

Monadnock Regional School District
Budget Committee Notes
July 27, 2021
MRMHS, Swanzey, NH

Members Present: Dan Coffman, Wayne Lechluder, Megan Foley via Zoom, Ed Sheldon, Scott Peters, School Board Rep. via Zoom, Wendy Martel and Doug Bersaw.

Absent: Melissa Diven, Phyllis Peterson, Wayne LaCoste, Richard HKS Thackston and Adam Hopkins.

Administration Present: L. Witte, Superintendent and J. Morin, Business Administrator.

Also Present: L. Aivaliotis via Zoom.

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

2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

a. **June 22, 2021 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes:** The Budget Committee will vote on the June 22, 2021 Minutes at their next meeting. The committee did not have a quorum.

3. **Administration Report:**

a. **Budget Tracking Report Review:**

a. **COVID Funds Balance and Status Review:** L. Witte explained CARES 1 Grant is closing on Sept. 1, 2021 and it will be completely spent. The funds are reimbursed to the District. We submit applications to be used on specific projects. The \$423,000.00 will be spent. We will be purchasing desks and chairs, the counselor position is now in the operating budget and this is due to COVID among other things. CARES 2 Grant is in the amount of \$744,000.00. Again the process is to submit an application for the funds. We also have ESSER 2 funds. The Board voted to give all staff a stipend for their hard work during COVID. D. Coffman asked why the Board did not discuss the stipends in Public Session. L. Witte explained the Board had the discussion in Non-Public and then discussed it with her in Public. D. Coffman does not agree with the discussion in Non-Public. S. Peters explained the RSA states anything related to compensation is to be discussed in non-public. If we had explored this in public we might not have figured it out. D. Coffman would disagree. It should have been

in public. L. Witte said this is a grant and these stipends are approved by the grant. W. Lechlinder asked if there were members of the household of the Board Members who received the benefits. It is taxpayer's money. D. Coffman said he was sure they did. S. Peters commented the Board felt it was appropriate and the transparency will be in the minutes. D. Coffman said it was not on the agenda.

b. What major transfers occurred since the last meeting? J. Morin explained there are no major transfers.

c. What major expenses are anticipated for next month? J. Morin explained the major expenses for August would be the work on the Tech/Ed Project. That should be wrapping up in August. She explained hopefully the kids will be able to use the new addition on day one but the Dust Collector may not be in at that time. She said in the weekly meetings for the project Mr. Parkman is in attendance and he is talking about safety. L. Witte said the renovations include ADA Accessibility and there is no additional staff.

d. Additional Admin Reports (if not reviewed above):

a. Early Retirement: L. Witte explained the information on the early retirement was given to the committee prior to the meeting. There is no report on the ins and outs until September.

b. Changes in Staffing levels for the upcoming year: We have 20 open positions.

c. Bid Information on 4 permanent classrooms: The Board accepted the bid from DEW Construction in the amount of \$1,074,000.00.

d. Budget process report on pavilion construction: L. Witte explained the information on the pavilions was sent prior to the meeting. The funds are from the grant and there are very strict requirements.

e. Surplus: J. Morin explained the reason for part of the surplus. She said it was due to unfilled positions, students going hybrid, savings in supplies along with a number of things. The auditors are coming in for official field work and after that we will have a better idea on the surplus number.

4. Budget Questions-Upcoming year:

a. 12 Month Grant Funding Project Plan: L. Witte explained the Federal Grants are based on specific demographics, specific usage and rules. We agree to do or not to do with accepting the funds. The ESSER Funds are specific if you reduce your budget you will not receive the funds. She explained there are big overall rules and a

book of rules. Some of the grants are based on demographics and free and reduced lunch. L. Witte explained J. Rathbun handles the grants. Gilsum STEAM Academy does not receive Title One funds. We hire certified staff to work with students at Title One schools. We also have 2 certified staff to work with students to prepare them for Kindergarten.

b. Staff Replacement Plan and Budget Impact-Facilities Director and Music Director: Currently there are a number of positions that need to be filled, paraprofessionals, teachers, interpreters, maintenance and more. Tony Breen is the interim Building and Grounds Director and we have hired a Music Director with a lot more experience and at the cost of more money.

c. Math Curriculum concerns/Budget needs: It was asked if there is an implication in the budget regarding the Math Curriculum. L. Witte said no.

5. Superintendent's Comments: There are no Superintendent comments.

6. School Board Liaison to BC Comment: S. Peters explained the Finance/Facilities Committee will be holding walkthroughs of Troy and Emerson on August 28, MTC on August 31 and Gilsum on Sept. 2. The Budget Committee is welcome. These are public meetings. During the walkthroughs the committee will go through a checklist with Barker Associates and review the CIP List in order to compare.

7. Chairperson Comments: A. Hopkins was not in attendance.

8. Setting Next Meeting Agenda: August 24, 2021.

9. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

10. The meeting ended at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary**