

**Monadnock Regional School District & SAU #93**  
**Joint Meeting of the School Board and Budget Committee Agenda**  
**January 6, 2026**  
**MRMHS Library, Swanzey**  
**ZOOM (7:00 PM)**

**Meeting ID: 841 2331 3370**

**Passcode: 699940**

**Phone: +1 646 931 3860**

The public is encouraged to attend MRSD Board and Budget Committee meetings.

Comments are welcome during the 'Public Comments' portions of the agenda.

***“We collaborate not just to teach, but also to engage and educate every student in our district in an environment that is challenging, caring, and safe, while fostering lifelong learning.”***

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER 7:00
2. PUBLIC COMMENTS (15 minutes)
3. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION
  - a. NEASC Update
  - b. Program of Studies First Read
  - c. Update on Paid/Unpaid Time Off Process
  - d. Status of town payments
  - e. Deliberative Session Planning
  - f. Open Enrollment
4. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION
  - a. \* Finalize Warrant Articles
  - b. \* Warrant Articles in Plain Language
  - c. \*Cheshire County Sheriff's Department Deputy at MRMHS
  - d. \* Approve the Consent Agenda (December 16th Minutes, Manifest, Transfers)
5. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA
  - a. January 20, 2026
    - i. Approve Program of Studies
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS (15 minutes)
7. NON-PUBLIC SESSIONS under RSA 91-A:3. II
  - a. RSA 91-A:3. II (b) - Hiring & Compensation
  - b. Additional non-public sessions, TBD as required
8. ADJOURNMENT

## SINGLE DISTRICT SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS

**RSA 94-C:3** – Single District School Administrative Units; Exemption. Single district school administrative units shall be considered the same as a single school district and shall be exempt from meeting the requirements of this chapter, except that they shall provide superintendent services pursuant to RSA 194-C:4

## NONPUBLIC SESSIONS

**RSA 91-A:3– II.** Only the following matters shall be considered or acted upon in nonpublic session:

- (a) **The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee** or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted.
- (b) The **hiring** of any person as a public employee.
- (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.
- (d) Consideration of the **acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property** which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community.
- (e) **Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation** which has been threatened in writing or filed by or against the public body or any subdivision thereof, or by or against any member thereof because of his or her membership in such public body, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled.
- (i) Consideration of matters relating to the **preparation for and the carrying out of emergency functions**, including training to carry out such functions, developed by local or state safety officials that are directly intended to thwart a deliberate act that is intended to result in widespread or severe damage to property or widespread injury or loss of life.
- (j) **Consideration of confidential, commercial, or financial information** that is exempt from public disclosure under RSA 91-A:5, IV in an adjudicative proceeding pursuant to RSA 541 or RSA 541-A.
- (k) Consideration by a school board of entering into a **student or pupil tuition contract** authorized by RSA 194 or RSA 195-A,
- (l) **Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel**, either in writing or orally, to one or more members of the public body, even where legal counsel is not present.

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING MRSD MEETINGS:

1/6/2026	MRSD/SAU 93 School Board Meeting	7:00 pm	MRMHS Library
1/8/2026	Finance & Facilities Committee	6:30 pm	SAU Conference Room
1/8/2026	MRSD Budget Hearing (Jan. 15th Snow Date)	7:00 pm	MRMHS Library
1/13/2026	Policy Committee	7:00 pm	SAU Conference Room
1/20/2026	Community Relations Committee	6:00 pm	MRMHS Library
1/20/2026	MRSD/SAU 93 School Board Meeting	7:00 pm	MRMHS Library

### Filing for District Offices:

Persons interested in becoming a candidate for the following school district offices may file for these positions starting **Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026, until Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026.** Those interested **must file in person** at the SAU #93 Central Office, 600 Old Homestead Highway, Swanzey, NH. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. except on Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026, the office will be open until 5:00 p.m. Declarations will not be accepted after 5:00 pm on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

1/27/2026	Budget Committee	7:00 pm	MRMHS Library
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Meetings will be in person for all Board & Committee Members. The public is encouraged & welcome to attend either in person or through Zoom. Public comments are welcome in person during the ‘Public Comments’ portions of the agenda.

**\*\* Please note: All Committee Meeting dates, times, and locations are posted in the SAU 93 Reception Lobby, on the MRSD website calendar, and in the schools and towns of MRSD. In the event of a snow day, the school board meeting will be rescheduled for the following school day.\*\***

**Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)  
School Board (Joint w/BC) Meeting Minutes  
December 16, 2025 (Not Yet Approved)  
Monadnock Regional Middle/High School, Swanzey, NH**

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

**Budget Committee Members Present:** Sarah Burgess, Jack Gettens, Wayne Lechliden, Edward Sheldon, Robert Audette, Anne Marie Osheyack and Steven Sawyer. **Absent:** Nancy Carney, Bruce Murphy, Jon Hoden and Doug Bersaw.

**Administration Present:** J. Rathbun, Superintendent, L.Spencer, Assistant Superintendent and J. Morin, Business Administrator.

**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:** J. Rathbun reported that Emerson School is complete with a small punch list. The school is beautiful. MTC is complete except for the gymnasium. Kindergarten is moving over during Christmas break. MTC should be done by the January 20, Open House. There are pictures on the website of the renovations at the schools. L. Sutton updates the website weekly. At the Troy School the steel is going up. Everything is on track and going well. There is the elevator shaft, concrete being poured and mechanical work going on. There are no major issues. We are happy with what is going on. Gilsum will go out to bid in the early Spring.

**b. CIP for SAU & MRMHS Campus:** The CIP was presented to the committees. The CIP is much shorter than before. The remaining is mostly the MRMHS projects. The Board would like to do an Educational Study of the school due its age. Does the building fit the educational needs of today? S.Peters explained that the Board will propose a roof article for the MRMHS. The CIP is out until 10 years and then we will have to look at the elementary schools again. A solid rotation of projects. C. McDaniel-Thomas explained that the Fin/Fac Committee is working on an upkeep plan for the elementary schools. They are looking to see what other districts are doing.

**c. MESSA Contract Overview:** The committees were presented with the contract overview. The highlights were health insurance language and time off consistent with the other units. Language changes were in line with the current practices. The van drivers are now in the MESSA contract. They would like to eliminate short-term disability and have a sick bank. We are at the very low end of the para pay scale and it needs to be addressed. E.Sheldon asked how many people are in the MESSA Union. There are a little over 100 people.

**d. Budget Presentation:** J.Rathbun presented the proposed budget highlights. The

cost per pupil is asked about and it is \$300.00 below the State cost per pupil. We have increased by 18% over the past 7 years and the State has increased by 35%. Our enrollment is flat. There is a number that may show a decrease but the number does not include the out of district Special Ed. students. Overall we have been flat for 5 years. The number includes Pre-K through grade 12. The Adequacy Aid should be up next year. The proposed budget is \$40,874,456. The proposed default budget is \$41,106,512 which is more than the proposed budget. The primary drivers are the health insurance increase but not as much as last year, the MDEA contract, transportation, IT license renewals, lane changes, Primex insurance, Specialists contract and an increase in dental insurance. J. Morin explained that the proposed default does not include the open positions. J. Rathbun explained in the default there are higher amounts on utilities. There is not a huge difference between the default and proposed. The administration showed a significant effort to stay within the 3% increase as directed by the Board. There will be an article for the MESSA Contract, an article for a section of the roof at the MRMHS, an article for a section of the parking lot to be repaved at the MRMHS and the usual trusts to be deposited with unexpended funds at the end of the year. It was explained that the roof is leaking over the 800s and needs to be taken care of. W. Lechluder suggested depositing into the trust on a regular basis to repair the roofs. J. Morin explained in the past years we have not had remaining funds to put in the trusts. W. Lechluder suggested an article. J. Rathbun explained if there is a Special Ed. expense we should be able to take the funds out of the Special Ed. Expendable Trust and not have to find it within the budget. The committees reviewed the proposed warrant articles.

**e. 2026/27 Budget Calendar: Budget Hearing & Deliberative Session: E.**

Sheldon suggested to his committee that the Public Hearing will be on January 8, 2026 and if there is inclement weather it will be on January 15, 2026. The Deliberative Session is on February 7, 2026. E. Sheldon would ask the members to encourage people to attend the Public Hearing and Deliberative Session.

**f. Review Open Seats: Filing Candidacy:** Anyone interested in running in the next election must sign up between January 21-30.

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

**a. Approval of October 28 2025 Meeting Minutes: MOTION:** R. Audette **MOVED** to approve the October 28, 2025 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** W. Lechluder. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

**b. Financial Reports Q&A:** It was explained that J. Gettens has been working with J. Morin to review the proposed and default budgets. It is a work in progress. J. Gettens is analysing and reviewing the actuals. S. Peters commented that the actuals are reflected after the transfers.

**c. Budget Committee Adjourn: E. Sheldon adjourned the Budget Committee Meeting.**

**5. RECESS**

**6. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:**

**a. Finalize Warrant Articles (other than Budget Article One):** The Board discussed and reviewed the proposed warrant articles.

**b. Create or Delegate Warrant Articles in Plain English:** The Board would like to delegate CRC to create the Warrant Articles in Plain English. H. Blood explained that currently the CRC is a committee of one. She will use the Plain English draft from last year and input the information being proposed. H. Blood will come up with a draft. The administration has volunteered to help.

**c. Approve the Consent Agenda (November 18th Minutes and Manifest):**

**MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** to approve the Manifest in the amount of \$4,457,061.11 and the November 18, 2025 Public and Non-Public School Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 7.942/0/0/5.058. **Motion passes.**

**7. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:**

- a. January 6, 2026**
- b. Open enrollment**
- c. Possible Emergency Meeting**
- d. NEASC**
- e. Program of Studies**
- f. Deliberative Session Planning**

**8. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**9. NON-PUBLIC SESSIONS under RSA 91-A:3, II**

**a. 8:15 PM Non-Public Session 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. MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session 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:** 7.942/0/0/5.058. **Motion passes.**

**b. 8:20 PM Non-Public Session RSA 91-A:3 II (i) Consideration of matters relating to the preparation for and the carrying out of emergency functions, including training to carry out such functions, developed by local or state safety officials that are directly intended to thwart a deliberate act that is intended to result in widespread or severe damage to property or widespread injury or loss of life. MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to enter into Non-Public Session RSA 91-A:3 II (i) Consideration of matters relating to the preparation for and the carrying out of emergency functions, including training to carry out such functions, developed by local or state safety officials that are directly intended to thwart a deliberate act that is intended to result in widespread or severe damage to property or widespread injury or loss of life. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 7.942/0/0/5.058. **Motion passes.**

**10. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:35PM. **SECOND:** S.Peters. **VOTE:** 7.942/0/0/5.058. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Aivaliotis  
Recording Secretary

**Monadnock Regional School District  
School Board Meeting Minutes  
Non-Public Session (Not Yet Approved)  
December 16, 2025  
MRMHS Library/Zoom, Swanzey, NH**

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

**Administration Present:** J. Rathbun, Superintendent, L.Spencer, Assistant Superintendent and J. Morin, Business Administrator.

**8:15 PM Non-Public Session 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.**

**Issue #1: Notification:** J. Rathbun explained that Jill Wharton a para has given her notice to retire in June of 2027.

Kim Croteau, a para at MTC will be retiring immediately. **MOTION:**K. Noonan **MOVED** to accept the retirement of Kim Croteau as presented by the Superintendent. **SECOND:** R. Vogt. **VOTE:** 7.942/0/0/5.058. **Motion passes.**

**Issue #2: Unpaid Leave:** J. Rathbun explained that Darlene Olsen is asking for unpaid leave. She does not have FMLA left. J. Rathbun would recommend the request. **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to approve 30 days of unpaid leave for Darlene Olson as recommended by the administration. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **VOTE:** 7.942/0/0/5.058 **Motion passes.**

**Issue #3: Resignation:** J. Rathbun announced the resignation of Maryann Moran and Heather Keyes.

**MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to leave non-public session ( c ) and enter into non-public session (i). **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 7.942/0/0/5.058 **Motion passes.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Laura L. Aivaliotis  
Recording Secretary**

**Monadnock Regional School District  
School Board Meeting Minutes  
Non-Public Session  
December 16 , 2025  
Monadnock Middle/High School Library, Swanzey, NH**

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

**Administration Present:** J. Rathbun, Superintendent, L. Spencer, Assistant Superintendent and J. Morin, Business Administrator.

**8:20 PM Non-Public Session RSA 91-A:3 II (i) Consideration of matters relating to the preparation for and the carrying out of emergency functions, including training to carry out such functions, developed by local or state safety officials that are directly intended to thwart a deliberate act that is intended to result in widespread or severe damage to property or widespread injury or loss of life.**

**Issue #1:** J.Rathbun explained that he has heard back from Sheriff Rivera regarding an SSO. This police officer will mostly do the truancy, will be armed, the car will be visible and the officer will be able to go to the schools in all of the towns. Currently the district has budgeted for a part time SSO this will be a full time position with a multi-year agreement. The administration would like to move with a plan along with the cost and bring something back to the Board. The Board is in agreement.

**MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to leave Non-Public Session. **SECOND:** S. Peters **VOTE:** 7.942/0/0/5.058. **Motion passes.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Laura L. Aivaliotis  
Recording Secretary**

**January 6, 2026 School Board Meeting  
Budget Transfer**

**Budget Transfers**

1. Requested by: Stephanie Betit-Hancock, Student Services Director

FROM:	01.1200.51150.00.00000	MRMHS Para Salaries	\$64,400.00
TO:	01.1200.54300.09.00000	DW Special Ed Contracted Svcs	\$64,400.00

  - ◆ Amount: \$64,400
  - ◆ Reason: Transfer funds to cover cost of 2 Full-time contracted paraeducators due to unfilled positions and lack of applications for positions at MRMHS.
  
2. Requested by: Jeremy Rathbun, Superintendent

FROM:	01.1100.51150.00.00000	MRMHS Regular Ed Para Salary	\$35,000.00
TO:	01.1112.54490.09.00000	DW Music Equipment Rentals	\$35,000.00

  - ◆ Amount: \$35,000
  - ◆ Reason: To cover the cost of DW music instrument rentals for elementary and middle school students.



**MONADNOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Towns of Swanzey, Richmond, Fitzwilliam, Troy, Gilsum, Roxbury

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Budget Hearing**

Pursuant to RSA 32:5, The Monadnock Regional School District School Budget Committee will hold a public budget hearing at 7:00 pm in the MRMHS Library 580 Old Homestead Hwy, Swanzey, NH on **Thursday January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026** to receive public input on the proposed budget to be acted on at the Annual School District Meeting. (Snow Date: January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026)

The **MRSD Supervisors of the Checklists** will be in session at the following locations, on the dates and times listed below: (RSA 669:5)

- **Swanzey:** Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at Swanzey Town Hall, 7:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- **Richmond:** Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at Richmond Veterans Hall, 7:00 p.m. -7:30 p.m.
- **Fitzwilliam:** Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at Fitzwilliam Town Hall, 7:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- **Gilsum:** Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at the Gilsum Public Library, 7:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
- **Roxbury:** Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at Roxbury Town Hall, 7:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- **Troy:** Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at Town Hall, 7:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

To register or change your registration, voters must attend supervisors' meetings in their respective towns. These will be the only dates and times available to update the checklist before the Deliberative Session.

**Filing for District Offices:**

Persons interested in becoming a candidate for the following school district offices may file for these positions starting **Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026, until Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026**. Those interested **must file in person** at the SAU #93 Central Office, 600 Old Homestead Highway, Swanzey, NH. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. except on Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026, the office will be open until 5:00 p.m. Declarations will not be accepted after 5:00 pm on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

<p><b><u>DISTRICT MODERATOR</u></b> (1) One-Year Term</p> <p><b><u>SCHOOL BOARD</u></b> <b><u>For a Three-Year Term</u></b> (2) Representatives' Swanzey (1) Representative Richmond (1) Representative Fitzwilliam (1) Representative Troy</p> <p><b><u>For a One-Year Term</u></b> (1) Representative Fitzwilliam</p>	<p><b><u>BUDGET COMMITTEE</u></b> <b><u>For a Three-Year Term</u></b> (2) Representatives' Swanzey (1) Representative Troy (1) Representative Roxbury (1) Representative Richmond (1) Representative Fitzwilliam</p> <p><b><u>For a One-Year Term</u></b> (1) Representative Fitzwilliam</p>
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**MRSD Deliberative Session:** will be held on **February 7th, 2026, beginning at 10:00 am** in the MRMHS Auditorium. 580 Old Homestead Hwy. Swanzey, NH 03446

**MRSD Annual Meeting (School District Vote):** **March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026**, in the following locations:

- Fitzwilliam- Town Hall, 11 am - 7 pm
- Gilsum- Gilsum Community Center, 1 pm -7 pm
- Richmond- Veterans' Hall, 11 am -7 pm
- Roxbury- Meeting House, 6 pm - 8 pm (7 pm town meeting)
- Swanzey- Monadnock Regional Middle-High School Gymnasium, 8 am -7 pm
- Troy- Samuel E. Paul Community Center 10 am -7pm

Request for Absentee Ballots for the Monadnock Regional School District may be requested from their local Town Offices during regular business hours, with the exception of Roxbury. Roxbury Absentee Ballots are requested through SAU #93 Office (600 Old Homestead Hwy. Swanzey, NH 03446). Absentee ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by their local Town Office. Roxbury Absentee Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by the SAU #93 Office.

School District Officers will be elected at the second session of the Annual Meeting of the Monadnock Regional School District on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026, in accordance with the statutory election procedures adopted by a vote of the District on March 11, 1996. The School District Warrant for the election of School District Officials will be posted in accordance with Revised Statutes Annotated (RSA) 40:13 in each of the District's member Towns.