

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2016
Mt. Caesar Elementary School, 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:** Jeannine Leclerc updated the Board on the events of the Drug Awareness and Prevention Group. The group hosted a Cabin Fever Night in which 12 students attended played games, made group art projects, listened to music and food provided by the Key Club. During the month of March they will host health activities during lunch. She also read a letter from R. Hawkins the attorney for the MDEA to the Board. The letter put the Board on notice for failing to support the agreement between the Board and the MDEA. They stated P. Bauries abstained from the vote and N. Mosher was absent. They are both members of the negotiating team. They are obligated to negotiate in good faith and to abide by the rules.

P. Bauries said she was the Chair of the Negotiating Committee. She said the committee accommodated the MDEA on every meeting. The committee asked the MDEA to meet and they were not available. The committee sat all day negotiating with the MDEA up until the 11th hour. The committee accommodated over and above what was required. They acted in good faith. We supported the contract. P. Bauries said she signed the TAs. If she chose not to vote that does not mean she does not support. She would like an apology for N. Mosher, herself and the entire Negotiating Committee from R. Hawkins and the MDEA.

N. Mosher said he was not able to attend some of the sessions due to the fact they were held during business hours when he was working. Because he was not at a few of the meetings he chose to abstain.

2. **MINUTES: MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** to postpone the motion to approve the January 11, 2016 Meeting Minutes until February 16, 2016. **SECOND:** J. Smith. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the January 19, 2016 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** J. Smith. **VOTE:** 10.047/0/1.832/1.121.

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the January 19, 2016 10:20 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** J. Smith. **VOTE:** 11.122/0/.757/1.121. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the January 19, 2016 10:37 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** J. Smith **VOTE:** 10.124/0/1.755/1.121. **Motion passes.**

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

4. Superintendent Report:

a. Business Administrator Report: **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to authorize Superintendent Witte to sign the Cobra Agreement and the Health Care Agreement on behalf of the District. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **DISCUSSION:** The Board will authorize L. Witte to be the District rep. until June 30, 2016. L. Witte will sign the agreements on behalf of the School Board. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to allow the second quarter draw down of the Aces 93 Expendable Trust in the amount of \$23,899.10. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

J. Fortson informed the Board of the motion to allow L. Witte, J. Fortson, Chief DeAngelis and the Swanzey Town Administrator to develop a MOU and the estimated cost of the SRO. The information will not be final until the motion passes. She would ask for comments at the next meeting. It was asked if there is an outstanding bill with the Town of Swanzey. J. Fortson said it is on the table with no answer yet.

b. Correspondence and Announcements: L. Witte informed the Board she had received a letter from Bernard Ellis who participated in an IEP Session on January 22, 2016. He commented favorably on the staff and that the meeting was the most positive he had attended.

The District has received the following donations: \$1,000.00 from the Gilsum Thomson Reuters Dollars for Doers Program, \$790.00 from GSA PTCA for a community dinner and transportation fees on field trips, \$1,500.00 for DI from the K. Greatbatch Trust and an anonymous donation in the amount of \$4,000.00 for the Baseball Program. **MOTION:** J. Smith **MOVED** to accept the donations to the District as presented by L. Witte. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.** S. Peters asked if there is a template or process for sending thank you notes. It was explained the principals from the individual school send the notes. L. Steadman asked in regards to the anonymous donation if the donation is proper and if the District does not take donations from companies such as a cigarette company. L. Witte assured L. Steadman the donation is okay.

L. Witte informed the Board of the upcoming fundraisers in the District. **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to allow the ACES 93 Program to take an out of state field trip to the Aquatic Center in White River Junction in Vt. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

c. Other Issues of Importance:

5. BOARD CHAIR REPORT:

a. Chair Report: B. Faulkner said he has three meetings left as the Board Chair. He will be out of town on February 16, 2016 and L. Steadman will run the meeting.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND *MOTIONS:

a. Budget Committee Representative: The Budget Committee did not meet.

b. Community Relations Committee: S. Peters reported the committee met but did not have a quorum.

c. Education Committee: P. Bauries reported the committee met on January 26, 2016 and L. Carey gave a PowerPoint on transiting from a targeted assist Title I Model to a school wide Title I Model at Cutler School. L. Carey reviewed the process in order to bring Cutler to a school wide Title I Model. Cutler is the only elementary school not Title I school wide. This will take an 80% vote of the teachers from Cutler than a steering committee will be formed. By doing this every student will have these services. L. Witte informed the committee the cost of the Math Program is at \$150,000.00 with \$6,000.00 worth of free training and the ability to pay over three years. The juniors will be taking the SAT on March 2, 2016. The next meeting is on February 15, 2016 at 6:30 PM.

d. Technology Committee: The Technology Committee has not met. They are scheduled to meet on Feb. 11, 2016.

e. Finance/Facilities Committee: J. Carnie reported the committee met on January 26, 2016. D. LaPointe gave a report of the spring projects and presented the prints for Mt. Caesar. The contractors did a walkthrough of Mt. Caesar. D. LaPointe discussed a top dresser for the fields and the energy savings. J. Fortson explained the salaries and benefits have been encumbered. The committee reviewed the warrant articles. The committee will meet on February 15, 2016 at 5:00 PM. **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to accept the bid of up to \$10,902.00 from A. L. Johnson Roofing Co. for the Troy Elementary School "Roof Snow Guards." **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie explained Melanson had a bid in the amount of \$29,000.00. We did not receive a third bid. L. Steadman explained there is a policy that requires three bids. J. Carnie said it was addressed and discussed at the committee meeting. The committee approved by D. LaPointe's explanation. He explained and gave his rationale. He explained Melanson and A. L. Johnson are good companies and stand by their work. A. L. Johnson is top notch for smaller jobs. L. Steadman said it is still important to have three bids. We are constantly going against policy. She said D. LaPointe is a good negotiator but we have a policy. We need to vote not to use the policy for each vote. B. Faulkner said we are voting up or down. L. Steadman suggested suspending the motion. B. Faulkner said there are things that bend and break, each can vote their way. J. Carnie said the committee discussed this in all fairness we want to change the policy but there are policies in front of the Policy Committee that are sitting there. The Finance/Facilities took a view of the proposal and presented it in a timely fashion. If the Board wants to take it up to change policy they can discuss it. J. Fortson said the funds for the repair are leftover in a warrant article. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: J. Carnie **MOVED** to accept a lease for the Maintenance Dept. on a "Top Dresser 2500" compost spreader for the District school fields in the amount of \$11,958.00 total for a three year lease. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie explained it is a 36 month lease at \$3,986.00 per year. The Facilities Director stated that the cost would come from the Facilities budget, starting with the 2015-2016 budget. D. LaPointe explained we are leasing directly from Toro. He spoke to other companies but they are farther away. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: J. Carnie **MOVED** to have the Business Manager coordinate with Ron Fabianski, Neil Moriarty and Dan Coffman to obtain a milling machine through community donations. **SECOND:** P. Bauries. **DISCUSSION:** The milling machine is for the Welding-Technology Classroom and is in need to be replaced. It is not in the 2016-2017 budget and this is a community effort to replace it. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: J. Carnie **MOVED** to ask for a written opinion from the NHSBA on the MRSD Health Care rollover from one contract to another of \$510,000.00. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** The existing contract has no language to allow for this rollover, therefore it is believed that the funds should be returned to the taxpayers of the District. J. Carnie explained the committee had a long discussion on Article 7. There is no contract language for a rollover. There are numerous questions. B. Faulkner said this is a bad idea. What are we going to do? This is an attack on our contract which we approved. It will undercut the MDEA contract. We have our own attorney. We will be dangerously close to “in bad faith”. J. Fortson had said this is reviewed by competent attorneys. J. Carnie anticipates a full discussion at the Deliberative Session. The question is the \$510,000.00. **VOTE:** 2.190/6.482/3.20/1.121. **Motion fails.**

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

g. Ad Hoc Committee on STEAM: B. Tatro reported the committee will meet on February 3, 2016.

h. Policy Committee: Policy JLCK is a brand new policy and mandated by law and is being presented for a first read. Policy EEAE School Bus Safety Program is an offshoot of the Audio Video Recording Policy in order to be consistent with other policies. P. Bauries would like to see it presented at the same time as the Audio Video Recording Policy. L. Steadman would suggest moving Policy EEAE School Bus Safety Program forward as the first read. J. Carnie would like to table this. He is upset that the policies sent to the Policy Committee are not being looked at in a timely manner. Policy BDE was sent to Policy on January 14, 2016. The committee is stalling. J. Carnie asked to table Policy EEAE until after the policies the Board has asked the Policy Committee to review have been done. Take the first reads in order. L. Steadman commented it is not wise to deal in order. Some of the policies need special attention. N. Mosher asked if the Policy Committee has an update on Policy BDE. L. Steadman said Policy BDE has been updated but it was not ready for the packets. B. Tatro said the Board is not accusing the committee of stalling and there should be no personnel attacks. J. Carnie said it was on the agenda about 8 months ago. The rationale is that they are stalling. They were directed by the Board to bring it to the full Board. L. Witte takes responsibility for the policy not being presented regarding the mailing of the packets.

i. Extracurricular Activities Committee: S. Peters explained L. Witte presented a first draft of the sports expenditures. It is still a draft but good progress. **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to fund the MRMHS Hockey Team at 50% for the 2015-2106 season, increasing the districts commitment from \$8,742.00 to \$11,013.31. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **DISCUSSION:** **MOTION:** J. Smith **MOVED** to have the funds come out of the unexpended fund balance at the end of the current year. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler. **DISCUSSION:** It was commented there is no reason why this was not in the budget for the MRSHS. We are on a very bone tight budget. It belongs in the budget. We cannot even pay for a milling machine. S. Peters explained the increase is due to the cost of the ice time at the

new ice arena. W. Wright would support. It is not the team's fault for the new ice arena. N. Mosher would agree. **VOTE on amendment:** 7.563/4.316/0/1.121. **Motion passes.** **VOTE on amended motion:** 9.692/2.196/0/1.121. **Motion passes.** It was commented to refer this to L. Kalloger and the Athletic Director to review the entire budget to see if they can make it work for the MRMHS. P. Bauries asked why the Extracurricular Committee motions are on the agenda and not the others. L. Steadman said the motions are carried from a previous meeting. P. Bauries would like to have the motions presented on a separate sheet of paper with the rationale. L. Witte takes responsibility for the motions not being on the agenda due to the timing of the packets.

j. School Safety, Security and Discipline Committee: J. Smith reported the committee met. T. Kennett spoke regarding Special Ed. operations and procedures. They discussed behavior goals, CPI and modified core teachers. The next meeting is on February 10, 2016 at 6:00 PM.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

a. 2016-2017 School Calendar Draft: It was reported the proposed calendar has been shared with the 3 Associations with feedback on the initial version but not on the new version. **MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the 2016-2017 School Calendar Draft as presented. **SECOND:** P. Bauries. **DISCUSSION:** M. Szymcik explained there is a concern on the March parent/teacher conferences and the workshop day. She also commented the return to the school year is three days earlier and plans may have been made regarding vacations. Transportation was asked about regarding being strapped to the Keene High School schedule. **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to postpone the vote on the proposed calendar until the 3 organizations have discussed the issue. **SECOND:** B. Mitchell. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

b. Board Positions on Warrants and Possible Amendments: P. Bauries commented the Math funding has been resolved and the milling machine funding has another option. J. Fortson commented on Article Six the Capital Reserve Fund of 1975. The wording will be cleaned up and the funds will be put in the general fund. We cannot move it to an existing fund. The Dept. of Revenue has suggested a wording change. DRA has made changes to Article Seven but J. Fortson has not heard back yet regarding the changes. S. Peters commented the information should be available for clarity at the polls on Article Seven. M. Szymcik said the \$5,225.00 is out and \$5,000.00 is a contract correction.

c. State of the (School Administration) Union Discussion: W. Wright commented we should continue with this practice each year. He did not see anything negative. The CRC should review. He thanked the administration and principals for the presentation.

d. Other Old Business as may come before the Board: J. Carnie is asking to have Policy BDE on the agenda every week until it is on the agenda as a first read. The weighted vote is a change in the Policy. The NHSBA said to use the weighted vote always. He would like the policy on salary and stipends as well as conflict of interest on the next agenda for a first read. B. Faulkner commented the Policy Committee is meeting on February 11, 2016 and the policies need to be on the agenda for the public to be noticed. B. Faulkner said we have a policy for presenting policies. J. Carnie said we need a first read and if not he will take appropriate action.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Action on the Manifest: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of \$1,816,957.52. **SECOND:** J. Smith. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.** J. Carnie said there are several votes for the manifest which have a conflict of interest regarding salaries. B. Faulkner commented we got paid how could we have voted on that manifest. J. Carnie said the School Board pay is not a salary. Several members who have relatives in the School District are getting paid.

9. Setting Next Meeting's Agenda:

- 1. Policy BDE**
- 2. Salaried Employees**

10. Public Comments: There are no Public comments. *J. Smith leaves the meeting.*

11. 9:34 PM Motion to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Hiring of a Public Employee: MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Hiring of a Public Employee. **SECOND:** S. Peters **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/2.243. **Motion passes.**

12. 9:42 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: 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:** S. Peters **VOTE:**10.757/0/0/2.243. **Motion passes.**

13. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: B. Mitchell **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 10:19 PM. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/2.243. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording secretary