

Monadnock Regional School District & SAU #93
Joint Meeting of the School Board and Budget Committee Agenda
February 17, 2026
MTC Library, Swanzey, NH
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. Mt. Caesar Q&A
 - b. Committees Year-End Wrap-Up
 - c. Board Self-Evaluation
 - d. New Board Member Orientation
 - e. Superintendents Report
4. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION
 - a. * Approve 2026/2027 School Calendar
 - b. * Approve the Consent Agenda (February 3rd Minutes, February 7th Deliberative Minutes, Manifest, Transfers)
5. SETTING NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA
 - a. March 3rd, 2026 @ MRMHS
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:

2/17/2026	Education Committee	6:00 pm	SAU Conference Room
2/17/2026	MTC Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony	6:00 pm	MTC
2/17/2026	MRSD/SAU 93 School Board	7:00 pm	MTC Library
3/3/2026	MRSD/SAU 93 School Board	7:00 pm	MRMHS Library
3/17/2026	MRSD/SAU 93 School Board	7:00 pm	MRMHS Library
3/24/2026	Budget Committee	7:00 pm	MRMHS Library

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

DRAFT 2026-2027 School Year Calendar

August (4 Student Days)

M	T	W	Th	F
	NS	W	W	W
W	SO	26	27	28
31				

8/18 - New Staff Orientation
 8/19 - Workshop Day (Principal)
 8/20 - Workshop Day (District)
 8/21 - Workshop Day (TBD)
 8/24 - Workshop Day (Classroom)
 8/25 - Soft Opening

February (14 Student Days)

M	T	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	W
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
X	X	X	X	X

2/5 - Parent/Teacher Conferences
 2/22-2/26 February Break

September (20 Student Days)

M	T	W	Th	F
	1	2	3	4
X	W	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

9/7 - Labor Day
 9/8 - Workshop Day (Teacher)

March (22 Student Days)

M	T	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	W	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

3/09 - Workshop (District)
 3/12 - End Trimester 2 (elementary)

October (20 Student Days)

M	T	W	Th	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	W
X	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

10/09 - Parent/Teacher Conferences
 10/12 - Columbus Day
 10/30 - End Q1 (MRMHS)

April (17 Student Days)

M	T	W	Th	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
X	X	X	X	X

4/26-4/30 - April Break
 4/2 - End Q3 (MRMHS)

November (16 Student Days)

M	T	W	Th	F
2	W	4	5	6
9	10	X	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	X	X	X
30				

11/3 - Workshop (Teacher)
 11/11 - Veterans Day
 11/25-11/27 Thanksgiving Break

May (20 Student Days)

M	T	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
X				

5/31 - Memorial Day

December (16 Student Days)

M	T	W	Th	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	

12/4 - End Trimester 1 (Elementary)
 12/23-1/1 - Holiday Break

June (8 Student Days)

M	T	W	Th	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	ER	W
W				

6/10 - Last Day For Students
 6/11 - Workshop (Principal)
 6/14 - Workshop (Classroom)
 6/11-6/15 Snow day Make-up if needed
 Snow days 1-5 are built in

January (19 Student Days)

M	T	W	Th	F
				X
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
X	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

1/1 - Holiday Break
 1/18 - MLK Jr. Day
 1/15 - End Semester 1 (MRMHS)

176 Student Days - August 26 - June 10
 188 MDEA Days - August 19 - June 14
 183 MESSA Days (SY) - August 19 - June 11
 MRMHS Graduation - June 5, 2027

Non-Instructional Days

X - Schools are Closed
 W - In Service Workshop Day
 C - Parent/Teacher Conferences
 SO - Soft Opening
 ER - Early Release

Term Endings

October 30 - End of Quarter 1
 December 4 - End of Trimester 1
 January 15 - End of Semester 1
 March 12 - End of Trimester 2
 April 2 - End of Quarter 3

This calendar meets the school year requirements of RSA 189:1 and 189:24 and is subject to change due to storms or other unforeseeable emergencies. 3 make-up days have been noted which will only be used if necessary.

DRAFT - HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED BY THE SCHOOL BOARD

**Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2026 (Not Yet Approved)
Monadnock Regional Middle/High School, Swanzey, NH**

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

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.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Jeff Cesaitis a father and member of the community explained to the Board that his child is being shown pornographic pictures on the bus. The student who is doing this is also sexually assaulting other students inside and outside of the school. There are repeated incidents. He is concerned with the lack of trust. He respectfully requests that this matter be taken care of immediately. There needs to be safeguards on the buses. The district is responsible for protecting the students. Protect the students from the harmful content. This needs to be taken seriously. S. Peters thanked J. Cesaitis for the courage to bring this issue forward. This issue will go to the administration.

3. #celebrateMRSD

a. As part of meeting the administration B.Arguin the Title I Project Manager is here to update the Board on what Title I looks like in the district. She handed out a brochure that she shares with families. She also explained the events for the different grades that are throughout the year. There are 4 schools that benefit from Title I. The 4 schools qualify to be a Title I school. These students are offered Title I services. There are also McKinney-Vento services and tutoring throughout the summer working with Beyond the Bell. There are 177 students over the summer that benefit from this service. The Title I grant funds can only be used for Title I in the marked schools. It can not be used for anything else. The Board asked questions of B. Arguin. They thanked her for attending the meeting.

4. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

a. MTC Grand Opening Ceremonies (February 17th, 6pm) The grand opening of MTC will be on February 17, 2026 at 6:00 PM. There will be a ribbon cutting and staff throughout the school to point visitors in the right direction. Food will be provided for those attending, The gym floor will not be cured but people will be able to see it but not walk on it. J. Rathbun invited the Keene Sentinel and Monadnock Radio Group to attend.

b. Legislative Update: L. Steadman informed the Board of what is going on regarding open enrollment at the State Level. HB751 is a republican backed initiative. There is a letter to encourage our representative to vote against open enrollment. This letter is a unified

stance. HB 1032 is for people with disabilities to count as a part of the quorum by Zoom if they can not attend the meeting. She said so far so good. L.Steadman asked the Board Members if they are interested in being called in by the NHSBA to speak in their areas of expertise. L. Steadman will send the link to the members. **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to authorize L. Steadman to sign the SBAN advisory letter on behalf of the MRSD School Board related to Open Enrollment. **SECOND:** B. Tatro. **DISCUSSION:** S. Peters said that personally he would not sign the letter. The Board has not had time to read the letter. **VOTE:** 6.619/4.547/0/1.834. **Motion passes.**

c. Status of Town Payments: J.Morin informed the Board that Fitzwilliam and Richmond had paid part of December's payment. We are fine at the moment. She is not overly concerned.

d. Process Update-Next Steps in the Sale of Cutler School: J. Rathbun explained that he and J. Morin spoke with Attorney J. O'Shaughnessy and he advised that the District could move ahead. The appraisal came in today at 1.9 million. The lawyer suggests putting this out to bid. They will be in sealed envelopes and the district will set a minimum. This will be discussed in non-public. Once the bid is agreed on the district will notify the State in order to give notice to the Charter Schools. Before anything happens we need to hire an abstractor. We have no paperwork on Cutler and we do not have a deed. We need to move once the abstractor's work is done. This is a common practice for schools in this area. J. Morin commented that we can put Cutler out to bid even without the hiring of the abstractor. If the sale is before June 2026 the funds from the sale will go into the unencumbered fund balance and if the transfer is made after July 1, 2026 there will be options on the March 2027 ballot. The bid opening will be done in non-public and O'Shaughnessy will be in attendance to guide the district.

e. 2026/27 School Calendar-First Read: The 2026/27 School Calendar was presented to the Board as a first read. J. Rathbun explained that we are aligned with KHS due to the Career Center. There is not a lot of flexibility. The Board will be asked to vote at the next meeting.

f. Round 4 Safe Grant Award: J. Rathbun explained that this is the 4th year that the district will be receiving Safe Grant funds. This year the money will go to upgrades on the phone system, Blue Lights, alert system and all of the elementary schools will also have panic buttons and gates for the schools. These are the safety concerns that the administration has flagged. Any ideas from the Board regarding safety measurers contact J. Morin or J. Rathbun.

5. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:

a. Policies for 1st Read:

- i. AB: New Hampshire Parental Bill of Rights**
- ii. BEDG: Meeting Minutes**
- iii. JCA: Change of School Assignment – Best Interests and Manifest Hardship**
- iv. JICK: Bullying Prevention - Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention**

- v. **JLCJA: Emergency Plan for Sports Related Injuries and Additional Protocols for Athletics Participation**
- vi. **GBEBB: Employee-Student Relations**
- vii. **EBBCA: Use and Location of Automated External Defibrillators:**

MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to accept the 7 policies as presented by the Policy Committee. **SECOND:** L.Steadman. **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.834. **Motion passes.**

b. * Approve Program of Studies: MOTION: J. Cesaitis **MOVED** to approve the Program of Studies as presented by the administration. **SECOND:** C.McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.834. **Motion passes.**

c. * Approve grades 3-6 move from Cutler to MTC for the 2026/27 school year: MOTION: L.Steadman **MOVED** to approve the move of grades 3-6 from Cutler School to MTC for the 2026/27 School Year and beyond. **SECOND:** H. Blood. **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.834. **Motion passes.**

d. Warrant Articles in Plain English: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to empower the CRC to meet and adjust language if necessary after the Deliberative Session for the Warrant Articles in Plain English sheet. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.834. **Motion passes.**

e. * Approve the Consent Agenda: January 20, 2026 Public and Non-Public Meeting Minutes, the Manifest \$1,038,238.69: MOTION: R.Vogt **MOVED** to approve the January 20, 2026 Public and Non-Public Meeting Minutes as presented and the Manifest in the amount of \$1,038,238.69. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.834. **Motion passes.**

6. SETTING NEXT MEETING’S AGENDA:

a. February 7, 2026@MRMHS Teacher’s Room (Deliberative): The Board will have the green sheet, MESSA summary sheet and the slide deck presentation available for the public at the Deliberative Session on Feb.7.

- b. February 17, 2026 @MTC**
 - i. Tour & Reception - 6:00 PM**
 - ii. Board Meeting - 7:00 PM**
- c. Committee wrap-ups for the year.**
- d. Ribbon Cutting**

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

8. MOTION TO ADJOURN: MOTION: K. Noonan **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 PM. **SECOND:** C. McDaniel-Thomas. **VOTE:** 11.166/0/0/1.834. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

VOTING KEY: Yes/No/Abstain/Absent

Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)
School Board/Budget Committee Pre/Post Deliberative Session Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2026 (Not Yet Approved)
Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH

Board Members Present: Pre-Deliberative: Scott Peters, Betty Tatro, Brian Bohannon, Rachel Vogt, Jeff Cesaitis, Kristien Noonan, Ed LaPlante, Hannah Blood and Cheryl McDaniel-Thomas,
Absent: Jennifer Strimbeck, Lisa Steadman, Eric Stanley Gina Carraro,

Budget Committee Members Present: Pre-Deliberative: Nancy Carney, Edward Sheldon, Anne Marie Osheyack, Sarah Burgess, Jack Gettens and Steve Sawyer. **Absent:** Wayne Lechliden, Jon Hoden, Bruce Murphy, unassigned seats from Fitzwilliam and Roxbury. Robert Audette and Doug Bersaw.

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

Also Present: Megan Glynn, Board's Attorney and L. Aivaliotis, Recording Secretary.

S.Peters opened the Pre-Deliberative Session at 9:35 AM.

DISCUSSION: Megan Glynn the Board's Attorney and W. Hutwelker, the Moderator were introduced. S.Peters asked if there were any questions for the attorney. S. Peters continued to ask if there were any other questions. There were not any. S. Peters will move Article One. C. McDaniel-Thomas will move Article Two, K. Noonan will move Article Three and B. Bohannon will move Article 4. S. Peters will move the remaining articles and K. Noonan will be the second.

S.Peters recessed the meeting at 9:45 AM until the Deliberative Session at 10:00 AM

DELIBERATIVE SESSION: There are separate Deliberative Meeting Minutes.

Administration Present Post-Deliberative: J. Rathbun, Superintendent and J. Morin, Business Administrator.

Budget Committee Members Present: Post-Deliberative: Location MRMHS Auditorium: Nancy Carney, Edward Sheldon, Anne Marie Osheyack, Sarah Burgess, Jack Gettens and Steve Sawyer. **Absent:** Wayne Lechliden, Jon Hoden, Bruce Murphy, unassigned seats from Fitzwilliam and Roxbury. Robert Audette and Doug Bersaw.

There was no discussion.

MOTION: N. Carney **MOVED** to adjourn the Budget Committee Meeting at 11:00 AM.
SECOND: S. Sawyer **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

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

There was no discussion.

MOTION: S.Peters **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 11:01 AM. **SECOND:** K.Noonan
VOTE: Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

State of New Hampshire
Monadnock School District
Warrant for 2026-27
Deliberative Session February 7, 2026
Monadnock Regional MRMHS Auditorium
Swanzey, NH

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

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Nancy Carney, Edward Sheldon, Anne Marie Osheyack, Sarah Burgess, Jack Gettens and Steve Sawyer. **Absent:** Wayne Lechlides, Jon Hoden, Bruce Murphy, unassigned seats from Fitzwilliam and Roxbury. Robert Audette and Doug Bersaw.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: J. Rathbun, Superintendent, Lisa Spencer, Assistant Superintendent, J. Morin, Business Administrator, C. Czifrik, Director of Technology, Stephanie Betit-Hancock, Director of Student Services, and Laura Weiderman, Director of School Counseling.

ALSO PRESENT: W. Hutwelker, Moderator, K. Thibault, Assistant Moderator and Attorney Megan Glynn.

CALL TO ORDER: W. Hutwelker opened the Deliberative Session at 10:05 AM. He pointed out the exits and the designated seating.

Everyone rose for the Pledge of Allegiance. Isaac and Everett Gorecki, Boy Scouts and students in the district, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

W. Hutwelker explained that the articles will be displayed on the screen. A Board Member will move the article and second the article. Everyone will be able to speak for 3 minutes. This is a SB2 district and the article will move to the ballot as printed or amended if that is what the body wishes to do.

W. Hutwelker introduced Senator Donovan Fenton. Donovan Fenton is the representative for Roxbury and Swanzey. He said he attended KHS which is Monadnock's rival but that is a thing of the past. There are 300 bills in the Senate and a huge portion are around education. It would be amazing to see people get involved at the State level. His office has resources available. He thanked the Board for all they do to educate the children of the district.

W. Hutwelker introduced Megan Glynn, the Board's attorney and K. Thibault the Assistant Moderator.

J. Rathbun thanked everyone for attending the meeting on this snowy morning. He said it is a pleasure to welcome you to this meeting. Everything we do is to educate the students in a safe

learning environment. The administration, teachers and staff are honored to serve this community.

J. Rathbun thanked the principals, the teachers, the support staff and maintenance for all they do for the children of the district. He also thanked L. Sutton for organizing the Deliberative Session flawlessly as well as the IT Dept. and maintenance department.

S. Peters introduced the School Board Members.

E. Sheldon introduced the Budget Committee Members.

W. Hutwelker appreciated the amount of time that the School Board and Budget Committee put into their committees. He thanked K. Noonan for her service as the Fitzwilliam Board Member for the past 8 years. She will now be running for the Swanzey School Board seat in March. He also thanked E. Stanley who has served either as a Board Member or a Budget Committee Member for the past 30 years.

W. Hutwelker invited everyone to the ribbon cutting at MTC on February 17, 2026 at 6:00 PM. He also mentioned that everyone will be required to have an ID in order to vote. No exceptions.

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 this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. (Majority vote required)

MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** Article One to the ballot as written. **SECOND:** K. Noonan.

DISCUSSION: S. Peters presented a chart of the budget drivers which are contractual obligations such as the health insurance increase and the second year of the MDEA contract. The administration has worked very hard and has a proposed budget which is less than the default budget. We are in the third year of the bond payment. There are no million-dollar renovations being asked for due to the elementary school renovations approved by the voters. This is the third year that our cost per pupil is below the State average.

Antoinette Cincotta of Richmond commented that the proposed budget is more than last year's budget, over \$40,000,000. It is 1.7 million more than last year. There are fewer kids and more money does not help education. NH is aging with a steady decline in students. We have the lowest performance in the Nation. One third of the students are illiterate and the Middle School students are worse.

Kim Domasco of Richmond said more money does not mean better schools. Overspending does not mean investment. Spending rises and enrollment is declining.

Lisa Mulhearn has 2 students in the district and is proud of the education they have received. They are at the top of the State in test scores due to the hard work of the teachers, support staff and administration. She thanked the School Board for supporting the teachers who do a great job. She commented that costs are higher everywhere. The School Board and the Budget Committee have done their best for the best education. She supports the School Board and the proposed budget.

D. LeClair of Swanzey commented on the difference between the town and the School district. With the town everything goes through, not the school district. The administration has shown where they made the cuts. The State testing is based on scores. Not every student takes the test. The parents can opt them out of the test. He thanked the administration, School Board and the Budget Committee for dropping the proposed budget below the default.

Antoinette Cincotta of Richmond commented that the health insurance has increased because the staff has doubled. She commented on students from ending up in prison.

E. Kaplan of Gilsum explained that the staff at the high school is fewer. The health insurance is higher and that is a national decision. He can not sit back and hear a comment saying that the students will leave the school and end up in prison. That comment is an insult to all that work in the schools. He is very proud of the students.

James Ward who has been a teacher for 50 years commented that there are some kids that struggle and with less money they would do worse.

Jim Peale explained that students can opt out of the test but not the Special Ed. students. He is a retired attorney in corrections and if you keep cutting the budget you will need more prisons.

Kim Domasco commented that students with A's do not opt out of the test. She stated the percentages that she retrieved from the NHDOE website in subject areas regarding proficiency. She asked if the Board is concerned about the students. B. Bohannon called for order. There is no new information. W.Hutwelker stated she had 1 ½ minutes remaining to speak. K. Domasco continued to speak of the information she found on the NHDOE regarding proficiency.

MOTION: E. Kaplan **MOVED** the question. **SECOND:** M. Symznik. **VOTE:** Voice Vote yes. **Article One will move to the ballot as written.** **MOTION:** E. Kaplan **MOVED** to restrict reconsideration of Article One. **SECOND:** M. Szymcik. **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Motion passes.**

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 this article. (Majority vote required) **MOTION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas **MOVED** Article Two to the ballot as written. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **DISCUSSION:** C. McDaniel-Thomas explained that this is a 3-year contract for the administrative assistants, para professionals, building and grounds, maintenance and van drivers. The article is for the first year in the amount of \$301,287. The remaining 2 years of the contract will be in future proposed budgets. There are step increases to be competitive, wage increases, health insurance cost and language changes.

Antoinette Cincotta of Richmond commented that there are more and more staff. She asked for the number of students and the number of staff members. S. Peters explained that the administration reduced the budget by closing positions that could not be filled. Antoinette Cincotta said that there has been a steady incline of staff since 2001. E. Sheldon commented that since COVID it had been up and down but not now. Some of the staff is based on a student's 504 or IEP. The district is obligated to provide specific help for those students. We need staff. We have not been able to fill positions due to wages.

Gina Munson of Swanzey commented that the district needs paras to help. People can make more at Dunkin Donuts and Target. The paras are always willing to help. Comments being made are untrue and people are welcome in the classroom to see what happens.

Christina Pierce of Fitzwilliam commented that she has a child with a 504 and her child is well above the grade level. We need the staff to provide support for our teachers in a clean and safe building.

W.Hutwelker reminded the audience to address the moderator, not each other.

Lloyd LeBlanc of Fitzwilliam asked if the \$301,287 was in addition to Article One. E. Sheldon explained it was in addition but year 2 and year 3 of the contract will be in future proposed budgets. **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Article Two will move to the ballot as written. MOTION:** E. Kaplan **MOVED** to restrict reconsideration of Article Two. **SECOND:** M. Szymcik. **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Motion passes.**

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 this article. (Majority vote required) **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** Article Three to the ballot as written. **SECOND:** L. Steadman.

DISCUSSION: An aerial picture of the MRMHS roof was on screen. It showed the portion of the roof that needs the repair which is over the 700 section and the roofs that had already been completed. This is part of the CIP. **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Article Three will move to the ballot as written. MOTION:** E. Kaplan **MOVED** to restrict reconsideration of Article Three. **SECOND:** M. Szymcik. **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Motion passes.**

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 this article. (Majority vote required) **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** Article Four to the ballot as written. **SECOND:** K. Noonan.

DISCUSSION: The section in need of repair is on the side of the school by the auditorium and the hill going up to the SAU. A. Cincotta asked about the bidding process. W. Hutwelker explained that you ask two or more contractors for a price in order to get the article on the ballot. When it is approved the project will go out to bid. The article number is the worst-case scenario amount. **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Article Four will move to the ballot as written. MOTION:** E. Kaplan **MOVED** to restrict reconsideration of Article Four. **SECOND:** M. Szymcik. **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Motion passes.**

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 this article (Majority vote required) **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** Article Five to the ballot as written. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **DISCUSSION:** S. Peters explained that \$1.00 will be added to the fund if there are unassigned funds remaining at the end of the fiscal year. This is a place holder just in case a family or student were to move into the district and needed to be placed out of district or required special

accommodations. The amount could be increased at this Deliberative Session. The administration does not see a need to increase the amount at this time. **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Article Five will move to the ballot as written. MOTION:** E. Kaplan **MOVED** to restrict reconsideration of Article Five. **SECOND:** M.Szymcik **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Motion passes.**

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 this article (Majority vote required) **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** Article Six to the ballot as written. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **DISCUSSION:** S.Peters explained this was on the advice of the Budget Committee to have a Vehicle Expendable Trust so there are no surprises. A new vehicle is more than \$25,000 but it is a buffer. He explained that the funds in the expendable trusts are from unspent funds at the end of the fiscal year. There is \$60,496 in the Vehicle Trust currently. E.Sheldon commented that this was recommended by the Budget Committee. It is a small amount to place in the fund and there will be no need for an article when a need for a vehicle comes around. This has a limited impact on the voters. It was also explained that a new vehicle is bought only when the repairs are more than the vehicle is worth or the vehicle has died.

Lisa Mulhearn said that she appreciates the foresight to take the funds ahead of time and to plan ahead for the future. This is protecting me as a taxpayer.

A.Cincotta of Richmond asked where the funds come from. S.Peters said the end of the 2026/27 fiscal year. He did mention that the district has refunded the taxpayers each year. **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Article Six will move to the ballot as written. MOTION:** E. Kaplan **MOVED** to restrict reconsideration of Article Six. **SECOND:** M. Szymcik **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Motion passes.**

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 this article (Majority vote required) **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** Article Seven to the ballot as written. **SECOND:** K. Noonan **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Article Seven will be moved to the ballot as written. MOTION:** E. Kaplan **MOVED** to restrict reconsideration of Article Seven. **SECOND:** M. Szymcik. **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Motion passes.**

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 this article (Majority vote required) **MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** Article Eight to the ballot as written. **SECOND:** K. Noonan. **DISCUSSION:** S. Peters explained that these funds will be used for physical buildings in the district. There are always repairs that need to be done. The \$50,000 is to replenish the account because repairs had to be done. **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Article Eight will move to the ballot as written. MOTION:** E. Kaplan **MOVED** to restrict reconsideration of Article Eight. **SECOND:** M. Szymcik. **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Motion passes.**

Moderator Hutwelker recessed the Deliberative Session at 11:00 AM until the vote on March 10, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

<p>Given under our hands and seal this 11th day of February 2026 By the Monadnock Regional School Board:</p>		
NAME	POSITION	DATE