

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2016
Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH

Members Present: Betty Tatro, Eric Stanley, Joseph Smith, Cheryl McDaniels-Thomas, Phyllis Peterson, Scott Peters, Lisa Steadman (on the phone), Karen Wheeler, Winston Wright, 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:** N. Moriarty mentioned at the last meeting the Board threw out a member and the Board challenged the Chair. If that had been a Richmond member there would be no representative from that town. He also said a Board member was refused to speak at the Policy Committee meeting. Someone asked for special attention to participate in this meeting by phone. N. Moriarty suggested using some of the 2.2 million for the Mt. Caesar renovations to paint the wooden structures at Mt. Caesar. The Budget Committee Rep. neglected to inform the Board that the Budget Committee would recommend the Board change their attorney. He mentioned staff are getting paid lunches when they are out sick.
- 2. Swearing in of New Members/Organizing and Election of Officers:** L. Witte opened the meeting. She welcomed E. Stanley and C. McDaniels-Thomas. K. Wheeler, E. Stanley and C. McDaniels-Thomas were sworn in as new Board Members. L. Witte asked for nominations for Chair. **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to nominate M. Blair as Board Chair. **SECOND:** E. Stanley. **VOTE:** 10.810/2.190/0/0. **Motion passes. M. Blair takes over the meeting.** M. Blair asked for nominations for Vice Chair. **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to nominate L. Steadman as Vice Chair. **SECOND:** B. Mitchell. **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to nominate W. Wright as Vice Chair. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **VOTE:** 8.725(L. Steadman)/4.275(W. Wright) **L. Steadman Vice Chair. MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to nominate M. Blair as SAU Chair. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to nominate W. Wright as SAU Chair. **SECOND:** J. Carnie. **VOTE:** 7.940(M. Blair)/5.060(W. Wright) **M. Blair SAU Chair. MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to nominate L. Steadman as SAU Vice Chair. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes. MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to nominate W. Wright as SAU Secretary. **SECOND:** J. Smith. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**
- 3. MINUTES: MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the March 1, 2016 School Board Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** J. Smith. **VOTE:** 10.757/0/2.243/0. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the March 1, 2016, 8:30 PM School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** J. Smith. **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie said the previous employee did not know that he would be discussed in non-public session. He asked the name of the individual being discussed. M. Blair said he was not sitting as the Chair at the time. J. Carnie said the minutes are not accurate. Everyone should vote no. **MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to postpone the voting on the March 1, 2016 8:30 PM Non-Public Meeting minutes until the Board can discuss them in non-public session. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher said to either correct with a motion or not. M. Blair said he is the facilitator and not the ruler of the meeting. He would like to move the meeting along. B. Mitchell said he is prepared to vote now. **VOTE on motion to postpone:** 5.066/6.819/1.115/0. **Motion fails.** **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to amend the minutes and state the name of the individual. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** M. Blair said that is a very slippery slope. J. Carnie said the minutes would be inaccurate if they do not state the individual's name. The person had no knowledge and should have been able to be there. M. Blair would like an opinion from an attorney. He hears the concerns and does not disagree. L. Witte said the Board went under RSA 91-A II, 3 (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would adversely affect the reputation of any person. She said there was no notification required. J. Carnie said the law is clear. The person must be notified and properly warned. **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to forward this issue to the attorney for an opinion. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 8.301/3.578/1.121/0. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the March 1, 2016, 11:33 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 10.757/0/2.243/0. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the March 1, 2016, 11:10 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** W. Wright **VOTE:** 9.682/0/3.318/0. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the March 1/2, 2016, 12:01 AM Non-Public Session Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** 10.757/0/2.243/0. **Motion passes.**

J. Carnie would like to see the Deliberative Session Meeting Minutes at the next meeting.

4. **Student Government Report:** It was reported the Student Government is holding an Empty Bowls fund raiser tonight.
5. **Superintendent Report:**
 - a. **Correspondence and Announcements:** L. Witte introduced M. Morrison and his students who are in the extended learning program with the Fish and Game. M. Morrison and his students will be invited to Concord for a ceremony to receive the State Conservationist Award from the Fish and Game. M. Morrison introduced the members of his group.

L. Witte mentioned how outstanding the Mary Poppins Performance was this past weekend. She passed out the committee schedule and the voting results of the Deliberative Session. L.

Witte updated the Board on the upcoming fund raisers. **MOTION:** J. Smith **MOVED** to allow the ACES Program to attend the Upper Valley Aquatic Center on April 22, 2016. **SECOND:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

b. Business Administrator: J. Fortson explained she has received the bids for the renovations to Mt. Caesar. **MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the following bids for the renovations to Mt. Caesar Elementary School: Stromgren in the amount of \$513,206.00 for HVAC/Plumbing, Hamblett in the amount of \$198,556.00 for Electrical, DEW/Macmillian in the amount of \$420,022.00 for the general contractor, Discount Oil in the amount of \$6,700.00 for Oil tank Removal and L & G Propane in the amount of \$5,322.66 for propane tanks. **SECOND:** J. Carnie. **DISCUSSION:** D. LaPointe explained he did have pre bids but these are the bids that were presented. J. Fortson explained this work will be funded from the warrant article voted on by the voters a year ago. She said you cannot do that amount of work in one summer. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.** J. Fortson explained she will be looking for Board signatures for the MS22 in a week.

c. Other Issues of Importance: L. Witte said there is a need for non-public session.

6. BOARD CHAIR REPORT:

a. Chair Report: M. Blair thanked the Board for the vote and hope that he will do them justice. He will focus on what is important. Keep the focus on kids. Understand other diplomatic issues. The meetings are open to the public and they may participate when approved by the Board. He will move the meetings along. He will be meeting with the Superintendent to prepare an agenda. He will be assigning the members to the committees. There is a level of commitment from the members regarding the committee assignments. He mentioned the 10 student/athletes who have a B+ or higher and participate in 2 varsity sports in their senior year. He will do his best to move the District forward in a positive manner.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MOTIONS:

a. Budget Committee Representative: B. Mitchell reported that committee has not met.

b. Community Relations Committee: S. Peters reported the committee met earlier and focused on engaging the staff in a Round Table Feedback conversation. The committee discussed responses to social media posts and student engagement. The committee will be meeting on April 3, 2016.

c. Education Committee: It was reported Janie Desbiens did a presentation on Balanced Literacy and guided reading. She presented results on the 3rd graders from Cutler. Most of the children improved. It will take about 4 years to see the results. The next meeting is on March 22, 2016.

d. Technology Committee: Technology has not met. They will be meeting on Thursday. S. Peters would like to welcome the Collective Bargaining Units to attend.

e. Finance/Facilities Committee: J. Carnie reported the committee did not meet. They felt it would be better to meet after the election.

f. Negotiating Committee: The committee did not meet. No activity.

g. Policy Committee: The Policy Committee did not meet. **MOTION:** M. Blair **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy Committee to adopt amended Policy EEAA Video and Audio Surveillance on School Property as submitted. **SECOND:** J. Smith. **DISCUSSION:** N. Mosher asked where a recording of an event comes in. M. Blair explained it is District videotaping only if in the District. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: M. Blair **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy Committee to accept Policy JLCD-Administering Medicine to Students as presented. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: M. Blair **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy Committee to accept Policy BDE Board Committee and Delegates as amended. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **DISCUSSION:** S. Peters would suggest the word “tapped” be changed to “called upon”. K. Wheeler would like to appoint her own replacement if she cannot attend. She said the Board voted against this change. N. Mosher is concerned with the alternates and the 3 members as a quorum. J. Carnie said we did vote against the last sentence in the policy. He would suggest removing it. It should be left up to the individual who is not able to attend. M. Blair would like to send it back to Policy and if individuals have opinions to hash it out at the Policy Committee.

MOTION: J. Carnie **MOVED** to refer Policy BDE Board Committee and Delegates back to the Policy Committee. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 13/0/0/0. **Motion passes.** M. Blair would like the Board to think about which committee he or she would like to be on. Keep in mind your passion. He will make sure the committees are balanced as much as possible. He would recommend after the Chairs are elected that the committees establish a mission and a charter.

MOTION: M. Blair **MOVED** on behalf of the Policy Committee to accept Policy BEDC Quorum and Voting as amended. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **DISCUSSION:** M. Blair said this clears up a lot of things regarding the intent that it does not apply to the sub committees. B. Mitchell said the weighted vote has not been used. **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to amend the motion and add the word “full” before the word “School Board”. **SECOND:** J. Smith **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie said it makes things complicated. You need a quorum of the people present. It is fine the way it is. N. Mosher said we are looking to change the substance of the language. J. Carnie said we have a State Statute and we have a recommendation from the NHSBA. J. Carnie said to take a look at the State School Board Association. Send it back and compare it with the NHSBA. **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to send it back to Policy.

SECOND: N. Mosher. **VOTE:** 5.397/6.482/1.121/0. **Motion fails. VOTE on amendment:** P. Peterson-no, W. Wright-no, K. Wheeler-no, J. Carnie-no, N. Mosher-no, M. Blair-no, C. McDaniels-Thomas-abstain, B. Mitchell-yes, J. Smith-yes, E. Stanley-no, B. Taro-no, S. Peters-abstain, L. Steadman-yes. 3.241/7.640/2.120/0. **Amendment fails. DISCUSSION:** M. Blair explained this is for the full Board not the sub committees. S. Peters said to make it exclusive to the School Board Meetings. N. Mosher said a weighted vote was used at a committee meeting. M. Blair said it was discussed but never used. There needs to be clarity. J. Carnie said this is an effort to make it separate for the Board and committee meetings. He

said the attorney said we need to align all. M. Blair would like to postpone this discussion until the next meeting.

MOTION: B. Mitchell **MOVED** to accept Policy BBBA Board Member Qualifications as amended. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** M. Blair informed the Board during the discussion on this policy he had zero input. J. Carnie would like the original policy from the NHSBA and the State Statute 671:18. This is an effort to get around the payment. It is a smooth effort to change what has been the policy. He said during the discussion at the committee level he tried to speak but was told he could not. He asked who brought this forward. He asked who wrote this. He said at one meeting there was no policy and at the next meeting the policy was done. J. Carnie would like to send it back to Policy and have it aligned with the State Law and State Policy. A stipend is a salary. It was asked to send this to the attorney. **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to send Policy BBBA back to the Policy Committee and align it with the State Statute and State Law. **SECOND:** N. Mosher **DISCUSSION:** P. Peterson said she is concerned it should be aligned with the State Statute. J. Carnie questioned whether a substitute teacher can be on the Board. **L. Steadman is no longer part of this meeting.** M. Blair explained the policy was at the last two meetings. **VOTE:** P. Peterson-yes, W. Wright-yes, K. Wheeler-yes, J. Carnie-yes, N. Mosher-yes, M. Blair-abstain, C. McDaniels-Thomas-no, B. Mitchell-no, J. Smith-no, E. Stanley-no, B. Tatro-no and S. Peters-no. 4.275/6.605/1.121/.998. **Motion fails.** **DISCUSSION on Policy as amended:** J. Carnie said as the policy exists it is a conflict of State Law. It is a serious problem. **VOTE:** P. Peterson-no, W. Wright-no, K. Wheeler-no, J. Carnie-no, N. Mosher-no, M. Blair-abstain, C. McDaniels-Thomas-yes, B. Mitchell-yes, J. Smith-no, E. Stanley-yes, B. Tatro-yes and S. Peters-yes. 5.484/5.397/1.121/.998. **Motion passes.**

h. Extracurricular Activities Committee: M. Blair reported the committee has not met.

i. STEAM: B. Tatro reported the committee met and had B. Buoro from KSC in attendance. L. Carey reported on the STEAM training by representatives from the Boston Museum of Science taking place at KSC. There will be 2 teams of 4-6 teachers for 3 days of training. J. Rathbun will facilitate and organize. In June of 2016 the Science Committee will begin with the Next Generation Standards. The committee should have something to report to the Board in order to propose something for the 2017-2018 budget.

j. Ad Hoc Committee on Safety/Security/Discipline: J. Smith reported the committee met on March 9, 2016. They took information from the survey and came up with questions regarding security for L. Witte, L. Spencer, R. Schafer and N. Richardson. The spoke of evacuations from the building, staff access to the buildings, swipe cards, keys, secure entrances at all schools, cameras, lights and the situation regarding the phones in case of an emergency.

k. Cheshire Career Center: W. Wright reported the committee will be meeting on March 23, 2016 at 5:30 PM. All members are welcome.

M. Blair explained the Ad Hoc Committees were formed for a specific purpose and then they were supposed to dissolve. The Board may want to look at this. He would suggest the Ad Hoc Committees refer items in an outline, form suggestions and a rationale.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Committee Procedures and Restructure:

Appointments of Committee Members: M. Blair asked each committee to have a charter, mission and vision.

Policy Committee: M. Blair, L. Steadman, B. Mitchell, W. Wright, S. Peters and J. Carnie.

CRC: M. Blair, B. Tatro, L. Steadman, S. Peters, E. Stanley and C. McDaniels-Thomas.

Fin/Fac: J. Carnie, P. Peterson, J. Smith, K. Wheeler and W. Wright

Tech: B. Mitchell, M. Blair, E. Stanley and S. Peters.

Education: B. Mitchell, W. Wright, P. Peterson, M. Blair, B. Tatro, N. Mosher and J. Carnie.

STEAM: S. Peters, B. Tatro, K. Wheeler and J. Smith

Negotiations: B. Mitchell, L. Steadman, W. Wright, S. Peters and B. Tatro.

Extra-Curricular: E. Stanley, M. Blair, K. Wheeler and S. Peters.

Safety, Security and Discipline: J. Smith, W. Wright, J. Carnie and S. Peters.

CCC: W. Wright

Budget Committee: C. McDaniels-Thomas

b. District Goals and Board Operations: It is important to look at the goals and be active in the Strategic Planning Process. The survey for the Strategic Planning Process is on the website.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Action on the Manifest: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to approve the manifest in the amount of \$1,482,573.06. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 12.002/0/0/.998. **Motion passes.**

b. Other New Business as may come before the Board: S. Peters would like to have an orientation session scheduled at the convenience of J. Fortson. He would ask N. Richardson to set up new email addresses for the new Board Members.

J. Carnie would like the administration to notify the Board if the Union is requesting to open negotiations. L. Witte said it has not happened yet.

J. Carnie would like to have the Deliberative Meeting Minutes available to the Board at the next meeting.

The Board Meeting Schedule, time and day of week was suggested to be discussed. M. Blair and L. Witte will discuss the agenda and overall structure of the agenda.

C. McDaniels-Thomas would like to discuss a path to direct the public to the School Board Meetings and possible lights in the MS/HS at the end of the meetings.

10. Setting Next Meeting's Agenda:

1. Deliberative Minutes

11. Public Comments: M. Szymcik explained the MDEA has until June 15, 2016 to reenter into negotiations with the Board but would like to start prior to that date. She did speak to L. Witte.

B. Tatro suggested rolling STEAM into the Education Committee. M. Blair asked if there are a set of goals that have not been met as an Ad Hoc Committee. Either dissolve the committee or roll it into another committee.

MOTION: J. Smith **MOVED** to accept the committee assignments as presented to the Board. **SECOND:** N. Mosher. **DISCUSSION:** M. Blair asked the committees to set the agenda and elect a Chair. **VOTE:** 12.002/0/0/.998. **Motion passes.**

12. 9:34 PM Motion to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b)

Consideration of Hiring a Public Employee: MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Consideration of Hiring a Public Employee. **SECOND:** J. Smith **VOTE:**12.002/0/0/.998. **Motion passes.**

13. 9:38 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:** 12.002/0/0/.998. **Motion passes.**

14. 10:15 PM Public Session: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to seal the discussion regarding the Educational Manifest Hardship in the 9:38 PM March 15, 2016 Non-Public Meeting Minutes until July 1, 2020. **SECOND:** J. Smith. **VOTE:** 12.002/0/0/.998. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: P. Peterson **MOVED** to accept the 7:10 PM March 1, 2016 Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** J. Smith. **VOTE:** 10.881/0/1.121/.998. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: B. Mitchell **MOVED** to unseal the December 3, 2013 Non-Public Meeting Minutes. **SECOND:** C. McDaniels-Thomas. **VOTE:** 10.714/0/1.288/.998. **Motion passes.**

15. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: J. Smith **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 10:33 PM. **SECOND:** P. Peterson **VOTE:**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording secretary