<p style="text-align:center">Monadnock Regional School District
Budget Committee Meeting
September 22, 2020
ZOOM Meeting, Swanzey, NH</p>

Members Present: Wayne Lechlider, Dan Coffman, Jillian Exel, Adam Hopkins, Meghan Foley, Edward Sheldon, Doug Bersaw, and Richard HKS Thackston. **Absent:** Wayne LaCoste, JoAnne Daris, Brian Bohannon, School Board Rep., Phyllis Peterson, Open Seat Gilsum and Open Seat Roxbury.
Administration Present: L. Witte, Superintendent and J.Morin, Business Administrator.

Also Present: L. Aivaliotis, Recording Secretary.

1.   Approval of the August 25, 2020 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes:
MOTION: R. HKS Thackston **MOVED** to approve the August 25, 2020 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes as present. **SECOND:** E. Sheldon. **VOTE:** D. Bersaw-yes, D. Coffman-abstain, M. Foley-yes, R. HKS Thackston-yes, W. Lechlider-yes, A. Hopkins-yes, J. Exel-yes, and E. Sheldon-yes. **Motion passes.**

2.   Administration Report:
    a)   Follow Up Items:
        i.   Transportation Cost/Contract: J. Morin explained the district is still working on the contract with the bus company. They are finalizing it but have no number yet.

        ii.   CARES Act Fund received/spent update: L. Witte explained the district had received $424,000.00 from the CARES Act. The funds are dispersed similar to a grant. We pay for the items and then submit to the Grant Management System. The cost of Covid so far has been about $500,000.00. We will look at some of the lines in the budget to see if some of the items should come out of there. When we return in November we may need to see what might be needed. The hiring of the additional guidance counselors was for social and emotional support needed due to Covid for students and families. A. Hopkins asked about the transportation contract. J. Morin explained the bus company is getting ready to go back to school. The language in the Pandemic clause is very close. We have not paid anything yet. We are paying for the actual days serviced and we will not have a payment until October. D. Coffman is excited about the Nov. 1 restart. L. Witte explained we have the CARES Act funds and we are purchasing items through the budget. We are being careful on what we are purchasing through the CARES ACT. There are some items that we needed in the proposed budget

due to Covid. The current focus is to get the kids back safely. M. Foley asked if there is anything in the budget that would be covered by CARES. L. Witte said no. There are specific rules. You need to be careful and supplement not supplant. L. Witte explained the process of the CARES grant. There is a pretty decent oversight committee at the State level to make sure the funds are used appropriately.

        iii.   **Negotiations:** L. Witte reported all 3 bargaining units are underway and making progress.

        iv.   **Unallocated Fund Balance Breakdown COVID vs regular budgeting/spending:** J. Morin reported the field work for the audit for 2020 has been done but is not complete. J. Morin was asked to break down the unallocated fund balance. She explained the district wide expenditures savings which were $61,000.00 health care, $367,000.00 in related services, $254,000.00 for Special Ed. Tuition and $200,000.00 in Special Ed. transportation. A good portion of the savings was due to COVID and related services. There was also a $100,000.00 savings in Athletics. There were no Spring sports. A savings in the phones and internet in the amount of $80,000.00. We have a new cell phone vendor, contract and internet. Another savings was in the GMR and health insurance. J. Morin is looking forward to bringing a pie chart to show the savings.

        v.   **Student Number Count, Hybrid vs Full Remote vs. Homeschool:** L. Witte reported 85% of the students are hybrid and 15% remote. There are currently 1634 students, this is not an official number. There were 86 homeschoolers, 5 have returned and 41 have never been registered in the district. Some of the parents said they would send their children back to school when things settle down.

4.   **Budget Oversight:**
     a)   **MRSD Monthly Expense Report:** J. Morin explained they are focusing on wrapping up last year's budget. The salaries and benefits have been encumbered for this year. The out of district costs have been encumbered but not the transportation. There will be additional expenses encumbered for next month.

     b)   **What major transfers occurred since the last meeting?:** There have been no major transfers since last month.

     c)   **What major expenses are anticipated for next month?:** There are no major expenses anticipated.

5.   **BudCom 101:**
     a)   **By-Laws Working Group:** A. Hopkins, D. Bersaw and E. Sheldon will be getting together to put the edits together. The committee will be meeting soon.

6.   **Budget Committee Schedule:**
     a)   **October 27, 2020:** Facilities/Finance Presentation

      b)   **November 14, 2020:** Budget Books expected

      c)   **November 21, 2020:** Joint Meeting of the Board and Budget Committee.

7.   **Agenda:**

      a)   **School Board Presentation**

      b)   **Negotiations**

      c)   **Transportation Contract**

      d)   **Working group update**

      e)   **1.79 million unallocated fund balance**

8.   **School Board Liaison Report:** B. Bohannon is not in attendance.

9.   **Superintendent's Comments:** L. Witte informed the committee the Board will discuss reopening of the schools on October 6, 2020 and will make a decision on October 20, 2020.

10.   **Chairperson Comments:** A. Hopkins informed the committee that there are up to 10 spots in the conference room for those that want to attend the meeting in person. He said we want to follow the School Board's lead. He will put this on the next agenda. L. Witte would suggest not using student space. D. Coffman suggested the Annex. He also said we need to be looking forward to in person meetings. R. HKS Thackston had similar comments.

11.   **Setting the next meeting's agenda:**

      a)   **Finance/Facilities Presentation**

12.   **Public Comments:** No public comments.

13.   **Motion to adjourn: MOTION:** D. Bersaw **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 PM. **SECOND:** R. HKS Thackston **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
MRSD Recording Secretary