

**Monadnock Regional School District
Finance and Facilities Meeting
May 8, 2025
SAU Conference Room**

Committee Members Present: Eric Stanley, Cheryl McDaniel-Thomas, Betty Tatro and Scott Peters via Zoom. **Absent:** Jeff Cesaitis

Administration Present: J. Morin, Business Administrator and T. Breen, Director of Building and Grounds.

C.McDaniel-Thomas opened the meeting at 6:30 PM.

1. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

2. Approval of Minutes of April 10, 2025: MOTION: E.Stanley **MOVED** to approve the April 10, 2025 Finance/ Facilities Committee Meeting Minutes as presented . **SECOND:** C.McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

3. New Business:

a. Look at estimates for tennis/pickleball court and parking lot: T. Breen and J. Morin had received 2 quotes to repair the tennis courts. The committee had an idea to also use the courts for pickleball. The two companies that submitted the bids were Vermont Recreational and Cape Island. Vermont Recreational bid was \$216,000 which includes the fencing. The Cape Island bid was more than double at \$484,700. T. Breen spoke to Arlington Paving. The cost to patch and repair the front of the parking lot is \$22,800 and to repair the side of the MRMHS is \$91,200. To redo the side is \$148,000 and the front parking lot is at \$22,800. S.Peters asked about the frost heaves and the drainage. T. Breen explained that there are pipes underneath the pavement. It was suggested to have a maintenance plan for the tennis courts. C. McDaniel-Thomas looked up what the maintenance on tennis courts suggested. It was suggested to have an annual inspection of the courts. T. Breen explained that J. Rathbun said there will be no paving at the high school this summer. Due to the elementary renovation the summer programs are at the MRMHS. T.Breen would suggest repairing the tennis courts now. E.Stanley would agree with no paving this year. T. Breen would suggest talking to the company soon to repair the tennis courts. The funds will come from the Building and Grounds Expendable Trust. T. Breen said Fitzwilliam has a great tennis court and he will contact the town to see what they do for upkeep. The committee would like to forward the estimate from Vermont Recreational to the full Board.

b. Review progress on Elementary Renovation building project: T. Breen explained that the projects are going well and on schedule. The students at Emerson are in the new classrooms and they are working on the punch list. The other rooms are

being worked on and the flooring is being put in. The renovations to the Troy School will start in June. Things are very exciting and coming along well. It will be beautiful.

c. Review 2025/26 Budget Process and add deadlines to meeting topics:

The Joint Meeting with the Budget Committee is on May 20, 2025. The committee discussed a wish list for the upcoming budget process. S.Peters explained this could be a Board agenda item or this committee could bring something to the full Board. He explained that on June 17, 2025 the Board could ask the administration to research the wish list items. It was commented that the Board would like to collaborate with the Budget Committee. The Board could move the proposed budget to the administration in the summer meeting with the wish list. C.McDaniel-Thomas commented that the best use of this committee is to have the conversation on the budget creation in August.

J.Morin arrives. J.Morin explained that we will not know the budget drivers and the OOD increases at that time. There is the new Autism Program at Emerson but she is not sure of the offset. J. Rathbun will also have recommendations. C. McDaniel-Thomas suggested the discussion in August to be ready for September. She will put this on the August agenda.

d. Tennis Court Discussion Continued: It was explained that it was difficult to get 3 bids for the tennis courts. The committee would like to go with Vermont Recreational. T.Breen explained to J. Morin that the committee also discussed a maintenance program for the courts. J. Morin asked if the funds will come from the Building and Grounds Expendable Trust. The committee agreed. There is about \$111,500 in the account and they will be adding \$100,000 from the warrant article. It is very exciting to get the tennis courts done.

e. Develop presentation to Board to explain the 2.5% unexpended funds and the changes to the process: J. Morin explained that the warrant article that allows the district to retain 2.5% of the budget has changed to up to 5% and the use of the funds can be used for anything. She spoke to J. O'Shaughnessy and he agreed but he would suggest using the for emergency use only. If the Board allows a warrant article to explain the changes and the voters vote no the Board will lose their authority. B. Tatro would suggest leaving it alone at 2.5%. E.Stanley suggested a policy to explain what an emergency is. J. Morin read the warrant article that had passed. S. Peters suggested with the help of J. Morin to come up with the short slide show on the year by year, the vote and the changes in the law. J. Morin explained that the funds were to reduce taxes or for an emergency. The DOE has changed the intent. C. McDonald-Thomas said she doesn't disagree. If the voters vote and it fails the Board will not have authority for the funds. J. Morin said it is good to use it to reduce the tax rate. The Board has the ability to use it each year. S.Peters would agree with proposing a policy that defines an emergency.

4. Old Business

a. Receive financial report of Business Administrator: J. Morin passed out the Monthly Expense Report to the committee. She explained that last year there was a deficit but we are pretty much in line with the budget from 2 years ago. The district will finish with less than \$800,000. J. Morin explained that she closed off new purchase requisitions last Friday. At this point the teachers should know what they need until the end of the school year. Wellness days, retirement payments and health insurance buyouts still need to be paid out. The number will go down but we are in good shape.

b. Receive updates on any new CIP needs: It was suggested to ask K. Barker to do a study on the SAU and the MRMHS. E. Stanley asked if it is possible to add on to the SAU. T. Breen said yes.

c. Setting of next meeting and topics: S. Peters would like to clean up Policy Book D. There are 23 policies that are not necessary or out of date that we need to take action on. There are 4 required by law. He would suggest taking 4 or 5 policies, print the NHSBA sample policy on each and the MRSD policies as well. It will be easier to chip away at in print. Maybe for the next meeting.

5. Public Comments: C. McDaniel-Thomas asked if there will be automatic doors in the elementary schools as part of the renovations. She did not realize the issue with opening the regular doors when she was in a wheelchair. T. Breen explained that they are getting bids for the doors at the elementary schools.

6. Adjourn MOTION: E. Stanley **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 PM. **SECOND:** B. Tatro **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary