Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
Approved Minutes)
January 19, 2010
Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH

Members Present: Bruce Barlow, James Carnie, Gene White, Ed Jacod, Winston Wright, Lisa Carpenter, Eric Stanley, Richard Thackston and Phyllis Peterson. **Absent:** Tim Aho, William Felton, Robert Smith and unassigned seats from Swanzey, Roxbury and Surry.

Administration present: K. Dassau, Superintendent, D. Hodgdon, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, P. Bell, HR Director and B. Gallagher, Interim Business Manager.
Also present: L. Sutton, B. Tatro, J. Smith, D. Mousette, B. Pickering and J. Smith.

"The goal of the Monadnock Regional Board is to improve student achievement."

6:30 PM: The Board held a non-meeting with their attorney.

MOTION: E. Jacod. **MOVED** to accept the letter of resignation from J. Fortson as chair of the MRSB. **SECOND:** L. Carpenter. **VOTE:** 9.737/0/0/5.263. **Motion passes.**
MOTION: R**.** Thackston **MOVED** to appoint W. Wright as the Chair of the MRSB. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **VOTE:** 9.737/0/0/5.263. **Motion passes.** The Board decided not to appoint a Vice Chair.

1. **8:06 PM: Consent Agenda: MOTION:** E. Stanley **MOVED** to accept the January 5, 2010 School Board Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** E. Jacod. **VOTE:** 8.716/0/1.021/5.263. **Motion passes.**
2. **Student Government Report:** R. Skrocki reported that members of the Board had attended the meeting today. He thanked them for their attendance. The students were briefed on the 5 year plan and the BeTTY'S money.
3. **Correspondence and Announcements:** B. Tatro informed the Board that they are conducting mid-year testing for the students. The second grade show is coming up. Everyone is welcome.

D. Mousette reported on the mid-year assessments in math and reading.

L. Sutton reported that there would be a choir concert on Thursday at 7:00 PM. The Middle School is also conducting mid-year testing. January 27, 2010 is Career Day for the Middle School Students. February 4, 2010 is the date for the High Honors Breakfast.

B. Pickering reported that the 2008-2009 drop out rate has decreased to almost half at 2.8%. There are 20 students compared to the 42 students the year before. He said that

they are very excited with the progress of only one year. The goal is 0 drop out in 2012. It is a huge step with the alternative programs.
J. Carnie commented that the Business Manager Search should be discussed under "New Business".

4. Public Comments: R. Thackston spoke in favor of the Monadnock School Board forming a study committee to look into withdrawal from SAU # 38. He believes that all the districts in the SAU would come out ahead.

N. Moriarty thanked B. Barlow for his help on the write up for the Health Trust that was placed in the Richmond Rooster. N. Moriarty spoke about the $160,000.00 one time expense for a settlement in the default budget. He said that a one time expense should not go forward in the default.

5. Curriculum Report: D. Hodgdon sent every parent in the district the School District Profile. This information is required by law to be sent each year. D. Hodgdon reported that the NECAP results would be available on January 28, 2010. He passed out the Curriculum Notes to the Board and continues to work on the web site.

The Board forgot to approve the January 5, 2010 Non-Public Minutes at the beginning of the meeting. **MOTION:** P. Peterson. **MOVED** to accept the January 5, 2010 Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 7.537/0/2.20/5.263. **Motion passes.**

6. New Business: MOTION: R. Thackston **MOVED** to add the discussion regarding the Business Manager Search to the agenda. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 7.749/0/1.988/5.263. **Motion passes.**
Business Manager Search Discussion: J. Carnie explained that he received a letter to be a member on the search committee. He is concerned with the method in which this was done. He said that he does not have a problem with the make up of the committee. He said that it is a combination of SAU and Monadnock personnel. He believes that there is a conflict of interest with the SAU personnel. Are the SAU members voting or giving input. It should be determined by the School Board. R. Thackston asked if the make up of the committee was in the new procedures manual. K. Dassau stated that the manual states that the Superintendent would choose the committee. He explained that the Board knew the makeup of the committee in December. The committee is in compliance with the procedures manual.

7. Old Business:

1. MRSD Budget 2010-2011: It was explained that at the last Budget Committee meeting the Budget Committee voted to increase the proposed budget to $31,694,597.00 with specific areas in which they would like items added back. **MOTION:** R. Thackston **MOVED** to keep the amount of the 2010-2011 proposed budget at $31,500,000.00. **SECOND:** J. Carnie. **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie commented that this is very close to managing the budget. The Board had finally agreed on the $31,500,000.00. It is best to remain at that number. He would caution the Board to make a change at this session. Leave it until the Deliberative Session. B. Barlow explained that he would like to agree with the Budget Committee. B.

Pickering explained that this increase is a big step for the high school with still a few pieces missing. B. Tatro commented that they would be alright at Mt. Caesar with the $31,694,597.00. **MOTION:** B. Barlow. **MOVED** to amend the amount of the 2010-2011 proposed budget to $31,694,597.00 as recommended by the Budget Committee. The Board would attempt with the best of their ability to comply with the spirit and intent of the Budget Committee's allocations. **SECOND:** R. Thackston. **VOTE:** 9.737/0/0/5.263. **Amendment passes. VOTE:** 9.373/0/0/5.263. **Motion passes.**

2. MRSD Warrant Articles 2010-2011: The Budget Committee increased the 2010-2011 proposed Default Budget number to $32,507,904.00. W. Lechlider explained why the number was increased at the Budget Committee's last meeting. J. Carnie asked for an explanation on the $160,000.00 settlement in the default. B. Gallagher explained that the $160,000.00 has not been appropriated. He said that the Budget Committee was correct in leaving it in the budget. **MOTION:** J. Carnie. **MOVED** that the Board make a request from the DRA on the proper way to handle the $160,000.00 one-time settlement within the Default Budget. **SECOND:** B. Barlow. **VOTE:** 7.537/0/2.20/5.263. **Motion passes.**

K. Dassau explained that Attorney Apple would object to Article Three. The Attorney would recommend Article One similar to last year's article and scratch Article Three. The board could have the Union opening up to litigation. R. Thackston would suggest leaving Article One and Article Three as is. Article Five would have additional hand outs provided by the CRC to explain that article. W. Wright passed out the warrant articles to be signed by the School Board Members.

3. Standards of Accreditation: B. Pickering reported that a group of principals met with the Education Committee and discussed evaluations. It was discussed over the last 2 weeks and the accreditation was referenced which made reference to substantive change. They pulled out the actual policy which gave examples of substantive change.

8. School Board Committee Report:

1. Community Relations Committee: B. Barlow reported that the committee would be scheduling the selectmen meetings. The green sheets explaining the warrant articles are almost done. The next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2010 at 6:00 PM.

2. Education Committee: J. Carnie reported that the committee met on Thursday and discussed evaluations. D. Hodgdon gave an update on the progress report and survey that took place. The committee also discussed the Fast Forword Program and the increase in learning that has been seen. N. Moriarty and B. Barlow used the Fast Forword Program and commented on how terrific it was.

3. Facilities Committee: E. Jacod updated the Board on the progress of the bleachers and gave a time line for the construction. The whole project should be completed by graduation. E. Jacod reported to the Board as an informational piece the status of the air handler in the gym. E. Jacod explained that the bids for the domestic hot water heater were opened on Friday. There were four vendors. There was no quorum at the meeting to vote on the bid. He would ask the Board to award the bid to Stromgren Plumbing. **MOTION:** E. Jacod. **MOVED** on behalf of the Facilities Committee to award Stromgren Plumbing and Heating the bid in the amount of $59,621.00 for the

domestic hot water heater system project. **SECOND:** R. Thackston. **VOTE:** 9.737/0/0/5.263. **Motion passes.** E. Jacod reported that there was another power outage on 1-12-10. He explained what they are doing about the issue. E. Jacod explained that he had advised J. Fortson that he was resigning as chair of the Facilities Committee but in light of J. Fortson's resignation from the Board he would remain as Chair until the end of his current term.

4. Finance Committee: J. Carnie reported that the committee met and reviewed the warrant articles. They had a long and heated discussion in regards to the budget article.

5. Policy Committee: The committee has not met.

6. Budget Committee: E. Stanley reported that the committee met. The Board already reviewed the results earlier in this meeting. The next meeting is on Feb. 16, 2010 at 7:00 PM.

7. Cheshire Career Center: W. Wright reported that there would be a breakfast on January 29, 2010 at 7:30 AM.

8. Northern Schools: L. Carpenter reported that the committee has not met. They would be meeting in Gilsum on Feb. 11, 2010.

9. **Action on the manifest: MOTION:** B. Barlow **MOVED** to accept the manifest in the amount of $ 2,204,873.51. **SECOND** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** 7.595/0/2.142/5.263. **Motion passes.**
10. **Superintendent's Report:**
11. **Board Chair Report:** W. Wright thanked J. Fortson for her work on the Board and wished her well.
12. **Setting the next agenda:**
    1. **NECAP Results**
    2. **Health Trust Fund**

13. **Public Comments:** W. Lechlider thanked the School Board for accepting the Budget committee's number on Warrant Article One.

    N. Moriarty informed the Board that he would be sending W. Wright a copy of the Health Trust Warrant and would be calling Attorney Apple on the Health Trust Warrant.

14. **10:20 PM Enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A legal : MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A legal. **SECOND:** R. Thackston **Roll call vote:** E. Jacod, W. Wright, L. Carpenter, B. Barlow, E. Stanley, R. Thackston, P. Peterson and J. Carnie. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

15. **Motion to adjourn: MOTION:** B. Barlow **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 PM. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording secretary