

**State of New Hampshire
Monadnock School District
Warrant for 2023-2024
Deliberative Session February 4, 2023
Monadnock Regional MSHS Auditorium
Swanzey, NH**

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

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Wayne Lechluder, Adam Hopkins, Phyllis Peterson, Doug Bersaw, Richard HKS Thackston, Jon Hoden, Robert Audette, Nancy Carney, Anne Marie Osheyack and Edward Sheldon. **Absent:** Dan Coffman and open seats for Gilsum and Roxbury.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: L. Witte, Superintendent, J. Rathbun, Assistant Superintendent, J. Morin, Business Administrator and C. Czifrik, Director of Technology.

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

CALL TO ORDER: Moderator Hutwelker opened the Deliberative Session at 10:00 AM. Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Isaac Gorecki, a Boy Scout, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator 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. Everyone will be given 3 minutes to speak.

Moderator Hutwelker introduced R. Thackston, State Representative. S. Peters introduced the School Board Members present and mentioned those members who were absent. A. Hopkins introduced the Budget Committee Members present and mentioned those members who were absent.

Moderator Hutwelker commented that this is the first year that he can remember that the School Board, Budget Committee and the administration are all in line with all of the articles.

Superintendent Witte mentioned that this is her 8th Deliberative Session and that none of this could have happened without the hard work of the District Clerk Lillian Sutton.

Superintendent Witte introduced the principals and the administration present.

Moderator Hutwelker thanked the School Board and administration for allowing the public to use the gym on the day of voting. It is greatly appreciated.

Moderator Hutwelker began to read the ballot to inform those present when and where to vote in their towns. He also explained that the articles are on the screen and he will not be reading them unless asked.

ARTICLE ONE: Shall the Monadnock Regional School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty-One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars \$41,500,000 for the purpose of renovating and consolidating the district elementary schools by constructing an addition to Mt Caesar Elementary School and renovating Troy Elementary, Emerson Elementary, and Gilsum STEAM Academy, and to authorize the issue of not more than Twenty-One Million, Five Hundred Thousand Dollars \$21,500,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Chapter 33) and appropriate up to Six Hundred Fourteen Thousand One Hundred Fifty Dollars \$614,150 in interest earned on the invested bond proceeds for purposes of such project; with the remaining balance of Nineteen Million, Three Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand, Eight Hundred Fifty Dollars \$19,385,850 to come from a State Building Aid grant; to authorize the School Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; to authorize the School Board to apply for, obtain, accept and expend any and all Federal, State, or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project, including, but not limited to the Building Grant, and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; and to authorize the School Board to take any and all action necessary in connection therewith or to pass any other vote relative thereto; and furthermore to raise and appropriate an additional sum of Five Hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars \$537,500 for the first year's interest payment on the bond? This project is contingent upon the District being awarded the Building Grant and if the District is not awarded the Building Grant, then this article shall be deemed null and void. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. (3/5 ballot vote required.) MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to place Article One on the ballot as presented. **SECOND:** W. Lechluder **DISCUSSION:** S. Peters explained that K. Barker the Architect for the Elementary School Renovation Project is present and may be called on with questions regarding the presentation. S. Peters put the Elementary School Renovation Project Presentation up on the screen. He explained that this article will raise a bond in the amount of no more than \$21,500,000.00 for the project which is \$41,500,000.00. The State has awarded the District \$19,385,850.00 in Building Aid. The State recognized this District as the 3rd neediest District in the State. They are awarding us a little less than half of the project amount. Over the years the District has put a warrant article on the ballot to take care of some of the renovations that need to be done in the District and the amount of the article is usually between 1 million and 1.5 million dollars. The Board has been keeping a backlog which if we continue at that pace it will take 20 years to complete and with inflation the cost will be \$45,000,000.00 with no new projects. With the State funding the bond will be a low steady payment. He said they are not trying to add but try to have a steady payment over the 20 years. It is a steady even predictable payment for the 20 years. There will be an interest

payment on the bond the first year and then a 1.8 million dollar to a 1.7-million-dollar payment each year for the remaining years of the bond. The District will receive interest on investments due to the fact the funds will not be used all at once. He explained that a $\frac{3}{5}$ vote is required and the State has to fund the Building Aid Program. Once those items are complete the project will start in July. The District will either take a bond in July or January those are the only time options. It will take 3 years for the project to be completed. The plan is to close Cutler and move the students to MTC after the addition and renovations are completed to that school. The Board is not sure what to do with Cutler and we will entertain offers. **Moderator Hutwelker explained Article One will be moved to the ballot as presented. MOTION:** W. Lechlinder **MOVED** to restrict reconsideration of Article One. **SECOND:** J. Hoden. **VOTE:** Voice vote-yes. **Motion passes.**

ARTICLE TWO: Shall the Monadnock Regional School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, totaling \$34,111,157 (\$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 \$34,030,189 (\$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: B. Tatro **MOVED** to place Article Two on the ballot as presented. **SECOND:** E. Sheldon. **Moderator Hutwelker explained Article Two will be moved to the ballot as presented. MOTION:** W. Lechlinder **MOVED** to restrict reconsideration of Article Two. **SECOND:** J. Hoden. **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 \$385,000 for roof replacement at 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 project is complete or June 30, 2026, whichever is earlier. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. (Majority vote required.) MOTION: E. Stanley **MOVED** to place Article Three on the ballot as presented. **SECOND:** J. Hoden. **Moderator Hutwelker explained Article Three will be moved to the ballot as presented. MOTION:** W. Lechlinder **MOVED** to restrict reconsideration of Article Three. **SECOND:** J. Hoden. **VOTE:** Voice vote-yes. **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 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
2023/24	\$202,443 - Salaries \$ 44,636 - Wage associated costs <u>\$ 3,300</u> - Uniforms \$250,379
2024/25	\$ 97,912 - Salaries \$ 22,500 - Opt-Out increase <u>\$ 25,503</u> - Wage associated costs \$145,915
2025/26	\$102,324 - Salaries <u>\$ 21,672</u> - Wage associated costs \$123,996

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$250,379 for the 2023-24 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 2022-23 year. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. (Majority vote required.) MOTION: L. Steadman MOVED to place Article Four on the ballot as presented. SECOND: A.M. Osheyack. DISCUSSION: L. Steadman explained the MESSA Contract is a 3-year contract. Both sides came to an agreement in very good time in October. They focused on increasing the starting pay to \$15.00 for the first year, \$15.25 the second year and starting at \$15.50 the third year. They also increased the opt out of the insurance in the second year of the contract from \$2500.00 to \$5000.00. Beth Guion, a member of MESSA explained the many groups who make up that Union. She said the District has had trouble filling those positions due to the starting pay. Both sides feel this is a fair contract and she would ask everyone to support it. Moderator Hutwelker explained Article Four will be moved to the ballot as presented. MOTION: W. Lechlinder MOVED to restrict reconsideration of Article Four. SECOND: J. Hoden. 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, 2023 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2023. No new amount will be raised from taxation. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. (Majority vote required.) MOTION: K. Noonan MOVED to place Article Five on the ballot as presented. SECOND: P. Peterson Moderator Hutwelker explained Article Five will be moved to the ballot as presented. MOTION: W. Lechlinder MOVED to restrict reconsideration of Article Five. SECOND: J. Hoden. 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 \$50,000 to be added to the District Vehicle Expendable Trust Fund previously established in 2020. This sum is to come from the June 30, 2023 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2023. If there is an insufficient, unassigned fund balance as of June 30, 2023, 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:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to place Article Six on the ballot as presented. **SECOND:** N. Carney **Moderator Hutwelker explained Article Six will be moved to the ballot as presented.** **MOTION:** W. Lechluder **MOVED** to restrict reconsideration of Article Six. **SECOND:** J. Hoden. **VOTE:** Voice vote-yes. **Motion passes.**

ARTICLE SEVEN: 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:** J. Cesaitis **MOVED** to place Article Seven on the ballot as presented. **SECOND:** A. Hopkins. **Moderator Hutwelker explained Article Seven will be moved to the ballot as presented.**

Moderator Hutwelker asked if there were any additional comments. There were no additional comments. He explained the meeting will recess until March 14, 2023 Voting Day. He thanked everyone for attending. The meeting ended at 10:23 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

By the Monadnock Regional School Board:
Given under our hands and seal this 9th day of February 2023
Monadnock Regional School Board:

NAME	POSITION	DATE
<i>Michelle A. Connor</i>	<i>SCHOOL BOARD RICHMOND</i>	<i>2/9/23</i>
<i>Bob [unclear]</i>	<i>School Board Swanzey</i>	<i>2/9/23</i>
<i>Jessie Steadman</i>	<i>School Board Troy</i>	<i>2/10/23</i>
<i>David [unclear]</i>	<i>school board Swanzey</i>	<i>2/10/23</i>
<i>Elizabeth [unclear]</i>	<i>sch board Swanzey</i>	<i>2:18.23</i>
<i>Lillian C. Sutton</i>	<i>MRSD Clerk</i>	<i>2/10/2023</i>

