

**Monadnock Regional School District
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2022
MRMHS Library/Zoom, Swanzey, NH**

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

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

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

2. **Nomination for Chair and Vice Chair:** A. Hopkins explained there is a vacant seat for Gilsum and Fitzwilliam. It is now the responsibility of the Select boards from those towns to appoint a member to the Budget Committee. A.M. Osheyack introduced herself to the Budget Committee. R. Audette also introduced himself to the Budget Committee. **MOTION:** W.Leachliger **MOVED** to nominate A. Hopkins as the Budget Committee Chair. **SECOND:** D. Coffman **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** D. Coffman **MOVED** to nominate E. Sheldon as Budget Committee Vice Chair. **SECOND:** W. Lechliger. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

3. **Approval of the January 13, 2022 Public Hearing Meeting Minutes:** **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to approve the January 13, 2022 Public Hearing Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** D. Bersaw. **VOTE:** 6.639/0/1.327/5.320 **Motion passes.**

MOTION: W. Lechliger **MOVED** to approve the Feb. 5, 2022 Pre/Post Deliberative Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** D. Bersaw. **VOTE:** 7.633/0/1.327/4.235. **Motion passes.**

4. **Business Administrator's Report:** J. Morin explained there had been 3 budget transfers since the last Budget Committee Meeting. There was a transfer of funds in the amount of \$12,650.00 for a Power School consultant and training, a transfer of funds in the amount of \$13,067.00 for

books to support the reading program at Cutler and a transfer of funds in the amount of \$24,250.00 to replace the tables and chairs in the lunchroom at Emerson with folding lunch tables. The other schools have folding tables. The funds came from either the legal line or the health insurance line. J. Morin also provided the members with the Monthly Expense Summary and the detailed report. There were no questions from the committee.

5. Year in Review: A. Hopkins reported that all of the articles on the ballot passed. D. Coffman said he is pleased with the results and the way this group, the administration and the Board communicated to the voters. He was not happy with the lack of information to the public regarding the contract. He would like to be able to summarize the contract and post that information. We have a MESSA contract coming up next and we need to get on the same page quickly. He is pleased with the vote but not happy with how it went. D. Bersaw commented on when the Budget Committee received the contracts. He said it was at the last minute. He is not sure how to move the negotiations. We need the contracts in a timely manner. E. Sheldon explained the committee received the contracts at the end of December. We could have had an extra meeting to review the contract but the Budget Committee declined. A. M. Osheyack said in the district where she works that it is not late. W. Lechluder said that the Budget Committee had asked for the contracts for December 1. He also said that the entire last year went fairly well except for the contract. There was a concern on how quickly the Deliberative Session went. E. Sheldon said it was unfortunate that there was no debate at the Deliberative Session. He would suggest a Negotiations Rep. on the Negotiating Team. It would be helpful. D. Bersaw commented that the accounting procedures were much improved. He thanked J. Morin. E. Sheldon would like to work with D. Bersaw to modernize the bylaws. The bylaws are separate from policy.

6. Discussion on the Elementary Renovation Project and Bond: S. Peters explained this will be a bond year and we have a lot to talk about. R. HKS Thackston asked about the weighted vote and how it was arrived at. It was explained that it is based on the census numbers. L. Witte said it was part of the Charter when the district was formed. D. Coffman commented that the public has to know that the Board is not sticking the public with a 20-year bond for something fancy. That is the reason the fire station will not pass. J. Morin explained the School District has been very conservative with the articles this year. A.M. Osheyack said we need to educate the voters. W. Lechluder would like to have a bond that would save the district

money and a 60% vote of the overall towns will help. D. Bersaw suggested showing the repair cost, the cost if the bond does not pass and also show the savings. R. Audette asked about the project. E. Sheldon explained the project would close Cutler, move the students to MTC and renovate all of the elementary schools. There will be a 20-year bond to get all of the work done at once. There will also be State Aid that will help with the cost. R. Audette commented that it would be easier for parents to drop off their children at MTC instead of MTC and Cutler. S.Peters said we have analyzed this for 2 years and the challenge is to get the voters to listen. He said it was very hard to get the people to the Listening Sessions. A.M. Osheyack had ideas on how to help sell the project. W. Lechluder said the emotional piece is the closing of Cutler. We need to let the voters know the issues with Cutler. R. Audette commented on how to appeal to the voters to vote. S. Peters said we have a CRC working with a PR Firm which the Board hired. W. Lechluder said the Chair is the mouthpiece. Any communication should be signed by both the Budget Committee and the School Board as a united front. **MOTION** W. Lechluder **MOVED** to authorize A. Hopkins as the representative of the Budget Committee to speak and partner with the Board Chair about the bond. **SECOND:** R. HKS Thackston. **DISCUSSION:** E. Sheldon would like to see the facts sheet. S. Peters said the Board will be seeing the detailed blueprints, hiring a construction manager and submitting the State Aid Application by June 30, 2022. This will be discussed next week at the Fin/Fac Meeting. S.Peters would suggest going over the timeline of the project at the next Budget Committee Meeting. **W. Lechluder and R. HKS Thackston withdrew their motion.** D. Bersaw commented the more you dig into the project the more communication.

7. MESSA Contract: A. Hopkins would like the committee to review the current MESSA contract and to come to the next meeting with questions.

8 Fall and Spring Joint Meetings: S. Peters said the Board would like to hold a Spring Joint Meeting with the Budget Committee on May 24, 2022 and the Fall Joint Meeting would be scheduled for November 19, 2022. The committee agreed. S. Peters would like to gather questions from the Budget Committee regarding the MESSA contract and have a lesson in Bond 101. He would like to be able to have the MESSA answers for the Budget Committee's May Meeting.

9. Superintendent's Comments: There were no comments from the Superintendent.

10. School Board Liaison Comments: S. Peters explained the Fin/Fac Committee will be meeting with K. Barker on March 29, 2022 to discuss the Elementary Renovation Project and the Budget Committee is welcome to attend.

11. Chairperson Comments: There were no comments from the Budget Committee Chair.

12. Other Discussion: D. Bersaw asked how the para staffing is going. L. Witte explained it is not just paras. We have had vacancies all year. D. Coffman would like a state of the staffing report each month.

R. Audette asked why the meeting is not run by Roberts Rules of Order. E. Sheldon explained it is in the By-Laws. R. HKS Thackston explained if you take a vote under Roberts Rules and do something outside of that it is not valid.

13. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

14. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: D. Bersaw **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM. **SECOND:** R. HKS Thackston. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary