

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board (Joint w/BC) Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2025
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. Lechliden 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. Lechliden 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. Lechliden. **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