

**Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD)**  
**School Board/Budget Committee Pre/Post Deliberative Session Meeting Minutes**  
**January 28, 2021 (Not Yet Approved)**  
**Monadnock Regional MS/HS, Swanzey, NH**

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

**Budget Committee Members Present: Pre-Deliberative:** Wayne Lechluder, Adam Hopkins, Dan Coffman, Meghan Foley, Richard HKS Thackston, Wayne LaCoste, Ed Sheldon and Jillian Exel. **Absent:** Doug Bersaw, JoAnne Daris and Phyllis Peterson.

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

**Also Present:** W. Hutwelker, Moderator, J. O'Shaughnessy, Board's Attorney, K. Thibault, Assistant Moderator and L. Aivaliotis, Recording Secretary.

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

**a. Roll Call-School Board:** S.Peters did a roll call vote for the School Board Members present.

**b. Roll Call-Budget Committee:** A. Hopkins did a roll call vote for the Budget Committee Members present.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no public comments.

**3. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:**

**a. Moderator's Plan for Deliberative Session:** S. Peters explained the Board had asked W. Hutwelker to attend this meeting to explain the plan for the Deliberative Session. He also invited K. Thibault and Attorney J.O'Shaughnessy. W. Hutwelker explained anyone attending Gilsum, Troy, Emerson or MRMHS will be required to social distance and wear a mask. Those not wearing masks for medical reasons will be required to view and sit in the Annex. The Board Members and Budget Committee Members will be asked to attend in their respective schools. The meeting will be on Zoom. If you are not present and registered at one of the locations, you will not be able to vote or participate. There will be an assistant moderator at each location. The primary voting method will be a card vote. K. Thibault will make sure each person speaks for no longer than 3 minutes. Any amendment will be asked to be in writing. W. Hutwelker's expectation is that Articles 1, 2 and 3 will be discussed, Articles 4, 5 and 6 will not have alterations to the contracts and Articles 7, 8 and 9 will be moved quickly. Usually a Board Member will move the article and a Budget Committee Member will second, that is his hope but does not always work that way. Each school will have a signup sheet to speak and we will rotate schools. K. Wheeler is concerned with the rotation. She does not want the biggest school to the

smallest school to speak. She would like to use a clock regarding when someone signed up. W. Hutwelker said he doesn't care about the order but will not be able to handle it by the time. K. Wheeler would respect W. Hutwelker but disagree. Not any one school will dominate. K. Wheeler does not want Gilsum to be the last heard from. W. Hutwelker will have Gilsum speak first on Article One. He said everyone will be allowed to speak. K. Wheeler does not want discrimination. She wants fairness on who signed up first. S. Peters puts his trust in W. Hutwelker. D. Coffman said we need to let W. Hutwelker run the meeting. W. Hutwelker said the votes will be tallied at each school by the assistant moderator and the results will be shared. He will not be reading each article. The articles will be displayed on the screen. K. Wheeler wants fairness and not to have one school dominate the conversation. D. Coffman commented on what W. Hutwelker said about Articles 4, 5 and 6. W. Hutwelker said there can be no change on the contracts. D. Coffman said the Budget Committee would consider changing their support or not support if the proposed budget stayed the same. L. Witte explained they had this conversation. There are no amendments on the contracts. J. O'Shaughnessy said it would put the contracts in jeopardy. It will be ruled out of order. He said he could pole his colleagues. It is being asked if the dollar amount on the article changes can support or not support change. D. Coffman said in the Budget Committee's post meeting if there is no change in the dollar amount the support will not change. L. Witte said it will be clear in the conversation stated in the meeting minutes but will not show on the contract. K. Wheeler said is concerned regarding the way in which people will be able to speak to the article. She would like a clock or time frame. S. Peters said he has heard from K. Wheeler and trusts W. Hutwelker to run the meeting. K. Wheeler does not agree biggest to smallest. She would like a straw vote for each warrant article. L. Witte explained if a warrant article is improperly revised it will not go to the ballot. The articles in question will not change but in the public meeting and the minutes will reflect the support or not support of the articles.

#### **4. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION:**

**a. Motion to recess until January 30, 2021: MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to recess the meeting until January 30, 2021 at 10:00 AM. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **VOTE:** 10.909/.757/0/1.335. **Motion passes.**

#### **DELIBERATIVE SESSION**

**Post-Deliberative Session: School Board Members Present:** B. Bohannon, B. Tatro, M. Connor, K. Noonan, L. Steadman, S. Peters, C. Toomey, W. Wright, Eric Stanley, D. LeClair and C. McDaniel-Thomas. **Absent:** N.Mosher and B. Tatro.

S. Peters asked if any Board Member wanted to make a motion on any of the articles. There were no motions from the members.

**MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to adjourn the Post-Deliberative School Board Meeting at 12:23 PM. **SECOND:** C. Toomey **VOTE:** 11.665/0/0/1.335. **Motion passes.**

**Post-Deliberative Session: Budget Committee Members Present:** M. Foley, E. Sheldon, D. Bersaw, D. Coffman, A. Hopkins, J. Exel and W. Lechluder.

**ARTICLE THREE: MOTION:** W. Lechluder **MOVED** to change the Budget Committee's recommendation on Article Three to support. **SECOND:** E. Sheldon. **DISCUSSION:** W. Lechluder changed to support because the Budget Committee's proposed budget remained the same at the Deliberative Session. He said the administration can manage within the budget amount. D. Coffman agreed with W. Lechluder we need to talk with our friends and neighbors and explain our position and why we changed the support on the article. E. Sheldon said we will see what the administration can do within the operating budget. He is pleased to see the Budget Committee support the amended Article 3. These projects will reduce costs to the taxpayers over the next ten years and now we need to get to work with the School Board to get the bond passed to do the work. W. LaCoste said we all want the best for the students and the school. He has no problem agreeing with this motion. **VOTE:** Unanimous for the Budget Committee Members present. **Motion passes.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** M. Caron said he had good conversations with members of the Budget Committee. He would suggest the Board and the Budget Committee have more joint meetings. He said when reductions are made staff are reduced. Cuts do make an impact.

D. Coffman asked if we are able to discuss reevaluating the contract and renovation articles. A. Hopkins said we do not have the ability to change them. The Budget Committee can overrule the Chair if they want to. His decision is based on the information received from the administration and the attorney.

E. Sheldon said he would love to reconsider but would agree it is not worth it if the article will not change on the ballot. The best thing to do is to talk to the voters and support.

J. Exel said it is not probable to change but she had hoped.

W. Lechluder said it is still about the money. The Town of Swanzey is proposing a new fire station and fire truck and they would like to bond both. We look at things from a fiscal standpoint. It seems the School Board and the administration do not care. We need to take everything into consideration and we did a great job.

W. LaCoste agreed. We want good schools, good teachers and to have them perform.

D. Coffman would have liked to have changed to support on the articles. He does not agree with the statute. He would like to pay teachers but not after they stop working in regards to retirement. He wanted to change to support. He wanted to support the remaining articles. He said it is frustrating not to do that.

M. Foley to reconsider the opinion on the contracts is something worth fighting for but maybe down the road. Appreciate D. Coffman's perspective but move on. *D. Bersaw arrives.*

W. Lechliden suggested getting a hold of J. Khan to have the RSA changed.

D. Bersaw is happy they held the line on Article One.

J. Exel thanked A. Hopkins for a great job as the Chair. E. Sheldon would agree as well.

**Next Meeting:** The Budget Committee will schedule a meeting for March 23, 2021.

**MOTION:** D. Coffman **MOVED** to adjourn the Budget Committee Meeting at 1:05 PM.

**SECOND:** R. HKS Thackston **VOTE:** Unanimous for those. **Motion passes.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Laura L. Aivaliotis**

**MRSD Recording Secretary**