

**Monadnock Regional School District
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
August 30, 2022
MRMHS Library/Zoom, Swanzey, NH**

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

Also Present: L. Witte, Superintendent via Zoom, J. Morin, Business Administrator and L. Aivaliotis, MRS D Recording Secretary.

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

2. **Approval of the July 26, 2022 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes: MOTION:** W. Lechluder **MOVED** to approve the July 26, 2022 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** P. Peterson **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

3. **Administration Reports:**
 - a. **Transfers/expenses:** J. Morin explained that there have been no transfers since the last meeting.
 - b. **Monthly Expense Report/Budget Tracking Report:** J. Morin presented the documents to the committee in their packets. She mentioned that the final unallocated fund balance number has not been completed. The auditors will be here Thursday and Friday. There are more revenues than expenses. The School Board voted to retain more funds per the warrant article. This amount is what is allowed by the State and up to 2.5% of the total net assessment. The funds can only be used for an emergency. The example she gave was a septic system issue or to go back to the voters. There is also a Vehicle Fund and a Grounds Fund which were warrant articles passed by the voters.
 - c. **Vacancy Numbers (staff):** L. Witte explained the staffing report to the committee. She explained that there are still vacancies. Some of the vacancies are being covered by contracted services. The SRO is a contracted service through the Town of Swanzey. There are a number of paraprofessional openings. L. Witte explained the survey she did with the other SAUs in the State regarding vacancies. There are about 1000 paraprofessional vacancies. L. Witte reported the students returned to school for the first day of school and it went fairly smoothly. It was asked if we are not able to attract employees due to the salaries. L. Witte explained some staff are young and they are able to remain on their parent's insurance. They are interested in the pay. L. Witte explained the SRO from Swanzey deals with MRMHS and the Swanzey elementary schools. The SSO will go out to the other elementary schools. The SRO works 176 days, at \$33.00 an hour for 6.5 hours a day. The district is billed for the SRO service from the Town of Swanzey, it is about \$46,000.00. E. Sheldon asked if there was a direction the administration may be going in order to get candidates. L. Witte said it is not a funding issue, it is finding bodies in a very small pool. D. Coffman commented that the information shows a 46% increase in vacancies and mostly in paras. He would suggest higher hourly pay and a higher opt out in order to attract younger people regarding the insurance. We need to write the contract

differently relative to hourly pay and incentive bonuses. R. HKS Thackston would agree with increasing the insurance opt out. He said it has been a great idea for the Town of Troy.

d. Healthcare Plan Summary: J. Morin presented information on the different health plans for the different Unions. She explained the individual plan, two-person plan, family plan and opt out for each group. R. HKS Thackston asked for the cost of the plans for each contract. L. Witte mentioned that the information is on the website. J. Morin explained that the current opt out is either \$2500.00 or \$3000.00. W. Lechlinder mentioned that there was a motion to suggest an opt out amount of \$5000.00, carry over days and a sign on bonus.

4. Old Business:

a. Update on the Elementary Renovation Project: S. Peters mentioned at the last Fin/Fac Committee Meeting the committee and architect, K. Barker reviewed the CIP. The first year the inflation rate was 1% and it is currently 4%. Hutter Construction has done a walk-through of each of the schools to get the estimated cost for the renovations. The CIP was a 10-year perspective but now will be a 20-year CIP. The State has the application and recently has visited the District to do a walk through. Things will be moving really fast. The Board has established an Advisory Committee for the Elementary Renovation Project. The committee consists of principals, teachers, staff, community members, PTO members and School Board Members. The group would love to have Budget Committee Members join. They have had 3 meetings so far and they are all on Zoom. Eventually we will need to have a GMP from Hutter Construction. S. Peters was asked about the cost of the project with the cost of things going up. He said in his personal opinion it would be between \$40-50 million dollars. That figure is with no help from the State. D. Coffman commented that the Board, Budget Committee and the administration are all in. W. Lechlinder would agree with the concept. *L. Witte leaves the meeting.*

b. Budget Committee By-Laws: D. Bersaw explained that he and E. Sheldon had been working on the By-Laws and have divided them into two sections, the legal aspect and policy and procedures. E. Sheldon asked if there were any questions. W. Lechlinder would caution the group. These By-Laws were put in place years ago. It has gone pretty smoothly. D. Bersaw suggested attendance should be in the By-Laws. W. Lechlinder commented that it is up to the Chair to let us know the reason for being absent. D. Coffman mentioned missing 4 consecutive meetings. He also suggested E. Sheldon and D. Bersaw bring something back to the group. Review Section 7. The committee would like to have input from A. Hopkins. The committee also mentioned the issue of the appointing of a Budget Committee Member. If you come from a town that has more than 2 members your town members can appoint. *J. Morin leaves.* S. Peters would encourage the Budget Committee to review the Public Comment Policy which now allows a minimum of 30 minutes for the public to speak. E. Sheldon and D. Bersaw will take another look at Section 7, the policies and procedures side need to be flushed out. Email E. Sheldon, D. Bersaw or A. Hopkins with suggestions.

5. Superintendent's Comments: The Superintendent has left the meeting.

6. School Board Liaison Comments: S. Peters mentioned that the Board will be looking at items for the proposed budget with the administration. W. Lechlinder suggested not pushing anything, to get the March bond vote passed.

7. **Chairperson Comments:** A. Hopkins is not present at the meeting tonight.

8. **Next Meeting: September 27, 2022**

Agenda Items:

- a. **By-Laws**
- b. **Budget Timeline**
- c. **Unallocated Fund Balance**
- d. **Auditor's Report**
- e. **Pre-BOY**

9. **Public Comments:** There are no public comments.

10. **Motion to adjourn: MOTION:** R. HKS Thackston **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:20PM. **SECOND:** P. Peterson **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary