

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING,
MASON SCHOOL DISTRICT
NEW HAMPSHIRE, January 20, 2010**

A special meeting of the Mason NH School District was held on Wednesday, January 20, 2010 at approximately 7:40 p.m. at the Mason Elementary School Cafeteria, pursuant to due notice of all members and the public.

Chairperson Wolfgang Millbrandt called the meeting to order. Upon calling of the roll, the following members answered present: Mary McDonald, Wolfgang Millbrandt, Dr. Donald Hodges.

District Superintendent Dr. Deborah Bemis, Secretary Becky Partridge, Treasurer Sue Wagoner, and Dean Edgart Legal Counsel for District were present.

Recognition of Public

Refer to sign in sheet dated 1/20/10

Minutes of Previous Meetings

Motion by Mary McDonald to approve the minutes of 1-11-10 submitted by Becky Partridge, Seconded by Dr. Donald Hodges.

aye: McDonald, Millbrandt, Hodges

nay: none

Motion carried 3-0

Announcements of Next Scheduled Meetings

Monday January 25, 2010: Mason School Board meeting at 7:30 pm, Mason Elementary School Cafeteria.

Action Items (school board requests)

1. Dr. Hodges will investigate the options of an outside consultant.
2. Ms. McDonald will write a summary of the sealed non-public session
3. Dr. Bemis will confirm with Mascenic that Mason students still attending Mascenic will not be penalized for absences or tardiness due to weather conditions in Mason
4. The Board has agreed to take on the action item of developing a process and plan to be given to the parents regarding different delay and closing scenarios within one week.

Public Communications

Ms. Sue Rodil asked Chairperson Mr. Millbrandt to be heard on the issue of the snow delay that occurred this morning. Ms. Rodil started off by asking if any procedure was followed this morning with calling the delay and how that information was to be given to the parents of Mason. She reminded the School Board and Dr. Bemis that she had been promised that there would be a plan and procedure written up and given to the parents to inform them, this has not occurred and she wants to know why. Dr. Bemis informed her that the Board has not approved a version of the plan at this time.

Mr. Hemmer was concerned that it was not posted in a timely manner this morning to allow time for families to make arrangement or even to notify the middle and high school students before their bus was scheduled to arrive. Dr. Bemis responded that Road Agent, Dave Cook called the bus company and herself at approximately 5:30 am to recommend a 2 hour delay. At that time Dr. Bemis said she called the radio and

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television stations that were given to the parents previously. Mr. Hemmer explained once again children were unsafely stranded at the bus stop. Dr. Bemis responded that the bus company called the middle and high school student's parents to inform them of the delay. Those present said that they did not received a phone call.

Ms. Jeannine Phalon questioned is it not the responsibility of the Superintendent to not only call the stations to notify them of the delay but to also follow up and make sure it was posted. Dr. Bemis responded that in the future she would and that she will request that Mr. Cook call her by 4:00am.

Ms. Heather Sabotka informed the Board and Dr. Bemis that her son is picked up at the bus stop at 6:15am and when the bus did not arrive she had to take it upon herself to find out what was going on since nothing had been posted. She expressed her discontent with the lack of communication.

School Board member Ms. McDonald questioned when the first delay occurred, it was answered that it occurred on Dec 9, 2009. Ms. McDonald questioned that it has been over a month and nothing has been resolved. Mr. Hemmer requested that the Board do something and "that it will be spring before anything is ever done". Ms. McDonald assured the public that the School Board themselves will take this as an action item and get a plan and procedure in place.

Ms. Rodil inquired about if the Mascenic students were informed of the delay and if they are excused due to weather conditions the same as the Milford students. Ms. McDonald responded that the school is not responsibly for the transportation of those students attending Mascenic and that it would be up to the parents themselves to determine if it was safe to travel the roads and go to school. Dr. Bemis said she would contact Mascenic to confirm that the students attending Mascenic would not be penalized for absences or tardiness due to weather conditions in Mason.

Several members of the public were concerned and upset that the School Board and Superintendent provide no information to the middle and high school student's families and that they feel that they are only concerned with the Mason Elementary students not all of Mason's students.

Mr. Millbrandt requested that the debate end as nothing was being solved at this time.

Ms. Rodil requested that she be heard on one other point. Ms. Rodil voiced her concern and anger over the lack of communication from the Administration Office. She has left several messages to the Principal and Superintendent with no phone calls in return. She explains to the Board that she tries to take the right steps to get answers but no one seems to be able to give them to her so she feels she has no other choice than to bring it to the School Board. Dr. Hodges responded that Principal Betty Mulrey is only able to take calls in the afternoon. Dr. Bemis responded that 24 hours is the typical turn around time and that she has returned calls to Ms. Rodil. Ms. Rodil responded that she has not received calls back for several days sometimes none at all, at least not to the number that she provided.

The School Board thanked the public for their time.

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Motion by Wolfgang Millbrandt to enter into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3II to seek advice from counsel, seconded by Mary McDonald.

aye: McDonald, Millbrandt, Hodges
nay: none

Motion carried 3-0

Those present were Wolfgang Millbrandt, Mary McDonald, Dr. Donald Hodges, and Legal Counsel Dean Edgart.

Motion by Wolfgang Millbrandt to enter back into public session at 8:45PM, seconded by Dr. Donald Hodges.

aye: McDonald, Hodges, Millbrandt
nay: none

Motion carried 3-0

*Motion by Mary McDonald to seal minutes of non-public session referenced **1/20/10A**, seconded by Dr. Donald Hodges.*

aye: McDonald, Hodges, Millbrandt
nay: none

Motion carried 3-0

It is noted that Mary McDonald will write a summary of non-public session **1/20/10A**

Chairperson Mr. Millbrandt submitted to Board Secretary Becky Partridge for public record the two requested response letters from the January 11, 2010 Regular Scheduled Board Meeting. Refer to attached letter from Dr. Deborah Bemis dated January 18, 2010 and Donald R. Jutton dated January 18, 2010.

Motion by Dr. Donald Hodges to engage in finding an outside consultant to review and make recommendations to the organizational structure of the Mason School District, seconded by Mary McDonald.

Discussion:

Mr. Millbrandt asked if the District has the money for this?

Dr. Hodges responded that he is getting the information on how much it will cost the District and will report his findings to the Board.

Mr. Millbrandt asked Superintendent Dr. Deborah Bemis if she had anything to add?

Dr. Deborah Bemis responded that she did not have enough information.

Mr. Millbrandt gave a quick summary that MRI had recommended finding an outside consultant to review the organizational structure of the District and after review from the Board they made a motion to engage in finding an outside consultant.

Dr. Deborah Bemis said her only recommendation would be to review the use of MRI services here. Mr. Millbrandt reiterated what Dr. Bemis recommended and that the recommendation from the Superintendent to review current financial services will occur. Mary McDonald requested the Board wait on that action until the outside consultant completes their review.

Dr. Bemis asked the Board if she could begin advertising for a part time Business Manager position?

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Mary McDonald replied that the District should wait until after the review is complete and submitted. After a short discussion the Board agreed to wait until after the review.

Dr. Bemis asked who would be doing the consulting?

Ms. McDonald responded that it would not be MRI and that Dr. Hodges will be investigating different options and will submit the information to the Board.

aye: McDonald, Hodges, Millbrandt

nay: none

Motion carried 3-0

Mr. Millbrandt moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Partridge
School Board Secretary