

**Monadnock Regional School District  
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes  
August 25, 2020 (Not Yet Approved)  
ZOOM Meeting, Swanzey, NH**

**Members Present:** Wayne Lechluder, Dan Coffman, Jillian Exel, Adam Hopkins, Meghan Foley, Edward Sheldon, Doug Bersaw, JoAnne Daris and Richard HKS Thackston. **Absent:** Wayne LaCoste, 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 June 24, 2020 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes:**

**MOTION:** R. HKS Thackston **MOVED** to approve the June 24, 2020 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes as present. **SECOND:** D. Bersaw. **VOTE:** D. Bersaw-yes, D. Coffman-yes, E. Stanley-yes, R. HKS Thackston-yes, W. Lechluder-yes, A. Hopkins-yes, J. Exel-yes, J. Daris-abstain and E. Sheldon-yes. **Motion passes.**

**2. The Scott Peters School Board Chairman:**

**a) School Board Goals Update:**

**i. Budget Committee Impressions/Feelings of SB Goals: S.**

Peters presented the document containing the School Board Goals for the year and explained the information is on the website. The Fin/Fac Committee worked on the CIP, they will be bringing it to the Board and would like an endorsement from the Budget Committee prior to the Deliberative Session. They would like to present to the Budget Committee at their October 27, 2020 meeting. The Board committees have related goals of their own in regards to the CIP and school options for the District. In November and December, the CRC will begin to advertise what is to be on the ballot. We want to keep the Budget Committee involved. The CIP is looking at the buildings in short term and long term regarding the cost for the renovation. If the project for the given year passes great if not move it to the next year. He showed the Budget Committee the CIP document which is not complete to give the group a sneak peek. W. Lechluder asked why not present at the Joint Meeting. He

also suggested sticking to a specific cost as we did in the past, around 1 million dollars. S. Peters commented 1 million dollars annually feels what the voters are comfortable with. At this pace we are not keeping up with the health and safety issues that need to get done. We want to bring this to you sooner to look at it prior to the November Meeting. W. Lechluder mentioned something about the septic system. Informational only. He will discuss it with D. LaPointe. W. Lechluder said the voters approved the Industrial Arts addition and the new classrooms. The voters need to see the finished project.

**b.) Employment Contracts:**

**i. Budget Committee Input for SB Negotiating Team:** S. Peters explained this year the voters will vote on the 3 contracts. The CIP timing will be determined by the contracts whether a 1, 2 or 3-year contract for each bargaining unit. He asked the Budget Committee if they have any opinion regarding the contracts. A. Hopkins commented the committee had a white board of ideas for negotiations. He will see if he can find it and pass it on to the Board. *M. Foley arrives.*

**c) School Building New Construction vs. Renovations/Updating**

**i. Budget Committee Input:** S. Peters explained the Board will be deciding on either last year's option or a new option. Per the CIP it is clear of the cost to renovate and fix the buildings vs. new. A. Hopkins explained he will decide depending on the plan and the savings. W. Lechluder said historically the voters have agreed on renovations and not on a bond. There are deep seated issues between towns. S. Peters said they are trying to find the medium. He said MTC took 4 years and is not quite done. If we take that approach we neglect other schools. It never seems to be complete. Somehow find that balance. Selling it to the voters is the next big hill.

**3. Administration Report:**

**a) CARES Act Funds received vs. Re-opening spending update:** L. Witte explained our CARES allocation is \$423,834.00, our total expenditures are \$521,000.00. We needed to purchase furniture and equipment at the elementary schools. They had tables but we need to separate the students so we purchased desks. We purchased storage units to make more space. We also purchased Chromebooks, touchless faucets and toilets, protective equipment and dividers. We are using funds from the Reading Specialist to fund a guidance counselor and funds from the CARES fund for the .5 guidance counselor. L. Witte explained

there is a Financial Impact Act which will pay additional funds to employees for time off. She said the District is in the middle of the application. Also provide child watch and childcare for some of the employee's children. There is a cost attached.

**b) Transportation Contract update:**

**i. Cost:** J. Morin explained we are still working out the final details of the contract. It will not look the same as before.

**ii. Hybrid Return to School Impact-More routes? Pay per route:** It was explained the District is working with the bus company regarding the details. We do not need additional routes. It was a successful Step Up Day and the bus company helped. We are going with First Student Bus Company. If we do not have a contract by the first day of school there will be no problems, First Student will provide transportation. She is confident there will be a contract. L. Witte explained there are 84% of the 1700 students returning to school. For those returning half will need transportation. J. Morin explained there will be assigned seating and social distancing on the buses.

**4. Budget Oversight:**

**a) MRSD Monthly Expense Report:** J. Morin explained the Monthly Expense Report to the committee and the reason for the increase on the remaining balance. She said the balance increased from \$900,000.00 to 1.35 million due to the fact we did not have some of the out of district expenditures due to Covid. Remaining balance may be higher next month due to the out of district expenditures. E. Sheldon asked if not for Covid would we have spent the 1.35 million. A. Hopkins said once you have a solid number unwrap and explain what is due to Covid. J. Morin said it is mostly doable.

**b) What major transfers occurred since the last meeting?:** There are no major transfers. A. Hopkins asked if the reassignment of the Reading Specialist to the Guidance Counselor is a transfer. J. Morin explained not until we hire and know the number.

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

**5. BudCom 101:**

**a) By-Laws Working Group:** A. Hopkins explained he as well as D. Bersaw and E. Sheldon met and went through the By-Laws. The group pulled out some of the By-Laws to make into a policy. They found out the weighted chart is out of date. They would like to update it to the School Board chart. A. Hopkins

explained we each have a section to review. They will meet soon and then propose to the Budget Committee.

**b) Default Budget as next subject:** A. Hopkins presented an RSA on how to prepare a default number. He asked the members to look at RSA 32, 40 and 40:13. He explained it was a good process. J. Morin provided the forms for the committee. The default budget is adopted if the proposed budget is voted down by the voters. ***D. Coffman arrives.*** L. Witte explained the proposed timeline says the budget books will be ready one week prior to the November 21, 2020 meeting.

**6. Budget Committee Schedule (September, October, November, December):** The Budget Committee will meet on the following dates: September 22, 2020, October 27, 2020, November 18, 2020 and December 16, 2020.

**7. School Board Liaison Report:** B. Bohannon is not present.

**8. Superintendent's Comments:** L. Witte has no additional comments.

**9. Chairperson Comments:** A. Hopkins has no additional comments.

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

- 1) Update on Bus Contract**
- 2) Student Populations**
- 3) Update Negotiations**
- 4) Breakdown Unallocated Fund Balance due to Covid**

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

**12. Motion to adjourn: MOTION:** R. HKS Thackston **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM. **SECOND:** D. Bersaw **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Laura L. Aivaliotis**  
**MRSD Recording Secretary**