

2023-24 MRSD Warrant Articles Plain English Version(CONTINUED)

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.)

Plain Language:

The proposed budget is \$34,111,157. This budget amount is \$80,968 more than the default budget, which is \$34,030,189.

The School Board proposed a budget of \$34,361,157, and the Budget committee proposed a lower number of \$34,111,157

The difference and rationale between these numbers is described in the minutes of the Budget Hearing on 1/12/2023 available at www.mrsd.org under Budget & Voting.

The proposed budget does not include any new positions

If the warrant article fails (a NO vote), then the default budget \$34,030,189 will be the max amount that can be spent. This amount represents the minimum requirements to meet contract obligations such as employee wages, bussing, fuel, etc.

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.)

Plain Language:

Article three will provide funding to replace a large portion of the roof at Monadnock Middle High School

AYES vote approves this project

A NO vote means the district cannot replace this roof in 2023/24

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.)

Plain Language:

The current agreement with the Monadnock Education Support Staff Association (MESSA) ends in June 2023.

This association includes paraprofessionals, administrative assistants, building and grounds staff, and tradespeople.

School Board representatives and MESSA representatives have negotiated a new agreement presented above.

This contract includes wage increases to allow the district to compete for these employees, setting the new starting pay at \$15.00/Hr.

Only the 2023-24 costs of \$250,379 are included in this article.

The cost for years 2024-25 and 2025-26 are displayed because if this article passes in the first year, the district is obligated to fund the next two years of the agreement.

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.)

Plain Language:

This is a trust fund designed to give the district financial resources should there be unexpected special education costs.

The balance in this fund as of December 31, 2022 was \$340,671.50.

Leaving this item on the ballot allowed the district to increase the amount during the deliberative session, in case of unforeseen circumstances.

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)

Plain Language:

This is a trust fund designed to give the district financial resources should the need for a district vehicle arise.

The district owns and operates various vehicles such as shuttle vans, plow trucks, etc.

If passed, this article will not raise funds from taxation.

If passed, and ONLY if surplus funds are available at the end of the current fiscal year (June 2023), then up to \$50,000 will be set aside into this trust fund

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)

Plain English:

This article does not require funding; it provides voters with an opportunity to express their opinions of school-related matters during public comments at School Board meetings as well as meetings of any School Board committee.

2023-24 MRSD Warrant Articles Ballot Version

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.)

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Plain Language:

The School District has spent multiple years studying the elementary school facilities and the backlog of safety and compliance projects

In 2021 the taxpayers voted to raise \$299,999 for engineering and design work as a result of the most recent feasibility study

The State of NH has awarded the Monadnock district \$19,385,850 in building fund aid (46.7% of the project cost)

The state building aid is only available to the district if the district raises funds for the remainder of the project

The economics of a 20 year bond will save the district ~\$10 Million and the project work can be completed all at once

The details of the project and it's value can be found at www.mrdsproject.com

Copies of the most recent presentation and financial analysis are available upon request at the SAU Office 600 Old Homestead Hwy. Swanzey, NH 03446

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