

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2018(corrected 3/27/2018)
Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH

Members Present: Wayne Lechluder, Wendy Martel, Dan Coffman, Doug Bersaw, Adam Hopkins , Chris Fortson, Kristen Goodenough, Brian Bohannon, School Board rep, Wayne LaCoste and Tom Matson.

Absent: Tom Parker, Unassigned Roxbury rep., Unassigned Swanzey rep. and Unassigned Gilsum rep.

Also present: L. Witte, Superintendent, J. Rathbun, Director of Curriculum and Assessment, David Jack from Municipal Resources and L. Aivaliotis Recording Secretary.

1. Public Comments: There were no Public Comments.

2. Approval of the December 13, 2017 Budget Committee Minutes: MOTION: D. Coffman **MOVED** to accept the December 13, 2017 Budget Committee Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** K. Goodenough **VOTE:** 10.598/0/0/3.402. **Motion passes.**

3. Budget Oversight:

a. MRSD Monthly Expense Report: L. Witte presented the monthly expense report to the committee. We have encumbered the salaries and then will un-encumber. Troy is in the negative due to correcting the funding in a grant funded position. We are where we want to be regarding the budget.

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.

4. Default Committee Members:

a. Default Budget Recommendation: \$31,215,156.00: W. Lechluder read the RSA on how a Default Budget is established.

b. Default less new/replacement items \$30,770,910.00: It was explained the IMS portion of the budget is important this includes the chrome books. L. Witte explained the chrome books are part of the curriculum. It would impact education. J. Rathbun explained it is cycled. L. Witte reminded the committee the \$970,000.00 for Food Service has not been added. T. Matson questioned replacing the chrome books. J.

Rathbun said the students will receive the chrome books for the first time at the age of 11, 12 or 13. T. Matson asked when we are going to follow the RSA regarding the setting of a Default number.

c. Default Budget less all except IMS \$31,045,410.00: W. Lechlinder said the equipment in IMS is new equipment but we are overlooking that because we want the chrome books for the students. The committee would like to know what part of the IMS budget is for the chrome books. W. Lechlinder said the person with that information is not here. T. Matson commented there is not a lot of a difference between the proposed default and the administration's budget. **MOTION:** T. Matson **MOVED** to accept a proposed Default Budget in the amount of \$30,770,910.00. **SECOND:** D. Bersaw. **DISCUSSION:** It was commented regarding information being asked for and the frustration of not receiving it. It was commented the proposed administration budget is fair. D. Bersaw said there was a surplus of 1.5 million that would mean there is extra money in the budget. L. Witte explained a large amount of the 1.5 million was from revenue and she explained. T. Matson asked if there is an update on the insurance pool. L. Witte explained the funds have been carried over and not returned to the taxpayers due to the ruling. The committee asked for the number of chrome books in the default and the amount of money for each chrome book. That information was not available yet. It was commented if we do not have the number eliminate it. D. Coffman commented we did not ask for that information. We asked to have new equipment removed except for chrome books. We asked for that information and we got it. **VOTE:** 3.256/7.352/0/3.402. **Motion fails.** **MOTION:** D. Coffman **MOVED** to set the Default Budget number in the amount of \$30,974,910.00 plus Food Service of \$970,000.00 for a total of \$31,944,910.00. **SECOND:** T. Matson. **DISCUSSION:** D. Coffman explained he was removing \$70,500.00 from the new equipment. K. Goodenough said she was disappointed we did not have the chrome book numbers. B. Bohannon said he is concerned we need to look at both lines. We do not want to miss out on something we all want. J. Rathbun explained the cost of the chrome books are \$280.00 each with warrantee and license. There are 300 books for the 6th-9th graders. It is out of replacement equipment line. **VOTE:** 10.82/.215/0/3.402. **Motion passes.**

5. 2018 Warrant Articles: The committee reviewed the warrant articles. Article One is the proposed Budget and the Default Budget of \$31,944,910.00. Article Two is for renovations to MTC. The wooden classrooms will be removed and replaced with 6 new classrooms. This project will be on the existing foot print. It will be possible to build onto this new building in the future. Article Three is for District Maintenance in the amount of \$210,000.00. L. Witte explained the abatement is a continued process only done over the summer. Article Four is the Special Ed. Expendable Trust. This article has a \$1.00 amount. This is to be used as a place holder in case a situation arises. This number could be changed at the Deliberative if necessary. Article Five is the Specialists 3 year contract. Article six is the 1 year contract for the MDEA. T. Matson commented the decrease amounts written into the article are a marketing strategy. Article Seven is for the MESSA contract. The Board ratified the MESSA contract last night. This is a 2 years contract. The Board had asked the Unions to stagger the contracts so the Board would not have to negotiate all 3 contracts at the same time again. L. Witte presented and explained the

summary sheet for the MESSA contract. W. Lechliden said it is ridiculous the Budget committee did not get the contract by December 1 as asked for. A. Hopkins said the summary sheet is increases. L. Witte said there were significant proposals that did not make it into the contract. L. Witte said there was no change in the maintenance trades scale. The increase is in the para salaries and the administrative assistances. D. Coffman asked if there was a change in the paid lunches. L. Witte said the newly hired employees will work 8 hours. Currently, the employees in the MESSA group work 8 and ½ hours with a paid lunch. L. Witte said it was an administrative concern to assure the District is properly staffed and to hire and retain paras. Article Eight the Budget Committee will not take a position.

L. Witte passed out information on the effect the different percentage rates regarding the formula on each town would look like.

6. 2018-2019 Budget vision:

a. Budget Committee's Request of Administration: (\$30,500,000.00): It was commented that a \$30,500,000.00 budget would reduce 10.7 positions. It was asked if the School Board agrees with the administration's proposed budget number. L. Witte said they agree but they have not voted.

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

8. Superintendent Report: There is no additional information from the Superintendent.

9. Budget Committee Schedule: The Public Hearing will be on January 11, 2018 in the library and the Deliberative Session will be on February 3, 2018.

10. Any other item the committee wishes to discuss:

11. Chairperson Comments: There is no Chair Report.

12. Public Comments: J. Rathbun reminded the Budget Committee Jamie Bowmar will be in the District on January 24, 2018. He is very entertaining. There will be a luncheon and all elected officials are invited.

P. Bauries commented on Article Six and the decrease numbers stated on the article. She said it is confusing to the public. She would hope there are handouts on Thursday in order that the public can absorb the creative bookkeeping.

13. Adjourn: MOTION: A. Hopkins **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 PM.
SECOND: T. Matson **VOTE:** 10.598/0/0/3.402. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis

MRSD Recording Secretary