JLCD-Adminstrating Medicines to Students and Policy BBBA-Board Member Qualifications as a first read. **SECOND:** B. Mitchell. **VOTE:** 10.804/0/2.196/0. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** M. Blair **MOVED** to accept Policy EEAE-School Bus Safety Program as amended. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 10.804/0/2.196/0. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to suspend the rule for voting on the policies due to the weather and cancellation of the Board meeting and vote on Policy BBBA-Board Member Qualifications and Policy BDE as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** S. Peters said some people asked to speed up the process on some of the policies. P. Bauries said voting on this in two weeks will not be a problem. There is a policy on the process. J. Carnie commented at the last Policy meeting he attended that meeting to speak in regards to Policy BDE and was not allowed to speak. He would ask to have Policy BDE taken out of the motion. **VOTE:** 5.361/7.640/0/0. **Motion fails.**

**i. Extracurricular Activities Committee:** M. Blair reported the committee met and discussed participation in activities regarding the number of students. They discussed the extra-curricular funding and that conversation will continue. They discussed procedures for fundraising. He would commend J. Fortson and S. Peters for that draft outline. They discussed the equities and the inequities in sports as well as the inconsistencies in the school handbook and athletic handbook. A draft is a great start eventually they will bring something to Policy and to the Board to adopt in order to be more consistent. Things as they stand are putting our administration in a different position.

**j. School Safety, Security and Discipline Committee:** J. Smith reported the meeting was very well attended by the administration of the schools in the District as well as teachers. The overall theme was general atmosphere, award recognition for proper behavior, personal issues for students not ready to learn, bus issues, the number of homeless students and Second Step. The next meeting is on March 9, 2016.

**k. Cheshire Career Center:** W. Wright reported the committee met on February 23, 2016. He informed the Board the CCC is in the process of building their 24th home. They will have a shed they built at the Home Show. There are positive changes in the automotive shop area. They discussed enrollment for Monadnock students. Fall Mountain is interested in a CCC at their school and Monadnock students would be able to attend. The group toured the CCC. The May 23, 2016 meeting will be at Fall Mountain They are beginning to discuss the CCC with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. The schedule is the biggest issue. N. Mosher asked if we have information on the students after they graduate. L. Witte explained the CCC is grant funded and that data is tracked.

## **10. OLD BUSINESS:**

**a. 2016-2017 School Calendar Draft:** L. Witte presented the calendar draft. She reported the associations asked to move a specific workshop day and have a longer Christmas break. We have aligned the calendar to Keene as much as possible. Our students already have fewer days due to the fact we are on an hours calendar year and Keene is still on days. L. Witte said there are 4 days that the Monadnock students will not be attending the CCC. The teachers and the CCC recognize this. **MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the 2016-2017 School Year Calendar as presented. **SECOND:** J. Smith. **DISCUSSION:** The Board discussed the issue of November 8 voting day. **VOTE:** 12.002/.998/0/0. **Motion passes.**

The MOU for the SRO was in the Board packets for information until after the vote on March 8, 2016.

J. Carnie would like to have the current Policy BDE and the new Policy BDE. He would like to see the decision from the State School Board that applies to School Boards on how to use the weighted vote.

## **11. NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. Action on the Manifest: MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of \$1,724,067.06. **SECOND:** J. Smith. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

J. Carnie explained he went to look at the ballot of the Deliberative Session and what he found was the old ballot dated 1-21-16. The information from the Deliberative Session for the new ballot was not posted until March 1, 2016 at 8:07 AM. That is one week before the vote. There is a serious problem on the information given to the public. The public has inadequately being informed. It should have been posted two weeks before the meeting. J. Fortson said she contacted M. Cloutier and the sample ballot was not taken down and she said the new ballot was posted according to the State. J. Carnie read the RSA 197:7 and the warrant was not posted legally.

L. Steadman will be out of town during the next Board Meeting and she would like to participate electronically. **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to permit electronic participation at the next meeting. **SECOND:** J. Smith **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie asked as long as it is clear to hear. **VOTE:** 9.869/1.121/2.190/0. **Motion passes.**

**12. Setting Next Meeting's Agenda:**

- 1. Swear in new Board Members**
- 2. Elect Officers**

**13. Public Comments:** M. Diven said the technology at the next Board Meeting is not a problem.

**14. 11:10 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:** M. Blair **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

**15. 11:33 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: Sealed Minutes and Resignations: MOTION:** J. 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:** P. Peterson **VOTE:**13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

**16. 12:01 AM Motion to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (e) Discussion of pending or threatened (in writing) litigation against the Town or Town Officials, Board Members or employees: MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (e) Discussion of pending or threatened (in writing) litigation against the Town or Town Officials, Board Members or employees. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

**17. Motion to adjourn: MOTION:** M. Blair **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 12:15AM (March 2, 2016). **SECOND:** J. Smith **DISCUSSION: MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to seal the March 1, 2016 8:30 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes. **SECOND:** P. Peterson

**DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie commented that no other people had an opportunity to discuss the issue. They did not know it happened and those that did do not want it discussed at all. **W. Wright and P. Peterson withdraw their motion. VOTE to adjourn: 13/0/0/0. Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis  
Recording secretary