

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
May 25, 2017 (corrected)
Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH

Members Present: Wayne Lechliden, Dan Coffman, Wendy Martel, Doug Bersaw, Brian Bohannon, Lisa Steadman-School Board rep. , Tom Matson, Wayne LaCoste, and Chris Fortson.

Absent: Unassigned Roxbury Rep., Gilsum Rep., Adam Hopkins, Tom Parker and Kristen Goodenough

Also present: L. Witte, Superintendent, J. Fortson, Business Manager and L. Aivaliotis Recording Secretary.

1. Public Comments: There were no Public Comments.

2. Approval of the April 25, 2017 Budget Committee Minutes: MOTION: D. Coffman **MOVED** to accept the April 25, 2017 Budget Committee Minutes as presented. **SECOND: B.** Bohannon **VOTE: 8.142/0/.216/5.643 Motion passes.**

3. Budget Oversight:

a. MRSD Monthly Expense Report: J. Fortson presented the Monthly Expense Report to the Budget Committee Members. The budget is up a couple \$100,000.00 over previous years, which is okay and we are in good shape.

b. What major transfers occurred since the last meeting? J. Fortson reported on the transfers regarding the staff being moved to different schools due to the need. There will be a surplus but she will not know until August. **W. Martel arrives.** B. Bohannon asked about the funds to cover the unpaid lunches in the amount of up to \$23,435.84. B. Bohannon asked if there is any recourse to collect the funds from the families. J. Fortson said no. She commented the old policy said if the balances were not paid the students could not participate in extra-curricular activities. People paid in order to play. She said the policy changed due to fear. She also said the previous policy worked. J. Fortson said Free and Reduced Lunch is available for those who qualify. D. Coffman would like to know the amount of unpaid lunches for the past 5 years. J. Fortson said if a senior has an unpaid balance they are not able to walk at graduation. **MOTION: B.** Bohannon **MOVED** to request that the School Board reinstate the prior non-payment of lunch policy. **SECOND: D.** Coffman. **DISCUSSION:** L. Steadman would suggest someone find a policy that will work. She commented you cannot punish the students for the parents. J. Fortson said she would suggest adding the chrome book repairs and the Preschool unpaid tuition to the unpaid balance. W. LaCoste said this is a deception to the taxpayers.

c. What major expenses are anticipated for next month? J. Fortson said there will be a balloon payment for the 26 payment staff.

L. Witte reported on the ACES funding. She said the District sought an opinion on the warrant article. We were told it is possible to use the funds from the operating budget for ACES. MTC, Cutler and Troy did not get the grant. We will run the program but we are not sure what it will look like. It was commented the voters voted not to support the Expendable Trust not the program. J. Fortson said Special Education has been reduced due to the program for the extended school year. L. Witte said the services are based on an IEP.

4. Review CPP (cost per pupil) MRSD per cost center: J. Fortson passed out information on the CPP which included the bussing. Every cost was in her calculation. W. LaCoste commented on the fact the district paid \$40,000.00 for the NESDEC Report and it has not been looked at. W. Lechlinder would like to put the NESDEC Report on the next agenda. W. Martel would like to know about individual school performance.

5. Review CPP local districts: W. Lechlinder passed out information from the State website comparing other school districts. He said on paper we should be getting a top notch education.

6. 2018-2019 Budget vision:

a. 3 Items of focus from each BC Member: It was suggested only to give suggestions on a budget stand point. B. Bohannon commented if we do not give guidance on the contracts we will never be at the point to support. W. LaCoste asked for the benefits. J. Fortson explained the information on the DOE is straight salaries only it does not include benefits. W. Lechlinder asked the members to come to the next meeting with 3 items regarding the collective Bargaining Agreements and 3 items regarding the budget.

7. School Board Liaison Report:

a. Facilities/Finance: It was reported the Facilities/Finance Committee met and discussed 3 transfers and the late bus utilization.

b. Ad Hoc-School Consolidation: B. Bohannon reported the Ad Hoc Committee met. There were about 10 people present. They group has agreed to meet every other week and bring a recommendation to the Board this summer. There were a number of issues discussed such as consolidation of the District, individual towns will be responsible for their elementary schools, dissolve the School District and change the SAU. W. Lechlinder said everything is on the table. The next meeting is on May 25, 2017. W. Martel asked about longer meetings and not every other week. It was suggested to ask L. Sutton to send out the invites to everyone again.

c. Negotiation process/input: L. Steadman informed the committee the Negotiating Committee will be starting with the Specialists on June 7, 2017. She explained there are 6 people on the committee but for each unit we will have 4 people.

The group would like to work together to find a common ground. She asked if a non-voting member from the Budget Committee would like to sit on the Negotiating Committee. The meetings are non-public and there is a need for a level on confidentiality. The committee questioned S. Peters and C. McDaniel-Thomas being on the Negotiating Committee. L. Steadman explained C. McDaniel-Thomas is not on the MDEA Negotiating Committee and S. Peters is not on the MESSA Negotiation Committee. T. Matson would strongly urge the School Board not to have C. McDaniel-Thomas and S. Peters on the Negotiating Committee. B. Bohannon has no issue with them on the committee. **MOTION:** T. Matson **MOVED** the Budget Committee objects to C. McDaniel-Thomas and S. Peters participating as negotiators in the upcoming contracts. **SECOND:** W. LaCoste **DISCUSSION:** L. Steadman explained M. Blair is not on Negotiations and N. Moriarty did not sign up. J. Fortson explained in some cases members on negotiations have to vote in favor of the contracts even though they do not agree. There are equal votes on negotiations but the Budget Committee Member does not have a vote. B. Tatro, W. Wright, C. McDaniel-Thomas, S. Peters and B. Mitchell are on the Negotiating Committee. L. Steadman explained why the members are on the Negotiating Committee. W. Lechlinder commented the contract just voted down was higher than the previous contract voted down the year before. D. Coffman will not vote for the motion. He would like to have the member of the Budget Committee participate. L. Steadman said it would be for the MDEA Negotiations. W. Lechlinder said we cannot keep giving money when we have bad buildings. T. Matson read the Board policy. He said any School Board Member with any sort of interest need not participate, conflict of interest. W. LaCoste said there is a perception that the School Board Members have hidden agendas. There are only two members without affiliations. If we do not have a vote it does not seem effective. L. Steadman explained the ground rules are set at the first meeting. D. Bersau would suggest hiring a negotiator on behalf of the Board. L. Steadman said they discussed a moderator. W. Martel commented the Board was voted in by the voters and who are we to say no. T. Matson said they are violating their own ethics policy. **T. Matson and W. LaCoste withdraw the motion. MOTION:** D. Bersau **MOVED** to recommend to the School Board to look into hiring a professional negotiator for the 3 upcoming contracts. **SECOND:** D. Coffman. **DISCUSSION:** D. Bersau suggested we have a conversation with the Board about negotiations. **VOTE:** 9.539/0/0/4.461. **Motion passes.** B. Bohannon would like to be on negotiations but will have to drop off the Long Range Ad Hoc Committee.

8. Administration Report:

a. Interventionists job description: It was explained there are 7 interventionists in the District. The job description will be sent to the Budget Committee Members. It was explained when the Board cut the teachers we hired interventionists. W. Lechlinder said this is a crutch for the principals. L. Witte said we are looking to retool the position. D. Bersau would like to have J. Rathbun attend a future meeting.

9. Budget Committee Schedule: The next meeting is on June 27, 2017. Agenda items: cost per pupil, contracts and negotiations.

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: There are no public comments.

14. Adjourn: MOTION: D. Coffman **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 PM.
SECOND: W. LaCoste. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
MRSD Recording Secretary