

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
(Non-Approved Minutes)
November 3, 2015
Cutler School, Swanzey, NH

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

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:** Mitchell Hill reported on his trip to Chicago which included four days of leadership training. M. Hill and his mom, Nancy on behalf of the Gilsum School are applying for a Healthy Food Challenge Grant in the amount of \$1,600.00 which will pay for blenders, carts and fitness equipment at Gilsum. **MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** if and when the grant is approved to accept the grant in the amount of up to \$1,700.00. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** It was commented this vote is premature. B. Faulkner said this will speed up the process. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**
2. **MINUTES: MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the October 20, 2015 School Board Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** J. Smith. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the October 20, 2015 9:31 PM Non-Public School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the October 20, 2015 9:44 PM Non-Public School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the October 6, 2015 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** B. Faulkner typed, passed out and read his amendment to the October 6, 2015 minutes which is under Policy Committee Report. P. Bauries commented you cannot have two motions on the floor in regards to the minutes. J. Carnie would agree with part of B. Faulkner’s interpretation. He said we pay the minute taker. He asked if Policy BDE was going to be discussed with the attorney as he had requested. B. Faulkner would like the Board to vote on the minutes with his corrections. N. Mosher said

these minutes are two weeks out and it is not what you want to hear so they are amended. **MOTION:** B. Faulkner **MOVED** to amend the October 6, 2015 School Board Meeting Minutes with his amendment. **SECOND:** M. Blair. **DISCUSSION:** The Board discussed the minutes. *B. Faulkner and M. Blair withdraw their motion.* **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to terminate debate. **SECOND:** M. Blair. **VOTE:** 9.469/2.196/.214/1.121. **Motion passes.** **VOTE on amended minutes:** 5.354/5.554/.971/1.121. **Motion fails.** **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to have the hand written minutes submitted to the full Board. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** S. Peters asked what to do if the minutes fail to pass. L. Steadman said we do not need to approve the minutes. B. Faulkner commented once the draft is prepared the handwritten minutes are not a public document. B. Faulkner will ask the attorney about the October 6, 2015 School Board Minutes and put it on the next agenda. **B. Faulkner stated the motion to receive the handwritten minutes is out of order.** **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to overrule the Chair and to request the handwritten minutes. **SECOND:** P. Bauries. **DISCUSSION:** **B. Faulkner stated the motion is out of order.** M. Blair said the attorney ruled six months to a year ago that the handwritten minutes were not to be provided. P. Bauries is unclear where M. Blair got his information whether verbally or written it was not shared with the rest of the Board. B. Faulkner stated the Right to Know Law states the handwritten minutes are not a public document. J. Carnie commented about M. Blair and B. Faulkner said personnel comments are out of order. J. Carnie wants the handwritten minutes. He said Policy BDE is an illegal motion. **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to terminate debate. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 6.482/3.311/2.085/1.121. **Motion fails for lack of 2/3 vote.** **VOTE to overrule the Chair:** 3.525/6.482/1.872/1.121. **Motion fails.**

3. **Student Government Report:** Kate Skrocki reported the Student Government is working on Holiday baskets for the homeless and the families in need. The boys and girls did not make the playoffs but the girls made it to the Final Four in field hockey. The Band performed in recognition of Phil Crotto at the Football Game. The Girls Cross Country Team became the State Champions. **MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** to allow the purchase of jackets or similar items in recognition of the Girls Cross Country Team for receiving the State Championship Title. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** It was commented this has not happened in thirty years. It was commented maybe something a little more special. J. Fortson said there is a certain amount of funding. She said it is \$75.00 per student. The Football Team paid the difference when they wanted something more. **VOTE:** 10.757/0/1.121/1.121. **Motion passes.**

4. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

- a. **BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT:** **MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to allow the Chair and the Vice Chair to sign to request to draw down the funds from the Trustees of the Trust Fund for the ACES first quarter. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.** J. Fortson explained she met with the Town of Swanzey Selectmen along with L. Witte, N. Richardson and the Police Chief in regards to hiring the SRO. It was a very positive meeting and there will be a proposal to come forward at the Finance Meeting.

- b. **Correspondence and Announcements:** L. Witte passed around the November and December fundraiser calendar to the Board. She congratulated the Girls Cross Country State Champions. Gilsum will be holding a Veterans Day Ceremony at the school on November 9,

2015 at 10:00 AM. The MESSA group at Mt. C will be holding a food drive. Troy is holding a Fall Clean up Day. Emerson held a Spooktacular Day. L. Witte explained the Boys Basketball Team would like to go to Boxford, Mass to participate in a scrimmage. There is no cost to the District. **MOTION:** M. Blair **MOVED** to allow the Boys Basketball Team to travel out of State to Boxford, Mass. and participate in a scrimmage. **SECOND:** P. Peterson **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

N. Richardson would like to create one email address for the Board to look at it, correct it and make changes if necessary.

L. Witte passed out and reported on class size at the elementary schools and the MS/HS as of November 2, 2015. She reviewed the classes at the MS/HS that have less than 10 students. She said the students schedule their classes in January for the next year. She explained why the classes have less than 10 students. B. Tatro questioned the 28 students in the 5/6 class at Emerson and the 5/6 class with 29 students. K. Stone is not sure where this information came from. K. Stone said the class size is 23 and 24 students in the combined 5/6 classes. He said they have discussed support. L. Witte will check the 5/6 classes.

- 5. BOARD CHAIR REPORT:** B. Faulkner commented the Board spent the first hour of the meeting discussing the minutes and not moving the agenda forward. He will be keeping an eye on the agenda.

6. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- 6a. Budget Committee:** It was reported the Board and the Budget Committee met and for about 4 hours had a pretty thorough review of the proposed budget items.

- 6b. Community Relations Committee:** S. Peters commented the committee met tonight. He said M. Blair has a basketball coaching schedule conflict and would suggest appointing a new member to the CRC. **MOTION:** J. Smith **MOVED** to accept the appointment of L. Steadman to the CRC as presented by B. Faulkner. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 10.804/0/1.075/1.121. **Motion passes.** S. Peters has a presentation for the Board from the CRC. Members of the CRC have been meeting to develop a feedback process. The committee began with Round Table Discussions at Cutler, Troy and Emerson. Mt. C will have their discussion on Thursday and Gilsum soon. The MS/HS is in the process of participating in the Endicott Survey. The committee will wait until it is complete to meet with them. The committee asked structured questions which in turn the employees answered. The members shared the information with L. Witte and the principals. The hope is that some of these items will become committee items. S. Peters handed out information in a packet. He reviewed the question asked by the committee. He said the answers from the employees were placed on index cards. The Student Behavior Feedback was recommended to go to the SSD Committee, using technology in the classroom was recommended to go to the Technology Committee, Communication was referred to the Superintendent, Safety or Building Facilities feedback was referred to the Finance/Facilities and Meeting Academic Standards was referred to the Education Committee. The top priority was Respect. **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to refer the feedback collected by the CRC to Superintendent or Board Committees as defined in the presentation and to respond in a suitable manner, for the Superintendent and

Board Committees to review the referred feedback and factor what we've learned into their ongoing efforts and for the Superintendent and Board Committees to include a response plan in their committee reviews at the next feasible School Board meeting (ideally within 60 days) and for the Superintendent and CRC to deliver this presentation back to each of the three schools. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher feels a lot is the responsibility of the administration. He is not really on board with leaky pipes. B. Faulkner it is for the committees to work with the administration to see what should go to the Board. S. Peters said he does agree with the spirit of what is being said. The committees will decide what should be filtered. The members will be going to Gilsum and MS/HS to give everyone the opportunity to speak. Take this as the elementary school feedback. S. Peters said the door is open for all staff at the upcoming Round Table Sessions. **VOTE:** 10.084/1.075/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

6c. Education and Technology Committee: P. Bauries reported the committee met on October 27, 2015. The Superintendent was not present she was participating in a NEASC Process in Milford. The committee had a substantial discussion with L. Carey regarding testing. There were comments on the Common Core. L. Carey informed the committee of the process going on to purchase resources to support the Math Curriculum. L. Kalloger spoke on Staff Development. The next meeting is on Nov. 10, 2015. L. Carey will have information on STEM to present to the committee. **MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** on behalf of the Education Committee to request the CRC committee take up the issue of getting the word out to the public on the Smarter Balance Testing, the SAT for the 11th graders and informing the parents of the data it provides. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher said L. Witte would have another forum if there was anyone interested. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

B. Faulkner called a recess at 8:58 PM.

6d. Technology Committee: Technology did not meet.

6e. Finance and Facilities Committee: J. Carnie reported the committee met on October 27, 2015. During Public Comments N. Moriarty commented on the vote of the Board for the SRO without any information and also keeping the SSO. He gave a list of pros and cons to the committee members. He would ask the Board to review their decision. There was a discussion with the D. LaPointe for 2 bids on securing the vestibule. **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** on behalf of the Finance/Facilities Committee to accept the bid of up to \$6650.00 from Granite State Glass to redesign the front door at the MS/HS. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher asked for an explanation. J. Carnie said they will stop the people at the front door so they have to check in before entering the building. L. Steadman said the policy states there has to be three bids for anything over \$5000.00. She said we should hold off. N. Richardson is responding to a State recommendation. J. Carnie said this is the best proposal. L. Witte brought this to D. LaPointe. There is no redesign. She said N. Richardson will do a walkthrough of all the schools with homeland and security and they will provide recommendations and priorities. It is top priority to secure the vestibule. **VOTE:** 11.665/0/.214/1.121. **Motion passes.** The committee reviewed the Gilsum and MS/HS proposed budgets. Gilsum has 48 students and is proposing a budget with an anticipated

enrollment of 60. There was also a discussion on the Principal/Interventionist. There was very little change in the budgets from last year. The next meeting is at 5:00 PM on November 10, 2015.

6f. Policy Committee: M. Blair reported the Policy Committee has not met.

6g. Extra-Curricular Committee: M. Blair reported the committee discussed the mission of the committee, a focus list of clubs and athletics as well as the number of students involved. There was a discussion of the fields at Mt. C. The committee discussed Acts of Misconduct and how to respond on all the clubs and athletics. The committee discussed working with various youth clubs and sports to prepare them for school sports and clubs. The committee discussed the sound systems in the District. It was commented we already voted to fix the sound system in Troy. **MOTION:** to have a proposal written by S. Peters and M. Blair to present to Finance for a potential warrant article for the sound systems in the District. **SECOND:** L. Steadman. **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher would assume we have a person responsible for this in the buildings. Has this been run by the principals or the Dir. of Technology? S. Peters said N. Richardson does not do anything with the sound systems. J. Carnie asked if this is a matter of priority to put it on a warrant. L. Steadman said the Board does not have to approve the expenditure. P. Bauries said the Board can approve a warrant article to be placed on the ballot. N. Mosher asked why a warrant article why not out of the budget. B. Faulkner said the warrant article will give the voters a choice. P. Peterson said the sound systems are old and would benefit the children and the citizens. **VOTE:** 9.682/0/2.196/1.121. **Motion passes.** It was reported the family of Paul Breckell is in support of the renaming of the gym and would request the ceremony take place in Dec. 2016, over the holiday break with a coordinating game during that time. B. Faulkner would suggest waiting for the next Board to come up with the details. M. Blair said the Husky House is used by a number of groups and they do not know how to use it or the designee to contact. J. Fortson said her office will take on the building use, cleaning and information to fundraising groups. **MOTION:** M. Blair **MOVED** to allow the Facilities Director to take control of the Husky House. **SECOND:** J. Carnie. **DISCUSSION:** K. Wheeler said this was a discussion earlier tonight between M. Blair and J. Fortson. This issue should wait until the next meeting. **MOTION:** K. Wheeler **MOVED** to postpone this motion until the next meeting. **SECOND:** P. Bauries. **DISCUSSION:** B. Faulkner said this motion is okay because it is not a budget item or policy change. **VOTE:** 8.431/2.210/1.328/1.121. **Motion passes.**

6h. Negotiations: P. Bauries reported the committee would like to have a non-meeting later tonight.

6i. Ad HOC STEAM: P. Bauries reported the committee is scheduled to meet on November 18, 2015 to determine if the committee should have community involvement or only Board Members.

6j. School Safety and Discipline Committee: J. Smith reported the committee met on October 21, 2015 and discussed questions they will be asking the Chief regarding the SRO. The committee discussed the survey results. L. Witte informed the committee regarding her

discussion with N. Richardson about homeland security. The committee discussed the Round Table information. The next meeting is on Nov. 4, 2015 at 6:00 PM.

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

7. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Conflicting Meeting Times: L. Steadman **MOVED** to not have meetings conflict with other meetings with three or more members. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **DISCUSSION:** **MOTION:** K. Wheeler **MOVED** to amend the motion and do not have the meetings meet at the same time. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to amend to refer this to the Policy Committee. **SECOND:** M. Blair. **VOTE:** 10.757/1.121/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

b. Discussion of Policy BDE: It was commented our policies have to be in agreement and align with the State Statute. Our policy is an effort to obstruct 91 A. State Statute says a majority is a quorum of three. It is in violation and conflict of the State Statute. J. Carnie will try to get this corrected and does not want to have a situation that would cost the District. He would have liked a written opinion from the attorney. **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to give this issue to the Board Attorney and contact the NHSBA Attorney on this issue which is the three members. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **DISCUSSION:** M. Blair said this was unanimous with a previous vote. He is not opposed to sending it to the attorney. The problem is using State Statute when convenient but in other cases we do not follow them. L. Steadman does not want to send it back to the attorney. She said to go back to the 50% instead of the attorney. J. Carnie responded to M. Blair's comments. **MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** to amend and forward it to the attorney for an opinion if the Board votes no or if the motion fails because of the 2/3 vote then approve the 50% committee membership. **Lack of a second. MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to refer to Policy. **SECOND:** M. Blair. **B. Faulkner called the motion out of order. MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** to allow the Board to override the Policy. **SECOND:** L. Steadman. **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher said to send it to the Board Attorney. P. Bauries said we have a good policy or spend the District's money. M. Blair said we are spending money to get an opinion that some may not agree with. J. Carnie said to send it to the attorney and consult the NHSBA attorney. **VOTE:** 6.181/5.697/0/1.121. **Motion fails for lack of 2/3 vote.** M. Blair is asking whose attorney will the Board agree with. It was commented J. O'Shaughnessy. **VOTE:** 8.638/3.241/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

The bullets of Policy BBA were read to the Board. It was commented the Board Members should be held accountable. J. Carnie stated policies do not supersede the State Statute.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Student Class Placement Discussion: S. Peters said with an informal discussion with L. Kalloger the administration has been working on a presentation for the Education Committee regarding de-leveling. J. Carnie asked how L. Kalloger was not aware of a position that is shared with two other schools and mentioned at the Saturday meeting. L. Witte explained it is a paraprofessional shared with two other schools. L. Kalloger was not on the interview committee when it was addressed.

b. MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to accept the manifest in the amount of \$1,830,611.94. **SECOND:** J. Smith **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

c. Other New Business as may come before the Board: It was commented the Board should look at the unsealing of minutes. J. Carnie commented the discussion should take place in public session. N. Mosher said the Board is making an effort to look at the minutes that are sealed.

9. Setting Next Meeting's Agenda:

1. Unsealing of Minutes.

10. Public Comments: G. Hoffman is concerned with the fundraising in the community. There are a few Booster Clubs getting the majority of it. He suggested one Booster Club. He is opposed to a police officer in our school. This is a school of education. It sends the wrong message. He would ask the Board to reconsider and identify the true threat. If you hire a SRO do not have him dress in a police uniform. Have the SRO be a welcoming resource and not a bully. He suggested the SRO work during the day and the SSO work during afterschool events.

11. 10:45 PM Motion to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Hiring of a Public Employee: **MOTION:** J. Smith **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Hiring of a Public Employee. **SECOND:** P. Peterson **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

12. 11: 54 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. **SECOND:** J. Smith **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

13. Public Session: **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to seal the November 3, 2015, 11:54 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes indefinitely. **SECOND:** J. Smith. **VOTE:** 8.712/2.410/.757/1.121. **Motion passes.** P. Bauries asked the process to unseal the minutes. B. Faulkner said the process will be discussed in public session.

M. Blair said this Board needs to get its act together. If I did not have my microphones and have to lock up the building I would have been gone by now. This is the Board of Education. This is about our kids. This is ridiculous. N. Mosher commented the Board debated on a \$1,250.00 stipend.

14. Motion to adjourn: **MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 12:45 AM on November 4, 2015. **SECOND:** J. Carnie. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,
Laura L. Aivaliotis, Recording secretary