

**Monadnock Regional School District
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2024
MRMHS Library, Swanzey, NH**

Budget Committee Members Present: Ed Sheldon, Nancy Carney, Robert Audette, Betty Tatro, School Board Liaison, Anne Marie Osheyack, Wayne Lechliden, Jon Hoden, Sarah Burgess and Jack Gettens. **Absent:** Bruce Murphy, Doug Bersaw, Virginia Doerpholz and unassigned from Roxbury.

Also Present: J.Rathbun, Superintendent and J.Morin, Business Administrator.

1. **Call the Meeting to Order:** E. Sheldon called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
2. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments.
3. **Comments on the Board Presentation of the Proposed Budget at the Joint Meeting:** J. Hoden asked if there was any consideration to hire a full time Athletic Trainer. J. Rathbun explained that the District has a contract with the hospital. He also said that there are no full time Athletic Trainers in the area. The position is part time. He is not sure what the person would do in a full time position. The part time position is currently between \$20,000 and \$25,000. If a full time position was proposed it would be \$60,000 to \$70,000 including full benefits at roughly \$30,000. The Board is proposing a budget with a 3.84% increase due to the drivers which are out of their control. They are not looking to add more. The Board had asked for no more than a 1.5% increase in the proposed but due to the drivers it was not possible. The Board can discuss a full time Athletic trainer but the administration does not feel that it is needed. J. Morin explained the drivers to J. Hoden. E. Sheldon asked if there were any questions for L. Steadman regarding the MDEA Contract being proposed. J. Hoden asked about vacancies. He would like information to compare the budget to 6 years ago. J. Rathbun commented that is a significant amount of work for J. Morin during the budget season. He asked that the committee vote and not a request from one member. J. Hoden would like a column with the information from 6 years ago to compare. W. Lechliden commented that this should be asked for in the summer months. It was commented that a significant amount of the budget is salaries, benefits, copier expenses and transportation. W. Lechliden commented that the 5% increase for the MDEA will be paid forever. J.Morin explained that comparisons were obtained from area districts regarding teacher salaries. We are behind. We are trying to keep and hire staff. J. Rathbun commented that if we fall behind we can not catch up. This is the time to do this, if you wait it will be more expensive. J. Morin commented that an increase in salaries is to fill the vacancies and keep the current staff. E.Sheldon commented that the district had a lot of vacancies, the hourly pay had

increased and we have more paraprofessionals. J. Rathbun commented on the Out of District cost for Special Education. He said it is out of the District's control. We have 3 students who are placed by the State and we are responsible for the cost. The State of NH is supposed to repay the Districts but they are short in their budgeted amount. EFAs are receiving funds that should go to the schools. J. Hoden asked about the MDEA Contract Article being proposed. He asked if the teachers are getting an average of 5% for the first year. The answer was yes. J. Hoden asked how we could sell that. J. Rathbun commented that this is a conversation for the Board and the Union. The administration wants the teachers to be happy and here in the District. He commented that Drummond and Woodsum did a wage analysis and it is crystal clear that the District is low in the entry level salary and the mid level salary. J. Gettens would like to request the FY 24 actuals set up in another column for comparisons. **MOTION:** J. Gettens **MOVED** to request that the Default calculation spreadsheet include an additional column containing the FY 24 Actuals and to be presented by January 9, 2025. **SECOND:** W. Lechliden. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

4. Discussion on the Proposed Default Budget: J. Morin quoted the RSA regarding what is included in the default budget. W. Lechliden asked about replacement equipment. J. Morin explained that it is included because the District has a plan, it is part of the regular operating budget. New equipment is also replacement equipment which includes kitchen equipment for the classroom. The Specialist Contract and the MESSA Contract are included in the Default.

5. Next Meeting's Agenda: E. Sheldon explained that the Public Hearing is scheduled for January 9th, 2025. He explained that the articles will be read and the public will be able to discuss each one. The Public Hearing will close and the Budget Committee will open their regular meeting to discuss and vote on the articles. The administration would ask the Budget Committee to vote on the articles on January 9th, 2025 in order for the Board to vote at their meeting. The Deliberative Session is on February 1, 2025.

6. Public Comments: There are no public comments.

7. Motion to adjourn: **MOTION:** J. Hoden **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM. **SECOND:** J. Gettens **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
MRSD Recording Secretary