

**Monadnock Regional School District
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
October 24, 2023
MRMHS Library, Swanzey, NH**

Members Present: Wayne Lechliger, Nancy Carney, Edward Sheldon, Robert Audette, Anne Marie Osheyack, Doug Bersaw, Jon Hoden, Adam Hopkins, Betty Tatro, School Board liaison and Richie HKS Thackston. **Absent:** Dan Coffman, Robert Young, Unassigned seat for Gilsum and Unassigned seat for Roxbury.

Also Present: J. Morin, Business Administrator and L. Aivaliotis, Recording Secretary

1. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments.

2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

a. **September 26, 2023 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes: MOTiON:** J. Hoden **MOVED** to approve the September 26, 2023 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** W. Lechliger. **VOTE:** R. Audette -abstain, D.Bersaw-abstain and all other members present-yes. **Motion passes.**

3. **Administration Report:**

a. **Transfer/expense:** J. Morin explained that the Board had approved 3 budget transfers at their last meeting. One was to cover contracted services and the other two were to help cover out of district placements. There are 29 students that are out of district. She was asked about the average cost of the tuition. She explained that it depends on the placement and the services in which the student needs. W. Lechliger asked about the historical accounting for the out of district regarding the number of students and the cost. A lot of districts are seeing an increase from the COVID numbers which were lower. It was mentioned that the cost for last year's Special Ed. was 1.5 million and this year it is 2.85 million. This does not include transportation or required services of the students. J. Morin explained that the student services are not necessarily in that line. A.M. Osheyack said that there are a lot more students with trauma, non-traditional families, mental health needs and safety issues are what she is seeing in Jaffery. J. Morin explained that she is not in the know on the details of the students but there is an increase in the cost of the placements. It was commented that there were 22 out of district students for 1.5 million and now 29 students at 2.8 million. J. Morin

explained that if the placement is not working the student can move around. If a parent provides enough support the student will be able to stay in the out of district placement. She said that there are still remaining ESSER Funds but is not sure if it can be used for Special Ed. services.

b. Budget Tracking Report and Monthly Financial Report: J. Morin reviewed the Monthly Expense Report with the Budget Committee. The District Account is in the negative due to the out of district placements. There will be a few transfers for the Board at the next meeting. She is tracking the budget very closely. The out of district students can leave the district or come into the district at any time. The Special Education Expendable Trust has a balance of \$364,000.00. J. Morin will look to see if the ESSER Funds would be available to help cover out of district placements.

c. BOY-along with last 5-year historical BOY: The committee received information from the administration regarding the BOY which is at 1610.

d. Staffing

i. Vacancy Update: There are 15 vacancies as of October 17, 2023. J. Morin explained that out of the 6 para positions vacant there is 1 regular ed. Para. The Library para is not tied to Special ed. All schools have a librarian para and this school has a librarian.

ii. Contracted Service vs. personnel cost: J. Morin explained that you are not comparing apples to apples. A Social Worker is budgeted for \$83,878.00 and the contracted service is at \$45,446.00. There was a savings for the Psychologist but due to the unit of service there was a need for another budget transfer. A. Hopkins felt that D. Coffman had asked for a total. The contracted service balance vs. hiring employees in those positions balance. J. Morin will bring additional information for the next meeting. **A. Hopkins leaves. E. Sheldon takes over the meeting as the Vice Chair.** J. Hoden is thankful that there are positions being filled.

4. Administration Comments: J. Morin explained that the GMR came in at 19.5%, last year it was at 6.6%. This increase is based on the number of claims. This is not only the claims of this district but all members. At one point this district received a refund which came out of the Adequacy Fund but recently it was dipped into and there is a 5% increase in the new GMR in order to replenish that fund. Based on our district members and their plans it is over a \$900,000.00 increase which is shared by the members and the district. J. Morin explained the buyout was increased but no takers yet. MESSA's buyout will increase in the second year of their contract.

5. School Board Liaison Comments:

a. Bond Next Steps Update: J. Morin explained that K. Barker, Hutter Construction, J. Rathbun, T. Breen and herself are meeting every other week to discuss the Elementary School Renovation Project. They have decided to start breaking ground in June after school gets out. It made more sense. There was a lot of talk about the new softball field. The softball field will stay at the MTC site and be a replica of what is there now but moved. There was also a concern of MTC not having a playground if breaking ground was earlier.

b. Superintendent Search Update: It was reported that there have been 5 completed applications and 7 partial. Out of the 7 partial applications some will not go through due to qualifications. The job posting is in 5 places. There is no hiring bonus offered and the salary is not being posted. The Bryan group feels that the applicant will ask the salary. Things are moving forward.

c. Other Business: There was no other business.

6. Chairperson Comments: E.Sheldon mentioned the School Board/Budget Committee Joint Meeting is coming up on November 18, 2023.

7. Next Meeting Agenda: The next meeting of the Budget Committee is on November 28, 2023. If the committee decides to have it.

8. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

9. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: J. Hoden **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM. **SECOND:** R.HKS Thackston **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis

Recording Secretary