

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
Non-Approved Minutes)
September 15, 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:** M. Diven commented on the article in the Sentinel in which she was mentioned and she said she was embarrassed. She commented to the Board when talking to the media we need to watch the words we use. We need to be more professional.

J. Fortson of Swanzey mentioned de-leveling education. She said if you are not an honors student you are everyone else. It is unfortunate if you are not taking AP courses you are everyone else. There is disruption in the classes. The Education Committee should look at the de-leveling issue. This is unfortunate for her son.

- 2. Consent Agenda:**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the September 1, 2015 School Board Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** J. Smith **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie asked about the opinion from the attorney regarding the MESSA contract. B. Faulkner explained he does not have the opinion in writing. He discussed the issue with the attorney and it is B. Faulkner’s interpretation from his discussion with the attorney. **VOTE:** 10.810/0/2.190/0. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the September 1, 2015, 9:13 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** J. Smith. **VOTE:** 10.810/0/2.190/0. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the September 1, 2015, 9:44 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** J. Smith **VOTE:** 10.810/0/2.190/0. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the September 1, 2015 School Board Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** J. Smith. **VOTE:** 120.810/0/2.190/0. **Motion passes.**

3. Student Government Report: There is no report.

4. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

a. BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT: J. Fortson passed out financial information on all of the Before and After School Programs in the District. She is asking the Board to allow the Chair and the Vice Chair to sign in order to withdraw \$43,197.29 from the account.

MOTION: J. Smith **MOVED** to authorize the Board Chair and the Vice Chair to sign on behalf of the Board for the withdrawal in the amount of \$43,197.29 for the Before and After Program. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** S. Peters asked why the cover page has various amounts. Why are the values so different with the schools? J. Fortson said they all have grants and they decline each year. There is no charge for the Middle School program. We want to keep the kids here and engaged. **MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to postpone the vote until after the Superintendent Report in order to review the information. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler. **VOTE:** 12.787/0/.214/0. **Motion passes.**

b. Warrant Articles-Update: J. Fortson explained the Mt. Caesar renovations cannot be expended until July 1. Over the summer 8 rooms in the MS/HS had asbestos removed and were painted. They have looked at the stage at the MS/HS it is in need of repair. The remaining funds will be used for the stage repair. Phase One of the Mt. Caesar renovations will be the engineer and the architect. The project will go out to bid in the winter and the renovations will begin in the summer. There is a Before and After warrant article with about \$67,000.00 left and a fuel warrant article in the amount of \$5,000.00. The MESSA and the Specialists contract amounts are in the operating budget. The Expendable Trust Warrants have a 3 year period. One account has a remainder of \$5,700.00 which will be returned to the taxpayers. N. Mosher would suggest a trust to allow the hiring of staff member or members if we are short. J. Fortson explained the Special Education Expendable Trust allows hiring if needed. The other option is to hold an Emergency Meeting and ask the voters to hire new staff.

c. High School Division Leaders-Report Update: L. Witte explained L. Kalloger and the Division Leaders are not able to attend this meeting and would like to reschedule. She passed out the fall newsletter from ACES. She handed out the enrollment report as of today. The total number is now 1713 down from 1800 on the first day of school. M. Blair would like information on who might have gone to a Charter School or such.

d. Correspondence and Announcements: L. Witte reported the Smarter Balance Assessment results will be out in November to the public. She has met with the administration on what the Dept. of Ed. did release. They are the preliminary results. We are training the teachers for what is on the test. She attended the MS/HS Open House it was well attended. The HS held a mini college fair. NH schools attended the fair. Homecoming and Husky Hoopla are this weekend. The Band of Education and the bon fire will happen on Friday and the parade and the football game will happen on Saturday. K. Stone will host a coffee roundtable discussion on Sept. 23. Mt. Caesar will be passing out cards to the students

when they demonstrate respect toward others. A student from Mt. Caesar has come up with a regular spirit day for the rest of the year. Cutler will have a poster contest. What does respect mean to you is the poster theme. The community will vote. Gilsum will write and perform their school song. The students will demonstrate their school work to guide the student conferences. L. Witte explained there was a grant in the amount of \$1,468.00. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to allow Gilsum to receive a grant in the amount of \$1,468.00 from the Fuel up to Play 160 grant. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

L. Witte will update the public on the results from the Smarter Balance Results. She will discuss a timeline, events and how to promote it. She passed out the fundraiser calendar and information on field trips. **MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to allow L. Streeter and the members of the French Class to travel to France on April 15-26, 2016. **SECOND:** W. Wright **DISCUSSION:** S. Peters is concerned with one chaperon and 15 students. L. Witte said the group will travel with Keene students and chaperons and they will have the host families also for adult supervision. J. Carnie would like to know the expectation of making up the work being missed. N. Mosher is concerned there is not appropriate adult to student ratio. **Friendly amendment** to allow the French Trip with the 2 missed school days regardless of the previous policy. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to refer this to the Policy Committee to review the stipulations of traveling during school. **SECOND:** B. Mitchell. **VOTE:** 11.122/1.121/.757/0. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to allow the 6th graders in the District to attend an out of state Ecology trip to Maine on May 9-May 13, 2016. **DISCUSSION:** J. Fortson said the District usually gives \$6,600.00 toward the trip and that will be paid out of the transportation savings. M. Szymcik spoke in support of the field trip. **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to amend the motion and allow the trip at no cost to the District. **Amendment fails for a lack of a second.** J. Carnie commented the program is great, we were told there is no cost to the District. He would like to see a report on the District's portion prior to the trip. B. Faulkner stated this is an administrative issue and will be added to the motion. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

J. Fortson explained the ACES information which the Board reviewed. Vote for the withdrawal of \$43,197.29 from the Before and After Expendable Trust. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

5. **BOARD CHAIR REPORT:** B. Faulkner commented on the good press regarding Gabriella Schmidt and the water filling station at Emerson.
6. **SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
 - 6a. **Budget Committee:** B. Mitchell reported the committee has not met and will be meeting on Sept. 22, 2015.

6b. Community Relations Committee: M. Blair reported the committee met this evening and discussed a plan for the website. They discussed the Suggestion Box tool. N. Richardson will draft what it will look like. The CRC will develop and present it at the October 6, 2015 meeting and implementation if approved in November. The number one form of communication coming out of the survey is email. The challenge is to keep and maintain PowerSchool. Get the message out to use the parent portal to use email as means of

communication. The next meeting is on October 6, 2015. N. Mosher said K. Stone sent out the newsletter by email. M. Blair will contact K. Stone.

6c. Education and Technology Committee: P. Bauries reported the committee met and have not been able to complete their agenda. They will try to schedule longer meetings. The committee discussed the Troy Kindergarten and the 24 students. They discussed filling slots in the District but transportation was an issue. B. Tatro asked the committee to consider a proposal for an aide for the kindergarten. The committee discussed it with no action taken. The Safety Committee is discussing this as a safety issue. The committee heard a report from L. Kalloger on the first week of school. She spoke of opening day, the Division Leaders, College Boot Camp, the upcoming Evening School Graduation and three positive phone calls from staff to families each week. L. Carey spoke of the Cedar Team Concept and N. Richardson spoke on the HelpDesk. A. Salzmann, M. Suarez and K. Stone presented the committee with a PowerPoint on data from test scores in which they will share together to help the students. The next meeting is on Sept. 23, 2015.

6d. Finance and Facilities Committee: J. Carnie explained the committee had a large agenda and spoke on two items due to lack of time. J. Fortson presented the employee wages and salary increase for the MRSD. She explained the shifting of employees and the change in numbers. The Gilsum usage fees and charges was discussed. The next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 22, 2015. The meeting will take place at the SAU Building and he would like to start discussing the school budgets with the individual principals. **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** on behalf of the Finance/Facilities Committee to waive the fee for the Gilsum “Before and After School Program” until the end of the 2015-2016 school year. And to continue the discussion starting with the next Finance Committee meeting for a decision on the cost fee of the 2016 Summer Program and to forward this motion to the full Board. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** L. Witte explained she met with D. LaPointe and R. Jernberg and had a great conversation. R. Jernberg agreed it was fair to pay for the dumpster for \$50.00 and supplies for \$100.00 and electricity at no charge during school and in the summer he has agreed to pay \$25.00 for the dumpster, \$100.00 for supplies and \$5.00 a day for electric/custodial. **MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to amend the motion to accept the charges negotiated by the Superintendent for the Gilsum “Before and After School Program” **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** K. Wheeler asked about any other community use. L. Witte explained a Certificate of Insurance is required. K. Wheeler asked if there were any additional fees for community events. K. Wheeler said the insurance to use the building is covered by the Town of Gilsum Recreation Dept. L. Witte explained to use the building on the weekends there would be a charge for the custodian. K. Wheeler said she thought if the program went through the rec. center there would be no charge. J. Fortson said at one point baby showers and other type of events were being held and they are not covered. L. Witte stated the fees negotiated are specific to the “Before and After School Program”. J. Carnie said the motion is okay this year. We need to discuss in depth based on the March 14, 2000 Gilsum Warrant Article. He would agree this is a good solution but it does not address a long term solution. K. Wheeler said insurance was not overlooked. When events took place the individual’s homeowners insurance was used. **VOTE on motion as amended:** 13/0/0. **Motion passes.**

6e. Policy Committee: M. Blair reported the committee has not met. They presented Policy BHA at the last meeting for the first read. **MOTION:** M. Blair **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy Committee to accept Policy BHA as presented. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 10.804/0/2.196/0. **Motion passes.**

6f. Sports Committee: M. Blair reported the committee met earlier tonight. They discussed the equipment shed which is complete. D. LaPointe will look at the scoreboards. They discussed the fields and have brought a motion to the Board. **MOTION:** M. Blair **MOVED** on behalf of the Sports Committee to refer to the Finance /Facilities Committee the review of the fields at the Mt. Caesar complex to renovate to playable condition and to place on a warrant article for the 2016-2017 school year. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** M. Blair explained this is a Finance and Facility issue. D. LaPointe will draft the proposal. The fields have been an issue. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.** The committee discussed the proposal to develop an ice hockey team with Con Val. The two Athletic Directors are working together with the hockey boosters. There is a meeting on Monday at ConVal. It is a quick deadline for approval to ensure this will happen in 2016-2017. The committee discussed the renaming of the gym. J. Smith will discuss it with the family in October. The committee discussed renaming the Sports Committee. **MOTION:** M. Blair **MOVED** on behalf of the Sports Committee to rename the Sports Committee to the Extra-Curricular Committee. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** P. Peterson said a faculty member was an advocate for all clubs. **VOTE:** 8.568/4.433/0/0. **Motion passes.** J. Carnie is concerned the hockey proposal is in a hurry. We need to look at the entire sports program. What can the district afford and not afford. The role of the AD is to look at the entire sports program. He hopes the committee will address this. The next meeting is on October 6, 2015 at 6:00 PM. M. Blair stated we will be looking at the entire program for youth to ensure a competitive program in all aspects of extra-curricular. There is a need and the committee will be reviewing and looking at the leadership.

6g. Negotiations: P. Bauries explained the committee has been meeting weekly. There have been some proposals and some recommendations with counterproposals. She would like to have a non-meeting to discuss some of the issues later tonight.

6h. Ad Hoc STEAM: P. Bauries reported the committee has not met.

6i. School Safety and Discipline Committee: The committee will meet on Sept. 16, 2015 at 6:00 PM.

B. Faulkner called for a 10 minute recess.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

a. SSO Job Description(s): B. Faulkner explained people requested the job descriptions. The job description is a management position not the School Board. L. Witte has revised the job description. **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to refer the SSO Job Description to the Safety and Discipline Committee. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** J. Smith does not feel this is a Safety Committee issue it is a personnel issue. J. Carnie said it makes perfect sense to send it to the committee. N. Mosher said he does not see a need to send it to

committee. B. Mitchell commented L. Witte has her revised document. Possibly share with the Safety Committee but we should not all be involved in the job description. S. Peters stated the SSO or SRO is on the Safety Committee's agenda. N. Mosher would like to discuss SRO and SSO but not related to here. N. Mosher said the job description approved by the Superintendent be put on the website for the Board to review. **VOTE:** 7.433/4.453/1.115/0. **Motion passes.**

b. Committee Assignments & Operating Guidelines: B. Faulkner explained the Board agreed to review the committee assignments in 6 months. He said if the committees are working well they should remain the same. He said a committee with 3 members may be an issue. N. Mosher does not have an issue of any School Board Member being a member on a committee. B. Faulkner spoke of alternates. **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to allow all School Board Members as alternates and maybe tapped by the Chair of the subcommittee in order to seat a quorum. **SECOND:** B. Mitchell. **DISCUSSION:** P. Bauries commented the meetings are in Swanzey and the Swanzey members would be asked first. It is not a fair way to handle this. L. Steadman said she works in Keene and can attend the meetings on her way home. There are other members that work around the area. J. Carnie commented the list of operations was never adopted by this Board. J. Carnie said what we are doing now is a fairly good working relationship. The School Board does not have alternates. He said the committees are suppose to stay through the year. He does not want to be replaced by someone in Swanzey. N. Mosher commented anything we can do to eliminate politics is a good thing. You are adding to the politics with this motion. P. Peterson said we have some committees that are working well. B. Mitchell is in favor of the motion. K. Wheeler would not agree with the motion. She would like to have her seat filled by someone sharing her view points. She would suggest appointing a member herself. J. Carnie said it is a political situation aimed at the small towns. **VOTE:** P. Peterson-no, W. Wright-no, K. Wheeler-no, J. Carnie-no, P. Bauries-no, N. Mosher-no, B. Faulkner-yes, B. Mitchell-yes, J. Smith-no, B. Tatro-yes, S. Peters-yes, L. Steadman-yes. 5.361/7.640/0/0. **Motion fails.** **MOTION:** M. Blair **MOVED** to appoint S. Peters to the Extra-Curriculum Committee. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 12.002/0/.998/0. **Motion passes.**

8. NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to accept the manifest in the amount of \$1,122,332.08. **SECOND:** J. Smith **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.** J. Smith would like to thank Norita for the answers regarding the manifest.

9. Setting Next Meeting's Agenda:

1. Monadnock United Resolution
2. Hockey Proposal

10. Public Comments: M. Blair apologized in regards to the recess at the last meeting. He should have addressed it head on.

11. 10:05 PM Motion to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Hiring of a Public Employee: **MOTION:** B. Mitchell **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. 10:12 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:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

13. Public Session: W. Wright informed the committee the CCC Advisory Board will be meeting on Sept. 25, 2015 at 7:30 AM.

14. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: J. Smith **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 PM.
SECOND: S. Peters. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording secretary