

**Monadnock Regional School District
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
December 19, 2018
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., Tom Matson and Joanne Daris. **Absent:** Wayne LaCoste, Thomas Parker, Open Seat for Swanzey and Open Seat for Gilsum

Also Present: L. Witte, Superintendent, J. Swanson, Business Administrator and L. Aivaliotis, Recording Secretary.

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

2. **Approval of November 14, 2018 Minutes: MOTION:** T. Matson **MOVED** to approve the November 14, 2018 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** A. Hopkins. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

3. **Default Committee:** D. Bersaw explained the committee had received the original print out to the penny of last year's default. We looked at the lawyer's letter and discussed the legal ramifications of reaching a default budget. The Budget Committee sets the default number and the proposed can be any number. The School Board spends the passed budget amount. The default is the fall back number to run the schools. We are to look at everything as a one-time expense and it is not defined in the RSA. J. O'Shaughnessy said the Budget Committee can decide a one-time expense. The committee has been going line by line. We know there is a 1-1.5 million dollars of fat. The Default Committee does have to have a rationale for a one-time expense which is not likely to appear in the proposed budget. The committee has a few more questions for the administration that is where we are. D. Bersaw asked questions of the administration and it was suggested to gather the questions, email the

Superintendent and receive a reply prior to the next Default Committee Meeting.

4. Budget Oversight:

a. Monthly Expense Report: J. Swanson explained the budget remaining is in line with previous reports presented. The percentage remaining is different because she has encumbered the salaries and benefits. They are still encumbering Spec. Ed. out of district costs, transportation and purchase orders. T. Matson asked why some of the schools are tight on their budgets. J. Swanson explained she is monitoring the budgets with the principals and the Special Ed. Services Director.

b. What major transfers have occurred since the last meeting: J. Swanson explained there has been no major transfers since the last meeting.

c. What transfers are anticipated prior to the next meeting? J. Swanson informed the committee there are no major transfers anticipated.

5. Operating Budget Breakdown: L. Witte passed out information to the Budget Committee which the Board had received last night. At the Board Meeting the Board discussed class size and student needs. The Board has not taken any action. T. Matson asked does the new total includes an additional social worker. L. Witte said it is an absolute need. We need one for each school. She explained why it is so important. She explained the new proposed budget number includes GMR increase, lane changes, increase in NHR and a decrease in Adequacy Aid. L. Witte explained Troy and Fitzwilliam are having more students move in. The 3rd and 4th grades are exploding. We have notified parents to let them know there will be a 3-4 combination for the remainder of the year which will help with the large classes. We will use grant money for the substitute for the interventionist. We have looked at the grades for next year and agree on additional classrooms and reconfiguration. B. Bohannon said the Board is in agreement about the oversized classrooms. If we know we need more

classrooms we should prepare now. It was commented we do not know if those students will stay. B. Bohannon said we need to deal with the numbers we see right now. The guidelines for the District and the State slightly differ. We have overcrowding due to the size of the rooms. He also commented the NESDEC study did not coincide with our information. It was commented the Board took an interventionist and put in the principal position. L. Witte explained there was a need for two principals.

The committee asked about the feasibility study. L. Witte said we do not have the expertise regarding reconfiguration or additional buildings. The MS/HS will not be part of the study. The Board will be proposing renovations to the Tech Program Area. The renovation will make the area ADA compliant and give the students more opportunities. W. Lechlinder will not support adding staff. He would suggest the administration find it within the budget. He also does not agree with two principals. B. Bohannon said there needs to be a leader at each school. L. Witte commented they are educational leaders. W. Lechlinder commented do it without money. L. Witte explained we are not proposing additional staff at MTC. The proposal being presented does not solve everything. We hear concerns of this committee. On January 8, 2019 the Board will vote on what they think the proposed budget should be.

6. Budget Direction: L. Witte explained the Stabilization grant is being reduced by 4% each year. The original amount was 4.5 million in 2012. The Adequacy Aid figures are on the website. W. Lechlinder commented we had a surplus of 2.381 million and it could account for the \$800,000.00 of additional items to the proposed budget. There is still a balance in the surplus. There are funds there to fund the additional staff. L. Witte explained there is no buffer. We have been working with the auditors. We had items carried over in the salary line. We believe there is more but have not found it. We are proposing a conservative number due to not knowing. We will make an impact on the students. If the Budget Committee goes too fast, we will end up in a bad place. J. Swanson explained we are on the right path. Some items were paid out of the wrong account. She would ask the Budget Committee to look at the actuals. W. Lechlinder commented we

have asked to reduce and we have had a surplus. L. Witte commented it does not recognize the work we have done over the past year. She is disappointed by W. Lechliden's statement. D. Coffman commented having the information in the packet, getting the information and having it correct is great.

7. MTC Building Renovations: L. Witte explained the modulars will be removed and rebuilt.

8. Funding Formula: The Board did not take any action on the Funding Formula.

9. School Board Liaison: B. Bohannon reported the Facilities Committee is listening to presentations from architects in regards to the Feasibility study. L. Witte explained the funds for the feasibility study are in the proposed budget.

10. Administration Report: L. Witte presented copies of the MESSA and MDEA contracts to the committee. She explained both contracts are for 2 years and explained the changes negotiated. W. Lechliden commented \$300,000.00 will be added to the budget with the passing of the MESSA contract. L. Witte explained they negotiated on 2 year contracts because of the cost on the warrant.

11. Budget Committee Schedule: Public Hearing is scheduled for January 10, 2018 per RSA.

12. Superintendent Comments: L. Witte provided enrollment numbers to the committee.

13. Chairperson Comments: W. Lechliden had no additional comments.

14. Public Comments: L. Fisk explained lunch had been provided for years. The MESSA unit is the lowest paid staff. She hopes the Budget Committee will support the contracts.

W. Wright commented one of the units went to mediation. This was one of the easiest negotiations we had in years.

15. Adjourn the Meeting: MOTION: D. Bersaw MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 PM. **SECOND:** A. Hopkins. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary