

## NEWS FROM THE DISTRICT

The School Board is negotiating a collective Bargaining Agreement with MRSD Specialists that will be brought to voters next year. A school Principals and Supervisors CBA contract appears on the warrant for voter action this March. Voter approval will eventually mean that the District will have four contracts to manage.

Teacher and school administrator evaluation procedures will be modified to comply with the NHDOE expectations, including student performance accountability and the new, more rigorous Common Core standards coming soon. The transition of grades 3-6 from Mount Caesar School to Cutler School has been a success. Truancy and school promotions are no longer allowed under law and the NHDOE regulations.

**Principal Jed Butterfield and the MRHS staff are planning to implement a new schedule for grades 9-12 for the 2013-2014 school year that gives teachers time to personalize education for all students, implement new educational regulations from the NHDOE calling for competency-based education, and to adjust the Common Core next year.** The 20th century concept of 180 days of school as requisite of learning has been updated by the 21st century's need for proficiency or mastery as demonstrated by what students know and are able to do.

**This new plan will allow for more efficient use of time, permitting students to take 7 full year courses in a day with 5 academic periods.** This means more subject availability for students. Better coordination with classes provided by the Cheshire Career Center made possible by this new plan will reduce idle time before and after travel to the Center. More possibilities for internships for students are also a benefit. With an individual exit plan there will be increased possibility for early graduation.

Principal Butterfield and staff are working with teachers to redesign programs at the middle school. Changes to the middle school schedule that have been implemented have been well received by students and staff this year.

Students in Gilsum, Emerson, Mt. Caesar, and Troy are making noteworthy progress as well. Principals Adrienne Noel, Melissa Suarez, Betty Tatro and Audrey Salzman, respectively, have all directed their schools toward the vision of excellence and are inspiring staff and students to more rigorous standards. Similarly, David LaPointe, Facilities Director, Neal Richardson, Information Tech-

nology Director, Kathy Shanks, Title I Director, and Darlene Ayotte, Director of the ACES 93 Program, have focused their departments' energies on continuous improvement. This administrative team, our teachers, support staff, and students will continue to amaze with verifiable results, all who share our desire to be the best school district in the state.

Results of the NECAP tests, the SAT exams, college admissions rate, dropout rates, students surveys, disciplinary data, athletics and co-curricular statistics all indicate to some degree that our students are capable of championship performance. However, we have much work to do to bring the majority of our students to a level of proficiency in all performance areas.

We anticipate that approximately two dozen eligible students from Sullivan will continue to complete their scholastic programs in the Monadnock Regional School District, according to a parent survey, as the town withdraws from our district to form a district of its own.

Please lean more in the Annual Report about the exciting progress the Monadnock Regional School District is making.

**The transition from SAU 38 to SAU 93 continues to go well.** The finishing touches are being put on close-out audits of SAU 38, and we expect to have about \$100,000 left over for dividing among Monadnock, Hinsdale, and Winchester Districts.

**District staff members have begun implementing the MRSD Strategic Plan in the schools within the framework of the broad District goals.** These goals will be measured by a Balanced Scorecard for all to review. The first Balanced Scorecard has been developed and will serve as our progress report card. We ask **ARE WE:**

1. Improving the learning of all students?
2. Developing a culture of lifelong learning for all?
3. Improving community awareness and involvement?
4. Fiscally efficient and effective?

### **Goal 1: Student Performance**

To improve the learning of all students in a culture of collective responsibility.

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## NEWS FROM THE DISTRICT CONTINUED...

### **Goal 2: Professional Staff and Community Learning**

To develop a culture of lifelong learning beyond the faculty and throughout the greater MRSD.

### **Goal 3: Community Awareness and Involvement**

To improve the level of community awareness and involvement in MRSD and broaden the information available to stakeholders.

### **Goal 4: Financial Accountability**

To establish a long and short plan for the fiscal accountability that will support and sustain the goals outlined in the strategic plan.

**The Fiscal Year 2014 budget voters will consider at the Deliberative Session on February 9, 2013 and again at the polls on March 12, 2013, was created with understanding of and focus upon the goal of the School Board and of the Budget Committee to lower the cost per pupil in the MRSD and impact of the town of Sullivan leaving the District during these difficult financial times.**

This year's proposed budget is less than that of last year and represents significant reductions to get to that point. State and federal funding has decreased, while the state transferred retirement costs to school districts, and health insurance premiums have increased.

The District has also updated its Emergency Response Plan this fall and continues to assess and revise school security measures in collaboration with local and state officials.

Good management has brought us in under budget on a number of facilities projects. Within the scope of the High School Renovation and Health and Safety warrants we have found other work to do in the schools that spends the appropriated money now. For needed work like the roof repair at Cutler School, and decreased future request for new money. The maintenance operating budget has decreased from 3.4 million during the 2011-2012 year to 2.2 million proposed for the 2013-2014 school year.

The High School Renovation work continues, finishing on time and under budget. This year's warrant addresses energy conservation, with 56% reimbursement of cost from the state. The predicted savings of operating cost

show paying back the taxpayer's remaining share in less than four years. We will receive approximately \$630,600 gain in 2013, in state building aid for year 2012 work.

MRSD ended 2011-2012 with a \$749,309 surplus, returned to the taxpayers.

A simple change to procedures in the schools saved us 20,000 gallons of fuel oil in November, translating to almost \$70,000 saved in 2011. Similar results were obtained in December and the 2012 heating season is continuing this trend.

The Capital Improvement Plan has completed the work at Troy School

Sullivan's Withdrawal from Monadnock Regional School District has been approved by the state and the town of Sullivan. Most Sullivan students will attend schools outside of the District beginning September 2013.

### **Principals Contract**

After long, dedicated, fruitful negotiations, the Board and the Monadnock Association of Principals and Supervisors (MAPS) reached agreement on a two-year contract.

The contract calls for the district to fund \$14,400 per member per year towards health insurance except for three members who are grandfathered. The District will also provide short term disability coverage to MAPS members. The agreement also includes modest pay increases for MAPS members.

The union has ratified the agreement. The Board is satisfied that this is a fair agreement to MAPS, and the taxpayers.

A vote FOR this article includes a vote to appropriate \$52,811 for the first year of the agreement. Subsequent years' amounts would be included in the budget.

## POLLING PLACES and TIMES...

### TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2013

<b>Fitzwilliam</b>	Town Hall 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
<b>Gilsum</b>	Gilsum Elementary School 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
<b>Richmond</b>	Veteran's Hall 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
<b>Roxbury</b>	Meeting House 6:30 p.m. to mid-meeting
<b>Swanzey</b>	Christian Life Fellowship Church 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 pm.
<b>Troy</b>	Troy Elementary School 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

### Your Elected School Board

Richard Thackston	Troy	Board Chair
James Carnie	Richmond	Board Vice Chair
Phyllis Peterson	Fitzwilliam	
Winston Wright	Fitzwilliam	
Edward Jacod	Gilsum	
Mark Funk	Roxbury	
Jennifer Labadie	Sullivan	
Patricia Bauries	Swanzey	
Michael Blair	Swanzey	
Scott Ellsworth	Swanzey	
Barry Faulkner	Swanzey	
Michael Morrison	Swanzey	
Robert Smith	Swanzey	
Eric Stanley	Swanzey	
Lisa Steadman	Troy	

### Your Elected Budget Committee

Wayne Lechliden	Swanzey	Chair
Tom Parker	Fitzwilliam	Vice Chair
Wendy Martel	Fitzwilliam	
Cornelius Moriarty	Richmond	
Alison Solomonides	Gilsum	
VACANT SEAT	Roxbury	
Toni Ellsworth	Sullivan	
Ryan Avery	Swanzey	
Bonnie Black	Swanzey	
Paula Miller	Swanzey	
Bruce Tatro	Swanzey	
Beth Poulin-Smith	Swanzey	
William Kitterman	Swanzey	
Eric Stanley	Swanzey	School Board Rep
Anna Thasckston	Troy	
VACANT SEAT	Troy	

WARRANT	EXPLANATION
<p><b>Article 1: Budget</b></p> <p><b>Current: \$33,828,000</b></p> <p><b>Proposed: \$32,409,110</b></p> <p><b>Default: \$33,530,148</b></p>	<p><b>The proposed budget is \$1.17 million LESS than the default budget, and \$307,600 LESS than the current operating budget.</b> This continues the adjustments to compensate for falling enrollment that we have been making for the last 3 years. Health insurance raised by only 5%. While there are cuts, this is a budget that we can live with. THE SCHOOL BOARD AND BUDGET COMMITTEE SUPPORT THIS ARTICLE.</p>
<p><b>Article 2: High School Renovation</b></p> <p><b>\$1,548,627</b></p>	<p><b>This year's number (\$1,548,627) seems higher, but in reality nets less cost to taxpayers.</b> This, the fifth year, continues focusing energy savings in the High School, more new double-pane windows, and systems upgrade to science rooms 611 and 613. The near \$200,000 for the science rooms qualifies for 56% reimbursement from the state. Completing this building infrastructure work this year allows the science labs internal systems to be updated next year as part of the continued high school improvements. Next year is the last year for state reimbursement for school building projects for the foreseeable future. If this work is postponed, MRSD will not get any reimbursement for this needed work. We are asking for less Health and Safety money this year as an offset. THE SCHOOL BOARD AND BUDGET COMMITTEE SUPPORT THIS ARTICLE.</p>
<p><b>Article 3: Before and After Expendable Trust Fund</b></p> <p><b>\$75,000</b></p>	<p><b>This asks for \$75,000 to be added to the Trust Fund created under Article #8 of the 2012-2013 Warrant.</b> This supports the continued benefits the District receives from student development that results from the non-classroom support of children in a supervised social and sometimes tutored atmosphere. This program has shown results of improved classroom performance. THE SCHOOL BOARD AND BUDGET COMMITTEE SUPPORT THIS ARTICLE.</p>
<p><b>Article 4: Contract with the Monadnock Association of Principals and Supervisors</b></p> <p><b>\$52,811</b></p>	<p><b>A two year Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) was reached with the newly formed union representing MRSD principals and supervisors.</b> This agreement provides up to \$14,400 per year towards the cost of the Principals/Supervisors health insurance costs except for three principals that will be grandfathered at their current cost. The estimated increased cost of this agreement is \$52,811 for the 2013-2014 school year and \$34,902 for the 2014-2015 school year. THE SCHOOL BOARD SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE. THE BUDGET COMMITTEE DOES NOT SUPPORT THIS ARTICLE.</p>
<p><b>Article 5: Change in size of School Board</b></p>	<p><b>This article asks to reduce the size of the MRSD School Board from 15 Board members to 13 Board Members.</b> With the withdrawal of Sullivan from the District, on July 1, 2013, the Board membership automatically shrinks to 14 members. New Hampshire statute RSA 195:19-B, Reapportionment, requires Board membership to be an odd number. This can be achieved through reduction of Swanzey's Board membership by one member. The weight of any one Board member's vote would remain determined by the student enrollment from that town into the District's schools. THE SCHOOL BOARD AND BUDGET COMMITTEE SUPPORT THIS ARTICLE.</p>
<p><b>Article 6: School Building Capital Reserve Fund</b></p> <p><b>Up to \$200,000</b></p>	<p><b>The withdrawal of Sullivan from MRSD will result in the sale of the Sullivan School to the Town of Sullivan.</b> This article asks that any proceeds, not to exceed \$200,000, from that sale, be placed in the 2009 School Building Capital Reserve Fund created under Article #8 of the 2009 Warrant. THE SCHOOL BOARD SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE. THE BUDGET COMMITTEE DOES NOT SUPPORT THIS ARTICLE</p>
<p><b>Article 7: Change in Operational Cost Apportionment Formula</b></p>	<p><b>This Article by Petition suggests the current apportionment of operational costs, 50% based on equalized property valuation and 50% based on average daily membership (enrollment) be changed to 25% equalized property valuation and 75% average daily membership (enrollment).</b> Within MRSD, the average per student cost is quite different by town. The petitioners believe such a change would lessen the disparity among the District's per student cost to each town pending NHDOE approval. THE SCHOOL BOARD AND BUDGET COMMITTEE HAVE TAKEN NO POSITION ON THIS ARTICLE</p>
<p><b>Article 8: School Resource Officer</b></p> <p><b>\$56,787.67</b></p>	<p><b>The position of School Resource Officer (SRO) was eliminated from the budget for the current school year.</b> This Article by Petition funds the contracting of a School Resource Officer for the 2013-2014 school year. The previous year's Warrant Article was supported by the School Board and was not supported by the Budget Committee. The Article did not receive enough votes to pass in the 2012 vote. THE SCHOOL BOARD AND BUDGET COMMITTEE SUPPORT THIS ARTICLE</p>
<p><b>Article 9: Receive Reports</b></p>	<p><b>This asks your permission to receive reports from auditors, consultants, and administration.</b> THIS ARTICLE HAS NO TAX IMPACT. This article is required by law.</p>
<p><b>Article 10: Listen to Opinions</b></p>	<p><b>Our yearly warrant, required by law, which tells us to listen to your opinions, ideas, complaints, and so forth.</b> We hope that we do a pretty good job at this. THIS ARTICLE HAS NO TAX IMPACT.</p>