

State of New Hampshire
Monadnock School District
Warrant for 2021-2022
Deliberative Session January 30, 2021
Monadnock Regional MSHS Auditorium
Swanzey, NH

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Scott Peters, Lisa Steadman, Kristen Noonan, Karen Wheeler, Brian Bohannon, Michelle Connor, Eric Stanley, Colleen Toomey, Cheryl McDaniel-Thomas, Dan LeClair and Winston Wright. **Absent:** Betty Tatro and Nick Mosher.

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Wayne Lechliden, Adam Hopkins, Jillian Exel, Meghan Foley, Doug Bersaw, Richard HKS Thackston, Dan Coffman, Wayne LaCoste and Edward Sheldon. **Absent:** Phyllis Peterson and Joanne Daris.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: L. Witte, Superintendent, J. Rathbun, Director of Curriculum and Assessment and J. Morin, Business Administrator.

ALSO PRESENT: William Hutwelker, Moderator, K. Thibault, Assistant Moderator and Attorney J. O'Shaughnessy.

CALL TO ORDER: W. Hutwelker opened the Deliberative Session at 10:30 AM and read the warrant.

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

W. Hutwelker thanked the IT Staff, AMT Productions, J. Rathbun, the principals, the administration, teachers, School Board, Budget Committee, the assistant moderators, D. LaPointe, the custodian staff, Lillian Sutton, Michelle Robidoux and the Swanzey PD for their contributions to the Deliberative Session and for all they do for the District.

W. Hutwelker informed the voters there are sign-up sheets for those who would like to speak to a specific warrant. If you do not sign-up you may still speak. Voters were given a card green on one side and red on the other. These cards will be used to vote, green for yes and red for no. He explained we will not be following Robert's Rules of Order. Everyone will be given 3 minutes to speak.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Amanda Grayson would like to know who wrote the public notice regarding those who do not wear masks must go to the Annex. She would like to know who authorized this notice. She has an 87-year-old grandmother who is in attendance and was told could not use the facilities. W. Hutwelker said he appreciates her comments and there are facilities available. Amanda Grayson would also like to know how many people are in attendance at each school.

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 \$32,452,289 (\$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 \$33,564,758 (\$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 does not support this article. The Budget Committee supports this article (majority vote required) **MOTION:** C. Toomey **MOVED** Article One to the ballot as written. **SECOND:** D. Coffman **DISCUSSION:** A. Hopkins of Troy and Chair of the Budget Committee explained the Budget Committee approved a \$855,000.00 reduction to the administrator's proposed budget. The committee averaged the surplus for the past 4 years and divided by 2. The committee believes the administration can find the cuts to make the adjustments. There is a Special Education Expendable Trust and an Emergency Fuel Fund to access. **MOTION:** Nikki Tommila **MOVED** to amend the proposed budget to \$33,307,289.00 which is the School Board's proposed budget. **SECOND:** K. Noonan **DISCUSSION:** D. Bersaw of Roxbury said he is against the motion. B. Robuski of Richmond is against the motion. The taxpayers are being sacked enough. Greg Butko of Richmond said the School Board has plenty of money. W. Lechlinder is opposed to this amendment on the facts stated by A. Hopkins. D. Connell of Richmond said to give the voters a choice in regards to the default and the Budget Committee's proposed. L. Witte explained the default budget is set by the Budget Committee. **VOTE on the amendment: 37-yes and 69-no. Amendment fails.** **MOTION:** D. Bersaw **MOVED** to amend the proposed budget to \$31,970,000.00 which includes the \$970,000.00 for Federal Grants and Nutrition Grants. **SECOND:** Lisa Trager. **DISCUSSION:** D. Bersaw said for the past 4 years the district has spent \$30,000,000.00. There is plenty of room in the budget and without leaving a large surplus. This is reasonable for what has been actually spent to run the district. L. Witte explained the voters passed an article last year that will allow the district to obtain 2.5% of the surplus. To obtain the funds will require a Public Hearing and a vote of the public. B. Bohannon explained the district had received one time funds from the State. Without the funds the surplus would have been closer to \$300,000.00. He does not agree with the Budget Committee. W. Lechlinder would suggest sticking with the Budget Committee's proposed budget. He will not support this proposed number. K. Noonan from Fitzwilliam is against this amendment. The district will not have a large surplus. The surplus was due to COVID funds and one time funds from the State. **VOTE on the amendment: 41-yes and 61-no. Amendment fails.** **MOTION:** K. Wheeler **MOVED** to amend the proposed budget amount to \$33,000,000.00 which includes Federal Grants and Nutrition Grants. **SECOND:** E. Kaplan. **DISCUSSION:** K. Wheeler explained the surplus was due to unexpected funds. S. Peters of Troy said they were unexpected funds from the State. The position of the School Board is we budget for the worst case scenario and hope for the best. We focus on not having a deficit. D. LeClair said the Budget Committee has one job, to set the budget. He will sit with the Budget Committee on their proposed budget number. D. Coffman is opposed to this amendment. Education is important but we need to be fiscally responsible. We have had a surplus for years and we received a refund from the Health Trust. He said he does believe the district will receive State funding and a reduction in health

costs. L. Witte explained the Health Trust refund was unanticipated. We did not know we were getting the surplus. We get the GMR in the Fall and we budget for worse case scenarios because that is responsible. M. Foley commented the Budget Committee had received information from the administration and the breakdown on the surplus said 32% was contributed to COVID. L. Witte said $\frac{1}{3}$ of the total balance that is accurate. B. Bohannon explained without those funds we would have been in the red. D. Bersaw commented for years we have had a surplus not just with COVID. M. Foley said $\frac{2}{3}$ of the surplus is not attributed to COVID. **VOTE: 35-yes and 71-no. Motion fails. MOTION:** D. Connell **MOVED** Article One to the ballot as written. **SECOND:** K. Wallace. **VOTE: 89-yes and 14-no. Motion passes.**

ARTICLE TWO: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$840,000 for renovation projects at the Gilsum STEAM Academy and 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, 2024, whichever is earlier. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee does not support this article. (Majority vote required) **MOTION:** A. Connell **MOVED** Article Two to the ballot as written. **SECOND:** J. Hoden. **DISCUSSION:** D. Scovado of Swanzey would ask the Board to consider adding funds to the Cutler School. He would suggest a MPR to be used by the community as well as the school. **MOTION:** D. Scovado **MOVED** to amend the article by adding \$30,000.00 to review the MPR concept at Cutler. **Motion fails for lack of a second. DISCUSSION on original motion:** S. Peters explained this article is to specifically update the UV Ventilators at Gilsum STEAM Academy and the MRMHS. Article Three is a step toward the renovations in the other 3 schools. D. Coffman explained he was not in favor of this article because of Article One. We need to spend the funds we have passed previously. He asked if these funds will go toward the projects that are underfunded. He supports the HVAC Systems. J. Morin explained the funds are specific to the HVAC Systems. The Tech Center went out to bid but came in over budget. It will be going out again for bids. We had a meeting with the architect for the 4 classrooms and we are moving forward. W. Lechlinder asked why we cannot use the potential funds from the State for the HVAC Systems. L. Witte explained we need to budget for what we need. S. Peters said the Board felt the UV Ventilators are the best choice. L. Steadman said the article is specific to those items stated. D. Coffman said to commit to use the funds from the Feds and give the surplus back to the voters. L. Witte said we want to be fiscally responsible. **VOTE: Voice Vote Yes. Moderator Hutwelker stated Article Two will be moved to the ballot.**

MOTION: A. Wallace **MOVED** to restrict reconsideration of Article One and Article Two. **SECOND:** J. Haynes. **VOTE: Voice Vote Yes: Moderator Hutwelker stated the motion passes.**

ARTICLE THREE: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300,000 for engineering and design work as a result of the district-wide elementary feasibility study. 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 work is complete or June 30, 2024, whichever is earlier. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee does not support this article. (Majority vote required) **MOTION:** E. Stanley

MOVED Article Three to the ballot as written. **SECOND:** W. Lechluder. **DISCUSSION:** **MOTION:** E. Sheldon **MOVED** to amend Article Three to \$299,999.00. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **DISCUSSION:** E. Sheldon explained the change is to have reconsideration by the Budget Committee regarding support or to not support. There are parents in the district who are concerned that we have some of the oldest schools in the State. The School Board has outlined a long term plan for the elementary schools for the next ten years. Without this plan the district will spend more money on renovations. The \$300,000.00 will roughly cost \$50.00 per household. The next step will be a bond. W. Lechluder said he will support this but would caution the bond support. We need to get behind it. B. Bohannon would support the change. The Budget Committee had asked for a long term strategic plan and the School Board delivered. He would like to thank the Budget Committee for their reconsideration of support. C. McDaniel-Thomas explained the brochure presented by the CRC. She said Article Three passing is the next step for applying for State Aid. She would encourage the voters to support the amendment. D. Coffman would echo W. Lechluder and support this amendment and urge folks to support. D. LeClair would ask for support for the students and taxpayers. This will save the district considerably in the future and is best for the kids and voters. D. Connell asked why not support the \$300,000.00. W. Lechluder said the difference was what we did in Article One. A. Hopkins explained the Budget Committee looked at all the articles as a whole. We felt the proposed budget Article One would increase. L. Mango asked if the article on the ballot would change to “Budget Committee supports Article 3” W. Hutwelker said yes. **VOTE: 64-yes and 37-no. Motion passes.**

MOTION: M. Szymcik **MOVED** to restrict reconsideration of Article Three. **SECOND:** B. Bohannon. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

ARTICLE FOUR: 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 Specialists of the Monadnock District 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
2021/22	\$23,221 - Salaries
	(\$2,145) - Change in insurance contribution from 82% to 81%
	\$ 6,493 - Wage associated benefits
	\$ 4,500 - Increase in staff development
	<u>\$ 1,200</u> - Increase in supply allowance
	\$33,269
2022/23	\$17,703 - Salaries
	<u>\$ 5,075</u> - Wage associated benefits
	\$22,778
2023/24	\$16,045 - Salaries
	<u>\$ 4,600</u> - Wage associated benefits
	\$20,645

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$33,269** for the 2021-22 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional cost attributable to the increase in wage and benefits, staff development and supplies over those of the appropriation at the current staffing level paid in the 2020-21 year. The School Board supports this appropriation. The Budget Committee supports this appropriation. (Majority vote required) **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** Article Four to the Ballot as written. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **DISCUSSION:** W. Hutwelker explained this is a contractual agreement between the Specialists and the School District. There can be no amendments. C. McDanial-Thomas explained the Specialists will receive an increase in pay and they in turn will pay more for their insurance. **VOTE: Moderator Hutwelker stated Article Four will be moved to the Ballot.**

ARTICLE FIVE: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the 1-year Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the Monadnock Regional School Board and the Monadnock District Education Association (MDEA) 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
2021/22	\$270,677 - Salaries
	(\$30,500) - Change in insurance contribution from 82% to 81%
	<u>\$ 75,270</u> - Wage associated benefits
	\$315,447

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$315,447** for the 2021-22 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 2020-21 year. The School Board supports this appropriation. The Budget Committee does not support this appropriation. (Majority vote required) **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** Article Five to be placed on the ballot as written. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **DISCUSSION:** D. Gove explained she was part of negotiations. She thanked the School Board and the administration for the work that was done. We feel it is a fair agreement. There is a 2.28% increase for the teachers in their salary and in turn the teacher will pay more for health care. There are 3 contracts on the ballot but they are working toward having alternating years. She hopes there is also support for the MESSA contract. E. Sheldon would encourage the voters to support this article and the MESSA contract. In order to compete we need to have a competitive wage. As a parent he wants the best teachers and does not want the teachers to go to other districts. Support this article. A. Hopkins commented on a \$345,000.00 increase in salaries with an offset of \$30,000.00 in insurance change. That would be 11:1. Greg Butko of Richmond said paying a lot of money for good people is a joke. **VOTE: Moderator Hutwelker stated Article Five will be moved to the Ballot.**

ARTICLE SIX: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the 2-year Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the Monadnock Regional School Board and the Monadnock Educational 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
2021/22	\$92,765 - Salaries (\$19,948) - Change in insurance contribution from 82% to 81% <u>\$18,614</u> - Wage associated benefits \$91,431
2022/23	\$95,998 - Salaries (\$19,948) - Change in insurance contribution from 81% to 80% <u>\$19,316</u> \$95,366

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$91,431** for the 2021-22 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 2020-21 year. The School Board supports this appropriation. The Budget Committee does not support this appropriation. (Majority vote required) **MOVED** B. Bohannon **MOVED** Article Six to the Ballot as written. **SECOND: C. Toomey. DISCUSSION:** S. Duquette of Swanzey and President of the MESSA explained it is a two-year contract which was negotiated in good faith. The insurance share has increased from 82%-18% to 80%-20%. There are increases in hourly pay to be competitive. She would ask for support on Article Six. **VOTE: Moderator Hutwelker stated Article Six will be moved to the Ballot.**

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 Special Education Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum is to come from the June 30, 2021 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2021. No new amount will be raised from taxation. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this appropriation (majority vote required) **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** Article Seven to the Ballot as written. **SECOND: C. Toomey. DISCUSSION:** It was explained there is \$333,922.76 in the Special Education Expendable Trust. L. Witte explained the district has to be in a deficit in the overall budget because of a Special Ed. issue in order to take the funds after a Special Meeting and approval from the voters. **VOTE: Moderator Hutwelker stated Article Seven will be moved to the Ballot.**

ARTICLE EIGHT: Shall the Monadnock Regional School District receive and approve the reports of the agents, auditors, committees, and officers chosen as printed and distributed in the Annual Report? (Majority vote required) **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** Article Eight to be placed on the ballot as written. **SECOND: C. Toomey. VOTE: Moderator Hutwelker stated Article Seven will be moved to the Ballot.**

ARTICLE NINE: Shall the Monadnock Regional School District continue to listen to opinions of a purely advisory nature with regards to the conduct of school affairs for the ensuing year? (Majority vote required) **MOVED** B. Bohannon **MOVED** Article Nine to be placed on the ballot as written. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **VOTE: Moderator Hutwelker stated Article Seven will be moved to the Ballot.**

Moderator Hutwelker recessed the Deliberative Session until the vote on March 9, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
MRSD Recording Secretary

<p align="center">By the Monadnock Regional School Board: Given under our hands and seal this 30th day of January, 2021 Monadnock Regional School Board:</p>		
Name	Position	Date
<i>Justin Fitz</i>	<i>School Board Chair</i>	<i>2-3-21</i>
<i>Krista Noon</i>	<i>School Board - Fitzwilliam</i>	<i>2/4/21</i>
<i>Winston A Wrought</i>	<i>School Board ^{FITZWILLIAM} SWANZEE</i>	<i>2/4/21</i>
<i>David Hill</i>	<i>School Board Swanzee</i>	<i>2/5/21</i>
<i>Caleb King</i>	<i>School Board Swanzee</i>	<i>2/5/21</i>
<i>Alexis Sutton</i>	<i>District Clerk</i>	<i>2/5/2021</i>

