

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
April 25, 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 Parker, Wayne LaCoste, Adam Hopkins and Chris Fortson.

Absent: Unassigned Roxbury Rep., Gilsum Rep. T. Matson 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 March 28, 2017 Budget Committee Minutes: MOTION: T. Parker **MOVED** to accept the March 28, 2017 Budget Committee Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** D. Coffman **VOTE:** 9.324/0/0/4.677 **Motion passes.**

3. Budget Oversight:

a. MRSD Monthly Expense Report: J. Fortson presented the committee with the MRSD Monthly Expense Report which ends the month of March. It gives a comparison of the previous 2 years, as of today there is 9.93% remaining in the budget. All of the salaries have been encumbered. *W. Martel arrives.* J. Fortson explained there are still bussing bills coming in. *L. Steadman arrives.* She explained the bids for the bussing contract are due tomorrow. She also said the District should be better than even on the budget at the end of the school year.

b. What major transfers occurred since the last meeting? J. Fortson explained there should be a few transfers next month. There is staff that have moved to other schools and their salaries will follow them. She explained what is included in the District Account. The line items are broken out in the budget.

c. What major expenses are anticipated for next month? There are no major expenses anticipated for next month.

4. Review of the Budget to Tax Bill process (J. Fortson): W. Lechluder asked J. Fortson to go through the Budget to Tax Bill process for the new and returning members. She passed out the packet to the members, she reviewed each sheet. The administration is proposing a revised budget \$200,000.00 below the default. She presented the MS22-R DRA revised appropriations and the MS24-R revenues. J. Fortson explained there are 6 budgets and the Budget Committee is responsible for the 01 budget. She explained each of the 6 budgets. She explained the grants and who is in charge of them. There are some salaries that come out of the grants. She said the District is pursuing other grants to help with the ACES 93 Program. L. Witte explained the grants are targeted for specific programs or items. W. Lechluder said

it has been mentioned to hire a grant writer. L. Witte said there is not a lot out there for grants. The grants might offset the salary of the grant writer. L. Witte gave a legislative update to the committee. W. Lechluder commented that the School Board is not actively looking at the District and we need to consolidate. J. Fortson reviewed the taxes the towns will be paying. She explained the reason for the increases in the individual towns.

5. 2018-2019 Budget vision: There was no discussion.

6. School Board Liaison Report:

a. Facilities/Finance: There is no report.

b. Ad Hoc-School Consolidation: It was asked the composition of the Ad Hoc Committee and who will have voting rights. W. Lechluder would like to have 1-2 Budget Committee Members on the committee.

c. Negotiation process/input: L. Steadman would like to know where the Budget Committee is coming from to make sure that everyone is heard during negotiations. W. Lechluder said 2 years ago the School Board came in with a number and the next year the contract number was even higher. This is concerning to the Budget Committee. He also said some people would like to work in a renovated building. It was commented to have 3 contracts with consistent language. L. Steadman asked if the committee would like to have a representative on the Negotiations. It was asked what happens if that person does not approve the contract. L. Witte said the Budget Committee is not an employee and cannot vote. Both sides have to agree to have a member on the negotiations. W. Lechluder would agree.

7. Administration Report: L. Witte had received an opinion from J. O'Shaughnessy regarding the allocation of funds in a default budget. It confirms what L. Witte and J. Fortson had said and it is the bottom line and the District can reallocate the funds to meet the needs of the District. J. Fortson explained she has been asked if the District could use the surplus funds for the ACES 93 Program. She will be asking the DRA.

L. Witte informed the Budget Committee that the Board approved the nomination of Lisa Spencer as the new MSHS Principal.

The committee has asked for information on the Interventionists. They would like a job description. J. Fortson said there are about 8 or 9 interventionists in the District.

L. Witte explained the deadline for non-renewal was April 15. There were 3 resignations and some non-renewals. Some of the non-renewals were filled and some not.

8. Budget Committee Schedule: The next meeting is on May 23, 2017.

9. Any other item the committee wishes to discuss: A. Hopkins attended a School District Government Association of NH workshop. He explained it was a 5 hour sessions and about 30 people in attendance. The information being shared was on the default budget, the budget, strategic planning, capital improvement, job descriptions, among other issues and he was given samples to share.

10. Superintendent Comments: There were no additional comments from the Superintendent.

11. Chairperson Comment:

- a. **Meeting between School Board/Budget Committee Chair:** No report given.
 - i. **joint session schedule**
 - ii. **communication/deliberative**

12. Public Comments: L. Steadman informed the Budget Committee that M. Blair had sent a letter to the Legislature and received mixed responses.

L. Steadman a parent of a special education student said she is always looking out for her student and knows her rights and has studied it a lot.

B. Bohannon said there is a long list of items on the radar. We need to have direction. Are we going to discuss the most important issues and give the Board a heads up? There are going to be three contracts. We need to give the Board some recommendations. We need to come up with some ideas for the Board, administration, Budget Committee and negotiations to discuss. W. Lechlinder would suggest bringing back 3 or 4 items to discuss with the School Board to include the consolidation plan and shutting down a building. W. Lechlinder commented if Swanzey pulls out of the District Troy will have to pay for their Special Ed. students.

13. Adjourn: MOTION: T. Parker **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 PM. **SECOND:** D. Coffman. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
MRSD Recording Secretary