

**Monadnock Regional School District
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
June 24, 2020
ZOOM Meeting, Swanzey, NH**

Members Present: Wayne Lechluder, 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 May 26, 2020 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: R. HKS Thackston **MOVED** to approve the May 26, 2020 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes as present. **SECOND:** D. Coffman. **VOTE:** D.

Bersaw-abstain, D. Coffman-yes, E. Stanley-yes, M. Foley-yes, R. HKS Thackston-yes, W. Lechluder-yes, A. Hopkins-yes, J. Exel-yes and E. Sheldon-yes.

Motion passes.

2. Administration Report:

a) Follow up items:

a. Free Meal Summary: J. Morin reported that as of June 19, 2020 the District had served 36,355 meals. She does not have a total cost. We are utilizing the supplies we have. The meals will continue through the summer.

b. CARES Act Funds received/spent update: J. Morin explained we have received \$423,834.10 from CARES. We have not spent any of those funds. We are working on how to use them. L. Witte explained the end date is September 30, 2021. You can use the funds for items that have already been used prior to the allocation with purchase limitation.

c. New software system update: J. Morin explained there is no update and no change since the last meeting. They are closing this fiscal year and opening the new one. We are learning that process and it is going pretty smoothly.

d. Chromebook hardware status: J. Morin explained we loaned out 194 Chromebooks and 184 have been returned. There are some students that need their Chromebooks over the summer. We did not require an agreement for the Chromebooks. There were some that were returned damaged but they were used and not new and may have needed to be replaced.

e. What does back to school look like? Any projected cost savings or new/expanded cost centers based on COVID plans? L. Witte reported the State will be issuing guidelines in July for back to school. She explained in the District there is a School Reopening Priority Team. This team consists of 27 staff from across the district. Each member on the team has agreed to communicate to members in the community. The team has met prior to the shut down and from the main group 3 committees were formed. There are 4 options for returning to school. The State should send down the guidelines by July 9, 2020. We will have the CARES grant funds to use. We do not have a list of resources needed yet. The committee consists of teachers, nurses, support staff, social workers and school psychologist. She does believe there will be another parent/guardian survey. D. Coffman commented that there needs to be a higher expectation than what happened in the Spring. L. Witte explained that is some of the feedback and we will take that into consideration. D. Coffman said he will be asking what is needed for higher expectations. M. Fowley asked how many internet issues there were. L. Witte explained the district secured internet hotspots with a grant. There are areas where the internet was not available. We had many families that needed paper and pencil.

b.) Transportation Contract outlook:

a. What does fall busing look like? Will there be more routes because of any planned social distancing models? What are the projected costs for any options under consideration? J. Morin explained she does not know what the Fall bussing will look like. Our contact at First Student is on the State Task Force. She also explained the contract has not been signed but we are closer and both sides are under the assumption that there will be an agreement. We have run without a contract before but she does not anticipate not having a contract. J. Morin explained the District continued to pay for the regular transportation but with field trips and athletics we had a savings.

3. Budget Oversight:

a) MRSD Monthly Expense Report: J. Morin reported the report had run through June 9, 2020 and there was \$880,000.00 remaining. We still have significant encumbrances, salary and benefits. Cutler is running a negative due to the additional nurse. W. Lechluder asked why the difference from the last meeting regarding the surplus. J. Morin explained not all of the expenses were encumbered and with the out of district placements she is not sure where we will end up. The School Board had voted on encumbering funds for the Ecology School, Track Mats and Graduation expenses.

b) What major transfers occurred since the last meeting? There were no transfers since the last meeting.

c) What major expenses are anticipated for next month? J. Morin explained there are no major expenses anticipated. Gilsum School will have painting done and Troy will have a roof replacement. Both projects had been budgeted.

4. BudCom 101:

a) By-Laws Working Group: A. Hopkins would suggest a group to work on the By-Laws. It was 2010 since they have been updated. He would like 3-4 people for the task. D. Bersaw, E. Sheldon, A. Hopkins agreed and W. Lechluder will help but not as an acting member of the committee. L. Witte explained it is worth noting that the weighted vote resets every 10 years with the census and is based on the population of the towns.

b) Default Budget as next subject: A. Hopkins would suggest taking a half an hour of the meeting and digging deep into the default budget. D. Coffman said it is a good idea. W. Lechluder said there are a lot of things that have not been determined regarding the default budget.

5. Budget Committee Schedule (September, October, November, December)

a) Meet in July or August for back to school planning or BudCom 101 work groups? L. Witte explained the District has 3 contracts to negotiate and the administration will not be present for the Budget Committee Meetings in July and August. L. Witte would invite the Budget Committee to attend the July 7 and August 4 School Board Meetings. The By-Law Committee will be meeting on July 14. L. Witte explained she is not sure if the school will be available. There is

additional cleaning required if a room is used. The Board will be holding Zoom Meetings in July and August.

6. **School Board Liaison Report:** B. Bohannon is not present.
7. **Superintendent's Comments:** L. Witte explained the Board met, discussed the reopening process and adjourned at 8:20 PM.
8. **Chairperson Comments:** A. Hopkins thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He mentioned S. Peters had thanked the committee for changing the Budget Committee meeting date to allow the Board to meet.
9. **Public Comments:** Lisa Mango asked if the committee is going to meet in person to allow Zoom access as well.
10. **Motion to adjourn: MOTION:** D. Coffman **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 PM. **SECOND:** D. Bersaw **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
MRSD Recording Secretary