

**Monadnock Regional School District
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
March 25, 2025
MRMHS Library, Swanzey, NH**

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

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

1. **Call the Meeting to Order:** J. Rathbun called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
2. **Organization of Committee:**
 - a. **Election of Officers:**
 - i. **Chair:** **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to nominate E. Sheldon as the Budget Committee Chair. **SECOND:** A.M. Osheyack. **DISCUSSION:** E.Sheldon commented that he wanted to let the committee know his meeting ideas before the committee voted to elect him as Chair. He said that the committee is to set the Default Budget and the Operating Budget. The committee is to be the oversight. He would like to schedule the meetings which are important and with specific agenda items during the summer and the fall. He would like to ask if J. Morin could send out the reports by email at the beginning of the month to review. If there are concerns they will hold the meeting for that month. W.Lechlider said he agrees with the summer months but not anything more. He said he heard that at the Deliberative Session the Budget Committee did not do their job. E. Sheldon explained during the months of August, Sept. and October the committee did not have a quorum. We need to commit to being in attendance. E.Sheldon commented as far as the Deliberative Session the voters voted for the budget. W. Lechliden asked why the committee did not meet in February to consider options like closing Wilcox and putting Title One at this building. E. Sheldon commented the committee sets the budget not the line items. He asked the committee if they would like to meet in February and they said no. He said there is no need to meet if we have no agenda items. J. Gettens commented that he likes to attend the meetings. He suggested maybe a subcommittee. **VOTE:** All members present-yes and E.Sheldon-abstain. **Motion passes.**
 - ii. **Vice Chair:** **MOTION:**S. Burgess **MOVED** to nominate N. Carney as the Budget Committee Vice Chair. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **VOTE:** All members present-yes N. Carney-abstain. **Motion passes.**
 - b. **Annual Calendar:**
 - i. **Proposed Joint Meeting with School Board on May 20, 2025:**
 - c. **Election Results:** E. Sheldon commented that the results of the vote were in line with the Budget Committee and the School Board. N.Carney commented that the voters need to

be more educated on what they are voting for. She would suggest more information prior to the Public Hearing and Deliberative Session. E. Sheldon would encourage people to attend the meetings. N. Carney would also suggest the Budget Committee visit the other schools in the district like the Board does each month. J. Rathbun explained the Board has not done that for years. There are a lot of renovations going on and this may not be the year to travel. J. Morin would suggest a tour of MTC in December. E. Sheldon suggested a listening session led by the town representatives from the Budget Committee to get information out to the voters. S. Sawyer would like a town meeting style Deliberative Session. A. M. Osheyack suggested educating the voters prior to the Deliberative Session. W. Lechliden commented that there were things that could be done to reduce the budget, close Wilcox and have one principal for Troy and Fitzwilliam. He agrees that SB2 lost a lot of voters. E. Sheldon explained that the School Board asked the Budget Committee for ideas and suggestions for the contract and the proposed budget but we had no suggestions. J. Gettens said that he enjoyed the spreadsheet with the line items. He would like to receive that spreadsheet sooner. W. Lechliden asked what would that accomplish, there is no fluff in the budget. J. Gettens said he supported the budget but did not have the knowledge. He asked where the increases were. J. Morin commented the increases were the drivers that the administration shared. J. Morin commented that the report the committee is looking for is the September report. J. Rathbun would suggest that the committee vote on what they would like as a committee. E. Sheldon would suggest the committee come to the April meetings with the reports being requested by the committee.

3. Approval of the December 16, 2024 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: N. Carney **MOVED** to approve the December 16, 2024 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** S. Sawyer-abstain and all remaining members-yes. **Motion passes.**

4. Approval of the January 9, 2025 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes: MOTION:

A.M.Osheyack **MOVED** to approve the January 9, 2025 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** N. Carney **VOTE:** S.Sawyer-abstain and all remaining members- yes. **Motion passes.**

5. Approval of the February 1, 2025 Pre/Post Deliberative Session Minutes: MOTION:

S.Burgess **MOVED** to approve the February 1, 2025 Pre/Post Deliberative Session Minutes. **SECOND:** A.M. Osheyack. **VOTE:** W.Lechliden-abstain, B. Tatro-abstain, S. Sawyer-abstain and all remaining members-yes. **Motion passes.**

6. Administration Reports:

a. Overview of Monthly Reports for New Members: J. Morin explained the Monthly Expense Report is run prior to the Finance/Facilities Committee and then sent to the Budget Committee.

b. Transfers/Expenses: J. Morin explained that there are no transfers.

c. Budget:

d. Monthly Financial Report: J. Morin explained that the District is closely aligned to where they were 2 years ago. We are where we should be today with the budget.

e. Staffing: J. Rathbun explained that the open positions will stay on the website. They will stay open until filled. Some of the vacancies are contracted service positions. A.M.Osheyack asked if the administration would hire new staff and overlap with the current position for training. J. Rathbun explained that is the decision of the School Board. There are 12 vacancies and there are not many retirements for next year.

7. Superintendent Comments: J.Rathbun gave an update on the Emerson fire. It will not cost the District anything.

8. School Board Liaison Report: B. Tatro reported that the renovations at MTC are going well. Emerson is on time and both projects are on budget. J. Rathbun explained that working with Hutter has been a great experience and their response to the fire was outstanding.

9. Chairperson's Comments: E. Sheldon informed the committee that there is a vacancy for a member from Roxbury. Virginia Doerpholz and Bruce Murphy have not been in attendance for a few meetings.

10. Next Meeting's Agenda: The next meeting is the on April 22, 2025.

11. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

12. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:29 PM.
SECOND: S.Burgess. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
MRSD Recording Secretary