

**Monadnock Regional School District
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
July 26, 2022
MRMHS Library/Zoom, Swanzey, NH**

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

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

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

2. **Approval of the June 28, 2022 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes: MOTION:** W. Lechluder **MOVED** to approve the June 28, 2022 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** P. Peterson **VOTE:** 9.966/0/.0196/3.034 **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 explained they are wrapping up FY 22 and paying on FY 23. She asked if there were any questions on the detailed report and the monthly expense report. W. Lechluder asked about the cameras from one of the last transfers. He asked if there was thought on the Federal funding. J. Morin explained there had been instances where the cameras were important and they were not sure of the timing of the federal funds. L. Spencer had these funds in her budget and wanted to use them. The unallocated fund balance is under 1 million dollars. There are still a lot of encumbrances and still working through closing the invoices. There will be \$50,000 and \$40,000 coming out of the surplus for the Vehicle Account and School Grounds Account. J. Morin explained the funding for the basketball court came from the Student Activity Account Fund which was put in a money market account. The total cost of the project was about \$80,000.00 which is more than the original cost due to finding a septic tank in the ground.
 - c. **Vacancy Numbers (staff):** L. Witte explained the staffing report was provided to the committee in their packets. The number of vacancies changes daily. We have some potential staff going through the interviewing process. L. Witte explained other Superintendents have said they are in the same boat with the number of vacancies. There are a number of avenues the district has used to advertise the vacancies. J. Hoden asked if there was any talk about a \$5000.00 hiring bonus. L. Witte said there is a lot of backlash about hiring bonuses. She said she does not view this as a money issue. She has spoken to the DOE and people are getting their credentials. W. Lechluder asked about hiring a recruiting firm. L. Witte said they have advertised more broadly. A recruiting firm would have to be local and know NH education. She mentioned that a Math, Science, counselor, SRO and interventionist are in the pipeline for hiring. She also said that Special Ed. services will be provided by contracted services if staff cannot be found. P.

Peterson asked about exit interviews. L. Witte said we cannot force them. The MESSA Seniority Chart and Union Healthcare Summary were provided and re.

d. Bond Timeline Update: S. Peters explained the timeline and filing for the Building Application was June 30, 2022. On the application the District had to select a cost for the entire project and due to inflation, the Board chose \$35,247,000.00. The State has already asked to come and do a visit, which is good news. K. Barker and the administration should be given a pat on the back for all of the work on the application. Potentially, the District could be awarded 50% of the cost of the project. The Board will be looking at a 20-year bond. We will present a schedule of payments to the voters showing them this will replace the 1 million-dollar projects done each year. J. Morin reported that the portables have been taken down. The 4 new Math Classrooms have been painted, are on track for the upcoming school year and at this time on budget.

e. Electrical Rates: J. Morin explained at the last meeting that the District is in a contract and the rate is \$6.99 per kilowatt hours. That is a great rate.

4. Old Business:

a. Test Score Data: L. Witte explained the test score data went out to the members and the links were provided. She said J. Rathbun had done a nice job last Tuesday at the Board Meeting when he presented the data to the Board. The information being provided is the local data not the State's data. They have not provided that as of yet. The principals also did an excellent job with their presentation. We did see some growth but not in all of the curriculum. We will have additional counselors at the high school and a Districtwide Director of Counseling. S. Peters mentioned that the 6th grade students did well across the board. J. Hoden asked why the 7th and 8th graders took a deep dive. L. Witte explained the administration can look at the specific students. They will be using ESSR Funds to bring in Instructional Coaches. It was explained that the test is not mandatory and the parents may have their children opt out. L. Witte said we look at multiple assessments, we take this very seriously and take it in the context of all. We have seen the State Assessment change over the years. D. Coffman commented that 30% of the students are under proficient. Thirty percent, we are in bad shape. We have a Math delivery problem. We need to spend more money. Spend large amounts of money on Math. Math is critical. S. Peters said number one is to fill the Math positions. D. Coffman said if the money is right we will get candidates. S. Peters said we cannot offer more funds for a specific program. R. Audette said there is no consistent assessment. No matter how much money we spend, some students will not excel. If you increase Math you need to increase all of the subjects.

b. Budget Committee By-Laws: E. Sheldon said the updates to the By-Laws are a couple of years in the making. There are a lot of processes that we do not use anymore. Robert's Rules not so much and quotes from N. Moriarty. We wrote the By-Laws on what we do and took out how we do it. The information was sent out to the members. Unfortunately, no one received it. E. Sheldon will resend it. It is a draft and he would like the committee to review and suggest edits at the August meeting.

5. Superintendent's Comments: The Superintendent has no comments.

6. School Board Liaison Comments: K. Barker has suggested a double-digit percentage increase for the CIP projects. J. Hoden commented on the increase in freight. He hopes we can

present the die need for the elementary renovations and that this is best for the community and the future. S. Peters mentioned that next week the Advisory Committee for the Elementary Renovation Project will hold a Zoom Meeting. This will be an organizational meeting. He would love to have members of the Budget Committee attend. W. Lechluder commented on a Health and Safety Warrant Article but not in the amount of \$800,000.00 at the same time as the bond.

7. **Chairperson Comments:** A. Hopkins suggested the Budget Committee Meeting be scheduled on August 30, 2022. The Board will be meeting on August 23, 2022.

8. **Next Meeting: August 30, 2022**

Agenda Items:

- a. **By-Laws**
- b. **Health Plan for Other Unions**
- c. **Walk-through 4 new classrooms**

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

10. **Motion to adjourn: MOTION:** J. Hoden **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:28PM. **SECOND:** D. Bersaw **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary