

**Monadnock Regional School District
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2023 (Not Yet Approved)
MRMHS Auditorium, Swanzey, NH**

Budget Committee Members Present: Wayne Lechluder, Dan Coffman, Jon Hoden, Adam Hopkins, Anne Marie Osheyack, Scott Peters, School Board Liaison, Richard HKS Thackston, Ed Sheldon, Doug Bersaw and Nancy Carney. **Absent:** Phyllis Peterson, Robert Audette, Open Seat for Roxbury and Open Seat for Gilsum.

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

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

2. **Approval of the December 21, 2022 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes:**
MOTION: S.Peters **MOVED** to accept the December 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes as presented.
SECOND: J. Hoden. **VOTE:** N. Carney-abstain, remaining members-yes, B. Audette-absent.
Motion passes.

3. **Set MRSD Default Budget:**
a. **Default Budget: \$33,060,189 + \$970,000 (Federal and Nutrient Grants)**
Total \$34,030,189: The Budget Committee approved the proposed Default Budget number at their previous meeting.

4. **Set MRSD Operating Budget:**
a. **School Board Proposed \$33,391,157 + \$970,000 (Federal and Nutrient Grants) Total \$34,361,157:**
b. **Budget Committee Proposed Budget:** D. Bersaw commented that there are two large warrant articles plus the Bond warrant article which we want to pass. The articles would be good in a normal year but not this year. He would suggest absorbing the warrant article for the roof in the budget or the amount of the MESSA Contract or both. E. Sheldon commented on the 8% inflation, the 1 ½ % increase in the proposed budget and the need to give the voters a choice between the proposed and the default. It was asked if we would know the effect with the cuts. S.Peters commented that we need to budget for all of the vacant positions. If we do not we will have to have an emergency meeting. L. Witte explained that there are about 20 vacancies, some paras and some professionals. We have filled some of the positions with contracted services and staff are picking up extra duties. **MOTION:** W. Lechluder **MOVED** to set the Budget Committee Budget at \$34,111,157.00 which includes Federal and Nutrient Grants and the \$250,000.00 reduction equivalent to the first year of the MESSA contract. **SECOND:** D.Bersaw. **DISCUSSION:**D. Coffman commented that the \$250,000.00 would be roughly 3 positions. He is 100% for the MESSA Contract and 110% for the bond. He is unhappy there were no incentives for hiring. If there is housing in the District it will not happen in this budget. He is happy with that budget. He does not believe there will be a need for an emergency meeting. L. Witte explained the average cost for a certified staff member is \$78,000 plus benefits. J. Morin explained the funds to repair the roof could come from an unallocated fund balance but the Board wants transparency for the voters. The bond needs to pass. Whatever we can do for

transparency. The District has had a repair and maintenance warrant article for years. Give the taxpayers a choice. It was commented that the difference between the proposed and the default is \$80,000.00 and that is not giving the voters a choice. It was commented that there will be a surplus. W. Lechlinder said our hands are not tied with a default. J. Morin explained once the proposed budget or the default passes it is a bottom line budget. **VOTE:** 6.502/3.557/0/B. Audette absent. **Motion passes.**

5. Warrant Article Recommendations:

a. Discuss all fiscal year 2023-24 Warrant Articles with a monetary value, and make a Budget Committee recommendation on said Warrant Articles:

Article One: The Bond: It was explained that there are numbers in the article that may change. A. Hopkins does not want to vote on the article without the correct numbers. It was asked if the bond can be changed at the Deliberative Session. J. Morin explained if it is changed it will change the scope of the project. It was recommended by Bond Council to have Legal Counsel present at the Deliberative Session. **Article Two: Proposed Budget/Default Budget:** The Budget Committee supports this article as previously discussed. **Article Three: Roof Replacement: MOTION:** W. Lechlinder **MOVED** to support Article Three Roof Replacement as presented. **SECOND:** A. M. Osheyack **DISCUSSION:** It was explained that in the last 2 months it looks as if the cost of supplies are falling. It was commented that the cost for the replacement roof could be 20% less. The Board had suggested \$400,000.00 due to inflation and the Budget Committee suggested the \$385,000.00 to reduce the total warrant. **VOTE:** 10.058/0/0/B. Audette absent. **Motion passes.** **Article Four: MESSA Contract: MOTION:** J. Hoden **MOVED** to support Article Four MESSA Contract. **SECOND:** W. Lechlinder. **DISCUSSION:** E. Sheldon would like to include the cost to the taxpayers. J. Morin commented that she has not done that yet. She also explained it is a huge swing between towns. E. Sheldon commented people see \$250,000.00 and they do not want to support. **VOTE:** 9.064/0/.995/B. Audette absent. **Motion passes.** **Article Five Special Education Expendable Trust: MOTION:** W. Lechlinder **MOVED** to support Article Five Special Education Expendable Trust. **SECOND:** A. M. Osheyack. **VOTE:** 10.058/0/0/B. Audette absent. **Motion passes.** **Article Six District Vehicle Expendable Trust: MOTION:** J. Hoden **MOVED** to support Article Six District Vehicle Expendable Trust. **SECOND:** W. Lechlinder. **VOTE:** 10.058/0/0/B. Audette absent. **Motion passes.**

6. Budget Committee Schedule:

- a. Budget Committee Meeting 1/24 at 7:00 PM:** The Budget Committee will meet to discuss Article One.
- b. Deliberative Session Saturday, February 2, 2023 at 10:00 AM.**
- c. Post-deliberative session meeting as needed to act on any articles amended at Deliberative Session**
- d. Budget Committee Meeting 2/28**

7. Superintendent's Comments: The Superintendent had no additional comments.

8. School Board Liaison Comments: S. Peters explained the Board has a new representative from Fitzwilliam, Jeff Cesaitis.

9. **Chairperson Comments:** There were no additional comments from the chair.
10. **Public Comments:** There are open seats on the Budget Committee anyone interested can sign up.
11. **Motion to adjourn: MOTION:** D. Bersaw **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:57PM.
SECOND: J. Hoden **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
MRSD Recording Secretary