

**Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**(Approved Minutes)**  
**December 1, 2015**  
**Monadnock Regional MSHS, Swanzey, NH**

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

**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:** J. Fortson passed out information to the Board from the NHSBA. She said as a former School Board Member and Chair she has seen a lot of good and bad. The sheet passed out is information on the role of a School Board Member. It states there will be disagreements and it discusses guidelines on authority, who to report to and your role. Keep in mind your decisions should be based with the kids in mind.

J. Carnie commented he did not receive his Board packet until today and has not read it yet.

- 2. MINUTES: MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the November 3, 2015 School Board Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** S. Peters **DISCUSSION:** **VOTE:** 11.122/0/1.121/.757. **Motion passes. L. Steadman arrives**

**MOTION:** J. Smith **MOVED** to accept the November 17, 2015 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** **MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to postpone the approval of the November 17, 2015 School Board Meeting Minutes until the next Board Meeting. **SECOND:** P. Bauries **VOTE to postpone:** 6.806/2.434/0/.757. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to postpone the approval of the November 17, 2015 Non-Public Meeting Minutes until the next School Board Meeting. **SECOND:** L. Steadman. **VOTE:** 6.812/1.121/4.309/.757. **Motion passes.** J. Carnie asked that the minutes November 17, 2015 minutes and non-public minutes be in the Board packet for the December 15, 2015 Board Meeting.

**3. Student Government Report:** K. Skrocki reported the Student Government held a food drive and were able to make 17 baskets for area families. The group will be meeting this week to discuss the Winter Pep Rally. There will be a Winter Sports kick off.

**4. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:**

**a. BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT:** J. Fortson reported on the loss of adequacy monies. She said the tax bills are based on that information. She reviewed what each town would receive or lose due to the adequacy monies. She reported the store staff asked D. Crowder for permission to use the husky image on store items. J. Fortson had a picture of the new Christmas ornament with the husky on it.

**b. Correspondence and Announcements:** L. Witte reported the Key Club has posted gratitude grams throughout the school.

Gilsum will present "The Grinch" on December 10.

Cutler has completed their helping hands, acts of kindness today.

Emerson and Troy will be helping families in need during the holiday season.

Emerson will hold their Holiday Show on December 9 and Troy will hold their Holiday Show on December 8.

L. Witte informed the Board of the upcoming fundraisers.

L. Witte reported the Board had approved a trip to France but in light of recent events they have decided to postpone it. This is the best choice for now.

L. Witte updated the Board on the lunch payment policy. She did speak to T. Walsh. The bulk of the amount owed is at the MSHS. The entire District owes \$19,000.00 and the MSHS owes \$14,170.00 of that amount. She met with L. Spencer and T. Walsh and they will be looking at the seniors who owe money first with a tiered approach. They discussed how to address each tier. The policy addresses extra-curricular activities. Is it the intent of the Board to include parking privileges? If so it will include towing. L. Steadman asked will the students come to school and are they bringing students to school. She said L. Witte should make that decision. N. Mosher is not for punishing students because their parents do not pay. M. Blair said the GPS discussed the issue and would not suggest taking parking privileges away. J. Fortson said the District pays 1.5 million dollars to 2 million dollars for bussing. W. Wright said this issue is nothing new. We have had this for years and he is not in favor of punishing the students. B. Tatro agrees she does not want to see driving privileges taken away and students not graduate. L. Steadman suggested allowing them to park at the furthest spots in the parking lot.

L. Witte reported during the December break she is planning on moving the Superintendent, Dir. of Curriculum and the 2 administrative assistants to the SAU building. S. Peters asked what are the plans for those offices? L. Witte explained she would like to bring the SMART

Program to this building. That process will be done during the February break. B. Tatro asked if L. Witte thought the SMART students will attend school if it is in this building. L. Witte said the intent is to look for a spot that is a little more separate from the rest of the students. The pros of bringing the students back out weigh the cons. L. Witte said this will allow the students to get into the regular program. L. Steadman asked if they are not ready to come back to the regular population are we ready to send them out of District. L. Witte explained we already send them out of District. It will happen.

5. **BOARD CHAIR REPORT:** B. Faulkner informed the Board Governor Hassan has appointed L. Witte to the Commission to Study Issues Relating to Students Receiving Special Education Services While Attending a Chartered Public School. Congratulation!!!

6. **SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**6a. Budget Committee:** B. Mitchell reported the Budget Committee met but he did not attend.

**6b. Community Relations Committee:** S. Peters commented the committee met informally with the administrative assistants from the schools They discussed a list of ways to communicate. It was a working session to brain storm a media play book.

**6c. Education Committee:** P. Bauries reported the committee will be meeting on Dec. 8, 2015

**6d. Technology Committee:** Technology did not meet. The committee is scheduled to meet on December 10, 2015.

**6e. Finance and Facilities Committee:** J. Carnie reported the next meeting is on Dec. 8, 2015.

**6f. Policy Committee:** M. Blair is looking for a second read approval on the following policies. **MOTION:** M. Blair **MOVED** to accept Policy AA School District Legal Status as amended. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** M. Blair explained the committee asked L. Witte to go through Section A of the policies and to bring them forward with any changes. **VOTE:** 12.030/0/.214/.757. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** M. Blair **MOVED** to accept Policy ABA Volunteer Involvement as amended. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **DISCUSSION:** L. Witte explained this is recommended by the NHSBA. M. Blair explained Policy IJOC is a cross reference. **VOTE:** 12.030/0/.214/.757. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** M. Blair **MOVED** to accept Policy ACE Procedural Safeguards Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Handicap/Disability as amended. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **DISCUSSION:** It was explained the edits are consistent with the wording. L. Steadman asked if we cross referenced children with Disabilities. L. Witte explained the cross references are in the policies and the NHSBA Title 9. **VOTE:** 12.243/0/0/.757. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** M. Blair **MOVED** to accept Policy EBBC/JLCE First Aide & Emergency Medical Care as amended. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** L. Witte explained the policy was previously updated in 1999. There have been legislative changes, most recently someone besides the nurse must have CPR certification, able to administer oxygen and administer epinephrine. P. Peterson asked if staff could be trained during professional development. L. Witte said yes. L. Steadman said it is important to have someone who is able to administer an inhaler, have someone trained. L. Witte said the designated person will be trained. **VOTE:** 12.243/0/0/.757. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to send this policy back to the Policy Committee to talk to the nurse to see if the District has liability. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **DISCUSSION:** L. Carey informed the Board she oversees the nurses. The policy is sufficient to deal with cases in which students need these medications. She said the nurse appoints and trains someone. The nurse administers the medication as prescribed by the doctor. If the nurse is absent there is a trained person to provide service to the child under the nurses training. L. Steadman said it is necessary to send this to policy. It is reasonable as long as the administrative assistant can see the seizure. **VOTE:** 8.932/0/3.311/.757. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** M. Blair **MOVED** to accept Policy ILDA Non-Instructional Questionnaires, Surveys and Research as presented. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **DISCUSSION:** M. Blair explained this policy did not exist. It is priority to have this align with RSA 186:11. The survey example would be the Youth Risk Survey. P. Peterson asked if all surveys are approved by the administration. L. Witte said not all. P. Peterson said it is important to know all. **L. Steadman would like a friendly amendment and add “to students” as the end of the first sentence.** J. Carnie said the policy does not say outside groups. M. Blair explained it says non-academic or non-educational. It would be at the discretion of the Superintendent. N. Mosher said there are a lot of gray areas. B. Tatro asked about the survey being part of the test. L. Witte said in that case it would be questioned. She said this policy was intended for the Youth Risk Survey. **VOTE:** 12.243/0/0/.757. **Motion passes.**

It was suggested Policy DFA Revenues from Investments be referred back to the Policy Committee regarding the Trustees of the Trust Fund of Swanzy.  
B. Faulkner explained he contacted J. O’Shaughnessy regarding Policy BDE. He did not respond due to the holiday.

**6g. Extra-Curricular Committee:** M. Blair reported the committee discussed the gym naming and will bring a motion at the next Board Meeting. M. Blair informed the committee they are looking at the sound systems at the schools as well as the Husky House to see what is needed. M. Blair and S. Peters are creating a list for a proposed warrant article. They would also like to hire a person to be responsible for the maintenance of the equipment. They have asked the administration to provide a list of clubs and activities and the number of students involved. The committee is asking the administration to bring something forward a policy on extra curriculum eligibility. The SSD Committee is also looking at this policy. They would like to ask J. Fortson to attend the next meeting and discuss fundraising in regards to building use, cash box and process. The next meeting is on January 5, 2016. L. Steadman asked if the sound system person would be a stipend position. M. Blair said yes. S.

Peters and M. Blair will be bringing the inventory list on the sound system to the Finance Committee and then to the Board.

**6h. Negotiations:** P. Bauries would like to update the Board on negotiations in a non-meeting tonight.

**6i. Ad HOC STEAM:** P. Bauries reported the committee met and voted B. Tatro as the Chair. B. Tatro reported the committee reviewed the list of members and updated it. In the future the meeting will be scheduled at 5:00 PM on the first Wednesday of the month. L. Carey shared the Strategic Plan for STEAM in the District. Defined STEM has a lot of curriculum connections. The company from which Defined STEM was purchased from is always adding to the program. Cutler, Emerson, Troy and Mt. Caesar are starting to use the program in conjunction with J. Rathbun. She would like to invite those teachers to present at our meeting. She would like the teachers to bring the concept to the staff meetings. The next meeting is on Dec. 2, 2015. N. Mosher asked the charge of the STEAM Ad Hoc. B. Tatro explained the charge includes growing STEAM throughout the elementary schools in the District.

**6j. School Safety and Discipline Committee:** J. Smith reported the committee met on November 18, 2015. Chief De Angelis discussed specifics regarding the SRO. The committee discussed the pros and cons of the position. They discussed a proposal for a full-time SSO and a part-time SRO. The SRO would be hired for 1300 hours, 6 hours a day for 180 days some of the remaining hours would be for training. S. Peters, L. Witte and J. Smith met with Chief De Angelis to fine tune the proposal. The next meeting is on Dec 2, 2015.

**6k. Cheshire Career Center:** W. Wright reported there is no update. W. Wright said there are new programs in the works. The programs need to be approved by the State. The EMT Program and the Fire and Safety will begin soon.

**7. OLD BUSINESS:** There is no Old Business.

**8. NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. RSA 671:18 Nominations and Qualifications of School Board Members:** J. Carnie stated an issue that a School Board Members cannot be compensated regarding M. Blair has received a stipend for being a basketball coach. J. Carnie said you can override policy but not the State law. That is why he challenged the overriding of the Chair. The issue should not have been in non-public. Under RSA 91:A 3 II (b) you cannot hire an employee who is a School Board Member. It should have never been discussed in non-public. This Board needs to pay attention to law. We cannot pick and choose what we want. L. Steadman and B. Tatro said it is a stipend position and it is not in the statute. B. Mitchell agrees with B. Tatro and L. Steadman. J. Carnie said contracted employees receive compensation from the District. M. Blair commented on so much negative energy on this issue. He said he is getting bullied regarding this issue. He is frustrated. He gives to the kids, it is a stipend position. As a School Board Member we receive a stipend. He said he gives back the money in some form.

**MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to refer Policy BBBA to the Policy Committee. The charge to define a salaried employee and any member with a conflict of interest not

participate in the discussion. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie said he never mentioned M. Blair's name once in his conversation. He said we should not segregate M. Blair out of the conversation anymore than anyone of us. B. Mitchell said the statute reads clearly. **VOTE to refer Policy BBBA to the Policy Committee:** 8.879/3.364/0/.757. **Motion passes.** W. Wright suggested the Board confirm with the attorney on this issue.

**b. MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to accept the manifest in the amount of \$1,782,283.55. **SECOND:** J. Smith **VOTE:** 12.243/0/0/.757. **Motion passes.**

**c. Other New Business as may come before the Board:** J. Fortson reported the School Board stipend checks will be cut this week.

**d. Warrant Article:** J. Fortson passed out a copy of the proposed warrant articles. **Article One** is the Operating Budget and the Default Budget. These numbers are set by the Budget Committee.

**Article Two** is the article for renovations to Mt. Caesar. She explained the bids for the approved project will be going out in January for the summer work. She passed out a list of the items for Mt. Caesar that will be addressed if this article is passed. S. Peters asked if all the classrooms will have internet. J. Fortson said yes it is all inclusive. He asked about the portable classrooms. J. Fortson said they would like to address the portables at the MSHS, Cutler and Mt. Caesar in 3 year of the renovations. The State does not like them. They were a temporary fix many years ago. **Article Three** is for abatement at the MSHS. W. Wright commented he is sure the voters will pass the articles because they like the way we do things. J. Fortson explained the warrant articles are for the Board to discuss and change if need be. **Article Four** is for the Before and After School Expendable Trust. She does not have the number yet. J. Fortson said there may be a MDEA warrant article. **Article Six** is to combine 2 Capital Reserve Funds. The 1975 Capital Reserve is not needed. Article Six is in order to move the funds. **Article Eight and Article Nine** are traditional. She said there may be an Article for the SRO.

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

- 10. Public Comments:** J. LeClaire invited the Board to a parent night with the topic on symptoms of drug abuse. This group is a focus group asked for by L. Kalloger. The group has and will continue to have activities related to drug abuse, positive ways to stay away from drugs and ways to get help if needed throughout the year. The group will also have guest speakers throughout the year.

Jen Burroughs is disgusted regarding the issue of M. Blair. She said he puts a lot of time into the programs at the school. She thanked M. Blair for what he does. She is afraid he will withdraw from his coaching position.

**B. Faulkner called for a 10 minute recess.**

- 11. 9:16 PM Motion to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Hiring of a Public Employee: MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Hiring of a Public Employee. **SECOND:** S. Peters **VOTE:** 12.243/0/0/.757. **Motion passes.**
  
- 12. 10:04 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:** W. Wright **VOTE:**12.243/0/0/.757. **Motion passes.**
  
- 13. Motion to adjourn: MOTION:** J. Smith **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 PM. **SECOND:** J. Carnie. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

**The Board will hold a non-meeting.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis  
Recording secretary