

**Monadnock Regional School District  
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes  
January 16, 2020  
Monadnock Regional MS/HS Library, Swanzey, NH**

**Members Present:** Wayne Lechliden, Dan Coffman, Jillian Exel, Adam Hopkins, Meghan Foley, Douglas Bersaw, Brian Bohannon, School Board Rep., JoAnne Daris and Tom Matson. **Absent:** Tom Parker, Wayne LaCoste, Open Seat for Swanzey and Open Seat for Gilsum.

**Administration Present:** L. Witte, Superintendent, J. Rathbun, Director of Curriculum and Assessment and J. Morin, Business Administrator.

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

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

2. **Approval of the November 20, 2019 and November 23, 2019 Meeting**

**Minutes: MOTION:** T. Matson **MOVED** to approve the Budget Committee Meeting minutes of November 20, 2019 as amended. **SECOND:** A. Hopkins. **DISCUSSION:** J. Exel explained the minutes have the incorrect spelling of her last name. **VOTE:** 8.266/0/1.140/2.379. **Motion passes. MOTION:** T. Matson **MOVED** to approve the Budget Committee Meeting Minutes of November 23, 2019 as presented. **SECOND:** A. Hopkins. **VOTE:** 8.266/0/1.140/2.379. **Motion passes.**

3. **Adjustment/Approval of Default Budget for the MRSD Warrant Article One:**

1a. **Default Budget amount provided by Budget Committee:**

**\$32,281,463.00 plus \$970,000.00 (Federal grants and Food Service Program):**

W. Lechliden commented J. Morin provided the Default Committee with a clean document to work with which made it very easy to go through. **MOTION:** T. Matson **MOVED** to accept the Default Budget for 2020-2021 in the amount of \$33,251,463.00 which includes the Federal grants and Food Service Program. **SECOND:** D. Coffman. **VOTE:** 9.190/.216/0/2.379. **Motion passes.**

**4. Discuss and set the MRSD Operating Budget for MRSD Warrant Article One (\$970,000.00 will need to be added):** W. Lechluder commented we need to think of the taxpayer when discussing the budget. Keep in mind the surplus. We need to start looking forward, what the Budget Committee may want to support in order to do the school plans. The Budget Committee has been pushing the Board to do the feasibility study but we need to cut somewhere. We can cut the budget in the right way.

W. Lechluder passed out information from D. Bersaw on the budget and proposed budget. T. Matson said the Board has plenty of padding in the budget. J. Morin explained the Special Education Fund is for unanticipated expenses. J. Morin explained the cost of the proposed counselors is \$120,684.00. It would allow every elementary school to have their own counselor and Gilsum would have a half-time counselor. **MOTION:** T. Matson **MOVED** to set the proposed 2020-2021 proposed budget in the amount of \$32,000,000.00 (plus the \$970,000.00). **SECOND:** D. Bersaw. **DISCUSSION:** D. Coffman commented what we spent is not what was allocated. We spent \$30,400,000.00 in 2019-2020. W. Lechluder does not believe the \$32,000,000.00 is too far off. He also said to put the SRO on a warrant. L. Witte explained the District will be receiving 1.4 million in onetime funds to be used on projects you would not normally have funds for. The project at MRMHS is for 4 new classrooms and the engineering and design, as a result of the feasibility study could be paid for with these funds. We are not expecting a 2.4-million-dollar surplus. We have a new Business Administrator and a new program. D. Coffman commented he is behind the stipend increases. Sixty percent of the student population participate in clubs or extracurricular activities. L. Witte explained the Board supports the SRO, guidance counselors, academic stipends and extracurricular stipends in that order. The Board supports it all. The motion is to support a \$ 32,970,000.00, 2020-2021 proposed budget (which includes the federal grants and food service program) **MOTION:** T. Matson **MOVED** to call the question. **SECOND:** D. Bersaw. **VOTE:** 8.132/1.274/0/2.379. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** T. Matson **MOVED** to support Article Two as presented. **SECOND:** D. Coffman. **DISCUSSION:** The portables at the front of the high school will be torn down and 4 new classrooms will be built in another area of the school. D. Coffman

commented the portables are awful. W. Lechluder said that would finish up this building.

**VOTE:** 8.347/1.058/0/2.379. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** T. Matson **MOVED** to support Article Three as presented. **SECOND:** D.

Coffman **DISCUSSION:** T. Matson moved a friendly amendment to add a first sentence to the article as follows: "As a result of the elementary school's feasibility study." D.

Coffman would agree. It was explained that in the consolidation Cutler would be closed and moved to MTC and Fitzwilliam and Troy will have a new school either on a new site or use one of their existing sites. T. Matson asked what the follow up plans are for the empty buildings. It was commented the Board hired a firm and have a plan. Cutler, Troy and Fitzwilliam would need funds to fix them. J. Morin explained the Feasibility Study is on the web site. W. Lechluder explained we asked the Board to do something and they listened. J. Morin explained with this plan we will be at the top of the list for State Building Aid. A. Hopkins would encourage the use of the Troy building at half the price and more funds from State because it is historical. B. Bohannon said there is concern with the southern group on where to go. Fitzwilliam or Troy is an available option if we cannot find land. B. Bohannon commented not all students from Troy and Fitzwilliam will go to one school. There may be Swanzey students and vice versa with MTC. D. Coffman commented we need to do something. He is encouraged by the steps the Board has taken. We need to support. **VOTE:** 7.289/2.116/0/2.379. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** T. Matson **MOVED** to support Article Four as presented. **SECOND:** D.

Coffman. **DISCUSSION:** J. Morin read the list of items included in the article and the Board's thought process. We need to maintain the buildings. L. Witte explained the completion of the new elementary school and additions to MTC are many years out. D. Bersaw is not in favor of this article. He believes the Feasibility Study will pass. B. Bohannon supports this article. D. Coffman said he will support. There is a level of trust for D.LaPointe and the tightness of a dollar. **VOTE:** 8.266/1.140/0/2.379. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** T. Matson **MOVED** to support Article Five as presented.

**SECOND:** A.Hopkins. **VOTE:** 9.406/0/0/2.379. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** T. Matson **MOVED** to support Article Six as presented. **SECOND:** D. Bersaw.  
**VOTE:** 9.406/0/0/2.379. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** A.Hopkins **MOVED** to support Article Seven as presented. **SECOND:**  
B.Bohannon. **VOTE:** 7.159/2.246/0/2.379. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** A.Hopkins **MOVED** to support Article Eight as presented. **SECOND:** B.  
Bohannon. **VOTE:** 9.406/0/0/2.379. **Motion passes.**

**Article Ten a petitioned article.**

**Article Eleven and Twelve will be on the ballot. These articles have no monetary value.**

**5. Deliberative Session is scheduled for Saturday, February 1, 2020 at MRMHS at 10:00 AM.**

**6. Superintendent's Comments:** There were no comments.

**7. Chairperson Comments:** There were no additional comments.

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

**9. Motion to adjourn: MOTION:** D. Coffman **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 PM. **SECOND:** T. Matson **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Laura L. Aivaliotis**

**MRSD Recording Secretary**