

**Monadnock Regional School District
PUBLIC HEARING
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2026 (Not Yet Approved)
MRMHS Library, Swanzey, NH**

Budget Committee Members Present: Ed Sheldon, Wayne Lechluder, Jon Hoden, Robert Audette, Nancy Carney, Betty Tatro, School Board Liaison, Anne Marie Osheyack, Sarah Burgess, Steven Sawyer and Jack Gettens. **Absent:** Doug Bersaw, Bruce Murphy and Open Seats for Roxbury.

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

E. Sheldon opened the Public Hearing at 7:11 PM.

E. Sheldon read ARTICLE ONE: Shall the Monadnock Regional School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations votes separately, totaling \$40,874,456 (\$970,000 is required for federal grants and nutrition grants that are funded by separate State and Federal revenues)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget will be \$41,106,512 (\$970,000 is required for federal grants and nutrition grants that are funded by separate State and Federal revenues) which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Monadnock Regional School District by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40: 13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. The School Board supports / does not support this article. The Budget Committee supports / does not support this article. (Majority vote required): **Discussion:** There were no comments on the proposed budget and the proposed default budget at this time.

E. Sheldon read ARTICLE TWO: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the 3-year Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the Monadnock Regional School Board and the Monadnock Education Support Staff Association (MESSA) for the following increases in wages and benefits at the current staffing level. The estimated increase in the costs for wages and benefits under the collective bargaining agreement are as follows:

Year	Estimated Increase
2026/27	\$250,238 - Salaries <u>\$ 51,049</u> - Wage associated costs \$301,287
2027/28	\$202,411 - Salaries <u>\$ 41,292</u> - Wage associated costs \$243,703
2028/29	\$160,093 - Salaries <u>\$ 32,659</u> - Wage associated costs \$192,752

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$301,287 for the 2026-27 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional cost attributable to the increase in wage and benefits over those of the appropriation at the current staffing level paid in the 2025-26 year. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports / does not support this article. (Majority vote required) Discussion: Bruce Bergstrom asked for the percentage increase of the 3-year contract. J. Morin explained that it is 7% for the first year, 5% for the second year and 4.5% for the third year of the contract. Anne Karasinski asked the number of employees in the MESSA Bargaining Unit. J. Morin explained there are 108 employees which includes paraprofessionals, custodians, secretaries and van drivers.

E. Sheldon read ARTICLE THREE: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to renovate a portion of the roof at the Monadnock Regional Middle High School. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32:3 VI. This will be a non-lapsing warrant article per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until the renovation projects are complete, or June 30, 2029, whichever is earlier. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports / does not support this article. (Majority vote required) DISCUSSION: J. Morin explained that the roof in this article is over the 800s. She explained that there were funds left over from last year's roof repair so the amount being asked for is not the full amount of the roof repair. The funds from the other roof will carry until that article lapses. The District can use those funds for the new roof project. W. Lechlinder asked if there is a Trust for the roofs. J. Hoden commented that we should lay a plan for future roofs. J. Rathbun commented that the Fin/Fac Committee had presented this information in the CIP. J. Morin said that the warrant article is transparent. Whether it is in a Trust Fund or in the article it has to be raised and appropriated.

E. Sheldon read ARTICLE FOUR: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$85,000 to repave a portion of the parking lot at the Monadnock Regional Middle High School. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32:3 VI. This will be a non-lapsing warrant article per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until the renovation projects are complete, or June 30, 2029, whichever is earlier. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports / does not support this article. (Majority vote required) DISCUSSION: Anne Karasinski suggested the students pay to park at the school. She said they charge at other area schools. She also said she had to pay to park when she was in school.

It was explained that the following articles are based on the unfunded balance at the end of the school year. The articles are in order of how the Board would like them to be funded. If there is not enough unfunded balance remaining, Article Five will be funded first, then Article Six and so on.

E.Sheldon read ARTICLE FIVE: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1 to be added to the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum is to come from the June 30, 2026 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2026. No new amount will be raised from taxation. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports / does not support this article (Majority vote required) DISCUSSION: E. Sheldon explained that the \$1.00 will be deposited only if there is an unfunded balance at the end of June. J. Morin explained

that the \$1.00 is a placeholder just in case it has to be increased by a vote at the Deliberative Session due to Special Ed. students moving into the district or current Special Ed. students being placed in a residential facility.

E.Sheldon read ARTICLE SIX: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be added to the District Vehicle Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum is to come from the June 30, 2026 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2026. If there is an insufficient, unassigned fund balance as of June 30, 2026, to fund this appropriation and the appropriation in Article Five, then Article Five will be funded first, with any additional unassigned fund balance to be applied to this warrant article. No new amount will be raised from taxation. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports / does not support this article (Majority vote required) DISCUSSION: There were no public comments.

E. Sheldon read ARTICLE SEVEN: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1 to be added to the School Grounds Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum is to come from the June 30, 2026 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2026. If there is an insufficient, unassigned fund balance as of June 30, 2026, to fund this appropriation and the appropriations in Articles Five and Six, then Five and Six will be funded first, with any additional unassigned fund balance to be applied to this warrant article. No new amount will be raised from taxation. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports / does not support this article (Majority vote required) DISCUSSION: There were no public comments.

E. Sheldon read ARTICLE EIGHT: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be added to the School Bldg. Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum is to come from the June 30, 2026 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2026. If there is an insufficient, unassigned fund balance as of June 30, 2026, to fund this appropriation and the appropriations in Articles Five, Six, and Seven, then Five, Six, and Seven will be funded first, with any additional unassigned fund balance to be applied to this warrant article. No new amount will be raised from taxation. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports / does not support this article (Majority vote required) DISCUSSION: There were no public comments.

E. Sheldon again asked the public or the Budget Committee if there were any questions on the proposed warrant articles. Kathy Bergstrom asked about the Special Ed. Trust Fund. The Board leaves the amount at \$1.00 just in case it needs to be increased at the Deliberative Session. There were no further questions.

E. Sheldon CLOSED the Public Hearing at 7:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Laura L. Aivaliotis
MRSD Recording Secretary**