

**Monadnock Regional School District  
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes  
March 30, 2021  
Zoom Meeting, Swanzey, NH**

**Members Present:** Wayne Lechluder, Dan Coffman, Adam Hopkins, Scott Peters, School Board Rep., Melissa Diven, Phyllis Peterson, Wendy Martel, Ed Sheldon and Richard HKS Thackston. **Absent:** Megan Foley, Wayne LaCoste, Doug Bersaw, Unassigned seat for Gilsum and Unassigned seat for Roxbury.

**Also Present:** L. Aivaliotis, Recording Secretary.

**W. Hutwelker swore in D. Coffman and M. Diven as Budget Committee Members. W. Martel had already been sworn in.**

**Welcome Introduce Members (new/current)**

**I. Elect Chairperson: MOTION:** R. HKS Thackston **MOVED** to elect A. Hopkins as the Budget Committee Chair. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

**II. Elect Vice Chairperson: MOTION:** W. Lechluder **MOVED** to elect E. Sheldon as the Budget Committee Vice Chair. **SECOND:** D. Coffman. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

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

**2. Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

**a. January 14, 2021 Public Hearing Minutes: MOTION:** W. Lechluder **MOVED** to approve the January 14, 2021 Public Hearing Meeting

Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** W. Martel-abstain, M. Diven-abstain and remaining members-yes. **Motion passes.**

**b. January 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes: MOTION:** W. Lechliden **MOVED** to approve the January 14, 2021 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **VOTE:** W. Martel-abstain, M. Diven-abstain, E. Sheldon-missing from vote and remaining members-yes. **Motion passes.**

**c. January 28, 2021 Pre Deliberative Session Meeting and January 30, 2021 Post Deliberative Meeting Minutes: MOTION:** W. Lechliden **MOVED** to approve the January 28, 2021 Pre Deliberative Session Meeting Minutes and the January 30, 2021 Post Deliberative Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** M. Diven. **VOTE:** D. Coffman-abstain, M. Diven-abstain, W. Martel-abstain and remaining members-yes. **Motion passes.**

**3. School Board Letter to the Budget Committee:** A. Hopkins would like to have an open discussion on the letter from the School Board. W. Lechliden would like to have more time to digest the letter. He would like to talk about the cost per pupil. He commented on the 2% raise and he does not believe the consumer index has increased. He said this topic is not on the letter but should be a discussion for the Budget Committee. A. Hopkins would like to put the cost per pupil on the next meeting's agenda. He is not asking for any info from the administration. S. Peters said the School Board tried to make a point to attend more Budget Committee Meetings and make presentations in addition to the joint meeting. The letter is a conversation piece with date specific. To have the Budget Committee vote buy a certain date to make it more official. He asked that these items will be on the Budget Committee's agenda throughout the year. He hopes that the Budget Committee will accept the letter and put certain topics on future agendas. W. Martel commented on the School Board Liaison to the Budget Committee. S. Peters said personally the hope is to have all Budget Committee Members to attend the Board Meetings and have a welcome conversation. The Budget Committee Member to attend the Board Meeting will have input, not be a voting member but

be part of the dialogue. W. Lechluder said the School Board Liaison will bring information to the Budget Committee. S.Peters would also like the reverse have the Budget Committee rep attend the School Board Meetings with specific topics. D. Coffman would like to be able to have the information that is passed out to the School Board. He mentioned that some of the items are not our charge. It was suggested to have contract negotiations and inflation rate for the CIP on the April agenda. **MOTION:** E. Sheldon **MOVED** to discuss contract negotiation and the inflation rate for the CIP on the April Budget Committee agenda. **SECOND:** P. Peterson. **DISCUSSION:** S. Peters said it is acceptable to take a non-position but would appreciate the Budget Committee to make a motion. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.** A.Hopkins would like the Budget Committee to discuss the MDEA and CIP at the next meeting. He would ask the committee to come in prepared. A.Hopkins will email the current contract to the members. It was also suggested to have the CIP Strategy on the April agenda. E. Sheldon said he would be willing to attend the April Board Meeting. W. Lechluder would like to appoint E. Sheldon to be the ears of the Budget Committee. There are no voting rights. D. Coffman would agree with W. Lechluder.

S. Peters spoke on the chart for the CIP Plan. We want to share more with the Budget Committee. W. Lechluder said the CIP is fine but take into consideration the bond. The CIP Plan will change with the passing of the bond. If it passes we will have to look at certain renovations. The bond will be a struggle and we need to be engaged and we welcome the Budget Committee to participate.

4. **Budget Committee Schedule:** April 27, 2021.
5. **Superintendent's Comments:** L. Witte is not in attendance. A. Hopkins said it was not necessary for the administration to attend this meeting.
6. **School Board Liaison Comments:** S.Peters said the Board will be meeting more often during the summer.

S.Peters presented the timeline for the bond vote. The Finance/Facilities Committee will be meeting in the individual schools over the summer.

**7. Chairperson Comments:** D. Coffman asked if the Budget Committee might be able to get the same information the Board receives. He would like to educate the Budget Committee at the Board level. Allow us to know where the administration is trying to go. The committee discussed the obligations of the Budget Committee regarding the budget line by line.

**8. Setting Next Meeting Agenda:**

**a. Budget Committee Goals:**

**i. Contract Input for School Board**

**ii. Covid related leave**

**iii. RSA BC role**

**iv. Inflation for CIP**

**v. Cost per pupil**

S. Peters explained the Covid related leave issue will require research by the administration.

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

**10. Motion to adjourn: MOTION:** E. Sheldon **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM. **SECOND:** W. Lechliden. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. Motion passes.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Laura L. Aivaliotis**

**Recording Secretary**