

**Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)  
Budget Committee/Board Joint Meeting Minutes  
March 27, 2018 (Not Yet Approved)  
Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH**

**Budget Committee Members Present:** Wayne Lechluder, Dan Coffman, Doug Bersaw, Adam Hopkins, Brian Bohannon, School Board rep, Wayne LaCoste, Colleen Toomey, Jillian Exel and Tom Matson.

**Board Members Present:** Eric Stanley, Scott Peters, Neil Moriarty, Nick Mosher, Brian Bohannon, Rob Colbert, Lisa Steadman and Winston Wright.

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

- i. Welcome Introduce Members:** W. Lechluder welcomed the new and returning members. The members introduced themselves.
- ii. Swear in new/elected Members:** The new and elected members were sworn in.
- iii. Elect Chair: MOTION:** T. Matson **MOVED** to nominate W. Lechluder as the Budget Committee Chair. **SECOND:** D. Coffman. **VOTE:** 7.036/0/1.188/5.776. **Motion passes.**
- iv. Elect Vice Chair: MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to nominate A. Hopkins as the Budget Committee Vice Chair. **SECOND:** D. Coffman. **VOTE:** 7.166/0/1.058/5.776. **Motion passes.**

- 1. Public Comments:** Matt Wilson who is not a member of the District asked for permission to speak to the committees. The committees allowed him to speak. He is from Trane Company. The company helps with innovative funding approaches by updating energy performance. There is a guaranteed savings which could be used for building projects.

Ben Drugg of Fair Funding Monadnock explained the towns represented earlier tonight at their meeting. The committee had decided not to be an Ad Hoc of the Board. All are welcome to the meetings but the Board cannot make a quorum at those meetings.

- 2. Approval of the January 9, 2018 Budget Committee Minutes: MOTION:** D. Bersaw **MOVED** to accept the January 9, 2018 Budget Committee Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** D. Coffman **VOTE:** 8.224/0/0/5.776. **Motion passes.**

**Approval of the January 11, 2018 Budget Committee Minutes: MOTION:** D. Bersaw **MOVED** to accept the January 11, 2018 Budget Committee Minutes as presented.  
**SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **VOTE:** 8.224/0/0/5.776. **Motion passes.**

**Approval of the February 3, 2018 Budget Committee Minutes: MOTION:** D. Bersaw **MOVED** to accept the February 3, 2018 Budget Committee Minutes as amended.  
**SECOND:** A. Hopkins. **DISCUSSION:** Upon legal advice the motions made regarding Article Six and Article Seven were out of order. **VOTE:** 8.224/0/0/5.776. **Motion passes.**

### **3. Overview of Budget Process:**

- a. Committee Responsibilities:** W. Lechlinder explained to the new members it is the responsibility of the Budget Committee to set the proposed operating budget and set the Default number per RSA.
- b. Budget Oversight throughout the year:** The committee will review the budget at their monthly meetings.
- c. Support/Not Support of Warrant Articles:** It is the responsibility of the committee to decide if they will support or not support the warrant articles.

### **4. Budget Oversight:**

- a. MRSD Monthly Expense Report:** L. Witte presented the monthly expense report to the committee. L. Witte said the District is in good shape.
- b. What major transfers occurred since the last meeting?** L. Witte reported no major transfers have occurred since the last meeting.
- c. What major expenses are anticipated for next month?** There are no anticipated transfers.

### **5. Review of Prior Budget Cycle:**

- a. Deliberative Outcome-Joint Meeting:**
  - i. School Funding Formula Change:** L. Steadman explained the School Board has discussed whether to have an official committee for the Fair Funding or not. The committee would like to continue alone and the School Board will vote next week on this issue. Ben Drugg explained the group will not come to the Board without something. The committee has agreed to have a Public Hearing in each town. They will be creating a spreadsheet. T. Matson would like to look at the weighted vote. H. Schafer said there maybe something else we need to look at outside the box. B. Drugg said the Fair Funding Group will be doing a presentation to the Board next week.
  - ii. Capital Improvement:** W. Lechlinder explained there are a lot of concerns from people regarding the Turner Report: **J. Swanson and N. Moriarty arrive.** L. Steadman explained the Board would like to hear some input from the Budget Committee on what you want for the District. D. Coffman commented if we are going to reduce the budget we need to start off with a big statement and we need to take aggressive action. T. Matson commented that

for the past 2 years the District spent 2 ½ million dollars on renovations to MTC. We have other buildings in need of repair. We need to spread the repairs throughout the District. W. Lechluder said we are making a significant investment in a facility that has been neglected. R. Colbert explained he had asked for the physical inventory of the buildings. At this point we pay as we go. We have been putting band aids on the buildings. Where is the population going? We are throwing money at the buildings that are over 100 years old. Our physical plant is not attracting people. We are on a downward spiral. He would recommend a study to close Cutler and rebuild Troy. Study a new school or major additions to house Cutler students at MTC. Approach the Selectmen to see if they may be interested in purchasing Cutler. W. Lechluder said whenever there is a bond people come out and defeat it. N. Mosher does not believe we will get a centralized school. We suggested combining Troy and Emerson and it failed. He would like to see the schools updated. N. Moriarty said we need a scope and objective and a report from the Southwest Regional Planning and find out about the 57% from the State. T. Matson would like to invite B. Hutwelker and R. Thackston to the meeting regarding real estate values. L. Witte explained she has information on the website in the "Think Tank" which is full of data that may be helpful to these issues. D. Bersaw said the NESDEC Report did not have information on the life span of the building structures. The population in the report is not too far off from where we are. We need to look at the political implications. We need to consider everything. D. Coffman asked how much do we want to improve education in the District. How much would it take to do that? He would rather put 30 million dollars toward education not the buildings. B. Bohannon asked where Fitzwilliam is in the Cutler/Troy proposal. R. Colbert said to look at the worst schools. He said to build a facility and upgrade to make it attractive to offset the tax base. B. Bohannon said we need to know the tax impact and the financial implications. We can better educate with all of the teachers under one roof. We cannot cut the budget with all of the schools open. We need to change the footprint. No one wants to close the school and Gilsum is open due to the direction of a previous superintendent. R. Colbert said he was looking at 2 of the worst schools. D. Bersaw said quality of education and the buildings are both important to the District. Is there a perception that Monadnock is not up to par? J. Exel said as a realtor there is that perception. R. Colbert said perception is reality. The first sight either attracts you or not. To get people to consider this District is cosmetic. N. Mosher said the challenge is community involvement. T. Matson suggested looking at the Marlboro District and the Hinsdale District as comparisons. Matt Wilson of Trane said his company deals with aged infrastructures that have no school funding. He suggests making energy saving renovations and take the savings to make renovations. W. Lechluder said there has been an energy savings due to D. LaPointe and J. Fortson. Matt Wilson said with a performance contract they can guarantee a savings. D. LaPointe explained there has been huge savings in energy over the years. He did say Troy was a dump site 100 years ago and probably is unstable. You need to know the history. The Turner Report is not a full report. Troy will have serious issues if you start to tear it apart. You cannot build on that site. We have had sink holes. The ground is not stable. B. Bohannon said he appreciates the excellent job D. LaPointe has done. D. LaPointe said the repairs to all the schools will not get done and to focus on one school. D. LaPointe said if you move the kids to Emerson the school is in better shape but there are no energy savings. He suggested spending the money by adding on to Emerson. The Board needs to complete the Capital Improvement Plan. S. Peters said to look at the buildings that have life not the others. B. Bohannon said to put out a proposal for a central K-8 school. W. Lechluder said it is all about how you sell it. T. Matson would suggest sticking with the 1 million a year to use on renovations to the buildings. N. Moriarty said to let the Finance

Committee do their job and look at the savings. L. Steadman said not to limit the proposal by what the voters will do. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to instruct L. Witte and D. LaPointe to acquire an engineering firm to submit a proposal for a K-8 Structure. **SECOND:** R. Colbert  
**DISCUSSION:** This will be on the MTC site. N. Moriarty asked the cost of the proposal.  
**Friendly amendment:** R. Colbert **MOVED** to request that the proposal be accompanied by a potential energy savings. **B. Bohannon would agree.** D. Coffman will not support because he does not like the idea of the Gilsum and Troy students traveling the distance to Swanzey.  
**MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to table the motion and put it on the next meeting's agenda.  
**SECOND:** N. Moriarty. **VOTE:** 8.878/0/0/4.122. **Motion passes.** (Board Vote)

**S. Peters, E. Stanley, W. Wright and R. Colbert leave the meeting.**

**6. Budget Oversight:**

**a. MRSD Monthly Expense Report:** L. Witte passed out the Monthly expense report to the committee. She explained the District is in good shape.

**b. What major transfers have occurred since the last meeting?** There have been no major transfers.

**c. What major transfers are anticipated?** There are no major transfers anticipated.

**7. School Board Liaison Report:** There is no report tonight.

**8. Superintendent Report:** L. Witte explained she has been active in Concord regarding SB 193. Hopefully this bill will die at the Finance Committee. J. Swanson will begin her new position as the new Business Administrator on April 9, 2018.

**9. Budget Committee Schedule:** The committee will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in April.

**10. Any other item the committee wishes to discuss:**

**11. Chairperson Comments:** There is no Chair Report.

**12. Public Comments:** D. Coffman commented on the efforts of guidance to bring career exposure to the kids, Pros in the schools. If you are willing to participate let the guidance department know.

D. Bersaw asked if the Board was going to reinstitute the Long Range Committee. L. Steadman said no. We may want an AD HOC to look at the Capital Improvement Plan.

**13. Adjourn: MOTION:** T. Matson **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 PM. **SECOND:** D. Coffman **VOTE:** 8.22/0/0/5.776. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis  
MRSD Recording Secretary