

**Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**(Approved Minutes)**  
**October 6, 2015**  
**Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH**

**Members Present:** Pat Bauries, Betty Tatro, Joseph Smith, Barry Faulkner, Phyllis Peterson, Scott Peters, Mike Blair, Lisa Steadman, Winston Wright, James Carnie. Bob Mitchell, Nicholas Mosher and 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:** D. LaPointe had asked the Board in January why the District is paying vacation pay at 8 and half hours when the employee is not working. Why are we paying for lunch when they are not working? In the contract section 6.4 A overtime, we need to be here 43.45 hours then the overtime will begin. He said we need to clear this up. It is probably past practice. P. Bauries asked how the decision was made to pay for lunch breaks when they are not there. P. Bauries would suggest meeting with the Negotiating Committee and the attorney to find a resolution to the question.

**2. Consent Agenda:**

**MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the September 15, 2015 School Board Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **DISCUSSION:** **MOTION to amend:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to change the word “week” to “semester” in the Education/Tech Report. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler. **VOTE:** .757/10.908/1.335/0. **Motion fails.**

**MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the September 15, 2015, 10:05 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** J. Smith. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the September 15, 2015, 10:12 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** J. Smith **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**  
**MOTION:** K. Wheeler **MOVED** to strike “on behalf of the Sports Committee” in Section 6f. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** K. Wheeler said it was a motion made by M. Blair and it was not on behalf of the committee. **VOTE:** .757/10.908/1.335/0. **Motion fails.**

P. Peterson would suggest a written motion to be presented to the Board from a committee who just met or wait until the next Board Meeting to present. K. Wheeler explained she would agree and suggested that at the committee meeting.

3. **Student Government Report:** Tyler Blair reported the fall sports teams are doing very well. He informed the Board of the members on the Homecoming Court. The band will be performing at the Dover Exhibition. The Good Person Society continues to make the school better and increase school spirit. They will be holding a Winter Pep Rally to recognize the winter sports. The Band performed in the Firemen's Parade and did a great job.

4. **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:**

- a. **BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT:** J. Fortson passed around the manifest for the Board to sign. She informed the Board there is a surplus.

- b. **Correspondence and Announcements:** L. Witte passed around the fund raiser calendar. She reported Gilsum K-6 will be traveling to UNH for a discovery day and seacoast science. Cutler will hold a walk to school day. Cutler will also perform a play to demonstrate how to learn new words. The Lions Club will hold a K-1 Vision Screening. The Husky Pride Program allows students an opportunity to win prizes by participating in sports, community service and other qualifications. Homecoming was a huge success. There is a principal's challenge and students can earn tickets to have lunch with the principal.

L. Witte explained she had met with the Superintendent from Keene to discuss the NESDEC Report. They discussed how to attack some of the recommendations from the report. L. Witte passed out the official enrollment numbers for the District. W. Wright commented there was a big drop in Troy. L. Witte explained the previous numbers were not true, stable or reliable. The Kindergarten numbers in Troy are at 25 and that was an absolute right decision to add the extra teacher. The Board asked questions on the official enrollment numbers.

There will be a Parent Forum on the Smarter Balance Results on October 13-14. November 9 the District will receive the scores and on November 12 the scores will be released to the public. The scores will be reported to the parents at the Parent Teacher Conferences. It was commented the Education Committee will be attending the Forum on October 13, 2015. There is a Labor Dispute Workshop for Superintendents and Board Members. Anyone interested please contact L. Witte. D. Ayotte will be holding Lights on After School on October 22.

5. **BOARD CHAIR REPORT:** B. Faulkner thanked Tyler Blair for his report. He did a great job. B. Faulkner said everyone will have an opportunity to speak on Policy BDE.

6. **SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- 6a. **Budget Committee:** B. Mitchell reported the committee met on September 22, 2015. He said W. Lechluder suggested a budget number and would ask the Board to work towards a \$1,080,734.00 reduction for a proposed budget in the amount of \$29,729,671.00. B. Mitchell said he voted against this. There was a motion from the Budget Committee to support a SRO

financially with all aspects put in place. L. Steadman asked if the Budget Committee is keeping in mind the legal expenditures, facility, permit fees, contracts, supplies and competitive salaries all going up. The cost per pupil is not the same as 5 or 10 years ago. J. Fortson said this is a direction from the committee. W. Lechliden said his number is based on the recurring savings and the surplus. This has been the average annual surplus over the past 6 years. This is more of an exercise.

**6b. Community Relations Committee:** M. Blair reported the CRC did not meet.

**6c. Education and Technology Committee:** P. Bauries reported the committee met on September 23. N. Richardson reported on the help desk requests and who is in charge of taking care of them. J. Fortson reported on the Student Store at the MRMHS. L. Witte explained why the testing information from the State is not available to the public. The questions are used again. P. Bauries said The Brockton Plan which was presented a few years ago is being incorporated in many aspects of our curriculum. She hopes we will be successful as well. The committee discussed the Strategic Plan items for the next agenda. On September 29 the committee met and had a presentation from 4 Department Heads. They informed the committee how they fulfill their responsibilities as Division Leaders during the day. The Cedar Reading Program is working well and the committee is looking for more updates. The committee will be attending the Parent Forum on October 13, 2015. P. Bauries mentioned because the Ed/Tech Committee runs over the allotted time they would suggest the technology part be incorporated in all of the committees when relevant. **MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** on behalf of the Ed/Tech Committee to recommend to the full Board to retire the technology focus and incorporate it into all the committees when relevant. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** M. Blair explained he had left the meeting when this was discussed. He said technology is important in all meetings. It was a separate committee. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to remove Technology from the Ed/Tech Committee and make Technology a separate sub-committee. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **DISCUSSION:** P. Peterson said the intent was not to have the technology separate from the Education but to have technology be a part of each committee. **P. Bauries and P. Peterson will withdraw their motion until the discussion on Policy BDE.**

**6d. Finance and Facilities Committee:** J. Carnie explained the committee met on September 22, 2015. The committee discussed the motion from the Sports Committee, whether to have a warrant article for the fields. D. LaPointe reported he is not asking for new fields but to fix the fields we have. D. LaPointe will report back on the cost. Phase 5 of the renovations was discussed. There was a huge savings in energy and it was suggested the CRC should have a press release in mid November. When Mt. Caesar is complete they will also see a savings. J. Carnie would like to have two principals at every meeting to discuss their budgets. The committee heard from K. Stone and would like to hear from Mt. Caesar and Cutler at the meeting on October 13, 2015. He would encourage Budget Committee Members to attend.

**6e. Policy Committee:** M. Blair reported the committee met on September 29, 2015 and discussed the Policy IGAF Physical Education. The committee is presenting this for the first read. The student must have one semester of PE before receiving a waiver for playing sports.

This is a recommendation from the administration. **MOTION:** M. Blair **MOVED** to accept Policy IGAF Physical Education as a first read. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.** The committee is working on the Student Handbook in regards to the Acts of Misconduct and they will continue to work. L. Witte is working on policies in Section A. The committee reviewed the Digital Privacy Policy and is working on home school policies. The Organizational Chart was discussed and is being worked on. The committee will work on policies required by State Law and priority. **MOTION:** M. Blair **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy Committee to amend Policy BDE Committees and Delegates as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie commented the motion done on May 5, 2015 was illegal. He said this is a conflict of State Statute. We are in violation of State Law. **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to purpose the original wording in Policy BDE Committees and Delegates. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie said a quorum will consist of 50% but not fewer than 3 members of the committee. He said this was discussed because of the 3 members for the Negotiating Committee. B. Faulkner would like to have the attorney to review this. M. Blair said it is appropriate to send this back to policy and he finds it interesting to use State Statute when convenient. J. Carnie read the State Statute. **MOTION:** J. Smith **MOVED** to refer for a legal opinion. **SECOND:** B. Mitchell. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to call the question. **SECOND:** B. Mitchell. **VOTE:** 8.718/4.282/0/0. **Motion passes. VOTE on Policy BDE with corrections:** 5.397/7.604/0/0. **Motion fails. Policy BDE for first read.** B. Faulkner would like to limit debate on the discussion of Policy BDE. **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to overrule the Chair. **SECOND:** P. Bauries. **DISCUSSION:** P. Bauries commented B. Faulkner was cutting off the discussion on Policy BDE. She said B. Faulkner said she could speak from earlier in the meeting. B. Faulkner would like to terminate debate on all items on the floor. J. Carnie said the amendment has been voted on. **VOTE to overrule the Chair:** 4.282/8.718/0/0. **Motion fails.** P. Bauries asked where she should bring up the discussion on the tech committee. **VOTE on Policy BDE as first read:** 8.574/4.426/0/0. **Motion passes.** The committee will be discussing Policy BEDC in regards to video and telecommunication for a future meeting. The next meeting will be on October 27, 2015. J. Carnie said the change of committee title was not brought forth by the committee. The purpose of the Sports Committee was not intended to be changed to an Extra-Curricular Committee. **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to ask the Sports Committee to review Policy BDE and report back to the Board. **SECOND:** P. Bauries. **VOTE:** 5.183/7.604/.214/0. **Motion fails.** P. Bauries asked why is it J. Carnie had to make it a motion and have it voted on and when L. Steadman asked to have the Monadnock United and there was no motion or vote. B. Faulkner said it takes a motion to change policy.

**6f. Sports Committee:** M. Blair reported the committee met and discussed the mission and the focus of this committee. They discussed the lower soccer fields and reviewed pictures passed around to the committee with the fields under one to two feet of water. There is a need to renovate and address this issue. The committee discussed the Athletic Handbook acts of misconduct, Monadnock/ConVal Cooperative Hockey Team, discussion on renaming the gym and J. Adams approached the committee about a Wrestling Team. J. Adams has a coach for the team and members who wish to participate. He will be bringing back a proposal. The committee discussed the youth programs and how they should support the programs at the school. The committee would like to know the number of participants in the extra-curricular activities. M. Blair listed items for future agendas. There will be a discussion on a schedule

of events to align with no conflict. **MOTION:** M. Blair **MOVED** to support the Monadnock Hockey Boosters to merge Monadnock and ConVal into a cooperative Hockey Program for the 2016-2017 School Year. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **DISCUSSION:** P. Bauries commented two years ago this Board approved \$8,742.00 for the Hockey Program and we did not have it. M. Blair explained we did have an ice hockey program. There were about 20 skaters. The additional cost of the program was paid for by the Booster Club. M. Blair explained it is for 8-12 grades. A lot of work has been put into this by a lot of people. Both Athletic Directors support this as well as the Booster Clubs. It is a 2 year agreement and is a cost savings to the District. ConVal has approved \$34,000.00 for the Varsity Program. W. Wright asked if the Booster can raise that kind of money. It was commented it is a tremendous job but they can do it. K. Goodenough the President of the Booster Club said the cost is about \$20,000.00. It will be substantially more due to the increase in the cost of the ice. She said they have a cushion in their bank account. M. Blair said the understanding is to continue with the funding of \$8,742.00 for the 2016-2018 school years which is in the budget. The Booster Club has been very successful. **MOTION to amend:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to have the Monadnock School Board budget \$8,742.00 for the Monadnock/ConVal Cooperative Hockey Program. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** L. Witte commented the motion is to establish the cooperative program. If the District continues to go through the process she would caution a dollar amount for subsequent years. The Boosters raise their funds. **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to amend the motion and direct the administration to allow \$8,742.00 for the Monadnock/ConVal Cooperative Hockey Program in the 2016-2017 School Year. **SECOND:** P. Bauries. **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher would like to see how we can properly fund this motion. M. Blair said we are not approving the funding, have that discussion at another meeting. J. Carnie said it is logical to fund up to \$8,742.00. J. Smith said this is for the 2016-2017 budget. We cannot attach it is another budget. M. Blair asked what other sports do not have 100% funding. M. Blair answered none. For that reason he would like to keep the funding separate. He said to vote no on the amendment. **VOTE on amendment:** 3.311/9.689/0/0. **Amendment fails. VOTE:** 10.804/1.121/1.075/0. **Motion passes.**

**6g. Negotiations:** P. Bauries reported the committee is meeting almost on a weekly basis. We have received proposals and have responded. We are looking for a great outcome.

**6h. Ad HOC STEAM:** P. Bauries reported she met with L. Witte and asked her for dates and an agenda for the next meeting which is scheduled for October 21, 2015 at 5:00 PM. It was asked the status of the second appeal. P. Bauries said it has not been sent it has been sent to the attorney.

**6i. School Safety and Discipline Committee:** J. Smith reported the committee reported on two major items. They discussed the survey which went to the students, parents and others gathering their opinions on school safety and discipline in the District. The committee also discussed the SRO and there is a motion from this committee. **MOTION:** J. Smith **MOVED** to ask the Board to include the position of the SRO in the 2016-2017 school year. **SECOND:** M. Blair. **DISCUSSION:** J. Smith said he supports this position. N. Mosher commented it was a 3 to 3 vote at the committee level to bring to the full Board. He said there is no research on the cost. He has a lot of questions. S. Peters said he made the motion. He said as a committee we dance around the SRO topic. We need a motion and a second to have a

discussion. There seems to be a lot of support but a lot of chase. B. Tatro commented the Swanzey Police are here every day. B. Mitchell said the Chief supports the concept. P. Bauries said she does not agree or disagree. This is a passionate discussion. What is the exact cost, what is the job description according to Swanzey? How many days in the building, is the SRO obligated to leave to go do other Swanzey work and how safe are the non-Swanzey Schools? We need facts to make a decision. It is an emotional decision. **MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** to amend the motion and ask the Safety and Discipline Committee to come back with the answers to P. Bauries questions. **SECOND:** J. Carnie. **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher would like to have the discussion now. J. Carnie commented there is a lot of emotion but no data. If we are going to do this we need the Police Chief in on the discussion. It was commented not sure the public is 100% sure regarding the SRO. The prior position was a warrant article. This is asking to put it in the budget. P. Peterson is not against the SRO but we need more information. K. Wheeler does not have enough information. She would like the Swanzey Police present. M. Blair asked how many Board Members go into the school and talk to the students. They are in support of an SRO. W. Wright said we definitely need an SRO, pass this and put it in the budget. J. Carnie said we do not know the correct number. N. Mosher said we were presented with data and the issues were not violent. Is it that we solve a majority of issues with an armed officer? He sees this as a highly reactionary issue. We have not seen the effects of the new SSO. B. Mitchell would like to move on the SRO tonight. There is a vast majority in Swanzey that support this. K. Wheeler said it sounds like we are split and she would suggest L. Witte go to the Swanzey Police and discuss this and have the questions answered. Ask L. Witte to approach the Swanzey Police with the questions the Board will email her. S. Peters said we need to reinstate the position knowing the cost will be more than work out the particulars. L. Steadman said he or she will not be available to the elementary schools. It was suggested to have the SRO part time and an SSO for the elementary schools, a team approach. P. Bauries would like her questions answered. N. Mosher asked what we are saying about the SSO. **VOTE on the amendment:** 4.282/8.718/0/0. **Motion fails. VOTE on original motion:** P. Peterson-no, W. Wright-yes, K. Wheeler-no, J. Carnie-no, N. Mosher-no, P. Bauries-no, M. Blair-yes, B. Faulkner-yes, B. Mitchell-yes, J. Smith-yes, B. Tatro-yes, S. Peters-yes and L. Steadman-yes. 8.718/4.282/0/0. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** J. Smith **MOVED** to request approval for the services of a recording secretary at the Safety, Security and Discipline Meeting. **SECOND:** M. Blair. **DISCUSSION:** P. Bauries said there was a prior motion to have a secretary at every the committee meetings. **J. Smith and M. Blair withdraw their motion.**

**6j. Cheshire Career Center:** W. Wright reported the CCC Advisory met on September 25, 2015. They met the new director Lisa Danley and the new staff. Enrollment is now on line. A student essay is now a requirement to enter the CCC. There is now more space available for the Monadnock students. He toured the center and saw a full house being built. L. Danley will be scheduling 2-3 more meetings this year and would like to schedule them at the sending schools.

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

**7. OLD BUSINESS:**

**a. Monadnock United Resolution:** L. Steadman commented she would like to draw the Board's attention that we have taken large strides. It is important that we do not ignore the resolution. They are asking for more transparency. Open up dialogue with the questions they may have. She would suggest a forum. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to suggest a forum to include one administrator, one School Board Member, one employee per building, one community member per town, one student representative and to have 4 meetings. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** P. Bauries asked each member if they are a member of the MU or have been a member. It was commented 200 parents signed the resolution. The School Board did not adopt it. B. Faulkner said it is part of history. The School Board did not authorize or support. **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to amend and refer to the CRC and have the Monadnock United Resolution reviewed by the CRC. **SECOND:** B. Mitchell. **DISCUSSION:** B. Faulkner explained the history of the Monadnock United Resolution. **VOTE:** 10.084/1.121/1.075/0. **Motion passes.** J. Carnie would like to see the signatures supporting the resolution in the Board packets.

**b. Motion to rescind the vote of the School Board on May 5, 2015 regarding Policy**

**BDE:** B. Faulkner said the motion tonight was out of order. J. Carnie said he does not believe it is out of order. He will ask to have this brought up at another date. B. Faulkner said our Board Policy states the first read than vote at the next meeting. To change the rules will require 2/3 vote. J. Carnie said Roberts Rules state an action previously taken requires a 2/3 vote to change.

**c. Committee Meeting Dates:** L. Witte presented the Board with a schedule of dates for the subcommittees in hope to avoid conflict. She explained her rationale. L. Steadman suggested loosely adopting the schedule of dates until we have time to review in case any revisions are necessary. P. Bauries commented that changes policy. M. Blair thanked L. Witte for the schedule. J. Carnie thanked L. Witte and said the bottom line is it is up to the committee to schedule their meetings. N. Mosher, B. Tatro and K. Wheeler thanked L. Witte. K. Wheeler stated there may be times when it may be difficult to be here at certain times. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to adopt as a guideline regarding the schedule of dates for the sub-committee meetings, send it back to the committees and use it as they can. **SECOND:** M. Blair. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

**8. NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to accept the manifest in the amount of \$1,902,805.00. **SECOND:** S. Peters **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** K. Wheeler **MOVED** if a committee meets after the packet has been released any motion will be presented at the following Board Meeting. **SECOND:** B. Tatro.

**DISCUSSION:** **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to amend the motion and refer this to the Policy Committee. There are items that need to be addressed. **SECOND:** J. Smith. **VOTE:** 9.806/2.120/1.075/0. **Motion passes.**

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

- 10. Public Comments:** There are no Public Comments.
- 11. 11:05 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:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**
- 12. 11:15 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:** P. Bauries **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**
- 13. 11:39 Public Session:** **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to seal the October 6, 2015 11:15 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes until the first Board Meeting in November. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **VOTE:** 10.804/1.075/1.121/0. **Motion passes.**
- 14. Motion to adjourn:** **MOTION:** M. Blair **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 11:41 PM. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis  
Recording secretary