

**Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)**  
**Budget Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**June 27, 2017**  
**Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH**

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

**Absent:** Unassigned Roxbury Rep. and Gilsum Rep.

**Also present:** J. Rathbun, Director of Curriculum and Assessment, J. Fortson, Business Manager and L. Aivaliotis Recording Secretary.

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

**2. Approval of the May 23, 2017 Budget Committee Minutes: MOTION:** D. Coffman **MOVED** to accept the May 23, 2017 Budget Committee Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** W. LaCoste **VOTE:** 7.299/0/2.240/4.461 **Motion passes. K. Goodenough arrives.**

**3. Budget Oversight:**

**a. MRSD Monthly Expense Report: W. Martel arrives.** J. Fortson passed out the Monthly Expense Report. There is 13.77% of the budget remaining but there will be a 3-million-dollar balloon payment for the staff who receives 26 payments for their salary. There is no savings on how the staff receives their salary. Emerson is at a negative due to a large increase in paraprofessionals. The Case Manager or the Team will examine the request for paraprofessionals when they are requested. W. Martel asked why the increase in Emerson. J. Rathbun explained there are 2 new Resource Rooms at Emerson. J. Fortson also explained there is another program at Cutler and another at MTC. J. Rathbun explained this was done under Troy Kennett and this is the first year of the programs. The students involved do not receive more paras but more teachers. They are students with emotional issues and autism issues. It was explained one program will be moved to Troy. L. Steadman explained she is not in favor of the programs. J. Rathbun explained these students are involved with the regular students as much as possible.

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

**c. What major expenses are anticipated for next month?** J. Fortson explained the Board approved the purchase of a van in the amount of \$26,000.00.

J. Fortson reported the demolition is on schedule for MTC. The in house plumbers are over there and things are going well.

**4. Review CPP (cost per pupil) MRSD per cost center:** W. Lechliden would like to discuss this at the August meeting.

**5. Review CPP local districts:** W. Lechliden would like to discuss this at the August meeting.

W. Martel commented this committee has not spoken about school performance. She said we are paying different amounts and how are the different schools performing. W. LaCoste said we should look at the performance but it is not an actual indicator. J. Rathbun said test results are an indicator. NH keeps changing the tests. There are 100 reasons why they change, it is political. He said he has not seen a good test. There are other ways to measure you need to see the whole picture. B. Bohannon would like to look at the test scores over time. J. Rathbun said we have been flat for the past 5 years and the state has been flat as well. K. Goodenough asked if the curriculum has been the same. J. Rathbun said it has been growing. There have been 3 Curriculum Directors before him. W. Martel asked about preparing the students for 7<sup>th</sup> grade. J. Rathbun said that is a huge issue. D. Coffman said to pick a metric and hold the greater body accountable. J. Rathbun explained at the Education Committee he reported out the data. D. Coffman said give the information to the administration and the Board that is good enough. Do we need more to help the students? W. Martel said the data will help the Long Range Committee with what direction to go in.

**6. 2018-2019 Budget vision:**

**a. 3 CBA Items of focus from each BC member:**

Guarantee salary increases, seniority clauses out, employment history, dollar  
equal RIF, day off, vacation pay, lunch pay, side by side contracts with  
amounts, more employee participation for insurance, merit  
component/performance, stagger contract years, restructure stipend criteria, put  
teachers back on step, standardize the sick day/bereavement, bereavement  
for immediate family than use personal days, close health insurance pool, reduce  
amount of health insurance plans, increase professional development instead of  
paying for the Master's, maximize early retirement, incentives for early retirement,  
budgetary incentives, improve marketing and communications of the contracts, increase  
buyout for insurance, no benefits for new paras and reduce sick days.

**b. 3 Budget items of focus from each BC member:**

Generate efficiencies in the IT Dept., talk to Feds about Spec. Ed., cost of budget,  
sports and clubs, stipend list, SAU Budget, Principals and V. Principals  
too many buildings (class size, reduce staff head count, facilities management), look at  
health, safety, long term plan, staffing, roof mounted solar panels, Medicaid  
reimbursement, apportionment formula and talk to state about an adequate  
education.

**7. School Board Liaison Report:** L. Steadman reported M. Blair will be moving to N.C. and she will become the Chair unless the Board does something different.

**a. Facilities/Finance:** L. Steadman explained the Board spoke about the tuition rate and discussed making it more attractive to people out of district.

**b. Negotiations:** L. Steadman reported there are 6 people on the Negotiating Committee. There are 3 Unions who will be negotiating contracts. S. Peters will chair the MDEA, L. Steadman will chair MESSA and C. McDaniel-Thomas will chair the Specialists.

**c. Long Range Ad Hoc:** B. Bohannon reported the committee meets every other week. The committee size has been reduced. They are discussing 3 items at this point a change in the foot print of the District, each town take care of their own elementary schools and a central Middle School. He said he is not sure of the outcome of this committee.

**8. Administration Report:**

**a. Interventionists job description:** J. Rathbun explained the Interventionists position and how they work along side of the teachers. W. Lechlinder would like the interventionists help with the large classes. J. Rathbun said that would be for one class and the others would not get the help. He said not every class needs support of an interventionist. B. Bohannon said he would support more interventionists.

**9. Budget Committee Schedule:** The next meeting is on August 22, 2017. Agenda items: MTC tour, Default Committee volunteers, CPP

**10. Any other item the committee wishes to discuss:** There are no additional items.

**11. Superintendent Comments:** There were no additional comments from the Superintendent.

**12. Chairperson Comments:** There were no additional comments from the Chair.

**13. Public Comments:** P. Bauries said she is very interested in looking at the different items of discussion for the contracts. She agreed with many of the items the BC members came up with on the list. She would like to see all 3 of the contracts pass and the employees get a raise. It has to be a give and take. She is not sure that 3 people are enough for negotiations when the Unions have 10-15 people. She would suggest the salaries to be capped, mandate retirement, performance stipends, longevity, make sure the BC reads the contracts and do a side by side comparison.

**14. Adjourn: MOTION:** T. Parker **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 PM. **SECOND:** K. Goodenough. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis  
MRSD Recording Secretary