

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2016
Emerson Elementary School, Fitzwilliam, NH

Members Present: Betty Tatro, Eric Stanley, Cheryl McDaniel-Thomas, Phyllis Peterson, Scott Peters, Lisa Steadman, Karen Wheeler, Winston Wright, Joseph Smith, James Carnie, Nicholas Mosher, Mike Blair and 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.”

1. Public Comments: M. Diven commented at the last CRC Meeting there were comments regarding Gilsum not giving updated reports and that the enrollment was not increasing. She informed the Board there will be a meeting with L. Witte before the negative perception. M. Diven read two letters from concerned parents regarding the fact there is not a stipend budgeted for the principal this summer in Gilsum.

Susan Silverman, Selectperson from Fitzwilliam provided a letter to the Board regarding the extra \$510,000.00 in revenue and urged the Board to return it to the taxpayers. She commented that it is very difficult for some to pay their taxes. The school portion is the biggest part of the bill and the enrollment number is dropping.

T. Mattson from Troy where the smartest and most athletic students live had met with other selectmen from other towns in the District to discuss their concerns which are reflected in the letters from those select boards to the Board. One concern is that they want to see the \$510,000.00 to be returned to the taxpayers. He said the MDEA contract did not pass. Free healthcare for the MDEA is too much to ask. There should be a District wide policy on health care at 80%-20% split. It would be fair to all employees. The administration is already doing that. He would love to see teachers paid for performance. Student enrollment has decreased 138 students in 4 years. He said there is room at Fitzwilliam to consolidate. He said the District spent \$30,000.00 to merge with KHS and the Board has never done a single recommendation from the report. The Strategic Plan needs to be discussed with the select boards. It is stated there is a heroin issue in the schools. T. Mattson said it is in the community. We need to work together. He has never seen a letter from the Board to the State legislature or Governor to ask why there is a lack of funding. You are not attempting to address the issues.

P. Bauries would suggest the \$510,000.00 be used to reduce taxes. The Free and Reduced lunch percentage is inching up. That is an awful lot of students. When the initial insurance proposal was put forth the intent was not to carry from one contract to another. This Board needs to take action and return the \$510,000.00 to the taxpayers. She also stated a Board Member in a previous

non-public session abstained instead of recusing themselves in a vote which included a spouse. The Board Member must recuse himself. It would be in the best interest of the District.

M. Diven commented on transparency. She said the decision not to have a summer principal was made at the Board level. She asked if the Gilsum Board Member knew.

2. **MINUTES: MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the April 5, 2016 School Board Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** L. Steadman would like to change the minutes because M. Blair declared a motion had failed for lack of a 2/3 vote when in fact a 2/3 vote was not needed. The motion had passed. It was agreed the minutes reflect what had happened in the meeting. J. Carnie said meetings are scheduled and a change needs a 2/3 vote based on the policy. The Chair would disagree. J. Carnie said if new Board Members want to see previously sealed non-public minutes they can. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/1.121/0. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the April 5, 2016, 9:54 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/1.121/0. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the April 5, 2016, 10:19 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** W. Wright **VOTE:** 11.879/0/1.121/0. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the April 5, 2016, 10:48 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** W. Wright **DISCUSSION:** It was commented members should recuse themselves when necessary not abstain. **VOTE:** 10.804/1.075/1.121/0. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to unseal the December 16, 2014, 9:32 PM Non-Public Session Meeting Minutes. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/1.121/0. **Motion passes.**

3. **Student Government Report:** There is no Student Government Report.

4. **Superintendent Report:**

- a. **Business Administrator Report: MOTION:** B. Mitchell **MOVED** to allow Superintendent Witte to sign the Health Trust document and to go forward with the health insurance for the District. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/1.121/0. **Motion passes.** J. Fortson informed the Board she will be going out to bid for the workers comp and property liability. She is seeking coverage from other insurance companies. Five companies have contacted her. She will bring the information to the second meeting in May for Board approval.

- b. **Correspondence and Announcements:** L. Witte would like the Board to send in their Board Biographies by the next meeting to L. Reinhart.

L. Witte would like to remind the Board of Teacher Appreciation Week and the fact the Board purchased the staff lunch on one day in that week. **MOTION:** P. Peterson. **MOVED** to purchase lunch for the staff on one day during Appreciation Week. **SECOND:** K.

Wheeler. **DISCUSSION:** S. Peters would like the administration to let the Board know what day in order for the Board Members to be at the schools. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

c. Strategic Planning: Mission & Vision: L. Witte explained there will be a Goals and Objectives Meeting on May 10, 2016. The survey to complete will be attached to the email. There will be a book signing on April 27, 2016 at Mt. Caesar. **MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to approve the DI Cutler Team which consists of 6 students and their chaperones to travel to Tennessee for the Global Competition on May 22-May 30, 2016. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** There is no update on their fundraising status. **VOTE:** 11.925/0/1.075/0. **Motion passes.**

5. BOARD CHAIR REPORT:

a. Chair Report: M. Blair would like to ask the committees to work through the process to make the Board meetings shorter, to get through the material and get through the issues. The Board Biographies are due by the next Board Meeting on May 4, 2016. M. Blair asked the Board Members their availability for the committee meetings and he took the information and scheduled the committee meetings. He would suggest the committees meet only once a month for the next two months. This would take a huge burden off the administration. He said it may not last but he would recommend Extra-Curricular 1st Tuesday, Fin/Fac. and Education 2nd Tuesday, CRC 3rd Tuesday, Policy 4th Tuesday and STEAM and Negotiations only when needed. M. Blair would ask the chairs to set the times. This is in effect through June. N. Mosher agreed once a month meeting but to extend the length of time.

MOTION: J. Carnie **MOVED** to have the Board return the \$510,000.00 or whatever amount is left at the end of the year in the Health Insurance Pool back to the towns in the District. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** M. Blair called the motion out of order. He explained we are in conversation with our attorney. We are in the process of responding to the town's request. P. Peterson commented the Board is using the same attorney who suggested the proposed use of the \$510,000.00 in the first place. T. Mattson asked when the towns will hear from legal counsel. M. Blair said it should be soon. L. Witte has had a conversation with the attorney and we should hear soon. **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to table the motion until the next Board Meeting. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 8.725/4.275/0/0. **Motion passes.** M. Blair explained the attorney was not able to be here tonight. J. Carnie said this is an issue standing on its own. Who decided we were going to discuss this with the attorney? L. Steadman believes it was J. Carnie who requested legal counsel. J. Carnie said he would expect the attorney at the next meeting. L. Witte will extend the request to the attorney.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MOTIONS:

a. Budget Committee Representative: The next meeting is in June.

b. Ad Hoc Committee on Safety/Security/Discipline: S. Peters explained in the past 4 weeks the committee has not made a quorum. J. Smith and S. Peters would like to bring the following motion to the Board: **MOTION:** J. Smith **MOVED** to retire the Ad-Hoc Safety/Security/Discipline committee, and forward all artifacts and remaining agenda topics as follows: 1.) All Safety and Security topics shall be addressed by the Facilities Committee,

including but not limited to: doors, keys, building access; cameras and lighting; emergency planning; SRO/SSO; playground and parking-lot safety, etc. 2.) All discipline topics (including safety issues related to discipline and students with behavior issues shall be addressed by the Education Committee. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **DISCUSSION:** B. Mitchell would agree this is appropriate. N. Mosher said the committee did a great job. W. Wright would agree. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.** (C. McDaniel-Thomas was missing from the vote.) M. Blair would ask the Chair of the Facilities and the Chair of the Education Committees to include the SSD items on their agendas.

c. Community Relations Committee: S. Peters explained he will be presenting the Round Table Feedback at the next meeting. The committee met this evening and has prepared a Charter draft for the CRC. The Charter draft will be in the Board packet. The committee discussed a Public Information Officer position. They will review a job description and ask L. Witte to see if this position is doable for the next meeting. J. Carnie asked questions and asked for the minutes from the Round Table discussion. M. Blair explained the Board could ask questions at the next meeting when the presentation will be given. J. Carnie would like a copy of the agendas and minutes from the Round Table Feedback. B. Mitchell said that is inappropriate. J. Carnie said State law requires it. M. Blair explained the questions will be answered at the presentation.

d. Education Committee: N. Mosher reported B. Tatro updated the committee on her involvement in the Impact Monadnock Committee. The committee discussed the ongoing list of agenda items. There are three areas in which the committee would like to have an executive summary in ELA, Spec. Ed. and Math from the administration at future meetings. The next meeting is on May 10, 2016.

e. Technology Committee: S. Peters reported the committee met last Thursday and focused on the responsibilities of the IT Dept. such as hours of operation, quick response, disaster recovery planning and more. The committee discussed the Charter for the Tech Committee they will share it with L. Witte and hopefully bring it forward at the next meeting.

f. Finance/Facilities Committee: J. Carnie explained the committee met and discussed the Monthly Expense Report, discussed Catastrophic Aide and the Health Trust. Gilsum was discussed but there was little information on the issue. The committee had a Safe Routes Presentation. During Facilities the running track was discussed. **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to approve the bid for the running track repair from the Miller Flooring Company in the amount of \$93,960.00. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** Funding is to come from funds set aside for this purpose in June 2015. This amount comes under the budgeted amount. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to approve the bid from A+ Athletic Company for the Divider curtain in the gymnasium in the amount of \$12,600.00. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** D. LaPointe explained he had discussed this issue with one other company from Connecticut. There are not many companies in this area. J. Fortson said this will come out of the contracted service line. It was commented the wooden structure we have now could be a liability. L. Witte explained most gyms have the curtain due to the repair rate. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to amend the motion and suspend the Board policy for the 3 required bids. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **DISCUSSION:** P.

Peterson would suggest the approval limit be changed from \$5000.00 to \$20,000.00. D. LaPointe said you cannot find 3 bids on this item. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

g. Policy Committee: MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** to accept Policy ADC, GBEC and JICG Tobacco Products Ban Use and Possession in and on School Facilities and Grounds as presented. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **DISCUSSION:** B. Mitchell would agree with the policy. He would suggest getting this approved now. The Board had questions. L. Steadman suggested approving this now and then clean it up at the Policy Committee. It will then come back as a first read. C. McDaniel-Thomas is in support of the policies. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.** The next Policy Meeting is on April 26, 2016. **Motion passes.** J. Carnie would ask the Policy Committee to align with the State Statutes and NHSBA which is required. They need to take a look at which policies are not aligned. M. Blair asked to bring this issue up at Policy.

h. Negotiating Committee: The Negotiating Committee has not met but they are scheduled to meet on April 20, 2016 at 5:30 PM.

i. STEAM: B. Tatro reported STEAM had met twice and will be meeting on April 27, 2016 at 5:00 PM.

j. Extracurricular Activities Committee: The committee has not met.

k. Ad Hoc Committee on Safety/Security/Discipline: The committee did not have a quorum.

l. Cheshire Career Center: W. Wright reported the next meeting will probably be at Fall Mtn.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Other Old Business as may come before the Board. M. Blair informed the Board he attended the French and Spanish Honor Society Induction Ceremony. There are 25 students who were inducted.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Action on the Manifest: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of \$1,262,951.26. **SECOND:** J. Smith. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

b. MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** to change the School Board Meeting from May 3, 2016 to May 4, 2016. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **DISCUSSION:** K. Wheeler explained she will not be able to attend on the Wednesday. J. Carnie is in favor of keeping the meeting on Tuesday. B. Mitchell would disagree we have the Chair and 2 others attending workshop. **VOTE:** 11.712/1.288/0/0. **Motion passes.**

c. Other New Business as may come before the Board: C. McDaniel-Thomas would like the Board to respond to the letters. M. Blair explained the Board is in conversation with the attorney.

9. Setting Next Meeting's Agenda:

- 1. Food Service**
- 2. E-rate # of applications**
- 3. Balance lunch account**
- 4. Discussion on \$510,000.00**
- 5. Deficit on Chrome book repairs (go to Tech and Finance)**

J. Carnie said the Board should have the conversation on the \$510,000.00 without the attorney. M. Blair explained J. O'Shaughnessy will be attending the meeting at Troy. If he is not available he will be at the following meeting. J. Carnie does not want to be put this off. If he is not here we need to have the discussion. P. Peterson is concerned with the conflict of interest with J. O'Shaughnessy. M. Blair said it was a direct request of the School Board to get legal advice. B. Tatro suggested a specific time for the discussion with the attorney during the meeting.

L. Steadman explained the meetings with the Select Boards will begin this year.

10. Public Comments: M. Szymcik would like to clarify and state the teachers do not get free health insurance at the very least they pay 10% of their insurance but it is an average of 15%. She stated they have never had free insurance. L. Steadman stated the paras have received free insurance. M. Szymcik said never a teacher.

11. Recess at 9:10 PM for SAU 93.

12. Return to District Public Session: MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to unseal the October 7, 2014, 7:20 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/1.121/0. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to unseal the January 6, 2015, 11:15 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes. **SECOND:** B. Mitchell. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/1.121/0. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to unseal the January 6, 2015, 11:40 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **VOTE:** 10.804/0/2.196/0. **Motion passes.**

J. Carnie and J. Smith leave the meeting.

13. 9:28 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:** B. Mitchell. **VOTE:** 10.804/0/0/2.196. **Motion passes.**

14. 9:40 PM Motion to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Setting

Compensation: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to enter into non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Compensation. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 10.804/0/0/2.196. **Motion passes.**

15. District Public Session: MOTION: N. Mosher **MOVED** to accept the April 5, 2016 10:19 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 10.804/0/0/2.196. **Motion passes.**

Recess for SAU 93.

16. 10:35 PM District Public Comments: There were no Public Comments.

M. Blair would suggest any comments on the minutes be sent to him. P. Peterson suggested a limit on the time of the Public Comments. S. Peterson suggested limiting the discussion on the information in the minutes.

17. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 PM. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 10.804/0/0/2.196. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording secretary