

**Monadnock Regional School District
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2019
Monadnock Regional MS/HS Library, Swanzey, NH**

Members Present: Wayne Lechluder, Douglas Bersaw, Jillian Exel, Colleen Toomey, Dan Coffman, Adam Hopkins, Brian Bohannon, School Board Rep., Wayne LaCoste, Tom Matson and Joanne Daris. **Absent:** Thomas Parker, Open Seat for Swanzey and Open Seat for Gilsum

Also Present: L. Witte, Superintendent, J. Rathbun, Director of Curriculum and Assessment, J. Swanson, Business Administrator and L. Aivaliotis, Recording Secretary.

1. Adjustment of the Default Budget for the MRSD Warrant Article One: : MOTION: D. Bersaw **MOVED** to set the 2019-2020 Proposed Default Budget in the amount of \$30,858,778.85 plus \$970,000.00 required for federal grants and nutrition grants. **SECOND:** W. Lechluder. **DISCUSSION:** W. Lechluder explained the committee looked at this very closely and have gone back and forth on how to come up with this number. We looked at all the items in the default that could be one-time expenses. We took all of the salaries and benefits and moved them into the proposed default budget and took a look at the run rate for the prior two years. B. Bohannon commented on the opinion from the lawyer and asked if we are sure we can have a run rate. W. Lechluder explained in the default we did not touch the lane changes. He said there is enough money in the default. D. Coffman explained we took the salary, benefits and lane changes and moved them to the new document. L. Witte said it did not have the collective bargaining changes. W. Lechluder explained the Budget Committee made the changes based on the attorney's letter and the RSA. The proposed default number rounded to the nearest dollar is \$31,828,779.00. **VOTE:** 8.132/2.462/0/3.407. **Motion passes.**

2. Discuss and Set the MRSD Operating Budget for MRSD Warrant Article One: L. Witte explained the administration's recommended

proposed budget is \$32,444,093.00 which includes the \$970,000.00 for federal and nutrition grants. **MOTION:** T. Matson **MOVED** to set the 2019-2020 proposed budget in the amount of \$29,000,000.00. **Motion fails for lack of a second.** **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to set the 2019-2020 proposed budget in the amount of \$31,474,093.00 plus \$970,000.00 for federal and nutrition grants for a total proposed budget of \$32,444,093.00. **SECOND:** A. Hopkins. **DISCUSSION:** D. Coffman asked the administration if there were any big missing items in the proposed. L. Witte explained they are still working on addressing class size. It satisfies class size for next year. She said the additional classroom teacher will address the class size and also moving staff will help. Recently, we restructured 2 large classrooms into 3 classrooms. **VOTE:** 8.396/2.198/0/3.407. **Motion passes.**

3. Discuss all fiscal year 2019-2020 Warrant Articles and make a Budget Committee recommendation:

a. Article Two: Renovations to the Tech, Wood and Metal Area in the amount of \$850,000.00: L. Witte explained this area is not ADA compliant, it is too small of an area and it is a safety issue to have the students cross the parking lot to get to class. The recommendation is to expand the area into the parking lot. L. Witte said it is impossible for a student in a wheelchair to come into that area. She explained that all of these classes are fully enrolled. There are 16 students' maximum per class. D. Coffman commented we would be able to expand for more students. L. Witte said that is our goal. D. Bersaw asked if these courses are offered at the CCC. L. Witte explained we are not allowed to offer the same courses as those at the CCC. A member asked about the drawings for the renovation and L. Witte explained we do not have drawings until we have approval from the voters. D. LaPointe came up with the amount based on square footage requirements. He worked with the tech teacher and the principal to come up with the number. D. Coffman is requesting a 1 sheet explanation of the details. T. Matson asked when we will focus on academics. He said with the renovations to MTC and the proposed renovations it will total 2 million dollars for Swanzey Schools paid for by other towns. **MOTION:** W. Lechlinder **MOVED** to support Article Two

renovations to the Tech, Metal and Woodworking area in the amount of \$850,000.00. **SECOND:** D. Coffman. **DISCUSSION:** W. Lechluder said he will not support this article. He said it is a great idea but the timing is wrong. He will support the contracts. **VOTE:** 3.780/6.814/0/3.407. **Motion fails.**

b. Article Three: Maintenance and Repairs to the District's Schools in the amount of \$296,000.00: MOTION: T. Matson **MOVED** to support Article Three in the amount of \$296,000.00 for maintenance and repairs to the District's schools. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **VOTE:** 10.594/0/0/3.407. **Motion passes.**

c. Article Four: Purchase and/or replacement of two District vans in the amount of \$70,000.00: L. Witte explained the administration decided to put this in a warrant in order to keep the budget down. The amount can be changed at the Deliberative Session. J. Swanson explained the District does receive a good rate when purchasing a vehicle. **MOTION:** A. Hopkins **MOVED** to support Article Four for the purchase and/or replacement of two District vans in the amount of \$70,000.00. **SECOND:** C. Toomey **VOTE:** 10.594/0/0/3.407. **Motion passes.**

d. Article Five: Special Education Expendable Trust in the amount of \$1.00: MOTION: T. Matson **MOVED** to support Article Five the Special Education Expendable Trust in the amount of \$1.00. **SECOND:** D. Coffman. **VOTE:** 10.594/0/0/3.407. **Motion passes.**

e. Article Six: MDEA Collective Bargaining Agreement: MOTION: A. Hopkins **MOVED** to support the MDEA Collective Bargaining Agreement. **SECOND:** W. LaCoste. **VOTE:** 10.594/0/0/3.407. **Motion passes.**

f. Article Seven: MESSA Collective Bargaining Agreement: MOTION: A. Hopkins **MOVED** to support the MESSA Collective Bargaining Agreement. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **DISCUSSION:** D. Coffman commented he was not able to find flexibility in the agreement regarding staff reduction or the ability to pay for an excellent performance. He does not believe that

exists and he would like to have that discussed in the next negotiations. He said it is terrible it does not exist. **VOTE:** 10.594/0/0/3.407. **Motion passes.**

4. Superintendent's Comments: L. Witte does not have any additional comments.

5. Chairperson Comments: W. Lechluder does not have any additional comments.

6. Setting next meeting: February 2, 2019 Deliberative Session.

7. Public Comments: L. Steadman of Troy is concerned with the Default number and the lane changes. W. Lechluder said it is in the proposed default. There is enough money in there. L. Steadman thanked the Budget Committee for their support on the contracts.

W. Wright commented everyone did a great job on negotiations. He thanked the Budget Committee for their support on the contracts.

D. Bersaw commented they are reasonable contracts. Congratulations to both groups.

L. Fisk and M. Szymcik thanked the Budget Committee for their support on the contracts.

8. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: T. Matson **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 PM. **SECOND:** D. Coffman. **VOTE:** 10.594/0/0/3.407. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary