

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
(Non-Approved Minutes)
November 17, 2015
Roxbury Town Hall, Roxbury, NH

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

Administration present: L. Witte, Superintendent and L. Heath.

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 7:00 PM.

1. **Public Comments:** Selectman Jim Rousmanier welcomed the Board to Roxbury.
2. **MINUTES: MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the October 6, 2015 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** J. Smith. **VOTE:** P. Peterson-yes, W. Wright-yes, K. Wheeler-abstain, J. Carnie-abstain, N. Mosher-abstain, P. Bauries-abstain, B. Faulkner-abstain, J. Smith-abstain, B. Tatro-yes, S. Peters-yes and L. Steadman-no. 4.349/.998/5.410/2.243. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: J. Smith **MOVED** to accept the November 3, 2015 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION: MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** to postpone the approval of the November 3, 2015 School Board Meeting Minutes until the next Board Meeting. **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/2.243. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the 10:45 PM November 3, 2015 Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** J. Smith. **DISCUSSION:** The Board discussed the minutes. J. Carnie commented a Board Member being discussed in a motion should not be able to discuss the issue. There was a question regarding the nomination of M. Blair as a volunteer coach. L. Witte explained it was a verbal nomination. **VOTE:** 8.561/0/2.196/2.243. **Motion passes.**

3. **Student Government Report:** There is no Student Government Report.
4. **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:**
 - a. **BUSINESS MANAGER’S REPORT:** J. Fortson is not present. She would like the Board to sign the manifest.

b. Correspondence and Announcements: L. Witte reported there was a small fire in the laundry room dryer vent. The students and staff were evacuated and returned to school in 30 minutes. W. Wright commented on a job well done by the Emergency Services.

The MS/HS Special Olympics have won the Bowling State Championship. Congratulations!!!

The Varsity Spirit Squad won the Spirit Squad State Championship. Congratulations!!!

Mt. Caesar collected 1108 non-perishable food items during their fall food drive to donate to the local food pantry.

Cutler is holding Curriculum Night tonight. They are focusing on Literacy and Math.

The Troy Turkey Trot is scheduled for November 23, 2015.

Emerson is collecting non-perishable food items for the local soup kitchen.

MOTION: J. Smith **MOVED** to approve the purchase of Varsity Spirit State Championship jackets or an item they deem appropriate up to the allotted amount of money or equivalent swag. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/2.243. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Bauries **MOVED** to approve the purchase of Special Olympic Bowling State Championship jackets or an item they deem appropriate up to the allotted amount of money or equivalent swag. **SECOND:** L. Steadman. **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/2.243. **Motion passes.**

L. Witte informed the Board T. Walsh will be putting a School Lunch Policy article in the District's Newsletter and it will also be mailed out. They have discussed items of communication to lead up to the effective date of the new policy being enforced. She said Alert Now is not working. We are getting close to the December 1, 2015 date. She would like to start the process of the new policy after the New Year in order to get Alert Now up and running. We want to make sure we reach everyone.

L. Witte passed out the Organizational Chart and explained there are issues with the printer. She said the Organizational Chart is a work in progress. It is ready to be shared and available as a reference.

The summary of the Smarter Balance Assessment information will be discussed with the Education Committee. We are working with the principals and L. Carey to drill down to see what we can learn and how it fits in with other data points. There will be more detailed information coming.

L. Witte presented the Board Members with a box with a pin inside. She hopes the pin will remind the members to keep kids in the forefront. Keep kids first. Keep us on track as an organization.

5. BOARD CHAIR REPORT: B. Faulkner said we as a Board have taken our eyes off the ball. We are losing site of our goals. He would like to schedule an end of the year assessment on January 5, 2015. What we have done, how it fits in with our goals and how it is working toward the goal of education for our kids. Let the public know we are aware of those goals.

6. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

6a. Budget Committee: B. Mitchell is not in attendance.

6b. Community Relations Committee: S. Peters commented the committee met tonight and discussed the process of allowing members of the public to ask a question, voice a concern or comment through the Help Desk and then to the appropriate party in order to get an answer. The committee discussed how to communicate the School Lunch Policy. Through the surveys the number one way to communicate was through email. We are in the process of a PowerSchool upgrade. We will have a new version to update parent emails. Alert Now has been a challenge to get up and running. We are discussing how to keep tabs on the feedback information we receive from Monadnock United. On December 1, 2015 at the Troy School the committee will dedicate the time to discuss with the administrative assistants ways to communicate, a building menu of tools. P. Bauries said the CRC Minutes are not on the website. P. Peterson has not heard of the concerns from the Round Table feedback. S. Peters said the information is on line. S. Peters said they have completed the Round Table Discussion with Mt. Caesar, on December 9, 2015 they will go to Gilsum and MS/HS will be after the New Year.

6c. Education Committee: P. Bauries reported the committee met on November 10. L. Witte reported on the Smarter Balance Results being released. The committee heard a presentation from J. Rathbun. Three years ago the district purchased a resource for the teachers but it had not taken off. Define STEM is a tool for the teachers and is connected to literacy. He is working with a few classroom teachers who are interested in Define STEM. It allows the students to work outside the box with creative thinking. STEAM will be discussing this concept. L. Carey presented the NECAP Science scores for grades 4, 8 and 11. The lower grades did well but the 8th and 11th grades dropped down. The administration will be digging into this to see why this is happening. This one test is not a good reflection of how our students do. The district emphasis is on Math and Reading that could be the reason for the science scores. The next meeting is on December 8. De-leveling will be a future agenda item.

6d. Technology Committee: Technology did not meet. They did not have a quorum. The committee is scheduled to meet on December 10, 2015.

6e. Finance and Facilities Committee: J. Carnie reported the committee met and heard from D. LaPointe on the fall work being done. He is reviewing the prints for the engineering design for Mt. Caesar. J. Carnie presented the proposal from N. Richardson for more cameras at the elementary schools and to expand the card system. He said it is not in the budget. D. LaPointe presented a budget which is up \$4,695.00. The committee discussed the 8 ½ hour work day which includes the ½ hour lunch. The staff does not want to stick around for the extra ½ hour. D. LaPointe would suggest a side bar regarding the 8 ½ hour day and to also

cap the salaries. J. Carnie suggested letting the Negotiations Committee know this information. The committee discussed the warrant articles, renovations to the Mt. Caesar, the wooden structures and the SAU Budget. The committee would like to come in with a budget proposal on December 8, 2015 to present to the Board. J. Fortson explained the increase in the budget is due to the administrative Wellness Pool. The committee felt this money should not be in the SAU budget but in the individual school budgets. D. LaPointe explained they have put up two preschool playgrounds and the Fitzwilliam site is being discussed. The SRO funding was discussed and will come up at the next meeting. We need to have concrete SRO numbers to put in the budget. The next meeting is on December 8, 2015.

6f. Policy Committee: L. Steadman reported the committee met and have brought a number of policies to the Board for a first read. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to accept Policy AA School District Legal Status, Policy ABA Volunteer Involvement, Policy ACE Procedural Safeguards Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Handicap/Disability, Policy EBBC/JLCE First Aide & Emergency Medical Care and Policy ILDA Non-Instructional Questionnaires, Surveys and Research as amended. **SECOND:** J. Smith. **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie would like to discuss Policy DFA Revenues from Investments separately. **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/2.243. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** to accept Policy DFA Revenues from Investments as amended. **SECOND:** J. Smith. **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie asked why the amendment to take out “at least annually” and replace it with “periodically”. P. Bauries said it was suggested by the NHSBA and we currently review and adopt an investment policy periodically. J. Carnie said the statute says at least annually. J. Carnie would like to have Policy DFA reviewed. **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to postpone the vote on this motion until we receive the information. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** L. Steadman explained this is a first read. The information discussed will go to the Policy Committee. P. Peterson said “periodically” is so open ended. L. Steadman said she would share the suggestions with the Policy Committee. P. Bauries said to send it back to Policy then back to the full Board for a first read. **VOTE:** 6.518/4.239/0/2.243. **Motion passes.** The committee is scheduled to meet on Dec. 10, 2015.

6g. Extra-Curricular Committee: The Extra-Curricular Committee did not meet. The Board brought up the Husky House motion that was postponed at the last meeting. **MOTION:** J. Smith **MOVED** to allow the Facilities Director to take control of the Husky House. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** L. Witte will support the idea but she asked to make it publically clear who owns it. S. Peters said J. Fortson asked for this. **MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to have the Board support the decision of the Superintendent on where to put the control of the Husky House. **(This will replace the original motion.)** **SECOND:** P. Bauries. **DISCUSSION:** L. Steadman wished the motion would designate a specific person. **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/2.243. **Motion passes.**

6h. Negotiations: P. Bauries reported the committee has been meeting and would like to discuss the contract in a non-meeting after this meeting to bring the Board up to date and discuss a negotiating strategy. P. Bauries commented the committee had been asked to have a

Collective Bargaining Agreement by December. She said the committee has not got to that point.

6i. Ad HOC STEAM: P. Bauries reported the committee is scheduled to meet on November 18, 2015. There are only three School Board Members on the committee. She would like another Board Member on the committee. **MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** to accept the appointment of P. Peterson to the STEAM Ad Hoc Committee as presented by B. Faulkner. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/2.243. **Motion passes.** B. Tatro would suggest staff attend the STEAM Ad Hoc Meetings.

6j. School Safety and Discipline Committee: J. Smith reported the committee met and on the agenda expected the Swanzey Chief to be in attendance. He was not able to make it. Possibly he will be able to attend tomorrow's meeting. If the Chief does not attend the committee will discuss the topics which came out of the survey. The committee will be meeting tomorrow at 6:00 PM.

6k. Cheshire Career Center: W. Wright reported the CCC has not met.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Discussion of Policy BDE: B. Faulkner has contacted the attorney and he has not received a response yet.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Disposition of Sealed Minutes: L. Witte passed out a list of the sealed minutes to the Board. B. Faulkner said in order to open up the sealed minutes we need to do the process in non-public session. He would like to refer this to a committee to screen the minutes. **MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to address 5 sets of sealed Non-Public Meeting Minutes at each Board Meeting during Non-Public Session. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler. **DISCUSSION:** B. Faulkner would like to have a committee or a person screen the minutes. S. Peters would suggest a friendly amendment and start with the oldest minutes. P. Bauries commented some of the sealed minutes on the list have gone past the sealed date. **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/2.243. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** to instruct the Business Office to post the Sealed Non-Public Meeting Minutes that have expired. **SECOND:** P. Bauries. **VOTE:** 9.682/0/1.075/2.243. **Motion passes.** L. Steadman said that should be a standing order and we should not have to vote again.

b. MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to accept the manifest in the amount of \$1,233,378.73. **SECOND:** J. Smith **VOTE:** 9.636/0/1.121/2.243. **Motion passes.**

c. Other New Business as may come before the Board: P. Bauries informed the Board as of June 30, 2015 we have 88 teachers in the District who have been with us for over 30 years. On June 30, 2015 we had 3 retirees. In the past we have offered retirement to some of our older teachers. **MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** to offer up to 5 teachers with 30 or more years of service to the District, the opportunity to retire early on June 30, 2016 with full

benefits and the Board will waive the 18 month required notification. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** B. Faulkner commented this was not on the agenda. **MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** to have the Board take this item up which affects the budget and was not on the agenda. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 10.0/0/.757/2.243. **Motion passes.** **DISCUSSION Continued:** P. Peterson would suggest a friendly amendment and have until January 1, 2016 to accept the offer. N. Mosher asked if this was run by J. Fortson. P. Bauries said yes. B. Faulkner said this process is usually a positive effect. He said if 10 teachers jump at the offer it would then go to the most senior teachers. L. Witte said she would support this decision. L. Steadman would like to make a friendly amendment and offer to teachers with 25 or more years of service to the District. B. Faulkner asked why 5 teachers. P. Bauries said to keep it from getting out of hand. It is a nice thing to do. L. Witte said she discussed the overall cost with J. Fortson and the newer teachers to replace the retirees are usually on the lower step on the scale. **Motion with the friendly amendments:** To offer all teachers with 25 years or more of tenure the option to retire on June 30, 2016 with full benefits and without providing the required 18 month advance notice. The offer would expire January 1, 2016 and the 5 most senior respondents will be accepted. **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/2.243. **Motion passes.**

9. Setting Next Meeting's Agenda:

- 1. Six policies for the second read**
- 2. One policy for the first read**
- 3. RSA 671:18 Nominations and Qualifications of School Board Members**
- 4. Policy DBBA**

10. Public Comments: Nancy Wood thanked the Board for the agenda and informational packet.

J. Carnie commented we need to get our act together. Due to another Board Member we had a very long meeting on November 3, 2015. The Chair went into non-public session to discuss the hiring of a public employee and discussed the hiring of a School Board Member. You cannot have a School Board Member receive a salary from the District. The motion is in violation. The Chair should rule out of order when voting on a stipend for a School Board Member. It should not have been considered. B. Tatro is confused because School Board Members receive a stipend for serving on the Board. B. Faulkner will put this on the next agenda.

11. 9:05 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:** J. Smith **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/2.243. **Motion passes.**

12. 9:16 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: 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. A resignation and a student issue. **SECOND:** N. Mosher **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/2.243. **Motion passes.**

13. 9:35 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: N. Mosher **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. Sealed Minutes. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 10.757/0/0/2.243. **Motion passes.**

14. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 PM. **SECOND:** J. Carnie. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording secretary