

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
April 5, 2016 (corrected 5/19/16)
Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH

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

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: Gerry Kuhn, Lisa Cloutier and Jason Clark all coaches for the District DI teams introduced the members on their teams. They are MS/HS and elementary level participants. These members have won the States and are now on their way to Tennessee to compete in the global competition. Some of the teams have already raised a portion of the funds for the trip. The coaches explained the trip is very expensive and would appreciate financial support. **MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to authorize the use of \$2,500.00 per team for the 3 teams to help with the cost of traveling to the DI Competition in Tennessee. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to outfit all members of the 3 winning DI Teams with a jacket or an equivalent to. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

2. MINUTES: **MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the March 15, 2016 School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 10.881/0/.998/1.121. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the March 15, 2016, 9:34 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler. **VOTE:** 10.881/0/.998/1.121. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the March 1, 2016 School Board Meeting minutes as amended. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler. **VOTE:** 9.636/0/2.43/1.121. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the February 6, 2016, Pre/Post/ Deliberative Session Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** W. Wright **VOTE:** 9.636/0/2.243/1.121. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the March 15, 2016, 9:38 PM Non-Public Session Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler. **VOTE:** 10.881/0/.998/1.121. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to unseal the May 6, 2014 10:40 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes. **SECOND:** B. Mitchell. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to unseal the April 15, 2014 9:16 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to unseal the April 15, 2014 9:25 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to unseal the April 1, 2014 10:00 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to unseal the September 3, 2013 9:50 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie commented the Board should discuss these minutes in Non-public Session. They have been sealed until June 30, 2024. **P. Peterson and B. Tatro withdraw their motion. These minutes should have never been discussed.** N. Mosher would like the Board to discuss the September 3, 2013 9:50 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes in Non-Public Session. J. Carnie said there is no reason to discuss the minutes it was a mistake. L. Witte explained previously sealed minutes cannot be viewed by new Board Members. New Members who were not present at the time of the sealing process cannot view the non-public minutes. It was commented that discussing the September 3, 2013 9:50 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes was out of order.

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the March 15, 2016 Sealed 9:38 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to table the motion until Non-Public Session. **SECOND:** K. Wheeler. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

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

4. Superintendent Report:

a. Business Administrator Report: J. Fortson passed out a letter to the Board explaining the renewal rate for the Health Trust. The rate is at 6.7%. She would ask the Board to review the information and make a motion at the next meeting to allow L. Witte to sign the letter for the Health Trust.

b. Correspondence and Announcements: L. Witte passed out information on the ACES Program. She passed out a contact sheet in order for the Board to update their contact information. There will be a milestone retirement celebration at Papagallos on May 9, 2016. The CCC has informed L. Witte that Hannah Rehmer has won the Commercial Baking Gold Medal Competition and will be traveling to the National Competition. **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to support \$500.00 for Hannah Rehmer to help with the travel costs to the Nationals. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.** Pat Hazelton wrote a letter to L. Witte regarding the Mary Poppins Presentation. She said it was fantastic, the scenery was wonderful and she thanked everyone for a great afternoon. Mike Morrison is one of the nominees for the NH School Administration Champion for Children. He will be

traveling to Concord on May 6, 2016 for an awards ceremony. L. Witte announced the fund raisers being held in the District.

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to allow G. Kuhn and his wife to travel to the DI Global Competition in Tennessee with the 5 competing students. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: E. Stanley **MOVED** to outfit Hannah Rehmer with a championship jacket or equivalent to. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

c. Strategic Planning: Mission & Vision: L. Witte presented the Strategic Plan to the Board for approval. She explained she sent invitations throughout the entire District in many different ways. She received 62 responses. The survey in which the 62 people took had asked how they would like to participate. Half of the respondents said they would like to respond electronically. L. Witte said she met with a number of people. She explained the process at the initial meeting. The group began with the Framework and the Mission. The Vision, goals and objectives were discussed. There were seven meetings with about 8 people per meeting. Google forms were sent out to collect feedback and input. L. Witte presented a power point with the results of the survey. She explained they need to continue the Strategic Process and the school needs to step into the process. There is work to be done at the building level. She would seek the Board's endorsement and then get the word out. The schools will be asked to look at their mission and vision to see if it is aligned and then the goals and objectives. She hopes the Board can support this. **MOTION:** S. Peters. **MOVED** to support the Mission and Vision Statement and empower the group to continue to work through the goals and objectives. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** It was commented the Mission and Vision is the lens on everything that you do. B. Mitchell said it is a great effort. L. Witte said she blasted emails to everyone in the District. M. Blair would applaud the group for all the work they put into this. This is the lens in which we operate. **VOTE:** 10.804/0/1.075/1.121. **Motion passes.** It was commented this will move the District in a positive way collectively. The children are the reason why we are doing this. We are on our way. It was asked if the principals attended the meetings. The answer was not all them.

5. BOARD CHAIR REPORT:

a. Chair Report: M. Blair reported the MDEA is requesting to meet with the Negotiating Committee. He asked the committee to meet, appoint a chair and schedule a meeting with the MDEA. We want to be proactive but we do not have to agree to meet. Regarding the committee reports he would ask the Chairs to have a focused report on the high level items, the motions and a rationale. Allow the sub committees to do the work. He explained if a member would like to use the roll call vote at the Board Meeting go through the Chair and it will be recorded in the minutes. Any request for legal advice should be in the form of a motion and the Board will vote. There is a policy to allow a student representative to sit on the Board. L. Kalloger has reached out to the student body. There are two students who showed interest. It is recommended to allow both students sit at the table with the Board. They will be non-voting members. He would like to invite the students to the next meeting in order to complete the process.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MOTIONS:

a. Budget Committee Representative: C. McDaniel-Thomas was not aware of the meeting and did not attend. The next meeting is in June.

b. Community Relations Committee: S. Peters reported there are two new members on the committee. The committee focused on the Charter. They discussed a preview of the Round Table Discussion. There will be a full presentation on the results at the next or future Board Meeting.

c. Education Committee: N. Mosher reported the committee met and discussed what they would like to see happen next. They will be reviewing a list of topics. The next meeting is on April 12, 2016.

d. Technology Committee: S. Peters reported the committee continues to focus on N. Richardson's areas of concern. The committee reviewed IT Policies which will be brought to the Policy Committee. The committee will be meeting on April 14, 2016.

e. Finance/Facilities Committee: J. Carnie explained D. LaPointe reported on the contracts for the renovations to Mt. C. He discussed the track and tennis court repairs. J. Fortson reported on the Monthly Expense Report. They discussed sending the names of the students to the individual towns in regarding to the billing of students. The committee is still waiting for information regarding Gilsum School and the school usage. J. Carnie asked about the \$510,000.00 in the insurance pool. The next meeting is on April 12, 2016 at 5:00 PM.

f. Negotiating Committee: The Negotiating Committee has not met but has been charged with scheduling a meeting and appointing a chair.

g. Policy Committee: L. Steadman is presenting Policy BDE and Policy BEDC to the Board. L. Steadman said the committee is satisfied with the Policies as they appear.

MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy Committee to accept Policy BDE as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie said there is a lot of discussion on the weighted vote. This statement in the policy goes against the State Board's ruling. This policy directly conflicts with the State Board's decision and against our policies that have to be in alignment with the State Statutes and the State Board. He does not believe the NHSBA will be happy. L. Steadman said J. Carnie gave this discussion to the committee again and again. B. Tatro said the motion will come back to the Board if it is a tie and the Board will use the weighted vote. B. Mitchell said the State Statute is for the full Board action. N. Mosher asked if the Board and the committees are the same. P. Peterson said why change this. M. Blair said to change it because in 5 years the weighted vote has never been used. Make the policy clear. K. Wheeler said she has seen a weighted vote used in committee. J. Carnie said prior to that there was no need. It violates our arrangement with the State Board. J. Carnie said this policy denies the one man one vote. L. Steadman said the Board and the committee vote is not the same. **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to call the question. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes. VOTE on Policy BDE:** 7.604/3.305/.971/1.121. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy Committee to accept Policy BEDC Quorum/Voting as presented. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **DISCUSSION:** It was commented the vacancies are the minus of the full weight. J. Fortson said the policy does not clarify that. There is a friendly amendment to add the word “seated” in the first paragraph before the word Board. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

The Board will review Policy ADC Foundation and Basic Commitment, Tobacco Products Ban Use and Possession in and on School Facilities and Grounds, Policy GBED Personnel, Tobacco Products Ban Use and Possession in and on School Facilities and Grounds and JICG Students, Tobacco Products Ban Use and Possession in and on School Facilities and Grounds for a first read. The next Policy Meeting will be on April 26, 2016.

h. Extracurricular Activities Committee: E. Stanley reported the committee reviewed information on different fund raising groups and what they can and cannot do. A spread sheet was presented to the committee in which S. Peters and J. Fortson worked on. The committee is working on the number of participants in extra- curricular activities and the cost of the activities. The committee is looking for equity with all the activities. They discussed having someone gather information on the good things going on in the District to bring to the Board. N. Mosher would like a copy of the participation chart.

i. STEAM: B. Tatro said STEAM will be meeting tomorrow.

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

k. Cheshire Career Center: W. Wright reported he had a lunch meeting and met with the Advisory Committee. Hannah Rehmer was announced at the lunch. The CCC would like to make a presentation to the Board.

L. Steadman would like to be removed from the CRC and put on the Extra-Curricular Committee. **MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** to allow L. Steadman to be removed from the CRC Committee and be appointed to the Extra-Curricular Committee. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: E. Stanley **MOVED** to appoint C. McDaniel-Thomas and S. Peters to the MDEA Sick Bank Committee. The committee meets on an as need basis. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

7. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Other Old Business as may come before the Board.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Action on the Manifest: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of \$1,943,373.17. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

b. Proposed School Board Meetings April 2016 through March 2017: MOTION: C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to accept the proposed School Board Meetings schedule as presented. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

c. MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to ask the Administration to inspect all sealed minutes for content that involve a student, whether they are currently in district or not, and set a seal date on those minutes to July 1 **a year after** the expected graduation date of the student. Once completed, provide the School Board with an updated list of sealed minutes that do not have a release date applied. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** K. Wheeler would make a friendly amendment and add “1 year after the expected graduation date of the student”. J. Carnie commented we have just as many staff in the sealed minutes as the students. **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to amend the motion and add “any other issues where sealed minutes involve personnel. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher commented this is a lot of work for a few sets of minutes that are left to be unsealed. **VOTE on amendment:** 2.190/7.817/1.872/1.121. **Motion fails. VOTE:** 9.793/.214/1.872/1.121. **Motion passes.**

d. Other New Business as may come before the Board: E. Stanley has informed the Board he would like to make a motion and change the day of the Board Meeting to Wednesday. He has checked with the towns and they are holding their Select Board Meeting on Tuesdays. M. Blair said there is a policy on this and he would ask the Policy Committee to take a look at this. E. Stanley would also like to limit the meetings to 2 ½ hours. M. Blair said that was originally part of the policy to end the meeting at 10:00 but that language was removed. M. Blair would absolutely agree in regards to the long meetings. K. Wheeler said it is not fair to the administration if they have something they want to bring forward. E. Stanley said it is not fair for the administration to come to work and be here all night. There is a lot of work being done in the committees. M. Blair explained how he would like to run the meeting with an ending time. This issue will be forwarded to the Policy Committee.

MOTION: L. Steadman **MOVED** to make April 26, 2016 the next scheduled Board Meeting and to cancel the April 19, 2016 and the May 3, 2016 Meetings. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** L. Steadman said she is interested in going to a School Board workshop on May 3, 2016 and April 19, 2016 is school vacation. J. Carnie said you either make the meeting or not. The Board discussed the issue. **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to call the question. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 8.768/1.199/1.115/1.121. **Motion passes. VOTE:** 7.597/3.160/1.121/1.121. **Motion fails for lack of a 2/3 vote.**

MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to amend the minutes of March 1, 2016. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

9. Setting Next Meeting’s Agenda:

- 1. Non-Meeting with full board**
- 2. Health Trust**
- 3. CRC Feedback**
- 4. Wednesday Board meeting and length of meeting**
- 5. Non-Public Sealed Minutes**

N. Mosher stated from the RSA that a new member may review old sealed minutes. M. Blair will take that as a point of interest.

10. Public Comments: There are no Public comments.

11. 9:54 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: N. Mosher **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. Peterson. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

12. Public Session: MOTION: N. Mosher **MOVED** to accept the March 15, 2016 9:38 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: N. Mosher **MOVED** to seal the March 15, 2016 9:38 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes until July 1, 2021. **SECOND:** B. Mitchell. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

13. 10:19 PM Motion to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a)

Compensation: MOTION: N. Mosher **MOVED** to enter into non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Compensation. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

14. 10:48 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:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

15. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 11:01 PM. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** 11.879/0/0/1.121. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording secretary