

**Monadnock Regional School District
Budget Committee Public Hearing Minutes
January 14, 2021 (Not Yet Approved)
Zoom Virtual Meeting, Swanzey, NH**

Members Present: Wayne Lechluder, Jillian Exel, Dan Coffman, Adam Hopkins, Ed Sheldon, Wayne LaCoste, Phyllis Peterson and Meghan Foley. **Absent:** Richard HKS Thackston, JoAnne Daris, Brian Bohannon, School Board Rep., Doug Bersaw and Open Seat for Roxbury and Open Seat for Gilsum

Administration Present: L. Witte, Superintendent and J. Morin, Business Administration.

Also Present: L. Aivaliotis, Recording Secretary.

1. 7:00 PM Public Hearing regarding the Warrant Articles that will be presented to the voters for the fiscal year 2021-2022:

1a. Public Comments regarding all Warrant Articles that will be presented to the voters for the fiscal year 2021-2022: A. Hopkins explained the Public Hearing process. He said he will read the article and allow 3 minutes for each person to comment.

Article One: Operating Budget: A. Hopkins read Article One and asked for any public comments. The proposed budget from the administration is \$33,307,289.00 and the default is to be set by the Budget Committee. There were no public comments.

Article Two: Renovation to MRMSHS: A. Hopkins read Article Two, to replace the UV Ventilation at the Gilsum STEAM Academy and the wing at the MRMHS in the amount of \$840,000.00 and asked for public comments. There were no public comments.

Article Three: Engineering and Design Work: A. Hopkins read Article Three, engineering and design as a result of the elementary school feasibility study in the amount of \$300,000.00. **Public Comments:** D.

Sepulveda of Swanzey asked for the School Board to consider additional space around or near the Troy School and Cutler. He said the baseball fields in Swanzey should be looked for expansion to the Cutler School.

Article Four: Specialists Contract: A. Hopkins read Article Four, the Specialists Contract. The first year of the three year contract amount is \$33,269.00. There were no public comments.

Article Five: MDEA Contract: A. Hopkins read Article Five, the MDEA Contract. This is a one year contract in the amount of \$315,447.00. **Public Comments:** D. Sepulveda of Swanzey asked about the distribution of salaries regarding the administration and the teachers. He asked about the insurance contribution and if the wages and benefits include retirement and taxes.

Article Six: MESSA Contract: A. Hopkins read Article Six, the MESSA Contract. This is a 2 year contract. The first year of the two year contract amount is \$91,431.00. There were no public comments.

Article Seven: Special Education Expendable Trust Fund: A. Hopkins read Article Seven, the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund in the amount of \$1.00. **Public Comments:** D. Sepulveda of Swanzey asked if the reason for this article was to keep this fund open or is it a balancing of the books.

A. Hopkins explained we will address the question from public comments during the Budget Committee Meeting.

Article Eight: Receive and approve the reports: A. Hopkins read Article Eight and asked for public comments. There were no public comments.

Article Nine: Listen to opinions: A. Hopkins read Article Nine and asked for public comments. D. Sepulveda said this article needs to be more defined. He asked if it is related to COVID. Make it clear. He would like clarification on Article Nine. W. Lechlinder explained Article Eight and Article Nine are on the ballot each year. These articles give the public the

opportunity to have their opinion at the Public Hearing and the Deliberative Session. The Budget Committee does not vote on these articles.

It was suggested anyone wanting to know the information in the contracts could ask a School Board Member. They have that information.

2. A. Hopkins closed the Public Hearing at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary**