

**Monadnock Regional School District
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
October 23, 2018**

Monadnock Regional MS/HS Library, Swanzey, NH

Members Present: Wayne Lechluder, Douglas Bersaw, Jillian Exel, Colleen Toomey, Adam Hopkins, Brian Bohannon, School Board Rep., and Joanne Daris. **Absent:** Tom Matson, Dan Coffman, Thomas Parker, Wayne LaCoste, 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 the September 25, 2018 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes: MOTION:** D. Bersaw **MOVED** to approve the September 25, 2018 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** A. Hopkins. **VOTE:** 6-yes and B. Bohannon-abstain. **Motion passes.**

3. **Default Committee Members Appointment:** The following members were appointed to the Default Committee: D. Bersaw, A. Hopkins, W. Lechluder, W. LaCoste and J. Exel. The committee met earlier tonight. D. Bersaw would like information on what was spent the previous year and appropriated. He feels this information would be helpful. They want to know the history of the item. D. Bersaw said the committee would like to work with the administration without head butting. We are looking at tightening up the budget. L. Witte explained there is no proposal for reduction in staff. J. Swanson explained the Board is looking at a HR Director and regular paras. If the committee strips the budget to the bare minimum we can not hire the positions. She would not want the Budget Committee to be too aggressive with the cuts. The Default Committee will meet on Nov. 14, 2018 at 6:00 PM prior to the Budget Committee Meeting.

4. Operating Budget Direction: It was commented that there are people struggling to pay their taxes. W. Lechluder said we have teacher contracts and he is in favor of the MESSA contract. The trade off would be to cut the proposed budget. B. Bohannon commented we have had a tough time hiring paras because to the pay scale. W. Lechluder said when we discuss the budget in January they will say you are taking away from the kids and we will have to say there is a 2 million dollar surplus. It was commented the administration could have spent the surplus but they did not. The Budget Committee can work with them as long as they are reasonable.

5. Formula Funding Update: A. Hopkins said there is no update on the Funding Formula. He has sent the spreadsheet from the previous committee to the members. B. Bohannon explained the Board will be scheduling a meeting in November to discuss the information they were given from Ben Drugg and discuss the next steps. W. Lechluder would suggest Ben Drugg attend the Saturday joint meeting to discuss the information. He does not see a vote this year. B. Bohannon will ask the Board to have Ben Drugg attend the meeting and explain the information. L. Witte explained the administration has shared the information with the attorney and he plans on having an opinion at the next Board Meeting.

6. MTC Building Update: J. Swanson explained MTC is moving along. In March they will be ripping down the portables. They will continue with the renovations over the summer and complete the project prior to the opening of school.

7. School Board Liaison: B. Bohannon explained there are no motions from the Finance or Facilities Committees. The committees should have action at future meetings.

8. Budget Oversight:

a. Monthly Expense Report: J. Swanson explained the amount remaining in the budget has decreased due to the encumbered salaries and benefits. The salary and benefits are 75%-80% of the budget.

J. Swanson explained she has reached out to the Auditors regarding the complete report. She has given them everything they need. They had made adjustments. We are still waiting for the report. The towns need the information to set the tax rates. J. Swanson explained a majority of the surplus is in the District accounts and is attributed to Special Ed. It is hard to pinpoint the needs of the students year to year. We are now done paying the bills for the 2017-2018 school year. The surplus is due mostly to expenditures and being over in the revenues. The new adjustments will increase the surplus.

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

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

9. Budget Committee Schedule: November 14, 2018, November 17, 2018 Joint Meeting, December 19, 2018 and Public Hearing in January per RSA.

10. Any other items the committee wishes to discuss: B. Bohannon explained the Board has discussed the general order of the warrant articles. W. Lechlinder would like to see the buildings in front of the high school removed.

J. Swanson explained the District has a Special Ed. Expendable Trust, an Emergency Fuel Fund and an Emergency Maintenance Fund. W. Lechlinder would like to know the balances in those accounts. D. Bersaw asked if there is a separate account to cover items like the Emerson roof.

11. Superintendent Comments: L. Witte explained everything has functioned well in her absence.

12. Chairperson Comments: W. Lechluder welcomed L. Witte back. L. Witte said it is good to be back. W. Lechluder would like the administration to take into consideration all of the committee's comments.

13. Adjourn the Meeting: MOTION: A. Hopkins **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM. **SECOND:** D. Bersaw. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary