

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING,
MASON SCHOOL DISTRICT
NEW HAMPSHIRE, April 26, 2010**

A meeting of the Mason NH School District was held on Monday, April 26, 2010 at approximately 7:45 p.m. at the Mason Elementary School Cafeteria, pursuant to due notice of all members and the public.

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

Superintendent Dr. Deborah Bemis, Secretary Becky Partridge, Moderator Catherine Schwenk, School Principal Betty Mulrey, Treasurer Sue Wagoner and Mike O'Neill of MRI were present.

Recognition of Public

Refer to sign in sheet dated 04/26/10.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

Motion by Dr. Donald Hodges to seal non-public minutes submitted by Becky Partridge dated 4/12/10, Seconded by Bob Hemmer.

aye: Hemmer, Millbrandt, Hodges

nay: none

Motion carried 3-0

Motion by Dr. Donald Hodges to approve sealed non-public minutes 4/12/2010 submitted by Becky Partridge, Seconded by Bob Hemmer.

aye: Hemmer, Millbrandt, Hodges

nay: none

Motion carried 3-0

Motion by Dr. Donald Hodges to approve the minutes submitted by Becky Partridge dated 4/12/2010, Seconded by Bob Hemmer.

aye: Hemmer, Millbrandt, Hodges

nay: none

Motion carried 3-0

Announcements of Next Scheduled Meetings

Monday May 10, 2010: Regular School Board Meeting at 7:45pm, MES Cafeteria

Action Items

1. Dr. Bemis will prepare and post for the position of Business Manager.
2. Mr. O'Neill to prepare a financial report of the school lunch program.
3. Dr. Bemis to submit a pros and cons worksheet of being contract employees versus exempt employees.
4. Dr. Bemis to provide the ITC Component of the Technology Plan to the Technology committee.

Dr. Hodges stated that he has concerns over recent events in regards to the behavior and actions of the Superintendent (Dr. Bemis). Dr. Hodges expressed his displeasure with Dr. Bemis' actions, namely speaking with the press and chooses at this time to withdraw from potential negotiations with her as Superintendent and Special Education Director for next year. Dr. Bemis adamantly disagrees with the accusations.

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Motion by Dr. Donald Hodges to break off contract negotiations with Dr. Bemis for next year for the positions of Superintendent and Special Education Director, Seconded by Bob Hemmer.

aye: Hemmer, Hodges

nay: none

Abstain-Millbrandt

Motion carried 2-0, 1 Abstention

Motion by Bob Hemmer to post the job positions of Superintendent and Special Education Director as recommended by the Administrative Staff Structuring Committee, Seconded by Dr. Donald Hodges.

aye: Hemmer, Hodges

nay: none

Abstain-Millbrandt

Motion carried 2-0, 1 Abstention

Public Communications

Mary McDonald asked if the position of Business Manager had been posted. Dr. Hodges said no. The Board directed Dr. Bemis to prepare and post the position of Business Manager.

Business Manager, Mike O'Neill:

Susan Wagoner gave the Board documentation required to change the approved signatures on the Northway Bank checks from Mary McDonald to Bob Hemmer. It is noted that Board members signed said documents. Mike O'Neill submitted to the Board for their approval and signatures building checks and current manifest. It is noted that the Board members signed said checks and manifest.

Mike O'Neill presented to the Board the financial reports titled Reconciliation of Proposed Budget Deficit, Recap of Fund Balance Transfer, 2009-2010 Actual Spending to April 12, 2010, Revised Estimated Revenues(MS-24), Project Approval/ Funding Authorization, and IDEA allocation for special education students.

Mr. O'Neill stated that Kindergarten grant money is still coming in – to date Mason has received approximately fifty one thousand dollars (\$51,000). Mr. O'Neill stated that he has already talked to Ed Murdow regarding the remaining amount. Mr. Murdow advised that Mason write a letter regarding the construction portion of the grant and submit it. Mr. O'Neill stated that this has already been completed and that he received notification that Mason will receive the expected amount of the construction portion of the grant. Dr. Bemis added that because monthly statements were not submitted to the state the money was withheld, however the problem has been rectified with the above stated letter and Mason will be receiving the money.

Mr. O'Neill informed the school board that there will be a lunch program review on May 19, 2010. Mr. Millbrandt asked if he could pull a fiscal report together of the lunch program. Mr. O'Neill said yes. Dr. Hodges asked if this review is common. Mr. O'Neill said it is common.

Superintendent's Report. Dr. Deborah Bemis:

Dr. Bemis stated that she and Betty Mulrey have been working on the 2010-11 school calendar. The school year will run from September 1 to June 16 and it will follow Milford's school calendar. The school day will run from 9:00am to 3:20pm. There will be 4 days with 2 hour delays. Open house is yet to be determined however parent teacher conferences will be on November 19 during school hours.

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Dr. Bemis informed the school board that the professional employment contracts are being worked on and that the contract that she is hoping to present to the teachers will be similar to the contracts offered to administration. Dr. Hodges stated that he thought that it was discussed about the possibility of not offering contracts but having the teachers be exempt employees. Mr. Hemmer asked if Dr. Bemis had prepared the pros and cons worksheet of being contract employees versus exempt employees as requested by the Board due May 3. Dr. Bemis said that she has not yet but will begin working on it but could not give a completion date.

Moderator Catherine Schwenk reminded the Board that any meeting where the school board comes together must be posted as required by law. Dr. Hodges explained that it was his error as he thought that contract negotiations with staff did not have to be posted. It was explained that if it is with one employee then it does not have to be posted but since it was with more than one teacher it must be posted. Dr. Bemis said that the Letters of Intent were presented to the teachers and that those that received them were returned.

Dr. Bemis reminded the board that there are policies in place that deal with employee complaints, including that of the Superintendent and that it is requested that they are acknowledged and followed. These policies can be found in the "K" section of the policy manual. These policies states various guidelines including but limited to the proper chain of command that one must follow when lodging a complaint, employees are granted fair warning of complaint and an opportunity to address them, and the roles and relationships between the school board and Superintendent.

Principal's Report, Mrs. Betty Mulrey:

Mrs. Mulrey gave the following dates of teacher training and student activities:

May 10 - 5th grade trip to Concord
May 12-13 - staff ICS training
May 14 - MES step up day
May 18-19 - NECAP Science training
May 26 - Milford step up day
June 4 - Farm day
June 7-10 - NEWEA testing
June 11 - field day

TBD - 1st and 2nd grade trip to SEE Science Center

Mrs. Mulrey informed the board of the after school pilot program that the para professionals and Heidi Delorme will be doing when the children return from spring break. The program will be 2 days a week and will be funded through the career ladder program. If successful it may be a program that MES would want to continue next year.

Unfinished Business

Mr. Lewicke presented the board with the minutes from the annual district meeting. Mary McDonald asked if she could review the minutes before they are submitted since she was a school board member at that meeting. Dr. Hodges asked if there was a date that we needed to have them submitted. Moderator Schwenk said yes, twenty days after the meeting. Dr. Hodges asked Mr. Lewicke if he could have it done by Friday. Mr. Lewicke said yes.

Dr. Bemis informed the Board that she has been working on a payroll comparative, however it is not complete at this time. She informed the Board that she has spoken to several people about the overall structure and many of them suggest hiring a part time person with less experience

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for two days a week but also hiring a consultant that would come in once month for oversight. Mrs. Wagoner asked if this was to replace the Business Manager. Dr. Bemis said that this would be to fulfill the two day a week position. Mrs. Wagoner believes that this does not make sense now that the Data Team program is working. Mr. Hemmer stated that he appreciates Dr. Bemis looking into this but could she post the Business Manager position as previously requested. Dr. Bemis said she was not aware of that she was directed to post but that she will do it. Mr. O'Neill told the Board that MRI has had success with the model that Dr. Bemis explained.

Committee Reports

Building Committee Report, Mr. Fred Greenwood:

Mr. Greenwood told the board that they had met with Ed Murdow and that everything is progressing well with the CHIPS program. Mr. Greenwood explained that the building itself will be fine but there are policies that need to be written. Mr. Greenwood informed the board that the building committee will provide the board with an outline of what needs to be done. Upon request from the public, Mr. Greenwood gave a quick summary of the CHIPS program. Mr. Greenwood informed the board that the construction is proceeding as expected and that Sullivan Construction is expecting to have the bulk of the construction complete in a months time. Mr. Millbrandt inquired about the staining on the roof. Mr. Greenwood said that it is not uncommon for there to be staining from the dust of the pellet burner but that he will look into it.

Curriculum Committee Report, Betty Mulrey:

no report

MESO Committee Report, Becky Partridge:

Mrs. Partridge informed the board that due to unforeseen circumstance with the IRS she has given all information to MESO Treasurer Tina Atkinson and that she is now following up with the filings.

Technology Committee, Mary McDonald:

Mrs. McDonald informed the Board that the Committee is still waiting on the ICT Literacy Component that Dr. Bemis is providing in order to finish the draft of the Technology plan.

Safety Committee, Betty Mulrey:

Mrs. Mulrey informed the Board that they have been working on the emergency flip charts that will be placed in all the classrooms. Dr. Hodges asked if it could be larger font. Mrs. Mulrey said yes.

New Business

Mrs. Partridge informed the Board that she will be placing the letter submitted by Garth Fletcher to the Board via mail into public record.

Motion by Bob Hemmer to go into executive session at 8:50pm per RSA 91-A:3 II (b) hiring of any persons as a public employee, Seconded Dr. Donald Hodges.

aye: Hemmer, Millbrandt, Hodges

nay: none

Motion carried 3-0

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Motion by Bob Hemmer to enter back into public session at 9:30pm, Seconded Dr. Donald Hodges.

aye: Hemmer, Millbrandt, Hodges

nay: none

Motion carried 3-0

Dr. Hodges informed the public that no decisions have been made and that the Board had a first reading of job descriptions Senior Special Education Teacher, Mentor Teacher, and School Custodian. Since there are changes to be made a final reading and approval of these job description will be made at the next meeting.

Dr. Hodges moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:33 pm, seconded by Bob Hemmer.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Partridge
School Board Secretary