

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
Special Meeting
School Board Meeting Minutes
August 24, 2015
Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH

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

Also present: L. Witte, Superintendent, J. Fortson, Business Manager and L. Aivaliotis recording secretary.

Jim O'Shaughnessy conference call.

L. Steadman called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.

1. Public Comments: There are no Public Comments.

2. Approval of New Proposed Position for Kindergarten at Troy Elementary: It was explained the proposal is for a new Kindergarten position at Troy Elementary. There are 26 students signed up for Kindergarten. It was not certain if Emerson was full and there was a suggestion to transfer some students to Mt. Caesar. If the proposal is approved, Troy will have two Kindergarten classrooms and Emerson will as well. L. Witte explained the process to prepare the other room has already begun. The State says 25 Kindergarten students per classroom but to strive for 20 students and the District suggests 20 students. They looked at pulling a person from the staff but it would be a negative impact on education. P. Bauries stated it would mean about 12 students in each classroom. She asked if there is an aide in the room. L. Witte said there are no aides. She said if we move students to other schools that would split up families. L. Witte looked at Mt. Caesar but that was not feasible. L. Witte explained music and art are moving to the computer lab and the other Kindergarten classroom will be across the hall from the now Kindergarten classroom. J. Carnie would like to know if there is any other open space in the District before we hire a new position. Without the numbers J. Carnie is not prepared to vote. L. Steadman would like to give the Superintendent the opportunity to explain why it is so urgent. L. Witte explained the students start on Thursday. This information was brought to the Ed/Tech Committee. She has no doubt Dr. Carey and Dr. Stone have looked at all options. We could free up a person but it would have an educational impact. J. Fortson had said it was not a big budget issue because a position had not been filled. J. Carnie asked if the Kindergarten numbers decline will that eliminate a staff member. L. Witte said probably not. N. Mosher asked for the numbers in the other schools. L. Witte does not have that information but trusts the options Dr. Carey and Dr. Stone presented. L. Steadman stated we were told Preschool would not cost us but it is costing us a space. **MOTION:** J. Smith **MOVED** to approve the additional Kindergarten teacher at Troy Elementary as long as the administration has exhausted all possible options. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **DISCUSSION:** P. Bauries would suggest a 1 year

position. L. Witte explained we do have a candidate. P. Bauries would be more comfortable knowing the classroom totals. She said two rooms with 12 students is a concern. J. Carnie would like a total look District wide. Is there availability at Emerson? If the numbers drop we eliminate the position. K. Wheeler mentioned Gilsum as an option. **MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** to amend the motion as follows: a temporary position to be reevaluated in December for the 2016-2017 school year and to determine if we need to go back to one classroom. **SECOND:** J. Carnie. **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie stated Gilsum may have space. N. Mosher said this information is important to the Board. **VOTE:** P. Bauries-yes, L. Steadman-yes, K. Wheeler-yes, S. Peters-yes, W. Wright-no, J. Carnie-no, J. Smith-yes. **Amendment passes.** **DISCUSSION:** W. Wright has a concern parents may be upset with transferring students to another school. **VOTE:** P. Bauries-yes, J. Carnie-no, L. Steadman-yes, K. Wheeler-yes, N. Mosher-yes, S. Peters-yes, W. Wright-yes and J. Smith-yes. **Motion passes.**

3. 5:50 PM 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:** 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. Bauries. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

4. Public Session: **MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** to seal the August 24, 2015, 5:50 PM Non-Public Minutes indefinitely. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **VOTE:** J. Carnie-no, N. Mosher-no, P. Bauries-yes, B. Mitchell-yes, J. Smith-yes, S. Peters-yes, L. Steadman-yes and K. Wheeler-no. 6.479/2.045/0/4.479. **Motion passes.**

5. 6:35 PM Motion to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Hiring of a Public Employee. **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Hiring of a Public Employee. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 8.521/0/0/4.479. **Motion passes.**

6. Public Session: J. Carnie explained the RSA 91-A:4 VI states the settlement will be available for the public to inspect for 10 years and available at the SAU. B. Mitchell would like to get the attorney's opinion. J. Carnie said he does not mind a legal opinion but we need a vote to ask the attorney. N. Mosher will pass the agreed settlement to his selectmen. W. Wright said that would be a big problem. L. Steadman will ask J. O'Shaughnessy if we need to make the document available. She will ask for the opinion in writing. N. Mosher would like to have the opinion of the attorney in writing attached to the minutes.

7. Adjourn: **MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 PM **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **VOTE:** 7.4/0/0/5.6. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis

9/2/15 Correction