

**Monadnock Regional School District
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
August 26, 2025
Monadnock Regional School Library**

Members Present: Ed Sheldon, Steven Sawyer, Robert Audette, Jon Hoden, Sarah Burgess, Anne Marie Osheyack, Jack Gettens and Betty Tatro, liaison for the School Board, **Absent:** Wayne Lechlinder, Nancy Carney, Doug Bersaw, Bruce Murphy and Unassigned from Roxbury and Fitzwilliam.

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. **Approval of the May 20, 2025 Budget Committee/School Board Joint Meeting Minutes:** **MOTION:** J. Hoden **MOVED** to approve the May 20, 2025 Budget Committee /School Board Joint Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** S. Burgess **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**
4. **Administration Reports:**
 - a. **Monthly Financial Report:** J. Morin sent the reports to the committee for review and any questions. She explained there was a surplus due to underspending. We did not make it on the revenue side. We had received \$300,000 to \$400,000 less. J. Morin explained the revenue side. The interest on the savings came in less, Medicaid came in less, the expense of voting machines, warrant articles and funds the Board encumbered. The preliminary audit number is \$87,552.00. J.Morin explained the changes in the Medicaid reimbursement. The number one priority of the new Director of Student Services is to figure out the reduction in Medicaid. J. Morin explained that the out-of-district placement number has dropped significantly with the new Autism Program at Emerson.
 - b. **Staffing:** J. Rathbun reported that the district is in very good shape. There are 14 openings, much better than last year. There are some positions to be filled in the pipeline. The staff who are in an alternative program are required as part of their new position to attend a workshop every Tuesday.
5. **Detailed budget tracking report/pivot table:** J. Gettens took the line item report and put that in Excel. He would like to bring the information which he has in a Pivot table to the committee at the next meeting.
6. **CIP Plan-Recommendation on warrants:** It was reported that the Board has hired a company to replace the tennis courts which are in great need of repair. S.Sawyer said that the public will be angry about the parking lots not getting done. It was mentioned that the tennis team has to play at KSC because of the condition of the courts.

7. MESSA Contract Discussion: E.Sheldon asked the committee if they had any specific questions regarding the contract and to bring them to the meeting in the form of a motion. J. Rathbun commented that because the committee did not have a quorum at their last meeting the time to bring items to the Board is over. R.Audette commented on the importance of encouraging people to attend the Deliberative and vote. A. M. Osheyack said the people do not know the power of the Deliberative Session. E.Sheldon mentioned that he and S. Peters did a radio spot last year on WKNE to discuss the proposed budget, the warrant and the need to vote. A.M. Osheyack commented that being fiscally responsible does not always mean making cuts.

8. Claremont Discussion: The committee discussed the Claremont issue going on currently. J.Rathbun explained that the district does an audit every year as well as a federal funds report. We have a Federal Funds Bookkeeper. Claremont received the ESSER Funds but did not follow through to claim the grants and they were mismanaged. That must be terrible for their community regarding the loss of funds. E. Sheldon suggested that as part of the PR let the public know we have a Federal Funds Bookkeeper and an audit yearly.

9. Superintendent Comments: J.Rathbun reported on the renovations to the elementary schools. He said they are in really good shape at Emerson. Hutter has worked really hard over the summer and it is almost complete. It is on track and on budget. There are 2 rooms left to do and big repairs in the basement. Hutter should be out of there by Columbus Day. Troy is going well. Asbestos was found which slowed it down a little. The 1895 foundation is put down and the sheets of metal will be going in this week. The students are in the 1955 part of the building and the gymnasium is open. We can not say enough about our staff and Hutter for the great job that is happening. MTC is amazing. He invites any member to tour the building with him. The completion target date is November. We have listened to parents, teachers, and staff, and the moving of Cutler to MTC will start over Christmas break. From January to June MTC will move around and in the summer Cutler will finish moving into MTC. December might be an opportunity for people to tour MTC as long as the district has a Certificate of Occupancy. Hutter will be starting Gilsum in the Spring. A lot of great things are going on in the schools.

The roof over the boys locker room is complete and was done by Melanson Roofing.

J.Rathbun explained that everyone is very excited to welcome the students back tomorrow. The maintenance crew did an amazing job on the schools regardless of the 300 students who attended summer camps and summer school in this building. Everyone pulled together and it was an outstanding job. The funding for the camp is the 21st Century Grant. This camp is free of charge to the students. Troy will be holding their welcome back picnic at their recreational center.

10. School Board Liaison Report: B. Tatro reported that the Husky Alumni Association Class of 1977 has donated a new scoreboard to the MRMHS gymnasium. The SAT scores are improving and there is a new ELO starting for the 11th and 12th graders.

11. Chairperson's Comments: E.Sheldon asked about budget recommendations. J. Morin explained that tonight was the time for any recommendations. E. Sheldon would like recommendations at the next meeting. S. Burgess commented we need a quorum to make decisions. Deadlines have passed because of lack of quorum.

12. Next Meeting's Agenda: The next meeting is on September 23, 2025. Revenues, Pivot Table, Communication Strategy, Schedule Dates and Emerson.

13. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

14. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: J.Hoden **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM. **SECOND:** R.Audette. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
MRSD Recording Secretary