

**Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)**  
**School Board (Joint w/BC) Meeting Minutes**  
**May 20, 2025**  
**Monadnock Regional Middle/High School, Swanzey, NH**

**School Board Members Present:** Kristen Noonan, Edmond LaPlante, Rachel Vogt, Eric Stanley, Hannah Blood, Cheryl McDaniel-Thomas, Gina Carraro, Jennifer Strimbeck, Scott Peters and Lisa Steadman. **Absent:** Betty Tatro, Brian Bohannon and Jeff Cesaitis.

**Budget Committee Members Present:** Sarah Burgess, Jack Gettens, Wayne Lechliden, Edward Sheldon, Nancy Carney, Robert Audette, Anne Marie Osheyack and Steven Sawyer.

**Administration Present:** J. Rathbun, Superintendent and J. Morin, Business Administrator.  
**Also Present:** Kyle Barker and Andrew Dey.

**1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER at 7:00 PM:** S. Peters called the meeting to order.

**a. Budget Committee Roll Call:**

**b. School Board Roll Call:**

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no public comments.

**3. MATTERS FOR JOINT MEETING INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:**

**a. Elementary Renovations Project Update:** K. Barker, architect and A. Dey, Project Manager for the Elementary School Renovations was asked to update the committees on the renovations. K. Barker explained that there was a study done on the elementary schools in the district which led to a successful bond vote. Construction on MTC is 50% complete. The first phase of Emerson is 50% complete. The drawings for Troy are done and out to bid. We are on budget and Troy will begin when the students are out for the summer. The last piece is Gilsum. The Gilsum drawings are 90% done and then will go out to bid. We are in very good shape and on budget. A. Dey commented that the projects were budgeted 4 years ago, went out to bid and remarkably on budget. Kudos to K. Barker and his team. The insulation and sheetrock are going up in part of MTC. Emerson is more complicated with 4 different phases and active with students every day. There are more challenges, some bumps on the schedule less predictable. The principals and the team have been great. Hutter Construction has provided excellent service to the district. Troy School this summer and demolition of the newer part soon. MTC should be completed in December and Emerson at about the same time. Troy Fall of 2026 and Gilsum the end of 2026. R. Vogt would like to see the floor plans. K. Barker will provide something at a future meeting. **Transition to MTC from Cutler:** J. Rathbun explained that he has been bringing staff from MTC and Cutler to tour the work at MTC. There is unknown with the transition and he would like to build excitement for the staff. Guilfoil the PR Firm will produce images of the inside of the building and place them on the internet. There will also be interviews with the walkthroughs. It is not safe for the public to tour at this time. For MTC the idea is to move all of the students after Feb. vacation. A letter will be sent to the parents of the Troy

students regarding the Troy school renovations. It is not possible to have PreSchool at Troy. Those students will be going to Emerson.

**b. CIP for SAU & MRMHS Campus:** C. McDaniel-Thomas explained that the Fin/Fac. Committee has discussed the SAU and the MRMHS buildings. There is still a backlog for the 2 buildings. We need to make a long-range plan. S.Peters commented that we need a program plan. What programs for the Special Ed. Students? We need an educational program study to keep up with modern education. The committee is also looking into repairing the parking lots at the MRMHS and the tennis courts.

**c. 2026/27 Budget Calendar:** Both committees were presented a draft of the 2026/27 Budget Calendar. The Board would like to have a recommendation from the Budget Committee in June regarding the contract.

**d. Staffing Update:** J. Rathbun explained that there are staff being nominated tonight in non-public session. There are 28 vacancies which is much better than at this time last year. The vacancies include transfers within the district.

**e. MESSA Contract Overview:** S.Peters explained that the Board will not discuss the MESSA Contract except in a non-meeting. There is a Negotiation Committee who reports back to the Board. E.Sheldon commented that he struggles with the unclear goals of negotiations. It was commented that the RSA does not allow a Budget Committee member to attend negotiations. Many positions in this bargaining unit are required by law. The contract has 5 wage scales, staff development, education reimbursement, wellness days, vacation days and retirement. There are 108 positions in the bargaining unit. The wage scales were presented. J. Morin explained the insurance plans to the committees. The opt out is \$5000. It was explained that there has not been a big increase in people taking the opt out. J. Gettens asked if there was a plan for a salary study. S.Peters said every year. J.Rathbun commented that legal counsel gathered the comps last year, not sure if they are doing it this year. S.Peters said insurance is what it is. We struggle to hire. We are at \$15.50 an hour and that is after 3 years. S.Peters commented that most people are here for insurance. J.Rathbun commented that with this group the vacancies may go up. He explained that contracted services are negotiated by the Union per the law.

#### **4. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BUDGET COMMITTEE ACTION:**

**a. Approval of April 22, 2025 Meeting Minutes: MOTION:** S.Burgess **MOVED** to approve the April 22, 2025 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes as corrected. **SECOND:** A. M. Osheyack. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

**b. Financial Reports Q&A:** E.Sheldon explained that J. Gettens has offered to take a deep dive into the data of the budget. W.Leachlider asked if there would be a 1.3 million surplus. J. Morin explained there are a number of items that still need to be paid. There are some items that have not been encumbered. J.Morin explained the transfers being presented.

**c. Budget Committee Adjourn:** The committee will discuss the MESSA Contract recommendations, the CIP and a deep dive into the budget at the June meeting. **MOTION:** R.

Audette **MOVED** to adjourn the Budget Committee Meeting at 8:06PM. **SECOND:** A.M. Osheyack. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

## **5. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:**

### **a. Approve the Agenda:**

**i. May 6, 2025 Minutes, Non-Public Minutes, Budget Transfers and Manifest: \$ 2,861,285.38. MOTION:** R. Vogt **MOVED** to accept the May 6, 2025 Public Meeting Minutes and Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented, to approve the manifest in the amount of \$ 2,861,285.38 and a request from T. Givetz in the amount of \$10,000 from Gilsum Reg. Inst. Salaries line to Gilsum Replacement Furn/Fixt line, a request from J. Morin in the amount of \$15,100 from Gilsum Reg. Inst. Health Ins. lines to Gilsum Spec. Ed. Health Ins. lines, a request from G. Pickering in the amount of \$16,000 from MRMHS SRO Reimb line, MRMHS Science Repl Equip line and MRMHS Summer School Salary line to MRMHS Replacement Equip line, a request from C. Woods in the amount of \$10,000 from the Special Ed. OOD Private Tuition line to Special Ed. Info Access Fees line, a request from J. Morin in the amount of \$70,000 from the MRMHS Reg.Inst.Health Ins. line, MRMHS Reg. Inst. FICA line to the Special Ed. Related Services line and a request from J. Morin in the amount of \$10,000 from the MRMHS SRO Reimb. line to the SAU Building Supplies line **SECOND:** K. Noonan **VOTE:** S.Peters-abstain and all remaining members yes. **Motion passes.**

MTC Staff sent a thank you note to the Board for their Staff Appreciation gift.

## **6. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:**

### **a. June 3, 2025**

- i. 2025/26 Board Goals & Superintendent Goals**
- ii. Report Card Overview**
- iii. Unaffiliated Salaries & Wages**
- iv. Summer Hiring and Accounts Payable**
- v. Overview of Report Card**
- vi. Policies for first read**

**7. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no public comments.

**8. 8:16 PM ENTER INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee: MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session RSA 91-A:3 II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee. **SECOND:** H. Blood **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes**

**9. 8:20 PM ENTER INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION ( c ) : MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II ( c ) Matters which, if discussed in public,

would likely adversely affect the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting: **SECOND:** C.McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

**10. PUBLIC SESSION: MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to SEAL the May 20, 2025, 8:20 PM Non-Public Meeting Minutes until May 20, 2026. **SECOND:** H. Blood. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

J. Rathbun explained to the Board that the General Assurances which were presented to the Board at a previous meeting were changed. The Dept. of Education reissued the General Assurance without the new language and he is publicly notifying the Board.

**11. MOTION TO ADJOURN: MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to adjourn the Board Meeting at 8:31 PM. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis  
Recording Secretary

**VOTING KEY:**Yes/No/Abstain/Absent