Monadnock Regional School District
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2026
MTC Library, Swanzey,NH

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

Administration Present: J. Rathbun, Superintendent and J.Morin, Business Administrator.
Also Present: B. Taro, School Board Liaison.

1. **Call the Meeting to Order:** E. Sheldon called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.
2. **Tour MTC Renovations:** The administration brought the Budget Committee Members on a tour of the newly renovated MTC. The committee said it looked great. Very impressed.
3. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments.
4. **Approval of the August 25, 2026 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes: MOTION:** S.Burgess **MOVED** to approve the August 25, 2026 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** T. Morin **VOTE:** W. Lechlider-abstain, S. Sawyer-abstain and remaining members-yes. **Motion passes.**

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5. **Administration Reports:**
    a. **Monthly Financial Report/Budget Tracking Report/Transfers/Expenses:** J. Morin asked if there were any questions on the reports she had sent out prior to this meeting. She also sent out the budget transfers for September and October. W. Lechlider asked if the Cutler Cost Center would come off. J. Morin explained it will come off after the sale of the building. Currently we need the electricity, heat, phone and other minimal expenses. The budget for Cutler is $40,000. The administration had heard from the attorney and the Charitable Trust is moving ahead. J.Rathbun said there will be a clean title soon. The only people interested in the building so far are people in Swanzey at the town level. The Board will request a bid for the Cutler Property. The current appraisal is 1.2 million. J. Morin passed out the FY26 Final Revenues to the committee. She said they are looking good and higher than expected. The District has received reimbursement for the legal fees from the School Funding Lawsuit.
    b. **Staffing:**
        i. **Vacancy Update:** The staffing update was passed out to the members. The District is in good shape. J.Morin commented that most of the transfers are to cover vacancies through contracted services. It is close to what we have budgeted. We are still sitting at 6 vacancies. The administration has found a company to contract paraprofessionals.
    c. **Budget Book Timeline:** J. Rathbun explained that once HB1300 has been voted on we will be able to get the budget books out. The books will be on time prior to the School Board/Budget Committee Joint Meeting. J. Rathbun explained HB1300. This is a tax cap for the

budget. All of the voters will vote on this and if it is ⅗ of the vote it will pass. If the vote passes it will affect staff and programs. J. Rathbun passed out a sample of last year's budget if there was a tax cap. Our lawyers say the default can not go over the tax cap. Follow the tax cap or the default can not do both but need to abide by the law. The Adequacy and the Special Ed. Funds are not received by the District until September. If the tax cap passes there will be a separate Public Hearing for the SAU Budget.

6. By Law review update: S.Sawyer volunteered to review the By Laws for the committee. He reported that the verbiage is fine except for the issue of the weighted vote. J. Rathbun explained it is recalculated after the census and based on the town population, the same as the Board's weighted vote. He will send the Board's weighted vote numbers to E. Sheldon for the Budget Committee to use. The Budget Committee will vote on the By Laws at their next meeting.

7. Superintendent Comments: The Joint meeting of the Board and the Budget Committee will be held on December 15, 2026. J. Rathbun explained that we are in really great shape regarding the renovations of the schools. Troy and Gilsum should be wrapped up by December 14, 2026. The third floor of the Troy School is beautiful. Emerson and MTC are completing a punch list. The District is very happy with Hutter Construction. There has been a good relationship. The Board would like to do a study on the SAU. The cost of the study would be around $7200.00. The SAU is not handicapped accessible. The District would like to house the Maintenance, Wilcox, IT Dept. and the SAU in one building.

8. School Board Liaison Report: The Board has reached an agreement with the Specialists.

9. Chairperson's Comments: There will be no meeting in November.

10. Next Meeting's Agenda: The Joint Meeting will be December 15, 2026.

11. Public Comments: There are no public comments.

12. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: J. Hoden **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM. **SECOND:** S.Sawyer **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
MRSD Recording Secretary