

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2015
Monadnock Regional MSHS, 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 and Bob Mitchell. **Absent:** Mike Blair

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:** M. Diven of Swanzey commented on the last minutes of the Budget Committee meeting in regards to the Budget Committee cutting the proposed budget by \$800,000.00. She is not sure why Gilsum was mentioned when the voters gave Gilsum the okay for 5 years. She commented Gilsum is working with a budget for 40 students and there are 48 students. She would like someone to make a motion to state the School Board supports Gilsum in a 5 year goal and Gilsum will no longer be mentioned in the cuts.
2. **MINUTES: MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the November 17, 2015 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** S. Peters **VOTE:** 11.122/0/1.121/.757. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the November 17, 2015 9:05 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler. **VOTE:** 8.624/0/2.196/2.119. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the November 17, 2015 9:16 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** J. Smith **VOTE:** 8.684/0/2.196/2.119. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the November 17, 2015 9:35 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 8.684/0/2.196/2.119. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the December 1, 2015 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION: MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to postpone the vote on the December 1, 2015 School Board Meeting Minutes until prior to tonight's non-public session. **SECOND:** P. Bauries **VOTE:** 6.395/4.486/0/2.119. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the December 1, 2015 9:16 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** J. Smith. **VOTE:** 9.047/1.075/.757/2.119. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the December 1, 2015 10:04 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** J. Smith. **VOTE:** 10.124/0/.757/2.119. **Motion passes.**

3. Student Government Report: There is no Student Government Report.

4. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

a. BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT: J. Fortson passed out a copy of the updated warrant articles. She explained the Board will make recommendations, change the language or endorse prior to the Budget Committee's Public Hearing. *S. Peters arrives.*

b. Correspondence and Announcements: L. Witte handed out and reported on the calendar of fundraisers.

MSHS will perform the Holiday Festival of Music this weekend.

Mt. Caesar, Cutler, Emerson and Troy will hold various holiday celebrations.

There will be a holiday sing a long at all schools.

P. Bauries asked for an update on the moving of the administrative offices. L. Witte, L. Carey and their administrative assistances have all moved to the SAU building. T. Kennett and A. DeTurris are still at the MSHS. L. Kalloger is working on the use of the space now available. The SSO is in the MSHS building.

5. BOARD CHAIR REPORT: B. Faulkner informed the Board on January 5, 2016 the Board will spend a fair amount of time on priorities and programs. He will ask the administration to present where we are, what we have done and give the Board a chance to discuss. There will be five areas of discussion.

B. Faulkner commented on policy. The Board develops policies. There is a first read which is an informational step. There is no action from the Board. Any discussion or amendment would occur at another meeting. At the second meeting changes are appropriate but not in an entirely different direction. A motion to send back to Policy will be in order. B. Faulkner said the merits of the policy are discussed at the second meeting. J. Carnie will disagree the committee discussed Policy DFA. You need to allow the Board to discuss. B. Faulkner commented Policy DFA was sent back to Policy.

6. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

6a. Budget Committee: B. Mitchell reported the Budget Committee will meet on December 16, 2015.

6b. Community Relations Committee: S. Peters reported the committee met and discussed a number of items. L. Witte gave an update on the process for the Strategic Plan and Goals. The Roundtable discussion has been completed in all elementary school and the MS/HS will be done after the holidays. The committee discussed the toolbox and how to reach out to the community. They received a lot of input from the administrative assistants. L. Witte will discuss the template with her team regarding how to document and maintain it. They are planning on how to present the warrant articles in plain English. B. Tatro has volunteered to create the first draft. There are a number of standing items we will constantly address. The meeting was very productive. The next meeting is on January 5, 2016.

6c. Education Committee: P. Bauries reported the committee met on December 8, 2015. N. Richardson and F. DeTurriss the SSO updated the committee on the first 90 days of the SSO. They reported the hallways are calmer and quieter. The foul language is down and the SSO's relationship with staff and the students is good. The SSO eats his lunch with the students. They both feel things are better. L. Witte said she has received positive comments. M. Suarez and A. Salzman said they would encourage the SSO to meet with the elementary students periodically. The committee reviewed the Smarter Balance Assessment Scores with L. Carey. The Math coach will be part of the professional development day on January 25, 2016. The next meeting is on December 22, 2015. N. Mosher said he took issue with the information sent home. We looked like we are on par with the State. We do not have a nice bell curve. Some students did great and some need help. The 4th grade ELA on the website is very concerning. What are we going to do for the students who are not doing well? He is concerned with no unified understanding by the staff regarding the Common Core Standards. P. Peterson said developmentally the child may or may not be ready but we move them on no matter how hard the teacher works. P. Bauries said it is important to have the interventionists and the Math coach continue to be involved. L. Steadman asked about de-leveling. P. Bauries said there will be a presentation on January 12, 2016.

6d. Technology Committee: Technology met on December 10, 2015 and focused on boundaries and a clear line regarding education with technology. The committee also met tonight to discuss N. Richardson's budget. He had a positive response to the decrease in his budget. The next meeting will be on January 14, 2015.

6e. Finance and Facilities Committee: J. Carnie reported the committee met on December 10, 2015 and during Public Comments N. Moriarty asked if the staff are getting paid for their lunch when they are not working. He also asked about the 1 million dollar cuts to the proposed budget as requested by the Budget Committee. L. Witte explained the cuts. D. LaPointe gave a report. T. Walsh is requesting to purchase a used van. D. LaPointe and T. Walsh will discuss the issue of the van. J. Carnie said this committee has met with every principal and reviewed their budgets. There is really not a lot to be cut. L. Witte explained some of the suggested cuts would be the additions to the budget. J. Carnie said the adequacy money received by the District has been cut by \$360,000.00. The committee took into account the increase to the budget and the adequacy decrease and voted to reduce the proposed budget by \$800,000.00. This was not a unanimous vote. It was 3 to 3. The weighted

vote was requested and the motion passed. The committee discussed the SRO and would suggest it be placed on a warrant article. The committee did not take all of L. Witte's recommendations. There were too many teachers that would be cut. L. Witte said this was an exercise as requested by the Budget Committee for the reduction of 1 million dollars to the proposed budget. J. Carnie commented there has been a surplus for the past five years, there is less adequacy and new positions proposed. **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to reduce the proposed 2016-2017 budget by \$800,000.00. The reduction is to include both new positions and existing positions within the budget. It is recommended the SRO part time position be placed on a special warrant article. The recommended proposed budget number for 2016-2017 would be \$30,958,813.00. **SECOND:** P. Bauries. **DISCUSSION:** L. Witte explained the cuts would consist of existing and proposed positions and to move the SRO to a warrant article. The Social Worker Drug/Alcohol position would be removed. This is a valuable position and they will look at other ways to meet the need. The Gilsum Interventionist/Principal will be removed. The Charter School application will not happen before the budget cycle. There is no grant. There is no interest from the sending School Boards to tuition students. She will recommend the Mt. Caesar and Cutler interventionists remain. N. Mosher asked about the staff cuts. He said staff cuts to the elementary schools would be a concern. L. Witte passed out a sheet with Level A cuts which add up to \$501,000.00 and Level B cuts which add up to \$582,500.00. The cuts in Level A would be the SRO (on a separate warrant), the Gilsum Principal/Interventionist, Social Worker Drug/Alcohol position, CNC Milling Machine, Tech hardware, 2 district-wide positions, staff and support staff. L. Witte explained if you move up to the Budget Committees request you will have to reduce additional positions. She is working with the administration to look at other ways to cut the proposed budget. **MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to amend the motion and reduce the proposed budget by \$300,000.00. **SECOND:** J. Smith. **DISCUSSION:** B. Tatro said \$800,000.00 is huge. The class sizes will go up if you reduce staff. B. Mitchell cannot support an \$800,000.00 cut and he cannot support a \$300,000.00. He is willing to put the SRO on a warrant article. B. Tatro said a \$300,000.00 reduction will go below the Default number. J. Carnie said the Board needs to face reality. The budget is up and the enrollment is down. For the past five years there has been a surplus, with the contract people are getting paid for lunch in the amount of \$190,000.00 – \$200,000.00. Bring forward a reasonable budget. J. Carnie commented we were suppose to make a serious effort to reduce the cost per pupil. Information on the cost per pupil was passed out. The Board reviewed the information. N. Mosher stated we are paying people well and doing things inefficiently. J. Carnie said 8-9 years ago the District made an effort to reduce the cost per pupil in the District. We were using the cost per pupil number on the DOE website. We cannot continue to add to this budget when enrollment is declining. We defeat what we want to do. L. Witte said the final enrollment number is 1706 as of October 1, 2015. K. Wheeler said you are not comparing apples to apples. N. Mosher said we should not hurt the student. B. Mitchell said this District has a high free and reduced lunch population. Students at poverty level come to the schools with issues. There is a growing need in the District. **VOTE on the amendment to reduce by \$300,000.00.** 7.239/4.426/.214/1.121. **Amendment passes.** **VOTE on amended motion:** 2.987/8.892/0/1.121. **Amended Motion fails.**

MOTION: J. Carnie **MOVED** to put the SRO position on a separate warrant article and reduce the proposed budget by \$75,000.00. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **DISCUSSION:** S. Peters

would suggest tabling the motion. The \$75,000.00 is not the total for the SRO in the proposed budget. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

L. Steadman asked about the playground in Troy. She commented the equipment at the preschool playground is not recommended for children under the age of five. The decision of what to order was not asked of the staff in the building. Emerson will have the same issue. B. Faulkner will refer this issue to the Facilities Committee.

6f. Policy Committee: The following three policies are for a first read: Policy DFA Revenues from Investments has no changes and is recommended by the NHSBA. Policy EEAA Video Cameras in Classrooms, Hallways, School Buses and other District Property states it is no longer appropriate to have cameras in the classrooms. There is also language cleanup. This policy requires a Public Hearing. Policy JCA Change of School or Assignment has legislative changes.

6g. Extra-Curricular Committee: MOTION: J. Smith **MOVED** to approve to dedicate the gymnasium to Paul Breckell and plan the dedication ceremony at the convenience of the family. **SECOND:** L. Steadman. **DISCUSSION:** It was reported the gymnasium had never been dedicated before. J. Breckell is in full support of the plan. He said they would like to have the ceremony in December of 2016. N. Mosher would like to know something about P. Breckell. L. Steadman suggested postponing the vote until N. Mosher has more information. J. Smith explained members of the family need to make plans for time off and travel from Korea. J. Smith explained P. Breckell was the AD, PE teacher, Drivers Ed. Teacher, Football Coach, Baseball Coach, had a vested interest in athletic and had green blood. B. Faulkner commented he did not know him but respects the opinion of people in town. N. Mosher will abstain only because he does not know him. **VOTE:** 11.665/0/.214/1.121. **Motion passes.**

6h. Negotiations: P. Bauries informed the committee we are in the process of mediation.

6i. Ad Hoc STEAM: It was reported STEAM will meet on January 6, 2015 at 5:00 PM.

6j. School Safety and Discipline Committee: J. Smith reported the committee met on December 2, 2015. The committee discussed the SRO/SSO. **MOTION:** J. Smith **MOVED** to request/grant approval for the Superintendent to negotiate an MOU for the SRO with the Town of Swanzev, subject to a warrant article approval. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **DISCUSSION:** L. Witte prepared a sheet listing the responsibilities of both the SRO and SSO. N. Mosher commented on the 1300 hours. L. Witte said they are not sure if the day is a 5.5 hour day or a 6 hour day. The maximum number of hours the SRO is allowed to work according to the Academy is 1300 which includes training. It was commented the Chief would recommend the part-time SRO and the full time SSO. J. Carnie would have liked to have been in on the conversation that happened with 3 or 4 people and the Chief. The SRO/SSO is the best combination but the best straight choice would be the SSO. The warrant has to be clear. J. Fortson has a lot of questions and has to get in contact with the Town of Swanzev's administrator. **VOTE to negotiate a MOU:** 10.804/0/1.075/1.121. **Motion passes.**

6k. Cheshire Career Center: W. Wright reported there is no update.

7. OLD BUSINESS: J. Carnie said 6 weeks ago he had asked B. Faulkner to ask the attorney for an opinion on Policy BDE. J. Carnie had asked for an opinion from the Board attorney to discuss with the NHSBA attorney regarding Policy BDE. The Chair said he has not heard. B. Faulkner said the attorney said he is still working on it. We have had him busy with other issues. B. Faulkner said he spoke to the NHSBA attorney for a better understanding of the situation. The NHSBA said the Board should wait for the opinion from J. O'Shaughnessy. J. Carnie asked if B. Faulkner had received any written correspondence. B. Faulkner sent the question to our attorney and sent notes to Barrett Christina. Barrett will address to our attorney. B. Faulkner had a conversation with Barrett to better understand the issue. He has had emails from both attorneys. J. Carnie wants to see the emails. **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** any communication regarding the issue of Policy BDE with the attorneys will be enclosed in the final decision. **SECOND:** P. Bauries. **VOTE:** 4.640/6.482/.757/1.121.
Motion fails

8. NEW BUSINESS:

a. MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to accept the manifest in the amount of \$1,252,845.43. **SECOND:** P. Peterson **VOTE:** 10.804/0/1.075/1.121. **Motion passes.**

b. Other New Business as may come before the Board: **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to support the five year promise the District made to the Gilsum School. **B. Faulkner commented this is a notice and should be on the next agenda.** **MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** to bring up this issue even though it is not on the agenda. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **DISCUSSION:** It was commented the members of the Gilsum School are not present. They would be mad if it failed. N. Mosher said the School Board already supports this. P. Peterson said we should not have to do this. It is late to open this can of worms. K. Wheeler would agree she is frustrated about the comments made on the Budget Committee agenda. J. Carnie will not vote, the public has already voted. It is redundant. B. Tatro said it was an effort to honor a public comment. **VOTE to discuss the Gilsum issue:** 2.450/8.431/.998/1.121.
Motion fails.

9. Setting Next Meeting's Agenda:

1. All communication on Policy BDE at the net meeting regarding the quorum issue.

10. Public Comments: D. Coffman said it is very important to get the minutes of the STEAM Ad Hoc on the website. There are no minutes for the Budget Committee. P. Peterson said there is a commitment by the voters. D. Coffman wants to know what is going on and why only three sets of minutes. Have there been grants and what is the enrollment update. It was commented this is unfair to Gilsum to bring this up. D. Coffman invited members to the Budget Committee meeting. The District needs to know what is going on. N. Mosher is very interested in STEAM and what is going on. P. Bauries commented the charge of the STEAM Ad Hoc is to bring the STEAM concept to all the elementary schools in the District. B. Faulkner commented he has scheduled part of the discussion on January 15, 2016 for this topic.

Approval of the December 1, 2015 School Board Meeting Minutes: MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the December 1, 2015 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** J. Smith **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

B. Faulkner called for a 10 minute recess.

11. 10:16 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:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

12. 10:40 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: 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. Reputation student matter and unsealing of sealed minutes. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:**11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

13. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: J. Smith **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 11:31 PM. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

The Board will hold a non-meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording secretary