

**Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)**  
**Budget Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**December 13, 2017**  
**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, Tom Parker, Wayne LaCoste and Tom Matson.

**Absent:** Unassigned Roxbury rep., Unassigned Swanzey rep. and Unassigned Gilsum rep.

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

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

**2. Approval of the October 24, 2017 Budget Committee Minutes: MOTION:** A. Hopkins **MOVED** to accept the October 24, 2017 Budget Committee Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** K. Goodenough **VOTE:** 9.409/0/2.371/2.221 **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** A. Hopkins **MOVED** to accept the November 4, 2017 Joint Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** K. Goodenough. **VOTE:** 9.409/0/2.371/2.221. **Motion passes.**

**3. Budget Oversight:**

**a. MRSD Monthly Expense Report:** L. Witte presented the monthly expense report to the committee. We are on track. We have encumbered all of the salaries and are 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.

**4. Default Committee Members:** D. Coffman explained D. Bersaw has reviewed the budget in depth. He went line by line and came up with his \$29,677,815 default number. D. Bersaw will send the rationale regarding the number to the committee. The committee will vote on a default number on January 9, 2018. D. Bersaw explained how he arrived with his proposed number. W. Lechluder said it is up to the Budget Committee to set the default number. D. Bersaw said a true default number is bare bones. D. Coffman advised the committee to do their homework. We are not going through 57 pages tonight. W. Lechluder would suggest all questions go to D. Coffman and he will then ask the

administration. We do not want to burden the administration. K. Goodenough said she also went through the budget. She would like an upfront explanation regarding D. Bersaw's number. D. Coffman explained this process is much more aggressive. K. Goodenough has a concern on where you find 2.5 million.

**5. 2018 Warrant Articles:** L. Witte reported the Finance and Facilities Committee voted to move Article Two in the amount of 1.4 million forward to the full Board for approval. She explained the evaluation and assessments for all the buildings are complete. There is no report for MTC due to the renovations. It was asked if the CIP has been approved by the School Board. L. Witte explained it is still in process. The Finance and Facilities Committee has moved Article Three health and safety items in the amount of \$210,000 to the full Board for approval. The Finance and Facilities Committee would recommend removing Article Four Before and After School Program from the ballot. The district received full funding and is confident they will be able to run the programs without this article. T. Matson commented on recommended repairs at Troy which were on the evaluation and assessment report which were not in Article Three. L. Witte explained there were more important items. The School Board is working on the Capital Improvement Plan. The Finance and Facilities Committee voted to set the amount of the Special Ed. Expendable Trust Warrant Article in the amount of \$1.00. This amount will come from a surplus and would be best debated at the Deliberative Session. Article 6 and 7 are for Union contracts and Article 8 is a hold for the MESSA contract. C. McDaniel-Thomas reviewed some of the highlights and changes in the Specialists Contract. L. Witte passed out a summary sheet of the highlights and changes to the MDEA 1-year contract. T. Matson said he likes the format presented. L. Witte explained this is a one-year contract and the rationale is because 2 previous 3 year contracts have not passed.

A. Hopkins asked L. Witte why there are no evening performances at the schools. It was commented the teachers are not in violation of the contract. L. Witte said some students are not able to make it at night. The performances are during the day. It was asked if there is help for the students from the teachers before and after school. J. Rathbun said there is scheduled time during the day to help the kids. L. Witte explained the sick bank. Article Eight is a place holder for the MESSA contract, Article nine was removed and Article Ten is still there. It was explained the MESSA contract is actively being worked on. Specialists work a minimum of 7 ½ hours and MDEA 8 hours.

**6. 2018-2019 Budget vision:** The Budget Committee asked the administration what a \$30,500,000.00 budget would look like. L. Witte explained that programs and people will be affected. W. Lechlinder said the administration's recommendation at the joint meeting was a \$31,323,181.00 proposed budget. He commented to get to the \$800,000.00 difference it would be more than just staff. L. Witte said not much more. T. Matson asked about putting the Kenogarten in the budget. L. Witte said it is not a sure thing.

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

**8. Superintendent Report:** L. Witte was asked to speak on performance. K. Goodenough said this was discussed during the joint session and is on the website. W.

Martel asked about the discussion of class sizes at Emerson and Troy. L. Witte explained this was discussed in Education and we are in good shape. If there are any changes next year they are not sure yet. J. Rathbun explained the staff support to help with the larger classrooms at Emerson and Troy. The schools are using their resources to support the classrooms. B. Bohannon asked what happens in a budget of \$29,000,000.00. T. Matson said they need to look at Gilsum. It was also commented the Default Committee has a process they need to follow. The default number has not been finalized. K. Goodenough said when you go line by line those items will not be cut others will be cut.

L. Witte explained David Jack from the District Municipal Resource is an experienced Business Manager and will be helping with the operations of the District. He will be on site 1 day a week and also remotely. L. Witte will continue to oversee the operations of the District. The District is in good shape.

**9. Budget Committee Schedule:** The next meeting is on January 9, 2018, the Public Hearing will be on January 11, 2018 in the cafeteria 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:** P. Bauries asked if there was any update regarding the insurance pool. The taxpayers will not agree with a new contract when the insurance pool is not settled. She asked about longevity and how many teachers are off step. She commented on the MTC renovations not receiving any building aid from the State and the HS had received reimbursement. She hopes the Business Office will be able to put out the required information to get people to the poles.

W. Wright is disappointed about the drastic default number discussed tonight. We are in the education business. The big issue is the formula change. W. Lechlinder said the default number has not been decided.

**13. Adjourn: MOTION:** A. Hopkins **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 PM.  
**SECOND:** W. LaCoste **VOTE:** 11.779/0/0/2.221. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis  
MRSD Recording Secretary