

**Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)**  
**School Board/Budget Committee Pre/Post Deliberative Session Meeting Minutes**  
**February 1, 2020 (Not Yet Approved)**  
**Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH**

**Board Members Present:** Scott Peters, Colleen Toomey, Neil Moriarty, Lisa Steadman, Betty Tatro, Rob Colbert, Eric Stanley, Kristie Wilder, Winston Wright, Kristen Noonan, Brian Bohannon and Nick Mosher (only present during Deliberative and not speaking as a Board Member). **Absent:** Karen Wheeler.

**Budget Committee Members Present:** Wayne Lechluder, Adam Hopkins, Dan Coffman, Doug Bersaw, Meagan Foley, Tom Matson and Jillian Exel.

**Administration Present:** L. Witte, Superintendent, J. Morin, Business Administrator and D. LaPointe, Director of Building and Grounds.

**Also Present:** W. Hutwelker, Moderator, J. O'Shaughnessy, Board's Attorney and L. Aivaliotis, Recording Secretary.

**Call to Order:** L. Steadman called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. L. Steadman the Board will go over the logistics of the Deliberative Session. The School Board will be presenting the articles. Board Members have been assigned an article to speak to and everyone knows their articles. She asked the Budget Committee if there were any questions for the School Board. W. Lechluder said he had read the Board minutes and was concerned about the budget. He said if the proposed budget is elevated the committee will reconsider the rest of the articles to not support. L. Steadman explained the dollar amount of the article would have to be changed in order to change the support or not support. It was asked what if Fitzwilliam was to withdraw what happens. R. Colbert said there is no indication of anyone withdrawing. We will deal with it at that time. L. Steadman said if Troy and Fitzwilliam do not like they will vote against Article 3. N. Moriarty said withdrawal of a town from the District would be on the town warrant not the school warrant. R. Colbert said the \$250,000.00 is a necessary step for the State funding. N. Moriarty said we have not done the labor part. J. Morin explained the State might require a Clerk of the Works from out of the District. R. Colbert commented that it is a proposed change referring to Building Aid. *(T. Matson arrives)* L. Witte explained it is being proposed by the SOE and is not in effect. It is not an RSA yet. W. Lechluder said it was mentioned that the administration was touring the Carpenter House. L. Witte explained they would close the Wilcox Building and the SAU, consolidate everyone into the Carpenter House. The Board voted to send a Letter of Intent to the Town of Swanzey. R. Colbert said they are not sure of the future of the SAU or the Wilcox Building. The idea is to consolidate the buildings. L. Steadman explained the building is ADA accessible and everyone would be in one building. L. Witte explained the

Maintenance Dept. would be going to the Carpenter Building and the Maintenance Building would be used for In School Suspension. This would maintain an academic component. D. Coffman commented that we are expanding the footprint to save money. We have an ongoing maintenance project and we do not need to take land up on the hill. Once you start it is like gravity. It was mentioned to have the SAU in the school. L. Witte explained it is not appropriate to have the SAU in the schools. B. Bohannon mentioned it was a very hot topic with the staff when the SAU was in the MS/HS. B. Bohannon said to consolidate is a better opportunity to spend less money and due diligence. W. Lechluder said this conversation is ridiculous. M. Foley said the Wilcox Building was a hot topic in regards to the previous lawsuit. The Town of Swanzey wanted it. E. Stanley mentioned the town lost the lawsuit but are they interested in the building. R. Colbert commented the Board heard from the Budget Committee to consolidate. The Carpenter Home was never on the radar. This is no way does it impact the warrant. W. Lechluder said they appreciate the Board finally doing something. The timing is lousy regardless of the explanation. You need to get the word out. L. Steadman commented if the Budget Committee does not like Article 3 the voters will vote it down. W. Lechluder commented if the proposed budget by the Budget Committee increases the Budget Committee will rethink the other articles. D. Coffman mentioned the District is getting 1.4 million from the State. We can vote in the Default Budget and do with it and have funds. There is plenty of space and 1.4 million dollars coming from the State. The removal of the portables is necessary and the \$250,000.00 we want to support. The increase is foolish. We have spent way fewer dollars and we are not overly sacrificing. L. Steadman said we are getting the extra funds from the State. T. Matson said there has been a surplus for years. There is no business that would be off their budget year after year, that is mismanagement. D. Bersaw commented in Article 9 the School Board will be able to keep \$500,000.00 -\$1,000,000.00 from the surplus. R. Colbert said you have to budget not knowing. T. Matson commented we do not discuss the revenues. W. Lechluder said the Budget Committee did discuss the revenues at one of their meetings. T. Matson said we do not plan for pleasant surprises. R. Colbert asked how do you plan for surprises. There has to be a certain amount to have wiggle room. L. Witte explained there is \$350,000.00 in the Special Education Expendable Trust that could be one student. This is the first go of the budget with this administration doing the whole budget. We will see less of a surplus. We have corrected the inconsistencies. The administration and the principals go line by line in the budget. We do not build in wiggle room. If the GMR comes back lower than budgeted there is a surplus. We were told to budget a 9% increase in transportation, if less there will be a surplus. We have to budget the worst case scenario. D. Coffman commented there will not be an issue with the Default budget. We can operate on the Default Budget and we will be getting the 1.4 million from the State.

**MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to recess the meeting until after the Deliberative Session.

**SECOND:** C. Toomey. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present.

**Deliberative Session Minutes attached.**

**Post-Deliberative Session: Budget Committee Members Present:** M. Foley, D. Bersaw, D. Coffman, A. Hopkins, J. Exel and W. Lechliden.

**MOTION:** D. Bersaw **MOVED** to not support the revised Article One. **SECOND:** D. Coffman. **VOTE:** Unanimous for the Budget Committee Members present. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** D. Bersaw **MOVED** to not support Article Three. **SECOND:** D. Coffman. **VOTE:** Unanimous for the Budget Committee Members present. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** A. Hopkins **MOVED** to adjourn the Budget Committee Meeting at 12:30 PM. **SECOND:** D. Bersaw. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those. **Motion passes.**

**School Board Members Present:** B. Bohannon, B. Tatro, K. Wilder, K. Noonan, L. Steadman, S. Peters, C. Toomey, W. Wright and R. Colbert.

**MOTION:** W. Wight **MOVED** to support the revised Article One. **SECOND:** R. Colbert. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to adjourn the School Board Meeting at 12:34 PM. **SECOND:** R. Colbert. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Laura L. Aivaliotis**  
**MRSD Recording Secretary**