

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING,
MASON SCHOOL DISTRICT
NEW HAMPSHIRE, July 6, 2009**

A meeting of the Mason NH School District was held on Monday, July 6, 2009, at approximately 7:35 PM at the Mann House, 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: Donald Hodges, Mary McDonald, Wolfgang Millbrandt.

School Board Treasurer Sue Wagoner, School Board Secretary Becky Partridge, Deb Bemis Mason School District Administrator/SPED Director, Betty Mulrey Mason Elementary School Principle and Moderator Catherine Schwenk were present.

Recognition of Visitors

Don Jutton and Michael O'Neill of MRI

Recognition of Public

Refer to sign in sheet dated 7/6/09

Minutes of Previous Meetings

*Motion by Wolfgang Millbrandt to approve the minutes of June 22, 2009 as amended,
SECONDED by Donald Hodges.*

aye: McDonald, Hodges, Millbrandt

nay: none

Motion carried 3-0

Announcements of Next Scheduled Meetings

Regular School Board meetings have been scheduled for July 13, 2009 and July 27, 2009 at 7:30 PM. Meeting will be held at the Mann House.

SAU Withdrawal Update

Deb Bemis requested signatures from members of the SAU Withdrawal Committee however some members were not in attendance. Bemis gave the Signature Page to Catherine Schwenk to obtain signatures.

Public Communication

There was a lengthy discussion about a Pre-school program being established for the 2009/2010 school year. Bob Hemmer told the School Board that he does not feel they have the authorization to design a Pre-school since at the District Meeting it was voted on establishing only K-5 school.

Hodges responded that SPED Pre-school falls on the responsibility of the District. Fred Greenwood inquired about the money that was appropriated in the budget: was that money for Pre-school age SPED children to be tuition out of district or in-district? Deb Bemis explained that when designing the budget placement in or out of district was not considered as there is a standard amount of \$5400.00 (five thousand four hundred dollars) per child without additional services.

John Lewicke urged the School Board to hold a hearing on the issue of Pre-school since at the District Meeting the Mason School District Charter was to establish a K-5 program. Deb Bemis asked if the representatives from MRI had any insight to whether a town decides such issues as this. Don Jutton of MRI said typically since the town approved

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the budget it is up to the Administration and School Board to determine how those funds are appropriated within the category.

McDonald would like more financial details before coming to a decision.

Bemis stated that the DOE feels that the Kindergarten space is adequate to be used for Pre-K as well,

Betty Mulrey would like to know long term building use plans to best determine where the Pre-school should be located especially if the District goes to an all day Kindergarten program in the future.

McDonald asked if there had been any formal notification from Greenville whether they would accept our Pre-school age SPED children and if Milford had been contacted.

Bemis explained that there is no formal agreement with Mascenic and that they would be able to take those children however Bemis and the Superintendent of Mascenic does not feel it would be in the best interest of the children to be tuition out of Mason.

McDonald reiterates that we do have alternatives for the first year.

Hodges believes the town needs to allow the Administration to administrate the District.

Bob Hemmer stated if he understands everything correctly that the best solution to the SPED issue is to form a Pre-school but it is not required? Bemis said yes that it is correct and also added that the Mason School District would start receiving funds from the state if a Pre-school was established here in town.

MRI

Don Jutton of MRI discussed briefly the history of MRI. Don Jutton informed the Board that MRI feels comfortable with what they have reviewed in regards to the Mason School District however they can not at this time give any solid advice. One main concern is that they have not received a Maximum Guarantee Price from Sullivan Construction, however they are hoping to be provided with that information on July 10, 2009 when they are set to meet with Sullivan Construction.

McDonald asked if they have figured a payment schedule with the town. Jutton answered that they have proposed a payment of \$100,000-\$190,000 monthly to be paid to the District from town taxes. Jutton will have a payment schedule to review with the School Board by the end of the month.

Jutton informed the Board that MRI has billed the initial 16 hours that was approved already. Jutton would like to know how the Board would like to proceed. McDonald asked if they have a projected amount. Jutton told the Board the he has given a proposal to Bemis that the District pays MRI \$1,000 a week, this calculates to 650 hours a year. Bemis will discuss this with MRI at a later date.

MRI had been in contact with the software company where Mason has purchased software. Jutton informs the Board that Datateam believes that the Mason School District purchased training from them. Bemis reviewed the contract (signed and dated by Mary McDonald on June 10, 2009) and no such training was authorized or purchased. Bemis will contact Datateam.

Treasurer Report

Sue Wagoner re-submitted the signature page from Northway Bank to the Board for signatures, the original signature cards were found to have errors. It is noted that members of the Board and Sue Wagoner signed the signature cards.

As a follow up to Millbrandt's concern of the amount of money being placed in one bank account far exceeds the FDIC insured amount he asked if MRI can speak to that concern.

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Michael O'Neill of MRI explains to the Board that banks can provide collateral documentation of any amounts even if it exceed the FDIC insured amount and the School Districts funds would be insured. The Board requests that Wagoner contact Northway Bank and request collateral documentation to secure all funds in the account.

Sue Wagoner submitted a manifest and checks with invoices to the Board for signatures.

Building Committee

Sheila Dunn informed the Board that Fairpoint will be out on Wednesday July 8, 2009 to move the wires from the existing building to the modulars, the Board after much discussion approved the wires being moved.

Deb Bemis presented the Board with a contract from New Edge to continue the existing DSL service for \$69 (sixty nine dollars) a month. Millbrandt voiced concerns that the contract does not specify a contract term, is this month to month or a year contract? Hodges requests that the Board be presented with other providers to compare costs and services. Deb Bemis will contact New Edge to get clarification on the contract terms.

Mary McDonald presented Northeast Environmental Labs report to the Board. The report states that asbestos was found in the tiles of the third and fourth grade classrooms. McDonald informed the Board that Apollo will do the abatement.

Bob Hemmer presented the Board with a Notice to Proceed and Letter of Intent (see attachment from Sullivan Construction dated July 1, 2009). Hemmer informed the Board that the letter must be signed in order for Sullivan Construction to continue work as they have been working without a contract. Hemmer informed the Board that Dean Eggart had review the letter and feels there is no reason not to sign it.

Motion made by Donald Hodges to accept and sign the Letter of Intent from Sullivan Construction, seconded by Mary McDonald.

Discussion: Millbrandt voiced concerns that the construction project seems to be rushed all the time. Bob Bergeron explains that the Building Committee was told to get this done quickly and that is what they are trying to do.

aye: McDonald, Hodges

nay: one

abstention: Millbrandt

Motion carried 2-0 with one abstention

Unfinished business

Mary McDonald previously requested that Bemis discuss tire chains for winter service with First Student Transportation and what would be the financial impact. First Student Transportation informed Bemis that it would be an additional \$2,000 (two thousand dollars) a bus. After a short discussion and input from Fred Greenwood on the On-Spot tire chain system the School Board decided it would not go with the option of tire chains. Mary McDonald also wanted to know if Mason was to extend the school day would First Student be able to provide bus service. First Student Transportation informed Bemis that they would be able to provide bussing even with an extended school day.

Deb Bemis submitted the final transportation contract from First Student Transportation to be signed by the Chair of the Board. It is noted that Wolfgang Millbrandt signed the contract.

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Deb Bemis submitted the Unemployment and Workers Compensation Insurance documentation for the Chair of the School Board to sign. It is noted that Wolfgang Millbrandt signed the contract.

Third Reading of Fiscal Management Policy DGA-Authorization Signature

Policy amended to read "**checks drawn on the general fund or any special fund (with exception of the activity fund) will require the signatures of the School District Treasurer and a quorum of the School Board.**"

Motion made by Donald Hodges to accept the third reading of the Fiscal Management Policy DGA-Authorization Signatures as amended, seconded by Wolfgang Millbrandt.

aye: Hodges, Millbrandt, McDonald

nay: none

Motion carried 3-0

Mary McDonald presented the possibility of extended the school day to the Mason School Board and the Mason School Administration. Betty Mulrey will discuss this with the teachers and Deb Bemis will organize a survey for the parents of the Mason School students for their thoughts on an extended school day.

Motion made by Wolfgang Millbrandt to enter into non-public session at 10:04 PM, seconded by Donald Hodges.

aye: McDonald, Millbrandt, Hodges

nay: none

Motion carried 3-0

Public Session minutes taken by Secretary Becky Partridge and transcribed by Secretary Becky Partridge.