

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING,
MASON SCHOOL DISTRICT
NEW HAMPSHIRE, January 25, 2010**

A meeting of the Mason NH School District was held on Monday, January 25, 2010 at approximately 7:30 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 and Wolfgang Millbrandt. School Board member Dr. Donald Hodges arrived at 7:41 pm. District Superintendent Dr. Deborah Bemis, Secretary Becky Partridge, Treasurer Sue Wagoner, and Mike O'Neil of MRI were present.

Recognition of Public

Refer to sign in sheet dated 1/25/10

Minutes of Previous Meetings

Discussion: Secretary Becky Partridge requested an amendment to the minutes dated 1-20-10 as follows: Page 3 after motion to seal add "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 Mary McDonald to amend the minutes of 1-20-10 submitted by Becky Partridge as stated above, Seconded by Wolfgang Millbrandt.

aye: McDonald, Millbrandt

nay: none

Motion carried 2-0

Motion by Wolfgang Millbrandt to approve the minutes as amended dated 1-20-10 submitted by Becky Partridge, Seconded by Mary McDonald.

aye: McDonald, Millbrandt

nay: none

Motion carried 2-0

Announcements of Next Scheduled Meetings

Monday February 8, 2010: Mason School Board meeting at 7:30 pm, Mason Elementary School Cafeteria.

School Board member Dr. Donald Hodges joined the meeting.

Public Communications

Mr. Bob Hemmer inquired whether the Mason School District has a policy in regards to lice and if so does it state that those children affected be sent home. Chairperson Mr. Millbrandt asked School Nurse Joan Losee to comment. Ms. Losee explained to the School Board and the public that her practice is to notify the parents of the child affected and suggest treatment and to be vigilant and check all students at the school. Ms. Losee checks at two week intervals now that a problem has been identified. Mr. Hemmer inquired whether they should be sent home and not allowed back into school

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without being checked. Ms. Losee explained that the state advises that children affected not be excluded from school. Ms. McDonald stated that she understood not making it obvious about what children have lice but asked if we should notify the parents of the children who are at high risk of having contracted lice due to close contact. Ms. Losee explained that "it is not within my rights to tell other people about other people's problems." She stated that this is not a medical issue but only a nuisance issue and that is why the state does not recommend exclusion of these children from school.

Mr. Hemmer informed the School Board that the practice of putting coats on the chairs to keep them from touching one another is a fire hazard.

Mr. Barry Hutchins asked to be heard in regards to the snow chain letter that went out to parents. He inquired whether the Mason children attending Milford can be put on the automated system that Milford uses. Dr. Bemis answered that she has discussed this with Milford and the automated service is a service the Milford residents pay for so at this time Mason students will only receive a call when Milford is closed or delayed. The snow chain will be used when Mason is delayed or closed for the Mason students attending Milford. Mr. Hutchins would like the Board to explore options other than the snow chain as he had an unlisted number which was published on the snow chain. Dr. Donald Hodges advised him that the School Board is in the process of investigating automated systems.

Superintendent's Report. Dr. Deborah Bemis:

Dr. Bemis introduced the following persons and requested that they be given 10-15 minutes to speak with the Board.

Mrs. Bronwyn Paveglio spoke in regards to her Career Ladder Plan on Executive Function. She explained to the Board that Executive Function is the process of thinking or how we process information including time management, planning, emotional regulation, etc. She is proposing that her project include gathering information on executive function of the children in Mason and passing the information along to the teachers and staff so accommodations can be made to improve a particular student's executive function, making them more successful in school.

Dr. Bemis stated that she would like to recommend Mrs. Paveglio's proposed Career Ladder Project.

It is noted that the Board approved and signed Mrs. Paveglio proposed Career Ladder Project.

Dr. Bemis introduced Regional Manager Ms. Robin Bogle from First Student Transportation. Ms. Bogle introduced the two bus drivers that drive the buses for the students of Mason. Each bus driver gave a brief history of their driving experience. Dr. Bemis asked Ms. Bogle if she could tell the Board briefly about the new technology that the buses are equipped with. Ms. Bogle gave a brief summary of the new GPS system and the different safety equipment and procedures that increase student safety while riding the bus. Ms. McDonald inquired if for the three delays or closings the bus company received many phone calls. Ms. Bogle answered there were a few but not many. Ms. McDonald also inquired if the data that is collected from the GPS is accessible to the Mason Administration. Ms. Bogle answered no that it is only accessible to bus company.

Dr. Bemis introduced Ms. Nancy Elcock, Title 1 Service Provider. Ms. Elcock briefly described her role as Reading Specialist in the Mason Elementary School. She

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explained that students that have been identified by the teachers as having difficulty or being at risk of failing behind in math and reading are referred to her. She works with about 15 students and all her work is done in the classroom with the students. In the future she is hoping to get parents more involved, to organize a Literacy Night and to have a program to get books to children who do not have books at home. She explained that ideally children up to third grade should be learning to read but hopefully by third grade and beyond they are reading to learn.

Dr. Bemis introduced Mason School Guidance Counselor, Dr. Gretna Neimi. Dr. Neimi explained that she performs all in-house evaluations and helps establish a student support team for those students needing services. She gave a brief explanation to the Board about the RTI program that the state will be mandating. In short the program is for those students who need accommodations and invention but does not necessarily need to be "coded." Dr. Hodges asked for her opinion of the soon to be required program. She explained at first she did not like it but she has come to learn and understand the reasons behind it and the benefits it can have.

Dr. Neimi explained that her long term goals would include: a positive behavior program, a support team for children, a crisis program, and an anger management program. Dr. Hodges inquired what are the road blocks for reaching those long term goals. Dr. Neimi answered "time and space."

The School Board and Dr. Bemis thanked all those who gave their time to come and speak with them about the services they provide.

Dr. Bemis told the School Board that the Student Handbook is ready to be distributed. Ms. McDonald inquired whether Ms. Mulrey had seen the final version. Ms. Mulrey said she had not seen the final version at this time. Dr. Bemis said she would provide Ms. Mulrey a copy of the final Student Handbook.

Dr. Bemis informed the Board that the NECAP scores will be coming out soon.

Principal's Report, Ms. Betty Mulrey:

Ms. Mulrey updated the Board that 12 staff members received CPR training. She is hoping she will also be able to provide all staff members First Aid training. She told the School Board that the children are collecting coins for Haiti and the coin collection has been integrated into the money unit. Ms. Mulrey updated the Board that Friday Assemblies have included programs dealing with respect, friends and friendship. Ms. Mulrey is also hoping that the School and the Board can organize a community celebration for the grand opening of the school when it is completed.

Business Manager, Mike O'Neil:

Mike O'Neil provided the Board with a Re-Cast Budget FY 2011 Draft Budget (refer to attachment). Mr. O'Neil informed the Board that he has integrated all the revenues minus the pre-school revenue into the current budget. Mr. O'Neil reported to the Board that there is no way to fit what has been asked for, such as another Aide, into what there is and Mr. O'Neil would like to know what the Board recommends. Ms. McDonald inquired about the kindergarten per student reimbursement that Mason should receive from the state. Mr. O'Neil said he will investigate that. Mr. Millbrandt again requested that Dr. Bemis receive confirmation of what is expected from the state. Dr. Bemis informed the Board that she has submitted a request to SAU #63 for them to reimburse

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Mason for the Federal Milk and Nutrition money that was given to them by the state that is owed to Mason. Mr. O'Neil reported to the Board that the issue of where future reimbursements should be sent has been resolved. Ms. McDonald requested that Mr. O'Neil do a forecast to better understand the budget for next year. Mr. O'Neil informed the Board that the shortfall in the budget comes primarily from the tuition of students that were not accounted for when requesting the budget. As such, Mr. O'Neil will prepare a warrant article (FY11; pending Board approval) to establish and fund an expendable trust fund for tuition expenses.

Mr. O'Neil informed the Board that the Payroll system is now processed through DataSystems.

Mr. O'Neil submitted a building check with invoice and current manifest with supporting documentation. It is noted that the Board signed the building check and manifest.

Mr. O'Neil submitted the Treasurer's Report, refer to attached document Mason School District Treasurer Report, December 31, 2010.

Ms. Wagoner requested direction from the School Board on how to proceed with the SB2 petition. After a brief discussion and conclusion that neither the present School Board nor the Clerk are in possession of the petition, the School Board felt that it was not the Mason School District's responsibility to take any further action.

Unfinished Business

Organizational Audit: Dr. Hodges reported to the Board that Mr. Tanguay would be available to perform an organizational audit. Dr. Hodges informed the Board that Mr. Tanguay believed that it would take about 40 hours to complete and he would charge the Mason School District what he charged Mason previously.

Mr. Millbrandt asked how this report in the end would differ from the SAU withdrawal plan. Ms. McDonald responded that it could differ just as the Mascenic withdrawal plan differed from what it is now. Ms. McDonald stated to the Board that this is money worth spending. Dr. Hodges said that Mason needs to come up with a plan for next year and beyond.

Dr. Bemis said her concern was that many people had worked on the SAU withdrawal plan and the State approved it and the voters of Mason approved it and how can you evaluate something that has only been in existence for a few months. Dr. Bemis argued that not all programs are completely implemented at this time even.

Ms. McDonald asked Principal Betty Mulrey if she was concerned about an evaluation at this stage. Ms. Mulrey said she believes evaluations are always good no matter when. Mr. John Lewicke asked if this could be a Warrant Article on this year's ballot and bring it to the voters. Ms. McDonald and Dr. Hodges believed that this would cause a lag time that is not acceptable.

Ms. Losee commented that she remembers from the last meeting that MRI came on board and has been concerned with the sustainability of the District with our current tax base. She feels that MRI has a vested interest and that the current Administration has a vested interest and feels that it is important to get a third party to review the structure. Mr. Millbrandt believes that our issues are not that bad. Mr. Hemmer would like for him to clarify "not that bad."

Mr. Lewicke raised his concern that he does not see how Mason can afford to do it this year; Ms. McDonald believes that Mason can not afford not to do an evaluation this year. Dr. Hodges stated that this evaluation is not just about the possibility of eliminating positions but about ways to improve the organizational structure,

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Dr. Bemis stated that a lot of people went to bat for Mason to withdraw from the SAU effective immediately and by performing such an evaluation it makes everyone look foolish.

Motion by Dr. Donald Hodges to bring in Mr. Tanguay to review the organizational structure and for services not to exceed four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500), seconded Mary McDonald.

aye: McDonald, Hodges

nay: Millbrandt

Motion carried 2-1

Committee Reports

Building Committee Report, Mr. Bob Hemmer:

Mr. Hemmer reports that all is going well with the construction. He informed the Board that the addition and it passed a "blower door test." The roof on the remaining part of the school building is scheduled to be replaced soon and during February break the kitchen is scheduled to be re-located in the addition.

Curriculum Committee Report:

No Report

MESO Committee Report, Becky Partridge:

Ms. Partridge informed the Board that she had contacted the IRS to find out the status of MESO's 501(c)(3) application. Ms. Partridge reported to the Board that the application has not been assigned at this time and that the IRS is in the process of reviewing applications from June.

Technology Committee:

No Report

Safety Committee:

No Report

Mr. Millbrandt moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 pm, seconded Dr. Donald Hodges.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Partridge
School Board Secretary