

**Monadnock Regional School District
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
August 25, 2026
Monadnock Regional School Library**

Members Present: Ed Sheldon, Nancy Carney, Jack Gettens, Anne Marie Osheyack, Diane Benoit-LeBlanc, Jon Hoden and Theresa Morin, **Absent:** Robert Audette, Steven Sawyer, Bruce Murphy, Wayne Lechlides, Sarah Burgess and Unassigned from Roxbury,

Administration Present: J.Morin, Business Administrator.

1. **Call the Meeting to Order:** E. Sheldon called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.
2. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments.
3. **Approval of the June 23, 2026 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes: MOTION:** J. Hoden **MOVED** to approve the June 23, 2026 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** N. Carney **VOTE:** J.Gettens-abstain, T. Morin-abstain and remaining members-yes. **Motion passes.**

4. **Administration Reports:**

a. **Monthly Financial Report/Transfers/Expenses:** J. Morin reported that there were no transfers at the last Board Meeting. The administration is still working on last year's audit. She passed around the Monthly Expense Report to the Committee. The information is unaudited. The Auditors have finished the field work but it is not reflected in the remaining balance being shown. J. Morin explained that the school balances were very close and the district has more of a balance remaining due to the moving budget lines. Some of the encumbered funds might not have been spent for professional development and staff tuition as required by the CBA and that will make the revenues go down. The Board voted to hold for the painting of the gym, painting of the auditorium and wrestling mats. The Trust Fund Report was passed out to the committee.

b. **Staffing:**

i. **Vacancy Update:** The staffing report was reviewed and the committee commented that it looked great.

5. **Recommendation to Board-Operating Budget:** E. Sheldon asked members of the committee for any recommendations for the operating budget. J. Hoden suggested that the warrant articles not including the budget not to exceed 1 million dollars. J. Morin explained that the CIP for the MRMHS is in the works and they are building a plan. She also mentioned the new law in July regarding a tax cap. Depending on the result it could dictate the warrant articles. J. Morin, J. Rathbun and the attorney met this morning to discuss the situation. The SAU budget can not exceed 6% of the operating budget. The District has been under 6% and they are not worried. J.Hoden asked about a new SAU. J.Morin commented that the new SAU would be from the sale of Cutler if the voters agreed. The existing SAU is not ADA compliant. It is a very

challenging building. We are starting the conversation. We do not want to increase taxes. The Board discussion on the Sale of Cutler is in the Board minutes. We are working with the attorney regarding the deed, the Charitable Trust and the sale. There will be a warrant article to decide what to use the funds for another option is a Capital Reserve. The Board will hold a Public Hearing at the Sept.15, 2026 Meeting. Cutler was appraised at 1.2 million dollars. J. Hoden would like to have the warrant articles not more than 1 million dollars total. D. LeBlanc would like a budget neutral. She had figures for the cost of each student in Fitzwilliam. She said the town is paying more than \$31,000 per student. She said Fitzwilliam is paying 7.3 million on 230 kids. J. Gettens commented that Fitzwilliam does not get as much State Aid. N. Carney commented Roxbury has 20 students. A. M. Osheyack is not in favor of budget neutrality. D. LeBlanc said people are losing their homes. A.M. Osheyack said so are the people in the schools. D. LeBlanc said do not increase the budget it is not realistic. A.M.Osheyack will agree with J. Hoden. She said the State is making the decision. The District should not suffer. **MOTION:** J. Hoden **MOVED** to recommend to the Board to keep the total of the warrant articles for 2027-2028 to approximately 1 million dollars not including the operating budget. **SECOND:** N. Carney. **DISCUSSION:** The total of the warrant articles for the 2026-2027 were less than \$500,000. **MOTION:** J. Hoden **MOVED** to amend the motion and change the amount to \$500,000. **SECOND:** D. LeBlanc. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** D.LeBlanc **MOVED** to keep the operating budget for 2027-2028 neutral at \$41,175,000 or less. **SECOND:** J. Hoden. **DISCUSSION:** A. M. Osheyack asked what happens with the increase in insurance and other contracted services. It was commented that we are in a default budget, the transportation is up 3%, the MDEA Contract in the second year and the MESSA Contract. With a neutral budget we are asking the district to absorb and that will mean cuts. J. Hoden would do a 1% increase. A. M. Osheyack said the first thing to go is sports and extra curricular. E. Sheldon commented that the Union Contracts are set, you can not change them. They are 100% off the table. E.Sheldon commented the community is hurting and certain things can not be cut in the budget. J.Hoden likes the idea but needs more facts. He would like the insurance information. E. Sheldon said we need to decide tonight. **VOTE:** N. Carney-no, A. M. Osheyack-no, J. Gettens-no, D. LeBlanc-yes, T. Morin-no, J. Hoden-abstain and E. Sheldon-no. **Motion fails.** **MOTION:** E. Sheldon **MOVED** to recommend to the School Board an Operating Budget for the 2027-2028 School Year to be less than the 2026-2027 Operating Budget plus the contractual obligations increase and fixed cost driver increase. **SECOND:** J. Gettens. **DISCUSSION:** The committee asked about the savings at MTC once all of the students are there and also with the sale of Cutler. J. Morin explained that there are the same amount of students and they will need the same staff. There was a need for a boiler at Cutler which now does not need to be replaced which would have been expensive. She does not foresee any savings in electricity because MTC now has an air system. J. Gettens commented that it will take the current situation and continue it. The Trust Funds are in good shape. This is as deep as we want to go. There is a margin. **VOTE:** J. Hoden-yes, J. Gettens-yes, N. Carney-yes, E. Sheldon-yes, T. Morin-no, D. LeBlanc-no, A. M. Osheyack-no-4.356/3.347/0/**Motion passes.**

6. **By Law review update:** The committee will review the By Laws at the September Meeting.
7. **Superintendent Comments:** J. Morin explained that she and J. Rathbun will elaborate at the next Board Meeting on the tax cap.
8. **School Board Liaison Report:** There was no report from B. Tatro.
9. **Chairperson's Comments:** E. Sheldon informed the committee that the September 22, 2026 Meeting will be in the library at MTC.
10. **Next Meeting's Agenda: The next meeting will be September 22, 2026 @ MTC.**
 - a. **By Law Review**
11. **Public Comments:** There are no public comments.
12. **Motion to adjourn: MOTION:** J. Hoden **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM.
SECOND: D.Benoit-LeBlanc **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
MRSD Recording Secretary