

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
(Approved Minutes)
September 1, 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, Bob Mitchell, Nicholas Mosher and Karen Wheeler.

Absent: Winston Wright and James Carnie.

Administration present: L. Witte, Superintendent, T. Kennett, Dir. of Student Services 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 they have received a bill for \$3650.00 for the Before and After Program. She explained the Gilsum Recreation is being charged to use the building and we think the bill is too much. The parents pay for their children to attend the program.

2. Consent Agenda:

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the August 11, 2015 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 9.689/0/1.121/2.190. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the August 11, 2015 MDEA Hearing as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to postpone and to discuss the minutes in Non-Public Session. **VOTE:** 10.810/0/0/2.190. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the August 14, 2015 Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** M. Blair. **VOTE:** 6.696/0/4.115/2.190. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: M. Blair **MOVED** to accept the August 14, 2015, 6:10 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 6.696/0/4.115/2.190. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the August 14, 2015, 6:25 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **VOTE:** 6.696/0/4.115/2.190. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: J. Smith **MOVED** to accept the August 24, 2015 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher suggested the attorney’s opinion be attached to the minutes. **VOTE:** 5.210/0/5.601/2.190. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the August 24, 2015, 6:35 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** J. Smith. **VOTE:** 6.331/0/4.479/2.190. **Motion passes.**

3. Student Government Report: There is no report.

4. BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT: J. Fortson reported she had heard from Gabriel Schmidt regarding the EZH2O Filling Station. She said the water tasted better and saved over 100 plastic bottles.

The funds received from the Planet Aid boxes are marked to go to Project Graduation. They will be putting stickers on the boxes to indicate that. After discussion from the Board they have decided to move the boxes to the back of the parking lot.

The District has received a surplus check from LGC in the amount of \$513,376.84. Eighty percent stays in the District the rest to retirees and employees.

5. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

5a. Correspondence and Announcements: L. Witte reported she welcomed the new staff and took a tour of the District. They held a District wide meeting which went very well. The Superintendent's Club Dinner had a large group in attendance. Thursday they welcomed the students. The teachers greeted the students by singing to them. It was a wonderful first day at all the schools. She handed out the first day enrollment numbers and a comparison to last year. L. Witte informed the Board where they can participate in Picture Day in order to get their pictures done for a project the CRC will be discussing tonight. N. Mosher asked when the District will be sending the updated residency list to the towns. L. Witte commented it is a little early still. October 1 is the day for the official enrollment numbers. As part of the NEASC Accreditation the District will be conducting the Endicott Opinion Survey. This survey is voluntary to all but we will promote to have a high response. L. Witte read the many fundraisers that will be held in the District. The draft for the Budget Timeline was handed out to the Board. The Finance Committee will start to review possibly D. LaPointe's budget first. The Board would like to make sure the warrant information is available in Education Matters. P. Bauries explained they would like to have the contracts available at the first Board Meeting in December and vote at the second meeting in December.

6. BOARD CHAIR REPORT: B. Faulkner had heard great feedback on the first day of school. The Superintendent is getting us off to a great start. L. Steadman said it was inspiring to be here when the teachers came back and were singing to the students. The Superintendent's Club Dinner was a great time. B. Faulkner clarified the motion to limit debate to the Board.

7. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

7a. Budget Committee: B. Mitchell reported the committee met and would ask to receive the contracts in an appropriate amount of time. J. Fortson briefed the committee on the

budget accounts. Superintendent Witte informed the committee of a new K-12 Math Curriculum. The committee reviewed budgetary expenditures.

7b. Community Relations Committee: M. Blair reported the committee met twice since the last meeting. There will be a few motions tonight. T. Walsh discussed the new lunch policy. The letter in the Sentinel regarding the new lunch policy brought awareness to the issue. The committee discussed the Media Information Manager Position and would like to bring this to the Board level. The position would update and maintain the website, ensure public communication, get information to the public and be proactive. The CRC is looking at a possibility of designating a person. We need to have a way for the public, students and teachers to have a way to communicate internally. The committee would suggest a “Suggestion Box” this would be a tool on the website. The question would be directed to the appropriate person or department. S. Peters explained he met with N. Richardson regarding the use of the Help Desk to extend the “Suggestion Box”. The committee will have a working session on Sept. 15, 2015 on the “Suggestion Box”. The committee would suggest Board Bios. They would like to develop a plan and a template for each of the School Board Members. They would like to include a picture so it was suggested everyone have their picture taken on Picture Day. L. Witte has submitted her Bio and the Board can use that as a template. **MOTION:** M. Blair **MOVED** on behalf of the CRC to endorse the CRC to develop a Bios template. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 10.810/0/0/2.190. **Motion passes.** M. Blair praised G. Schmidt for her work on the EZH2O Water Filling Station. He also thanked D. LaPointe, J. Fortson and the Maintenance Dept. He would like to commend the teacher who encouraged her and helped her through the process. The committee would like to publicize this young ladies accomplishments. J. Fortson, L. Witte and D. LaPointe will put something together on the energy savings. The committee would like to highlight the savings. **MOTION:** M. Blair **MOVED** on behalf of the CRC to direct the Superintendent and the IT Director to develop a one way mass communication system to communicate to the Board cancelation of meetings and alerts. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** M. Blair informed the Board we have Alert Now. The IT Dept. can set up a group notification only for the Board. The Superintendent can call all at once but we cannot respond. **VOTE:** 10.810/0/0/2.190. **Motion passes.** The committee would like to send information on new hires to the Sentinel after a signed contract. This is not a formal press release. The organizational chart has been passed to the Policy Committee.

7c. Education and Technology Committee: P. Bauries reported the committee met and N. Richardson reviewed the items on the website. They discussed managing the calendar in each of the schools. They discussed what the system can and cannot do. We need a simple upgrade. N. Richardson has set up email addresses for the School Board Members. They sent Policy EDC to the Policy Committee. The IT Dept. has moved Power School to a hosted version. There is a cost which is in the budget. There will be no server and it will be at a data center. L. Witte updated the committee on the teacher’s workshops and the days prior to the beginning of school. Principals Suarez, Salzman and Stone presented the student testing results, how they will utilize the data and where to go from here. The committee has asked for more data for the Sept. 8, 2015 meeting. The committee had discussed the 25 kindergarten students in Troy. Since then they have gone to two classrooms and it is working out well.

7d. Finance and Facilities Committee: The committee did not meet. They are scheduled to meet on Sept. 8, 2015.

7e. Policy Committee: M. Blair reported the committee met on August 25, 2015. The committee discussed Policy BHA School Board Use of Email and Other Electronic Communications. This policy would be the most appropriate at this time. This is being submitted for the first time. M. Blair is in communication with K. Pfeifer on the policies which have SAU #38 instead of #93. K. Pfeifer had started this project. The committee discussed credit for homeschooled students. We discussed the process in place. We want to have the appropriate competency process in place. We do have a rigorous diploma policy. We would like to have something in place by Jan. 2016. The discussion on the organizational chart will continue. L. Witte did pass out the work she had done on the organizational chart. Work needs to be done on how it is structured. We have a District of people that wear a lot of different hats. They also discussed the school lunch policy. The next meeting is on Sept. 29, 2015 at 5:00 PM.

7g. Sports Committee: M. Blair reported the committee met on Sept. 1, 2015 and rehashed items that might have been completed. They discussed corporate sponsors for extra-curricular items. We need to replace and repair the scoreboards. The committee discussed the additional soccer and lacrosse fields and the Husky House. The idea of ConVal and Monadnock forming a Hockey Team was discussed. The online registration is not as smooth as hoped. The AD has taken registration via paper but all are encouraged to use the online registration. The Husky House was discussed possibly having a professional cleaning service to clean the grill and grease traps. S. Peters commented on how bad the Husky House was left last year. J. Fortson said Troy employees cleaned the Husky House.

7g. Negotiations: P. Bauries explained the committee is continuing with strategy. They are meeting with the MDEA. They are moving along. They have scheduled meetings until November.

7h. Ad HOC STEAM: P. Bauries reported the committee did not meet. They are waiting for the teachers and administration to get settled in to the school process. They will meet possibly next month.

7i. School Safety and Discipline Committee: J. Smith reported the committee met and there were about 25 people in attendance. They had a presentation from T. Kennett regarding IEPs, para assignments and CPI Training. They listed items to improve safety. They will prioritize the list. The next meeting is on Sept. 16, 2015.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Other Old Business as may come before the Board: P. Bauries would like an update in the process of hiring a SSO. L. Witte explained this will be discussed in non-public session under nominations. P. Bauries asked about the job description. B. Faulkner said there was no action taken regarding the website and the job description presented by K. Pfeifer.

P. Bauries asked if the MESSA sidebar agreement would be under non-public. B. Faulkner explained he spoke to the attorney and he advised any questions about the negotiating process has to be done outside of a public meeting. We vote on the contract in public session but there are no questions or comments.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

a. MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to accept the manifest in the amount of \$2,150,362.56 for the 2015-2016 School Year. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** The Board asked questions and J. Fortson explained. **VOTE:** 9.475/0/1.335/2.190. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to accept the manifest in the amount of \$8,681.17 for the 2014-2015 School Year. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** L. Steadman asked if the District would expect anymore bills this late. J. Fortson said yes but she will have to close the year and it will come out of the 2015-2016 School Year budget. **VOTE:** 10.810/0/0/2.190. **Motion passes.**

b. Other New Business as may come before the Board: MOTION: K. Wheeler **MOVED** any community that does not have a Before and After Program or Summer Camp district sponsored be able to use their facility free of charge. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** J. Fortson explained ACES was charged. She said D. LaPointe sent this bill and should be able to speak on it. K. Wheeler stated they have been using the facility free of charge and now they are charged \$3650.00. It is a huge hit with no warning. N. Mosher asked if this should go to Policy. He does not know enough about the situation. P. Bauries would forward it to Finance and Facilities for review. K. Wheeler said we have not been charged before. B. Faulkner stated it is a budget question and not on the agenda. He said a motion to refer to Finance is appropriate. **MOTION:** P. Bauries **MOVED** to amend the motion and to forward this to Finance. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** The Before and After Programs at the other schools were explained. They were supported by the 21st Century Grant for 5 years and then you have to support. M. Blair said this is a 3 year discussion. He is in favor of sending this to the Finance/Facilities Committee. It is a political discussion. It was commented Gilsum did not endorse the ACES Program and interjected the Recreation Program. The committee would like to have background information available at that meeting. **VOTE on amendment:** 9.689/0/1.121/2.190. **Motion passes. VOTE:** 10.810/0/0/2.190. **Motion passes.**

10. Setting Next Meeting's Agenda:

- 1. SSO Job Description**
- 2. Update on Open Warrant Articles**
- 3. Subcommittee assignments**
- 4. Policy BHA**

N. Mosher asked the protocol for non-public issues. It was stated anyone with a non-public item should contact B. Faulkner or L. Witte.

11. Public Comments: Phyllis Marinoff commented on the Sports Committee asking for corporate sponsors for sports items but would like to remind the Board there are other extra-

curricular activities such as art and music. They need things as well. B. Faulkner explained it is the responsibility of the Board to provide a balanced education.

M. Diven commented Gilsum is being charged \$3650.00 and we do not have a District funded program or summer program.

M. Blair thanks Phyllis Marinoff for the comments regarding the extra-curriculum activities. He explained the committee was originally an AD Hoc Committee with a specific charge regarding sports. He said it should be an Extra-Curriculum Committee.

B. Faulkner called for a 10 minute recess.

12. 9:13 PM Motion to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Hiring of a Public Employee: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Hiring of a Public Employee. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **VOTE:** 10.810/0/0/2.190. **Motion passes.**

13. 9:44 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: J. Smith **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:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 10.810/0/0/2.190. **Motion passes.**

14. 10:04 PM Motion to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (e) Discussion of pending or threatened (in writing) litigation against the Town or Town Officials, Board Members or employees. MOTION: J. Smith **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (e) Discussion of pending or threatened (in writing) litigation against the Town or Town Officials, Board Members or employees. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 10.810/0/0/2.190. **Motion passes.**

15. Public Session: MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the August 11, 2015 MDEA Hearing Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 9.689/0/1.121/2.190. **Motion passes.**

B. Faulkner called for a recess to discuss the MESSA Sidebar Agreement.

16. Enter back into Public Session at 10:38 PM: MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** to approve the sidebar agreement of the MESSA Contract. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 7.356/1.121/.214/.998 recusal/3.309. **Motion passes.**

17. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 PM. **SECOND:** P. Bauries. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,
Laura L. Aivaliotis, Recording secretary