

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes (corrected)
September 6, 2016
Monadnock Regional MSHS, Swanzey, NH

Members Present: Phyllis Peterson, Scott Peters, Eric Stanley, Bob Mitchell, Winston Wright, Nicholas Mosher, Mike Blair, L. Steadman, Cheryl McDaniel-Thomas and Betty Tatro. **Absent:** James Carnie, Karen Wheeler and Joseph Smith.

Administration present: L. Witte, Superintendent, C. Woods, Director of Student Services and J. Fortson, Business Manager.

Also present: T. Blair, Student Rep., J. Rappucci, Student Rep. and L. Aivaliotis, Recording Secretary.

“We collaborate not just to teach, but also to engage and educate every student in our district in an environment that is challenging, caring and safe, while fostering life-long learning.

- 1. Public Comments:** Mitchell and Zach attended a leadership conference in Indianapolis paid for by a grant, Fuel up to Play 360. They are again asking the Board to accept two more grants in the amount of \$1600.00 and \$800.00 for the MS and Cutler. The funds will be used for a start up programs. **MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the grants in the amount of \$1600.00 and \$800.00 for the MS and Cutler from Fuel up to Play 360. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** M. Blair thanked the boys for their dedication and hard work. **VOTE:** 10.047/0/0/2.953. **Motion passes.**

N. Moriarty would suggest the language in the contracts have a second look. He would suggest a cap on the raises which should be fair and not retroactive. The health insurance should be at 80%-20% at the lowest plan. Stop negotiations at the date decided. There are errors resulting after the fact. Help with teacher's tuition but not retroactive. The MS/HS staff should teach 6 classes with no additional pay. Define funeral days. Address the paid ½ hour lunches for people who are not at work. Have a one year contract.

Jeannine Leclere informed the Board the Drug Awareness and Prevention group will extend to the MS. She reported they will hold a Health Fair for back to school. They will discuss fitness and nutrition among other things. They are extending an invite to the Board and asking for input. The group would like to hold Healthy Husky Habits Intramural sports and are looking for people to help. She passed out a calendar of events regarding Drug Prevention and Awareness. Each month there is a different event. Their next meeting is on Sept. 8, 2016.

P. Bauries would like to see the new CNC Milling Machine at Open House. She commented there are numerous policies on the agenda and she would suggest the Board providing the policies for the public by placing them on the web site and have them available at the Board Meeting. She would like to hear more committee reports during the Board Meeting.

2. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. Policy Committee:

Remove Policy IGBGA-E:

Second Read Policies BCA, BGB, BEDH, GDF, IHBG, IKF, BDA/BDA-R:

MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** to accept Policy BCA-School Board Ethics as presented. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher commented that he liked the policy as a whole except for item # 10. M. Blair commented # 10 says you will not proactively go against the Board. P. Peterson said she does not like the language in #10. She said the language sounded like a gag order. B. Mitchell said the opinions would not be silenced. W. Wright does not agree and will not sign the paper. P. Peterson, W. Wright and N. Mosher are not in favor of # 10. L. Steadman said the intent is to discourage trying to get the action of the Board reversed. N. Moriarty said the intent is to stamp out minority opinion and he has a problem with that. P. Peterson suggested cleaning up the language. The language in #10 should match with the intent. It does not match the language with the intent of the policy. L. Steadman suggested changing # 10. L. Witte said this policy in its entirety is from the NHSBA. **MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to amend the motion and remove #10 of the policy. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 3.565/6.482/0/2.953. **Motion fails.** **MOTION:** B. Mitchell **MOVED** to amend Policy BCA and to remove all words just before the semi-colon. **SECOND:** L. Steadman. **VOTE on amendment:** 7.604/2.443/0/2.953. **Motion passes.** **VOTE on amended motion:** (N. Mosher requested a documented roll call vote: P. Peterson-no, W. Wright-no, N. Mosher-no, M. Blair-yes, C. McDaniel-Thomas-yes, B. Mitchell-yes, E. Stanley-yes, B. Tatro-yes, S. Peters-yes and L. Steadman-yes. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** to accept Policy BGB Policy Adoption with the proposed changes. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** The additional wording regarding the second read to be waived by a 2/3 vote was questioned. The Policy Committee felt it should be in the policy. **VOTE:** 10.047/0/0/2.953. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** to accept Policy BEDH Public Participation at Board Meetings as proposed. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **DISCUSSION:** W. Wright would make a friendly amendment to change bullet #3 from “full Board” to “members present”. The 3 minute allotted time for each person to have their comments heard was questioned. It was explained 3 minutes is usually sufficient. **VOTE:** 10.047/0/0/2.953. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** to accept Policy GDF Support Staff Hiring with the proposed changes. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** L. Witte explained this is for non-certified staff and she explained who is in that group. She said all folks are under

the MESSA contract. She said there is notification for non-certified staff this is not for certified staff. It is not a statutory requirement to have the Board vote on the non-certified staff. B. Tatro explained the changes clean up the policy. It was explained the notification change happened months ago. There will be notification from the Superintendent. **VOTE:** 7.720/.214/1.115/recuse S. Peters .998/2.953. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** to accept Policy IHBG Home Education as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** L. Witte explained the rules for home education have changed. This policy gives more information. **VOTE:** 10.047/0/0/2.953. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** to accept Policy IKF Graduation Requirements as proposed with the changes. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** L. Witte explained the edits bring the policy in line to the current practice. The Senior Project has increased to 1 credit and the electives have decreased. The Board questioned “consecutive years” under World Language. M. Blair suggested moving the motion and clarify after. L. Witte explained this policy reflect what we have been doing. It is what we have been doing in the Handbook. **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to table the motion until the next Board Meeting. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **VOTE:** 10.047/0/0/2.953. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** to accept Policy BDA/BDA-R Organizational Meeting as proposed. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **DISCUSSION:** L. Steadman read the changes to the policy. It was explained a table of reoccurring motions will be presented at the Board Organizational Meeting. It was asked why elect a Secretary and a treasurer of the SAU. L. Steadman said it is outlined in the SAU Policy. J. Fortson suggested adding “swearing in the District Clerk and Treasurer annually”. **VOTE:** 10.047/0/0/2.953. **Motion passes.**

Second Annual Review DFA: MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** to review Policy DFA Revenues from Investments as required under the law. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** The Board will mark the Policy as reviewed on 9-6-16. **VOTE:** 10.047/0/0/2.953. **Motion passes.**

Second Read Roll Call Votes: L. Steadman presented the Policy Committee’s Position on Roll Call Voting. There is no motion but a procedure for the Chair to run the meeting more efficiently.

b. Finance/Facilities:

Purchase of plow truck: D. LaPointe reported he has looked at two trucks with plows to purchase. He presented the information to the Finance/Facilities Committee. He would like to purchase the 2010 GMC truck with a plow. **MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to approve the purchase the 2010 GMC Truck with a plow as presented by D. LaPointe. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 10.047/0/0/2.953. **Motion passes.**

3. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

a. Student Representative Report: T. Blair said it was a great opening day with the band playing the students into the school. Internally there is improvement on the attitude and positive school environment. Homecoming is on Sept. 23 and Sept. 24, 2016. There is spirit throughout the District including the elementary schools. Each day of Homecoming Week there is a theme. There will be an Alumni Dinner on Sept. 23, 2016 with Joe Peanuts catering the event. It has been a great start to the sports season. The teams are doing well. The GPS Group will be focusing on how to get more students involved. The Board is invited to the Alumni Dinner, RSVP appreciated.

b. Superintendent's Report

i. Special Education Report: Cathy Wood, Director of Student Services presented information to the Board regarding Special Education in the District. She explained the District receives revenue from Medicaid and Catastrophic Aid. In 1975 the District were promised 40% funding and currently the District receives 16%. Currently the District is undergoing a monitoring compliance. Ultimately we will have to delegate some of the funds for this issue. We have set some funds aside for this issue. As in terms of out of district placements we are not doing as bad as it may seem. The State target is more. We do not have the 2015-2016 numbers yet. She passed out information to the Board on 13 indicators. The District is out of compliance on number 11, 12 and 13. The goal is to have a cookbook on how we do Special Ed. in Monadnock, training for Special Ed. staff. B. Tatro asked if indicator # 11 is due to lack of system or lack of staff. C. Woods said it is a systems thing. S. Peters commented in order to fulfill the cookbook we need to know what is needed for the budget season. C. Woods said the process is a low cost. S. Peters would like to hear the requests soon.

ii. Opening Day Enrollment: L. Witte reported the numbers for Opening Day Pre K-12 is at 1702. The official number will be on October 1.

L. Witte reported all superintendents in the Monadnock Region will view Raising NH together at each venue. They will be attending as a unified front.

L. Witte provided the fund raising list to the Board.

Information on the cost of breakfast and lunch if provided by the district was passed out to the Board. They were not able to provide the MS/HS number as of yet. If the district provided breakfast and lunch for all elementary students in the District it would cost \$262,317.80.

MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to accept a monetary gift from J.D. Hunt in the amount of \$1000.00 for school supplies. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

iii. Strategic Planning: L. Witte has not had a chance to follow up on the outreach but will continue to schedule meetings.

c. Business Administrator's Report:

i. Costs for Breakfast and Lunch Program: Already discussed.

ii. Independent Auditor Approval: **MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to allow the Chair of the Board to sign the engagement letter from Bashaw and Klukay on behalf of the Board. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

iii. Setting Annual Tuition Rate: J. Fortson presented tuition numbers to the Board. She explained the regular tuition is currently at \$16,400.00 and Special Ed. tuition is at \$25,000.00 plus any additional one on one costs. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to set the regular tuition rate at \$16,400.00. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **DISCUSSION:** W. Wright will not agree with the rate. Fitzwilliam's actual cost is greater. **VOTE:** 7.604/2.443/0/2.953. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** B. Mitchell **MOVED** to set the Special Ed. tuition rate at \$25,000.00 and any additional one on one costs. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** J. Fortson explained Keene charges \$40,000.00 for their special Ed. tuition. **VOTE:** 10.047/0/0/2.953. **Motion passes.**

J. Fortson explained ACES 93 is requesting to have a draw down in the amount of \$22,252.98 from the warrant article. **MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to approve the request from ACES 93 for a draw down in the amount of \$22,252.98 from the warrant article. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

J. Fortson would like to ask the Board to come into the office and sign the DOE when it is complete.

d. 2017-2018 Budget Input: M. Blair informed the Board he and other members of the Board attended the recent Budget Committee Meeting for a round table discussion on the 2017-2018 budget. It was a good discussion.

e. Board Chair Report: M. Blair said it was a great start to the new school year. There is positive energy in the schools. If there are any resolutions for consideration the meeting is on October 21, 2016.

f. Committee Reports:

i. Technology: S. Peters explained he would like to share one issue the committee is working on. The committee is concerned that not every child has access to the internet. The committee does not have a good understanding on the issue. He explained the committee will work on this with the superintendent and the principals to develop a survey to get an understanding of the challenge. The committee will be developing a survey.

ii. Education: N. Mosher reported the committee has been focusing on ELA and Math. J. Rathbun had developed a template regarding student competency. He is hoping to present the information to the Board sometime. There is a Literacy Plan but

it is not complete. The team does not believe additional resources will be necessary. The committee will continue to discuss Math at the next meeting.

iii. Proposal for Board Retreat: M. Blair commented the summer has come and gone, Sept. is a busy month but possibly in October the Board could schedule the Retreat. He would like to have this on the next agenda. He would like to empower the Superintendent or the CRC or table the issue for other pressing issues. S. Peters would suggest a joint session at the October Meeting with the Budget Committee, perhaps a smaller group. Have the first half of the meeting as the CRC Proposal and then the budget session. N. Mosher said that is a great idea. **MOTION:** B. Mitchell **MOVED** to empower the CRC to make the arrangements for the Board Retreat. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

L. Kalloger was contacted by Kristi Morris the General Manager of the Shrine Maple Sugar Bowl to inform her on how Rob Skroki was responsible for the overwhelming success of the marching band.

4. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Approval of the Manifest: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the Manifest in the amount of \$1,840,066.15. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

b. Sealed July 12, 2016 Minutes: MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the Sealed July 12, 2016 non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 6.806/3.241/0/2.953. **Motion passes.**

5. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

- 1. Lunch cost**
- 2. 2017-2018 Budget**
- 3. Graduation Policy**

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS: There are no Public Comments.

M. Blair recessed the meeting at 9:45 PM.

7. 9:55 PM 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:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 10.047/0/0/2.953. **Motion passes.**

10:39 PM MOTION: N. Mosher **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:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Public Session: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to seal the September 6, 2016, 10:39 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes until the completion of the litigation. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

- 8. Adjournment: MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to adjourn the Board Meeting at 10:55 PM. **SECOND:** W. Wright **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording secretary