

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
MONADNOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
WARRANT FOR 2019-2020
Deliberative Session - February 2nd, 2019
Monadnock Regional MSHS Auditorium
Swanzey, NH**

Board Members Present: Rob Colbert, Brian Bohannon, Betty Tatro, Karen Buono, Winston Wright, Kristen Noonan, Neil Moriarty, Lisa Steadman, Karen Wheeler, Eric Stanley, Scott Peters and Nicholas Mosher. **Absent:** Cheryl McDaniel-Thomas.

Budget Committee Members Present: Wayne Lechluder, Douglas Bersaw, Jillian Exel, Colleen Toomey, Thomas Parker, Dan Coffman, Adam Hopkins, Wayne LaCoste, and Joanne Daris. **Absent:** Tom Matson, Open Seat for Swanzey and Open Seat for Gilsum.

Administration Present: L. Witte, Superintendent, J. Rathbun, Director of Curriculum and Assessment, C. Woods, Director of Student Services, J. Swanson, Business Administrator and D. LaPointe, Director of Buildings and Grounds.

Principals Present: L. Spencer, K. Stone, M. Suarez, L. Stevens, A. Noel and A. Saulzman.

Also Present: W. Hutwelker, Moderator, J. O'Shaughnessy, Attorney, K. Thebault, Assistant Moderator and L. Aivaliotis, Recording Secretary.

Moderator Hutwelker opened the meeting at 10:10 AM in the MRMS/HS Auditorium. Two members of the Girl Scouts and one member of the Boy Scouts led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. Moderator Hutwelker introduced K. Colby, B. Tatro, R. Thackston and S. Karzinski as members who will help with tallying the vote if necessary. He also asked the Board and Budget Committee to introduce their members. L. Witte thanked L. Sutton for her hard work organizing this Deliberative Session.

Moderator Hutwelker introduced Jay Kahn, NH State Senator. J. Kahn explained he is the Chair of the Education Committee. He spoke of the Stabilization Grant, Adequacy, NH Retirement and Special Ed. funding. He believes there are three ways to help education. It will not happen today but believe possibly in 6 months. He said the Monadnock District has a wonderful school system. There is help at all levels from coaches, teachers and staff. It is hard for the taxpayers to support education when no one is supporting them.

Moderator Hutwelker read the ballot.

ARTICLE ONE: Shall the Monadnock Regional School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, totaling \$32,444,093

(\$970,000 is required for federal grants and nutrition grants that are funded by separate State and Federal revenues)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget will be \$32,470,776 (\$970,000 is required for federal grants and nutrition grants that are funded by separate State and Federal revenues) which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Monadnock Regional School District by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40: 13, X and XV I, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. (Majority vote required)

MOTION: B. Bohannon **MOVED** Article One to the Ballot as written. **SECOND:** P. Sherring. **DISCUSSION:** L. Steadman commented the Board and the Budget Committee supports Article One. W. Lechluder commented the Budget Committee has not supported Article One yet. We have had an issue on how the number was arrived. The Budget Committee has had a lot of discussion on the actual spending. We were trying to close the gap. They did not feel going to court would benefit anyone so this is how we arrived to this number. D. Bersaw from Richmond commented this District has not spent more than 30 million dollars each year in the past three years. **MOTION:** D. Bersaw **MOVED** to amend the motion and set the operating budget at \$31,500,254.00. **SECOND:** L. Trager of Richmond. **DISCUSSION:** D. Bersaw explained the per pupil cost is \$18,000.00 and in the districts around us it is \$16,000.00 or less. He would like to see the cost per pupil reduced. The budget amount should be \$27,000,000.00. Last year the District did not spend the 2 million dollars which became surplus. The surplus will be returned to the taxpayers. D. Bersaw explained the \$31,500,254.00 does include the \$970,000.00 for Federal grants and nutrition grants. R. Thackston would disagree with the number. It is important to provide education to the students. This is the most highly rated School District in the area. E. Kaplan is against the amendment. The money is needed and if we do not use the funds we give it back. If you pass this amendment, we will not have enough. N. Mosher commented the District will be losing \$800,000.00 in State funding. D. Bersaw commented the amendment is much more than was actually spent last year. The School Board has a Special Ed., Building and Fuel Funds just in case of an emergency which total \$500,000.00 plus. **A secret ballot vote was called on the amendment: Yes-113 and NO-129. The motion fails. DISCUSSION on the original article:** Greg Buckle does not like the way this is run. When he went to school it did not cost this much. Some politicians spoke of property tax relief. The proposed budget is too high as well as the default is too high. **MOTION:** E. Kaplan **MOVED** to call the question. **SECOND:** P. Sherring. **VOTE: Article One will be placed on the ballot as written. MOTION:** E. Kaplan **MOVED** to restrict reconsideration of Article One. **SECOND:** M. Syzmcik. **VOTE:** Voice Vote-Yes. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: Herb Drugg **MOVED** to discuss and vote on Article Nine before Article Two. **SECOND:** T. Bailey. **DISCUSSION:** W. Hutwelker explained there are people who will be arriving at a certain time to discuss certain articles. There may be people who thought this article would be discussed later in the meeting. He explained if he is contacted by people who are not here he will not allow this next year. **VOTE:** Voice Vote-Yes. **Motion passes.**

ARTICLE NINE: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to change the formula for apportionment of operational costs from 25% based on

equalized valuation and 75% based on average daily membership to 50% based on equalized valuation and 50% based on average daily membership with no change being made in the present formula for apportioning capital expenses. RSAs 197:6, 195:7, 195:8. By petition. The School Board has taken no position on this article. The Budget Committee has taken no position on this article. **MOTION:** P. Sherring **MOVED** Article Nine to the Ballot as written. **SECOND:** C. Patten, Troy. **DISCUSSION:** B. Drugg explained the work of the Funding Formula Committee including himself. He said the information was passed on to the School Board in September and they chose to do nothing. He would support the 50/50 formula. W. Hutwelker commented a petitioned article can be changed. R. Young from Fitzwilliam was also on the Funding Formula Committee. **MOTION:** R. Young **MOVED** to amend Article Nine to Status quo and W. Hutwelker called it out of order. The attorney advised it was out of order. R. Young would object that the amendment is out of order. He would ask W. Hutwelker to let the amendment pass. He said the School Board did not take action because a Troy Board Member wanted 50/50 and the discussion would take a full day meeting. If 50/50 passes Roxbury will not stay in the District. J. Rousmaniere opposes the formula. He said student enrollment is the factor. Roxbury pays \$16,000.00 per student. If this passes Roxbury would be paying over \$20,000.00. There was an effort last year. The committee did good work but it was not complete. He hopes this does not pass. He would like the Board to put some effort into this issue. He can except an increase but not that much. R. Thackston is in favor of this article. The School Board and the Budget Committee did not act on this. He said unfortunately there was an attack on the School Board and the Chair. Vote your conscience. S. Sullivan of Fitzwilliam said to look at this at the State level. She would suggest giving it another year in order for the State to help us. There are no rich or poor towns. We need to think of the quality of education. She is against this article. We will see change. D. Bersaw commented the Budget Committee did not take a position on this article. It is not a task the Budget Committee deals with. It is town against town if it passes one town has their taxes increase by \$500,000.00 and if it fails another town has an increase. This is not good for the District. He hopes this fails and ask the School Board to take this up next year. B. Steller asked the increase for the individual towns. B. Drugg said he would be glad to share those figures with her. B. Young was also on the Funding Formula Committee and commented on the amazing work that was done. The committee did not come up with a formula. They gave the information and spreadsheets to the School Board. We gave them 6 different options. We attended the School Board meetings just in case there were questions. She was disappointed more was not done. If we vote 50/50 we do not have to do anything for 5 years. Vote no and ask the School Board to do something. J. Tommila was also on the Funding Formula Committee and explained Troy pays \$8,000.00 per student presently and Roxbury pays \$16,000.00. **MOTION:** J. Tommila **MOVED** to change the formula to 100% student enrollment and 0% evaluation. **W. Hutwelker called it out of order. You can only have 100% evaluation and 0% student enrollment.** B. Drugg commented the cost per student is the most interesting argument. The numbers were misleading. **VOTE: Article Nine will be moved to the Ballot as written. Motion passes.**

ARTICLE TWO: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$850,000 for renovations at Monadnock Regional Middle High School. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with

RSA 32:3 VI. This will be a non-lapsing warrant article per RSA 32:7 and will not lapse until the renovation projects are complete or June 30, 2022 whichever is earlier. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee does not support this article.

(Majority vote required) MOTION: E. Stanley **MOVED** Article Two to be placed on the Ballot as written. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **DISCUSSION:** L. Witte explained these funds will go to the renovation in the Technology, Woodworking and Metals area in the MS/HS. In March renovations will begin at MTC. These renovation funds will bring the area up to ADA compliance, more opportunities for the students and it will eliminate crossing the parking lot during class, a safety issue. **MOTION:** J. Phillips **MOVED** to call the question. **SECOND:** P. Sherring. **VOTE: Article Two will be moved to the Ballot as written. Motion passes. MOTION:** R. Thackston **MOVED** to restrict reconsideration on Article Two and Article Nine. **SECOND:** E. Kaplan. **VOTE:** Voice Vote-yes. **Motion passes.**

ARTICLE THREE: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$296,000 for maintenance and repair work at all of the District's schools, to include asbestos abatement and flooring at Monadnock Regional Middle High School and Mt Caesar; roof replacement at Cutler, Emerson and the maintenance building; fire alarm system replacement at Cutler and Troy; and exterior painting at Gilsum. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32:3 VI. This will be a non-lapsing warrant article per RSA 32: 7 and will not lapse until the maintenance projects are complete or June 30, 2022 whichever is earlier. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article.

(Majority vote required) MOTION: K. Wheeler **MOVED** Article Three to be placed on the Ballot as written. **SECOND:** J. Phillips. **DISCUSSION:** W. Lechliden explained the Budget Committee supports this article even though it is a little higher. **MOTION:** P. Sherring **MOVED** to call the question. **SECOND:** J. Phillips. **VOTE: Article Three will be placed on the Ballot as written. Motion passes. MOTION:** E. Kaplan **MOVED** to restrict reconsideration of Article Three. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** Voice Vote-yes. **Motion passes.**

ARTICLE FOUR: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$70,000 for the purpose of purchasing and/or replacement of District vans. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. (Majority vote required) MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** Article Four to be placed on the Ballot as written. **SECOND:** P. Sherring. **DISCUSSION:** S. Peters explained the budget does not include vans. These funds will replace a van and purchase a handicapped accessible van. W. Lechliden explained the Budget Committee supports this article. **MOTION:** J. Phillips **MOVED** to call the question. **SECOND:** C. Hopkins. **VOTE: Article Four will be placed on the ballot as written. MOTION:** E. Kaplan **MOVED** to restrict reconsideration on Article Four. **SECOND:** J. Phillips. **VOTE:** Voice Vote-Yes. **Motion passes.**

ARTICLE FIVE: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 1 to be added to the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum to come from the June 30, 2019 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2019. No new amount to be

raised from taxation. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. (Majority vote required) MOTION: R. Colbert MOVED Article Five to be placed on the ballot as written. SECOND: J. Phillips. DISCUSSION: MOTION: J. Phillips MOVED to call the question. SECOND: C. Hopkins. VOTE: Article Five will be placed on the ballot as written. MOTION: E. Kaplan MOVED to restrict reconsideration of Article Five. SECOND: C. Hopkins. VOTE: Voice Vote-Yes. Motion passes.

ARTICLE SIX: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the 2- year Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the Monadnock Regional School Board and the Monadnock District Education Association (MDEA) for the following increases in wages and benefits at the current staffing levels. The estimated increase in the costs for wages and benefits under the collective bargaining agreement are as follows:

Year

2019/20

Estimated Increase

\$ 180,943 - Salaries

\$ 46,050 - Wage-Driven Benefits (FICA, NHRS)

\$ 226,993 -Total - Year 1

2020/21

\$ 193,638 - Salaries

\$ 49,281 - Wage-Driven Benefits (FICA, NHRS)

\$ 242,919 - Total - Year 2

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$226,993 for the 2019-20 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional cost attributable to the increase in wages and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the 2018-19 year. The School Board supports this appropriation. The Budget Committee supports this appropriation.

(Majority vote required) MOTION: B. Tatro MOVED Article Six to be placed on the ballot as written. SECOND: K. Noonan. DISCUSSION: B. Tatro said she was on the Negotiation Committee and it was a valid process. The teachers gave something and the Board did as well. The Board tried to hold the bottom line. The teachers are the most valuable resource. W. Lechlinder said the Budget Committee does support this Article. D. Gove a teacher in the District thanked the School Board for the process and hope that the voters will support this article. MOTION: J. Phillips. MOVED to call the question. SECOND: C. Hopkins. Article Six will be placed on the ballot as written. MOTION: E. Kaplan MOVED to restrict reconsideration of Article Six. SECOND: S. Peters VOTE: Voice Vote-Yes. Motion passes.

ARTICLE SEVEN: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the 2-year Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the Monadnock Regional School Board and the Monadnock Educational Support Staff Association (MESSA) for the following increases in wages and benefits at the current staffing levels. The estimated increase in the

costs for wages and benefits under the collective bargaining agreement are as follows:

Year

2019/20

Estimated Increase

\$ 120,878 - Salaries

\$ 22,749 - Wage-Driven Benefits (FICA , NHRS)

\$ 2,214 - Vision Insurance

\$ 145,841 -Total - Year 1

2020/21

\$ 88,184 - Salaries

\$ 16,596 - Wage-Driven Benefits (FICA, NHRS)

\$ 104,780 -Total - Year 2

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$145,841 for the 2019-20 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional cost attributable to the increase in wages and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the 2018-19 year. The School Board supports this appropriation. The Budget Committee supports this appropriation.

(Majority vote required) MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** Article Seven to be placed on the ballot as written. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** It was commented the MESSA Contract was long and fair. W. Lechluder explained the Budget Committee does support this article. We wished we could have had the information and on time last year. **MOTION:** J. Phillips **MOVED** to call the question. **SECOND:** C. Hopkins. **VOTE: Article Seven will be placed on the Ballot as written. Motion passes. MOTION:** E. Kaplan **MOVED** to restrict reconsideration on Article Seven. **SECOND:** J. Phillips. **VOTE:** Voice Vote-Yes. **Motion passes.**

ARTICLE EIGHT: To see if the cooperative Monadnock Regional School District will vote to rescind the powers of the official budget committee pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Budget Act (NH RSA Chapter 32:14). By petition.

MOTION: J. Phillips **MOVED** Article Eight to be placed on the ballot as written. **SECOND:** C. Hopkins. **DISCUSSION:** D. Bersaw asked the voters not to vote for this article. W. LaCoste commented a School Board overtime does have their own agenda and long term plan. W. Lechluder commented this has come up before. He feels the Budget Committee has done a pretty good job to keep the budget down. The Budget Committee is a valuable part of the system. **MOTION:** J. Phillips **MOVED** to call the question. **SECOND:** C. Hopkins. **VOTE: Article Eight will be placed on the ballot as written. MOTION:** E. Kaplan **MOVED** to restrict reconsideration of Article Eight. **SECOND:** J. Phillips. **VOTE:** Voice Vote-yes. **Motion passes.**

ARTICLE TEN: Shall the Monadnock Regional School District receive and approve the reports of the agents, auditors, committees and officers chosen as printed and distributed in the Annual Report? (Majority vote required).

MOTION: K. Buono **MOVED** Article Ten to be placed on the ballot as written.
SECOND: J. Phillips. **VOTE:** Article Ten will be placed on the ballot as written.
Motion passes.

ARTICLE ELEVEN: To listen to opinions of a purely advisory nature with regards to the conduct of school affairs for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required). **MOTION:** N. Mosher **MOVED** Article Eleven to be placed on the ballot as written. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** Article Eleven will be placed on the ballot as written. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** E. Kaplan **MOVED** to restrict reconsideration of Article Ten and Article Eleven. **SECOND:** J. Phillips. **VOTE:** Voice Vote-Yes. **Motion passes.**

Moderator Hutwelker recessed the Deliberative Session until the vote on March 12, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
 MRSD Recording Secretary

By the Monadnock Regional School Board: Given under our hands and seal
 this 2nd day of February, 2019 Monadnock Regional School Board:

Name	Position	Date
Rob Colbert	S. B	2/11/19
Carol A. Moriarty	"	2/11/19
Heidi	School Board	2/11/19
Winston A. Wright	School Board	2/11/19
Karen Buono	School Board	2/11/19
Elizabeth Jatro	School Board	2-12-19
John Steadman	School Board Chair	2/12/19
Julian C. Sutton	District Clerk	2/12/19

