

**Monadnock Regional School District
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
September 27, 2022
MRMHS Library/Zoom, Swanzey, NH**

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

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

1. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

2. Approval of the August 30, 2022 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes: MOTION: W. Lechluder **MOVED** to approve the August 30, 2022 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** J. Hoden **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

3. Administration Reports:

a. Transfers/expenses: J. Morin explained that there is a transfer from the HR Manager salary line to the SRO salary line. The Board decided not to fill the HR Position.

b. Monthly Expense Report/Budget Tracking Report: J. Morin presented the documents to the committee in their packets. There were no questions at this time.

c. Unallocated Fund Balance: J. Morin presented the breakdown on the unallocated fund balance. She explained the expenditures were under \$900,000. There were additional revenues that came to the District such as Medicaid reimbursement as well as a refund from the Health Trust. The Board had voted last year to retain funds from the surplus per a warrant article as well. This year the Board decided not to retain funds from the FY 22 fund balance. They also will receive additional Adequacy Aid which the Board decided to return to the taxpayers.

d. Pre BOY: J. Morin explained that they will not have the official BOY number until October 1, 2022.

e. Auditor's Report: J. Morin explained the Auditors had completed their work. There is no final report until either February or March.

f. Staffing: J. Morin explained that the staffing is constantly changing even since the last meeting. A part time psychologist has been hired by contracted services. MESSA and MDEA are bound by contracts and there are no financial incentives that could be used. The salaries and benefits are a huge part of the unallocated fund balance. This does not have anything to do with staffing currently. S. Peters commented that we have to have the funds to cover the salaries when the positions are filled. D. Coffman asked what the reductions were for this budget. What could we have spent without closing a class? What could we have done differently? A. Marie Osheyack asked if there were any out of district placements. S. Peters said yes. We need to absorb the cost. Students leave for an out of district placement. D. Coffman would like the cost of out of district placements. J. Morin is not sure of the level of detail she is able to give out. She mentioned there is a drastic increase in cost.

4. Review:

a. Elementary school bond/project update: S. Peters presented and reviewed the new website with the Budget Committee. www.mrsdproject.com He commented that it is not

realistic not to assume that there will not be another project over the 20 years of the bond. The renovations are at about \$40,000,000 with a potential funding of up to \$19,250,000 for State Building Aid. The District has not been guaranteed the funds. The bond chart was reviewed by the committee. It was commented that if we do all of the work at once we will also save electricity, heat and lightning. We will not see utility savings all at once. The printed tri-fold pamphlets will be available for the schools, libraries and town halls. S. Peters would like to ask the Budget Committee members to help with the handouts. S. Peters explained the Finance/Facilities Committee discussed the Allen's Town School Warrant. There was an article for a backup plan if the bond did not pass. The committee would recommend the stairs/elevator and administrative offices at Troy if the bond fails. J. Hoden commented that passing the bond is a no brainer. S. Peters explained even with the passing of the bond for the elementary schools there will still be a backlog for the MRMHS. S. Peters has been asked to prepare bullet points to answer questions from the public. The District has had a 1 million dollar or more project on the warrant each year. The cost of the bond is probably less than an article in future years and the bond will take care of the backlog at the elementary schools. S. Peters would suggest emailing him with any questions. The Cutler School was mentioned and explained that the school must be offered first to people who deal with education. J.Hoden commented on a great job regarding the elementary renovation project information.

b. Budget Timeline: The Budget Committee reviewed the budget timeline. The budget books will be ready sometime in November and in time for the Joint Meeting.

c. Budget Committee By-Laws: D. Bersaw and E. Sheldon are not in attendance. They will present at the October meeting.

5. Superintendent's Comments: The Superintendent is not in attendance.

6. School Board Liaison Comments: There are no additional comments from S. Peters.

7. Chairperson Comments: There are no comments from the chair.

8. Next Meeting: October 25, 2022

Agenda Items:

- a. BOY**
- b. Staffing Update**
- c. Vacancy Average Yearly in the past**
- d. Out of District Placements**
- e. Elementary Renovation Project**

9. Public Comments: There are no public comments.

10. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: J. Hoden **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:24PM. **SECOND:** B. Audette **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary