

**Monadnock Regional School District
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
January 29, 2019 (Not Yet Approved)
Monadnock Regional MS/HS Library, Swanzey, NH**

Members Present: Wayne Lechliden, Douglas Bersaw, Jillian Exel, Colleen Toomey, Dan Coffman, Adam Hopkins, Brian Bohannon, School Board Rep., Wayne LaCoste and Tom Matson. **Absent:** Joanne Daris, Thomas Parker, Open Seat for Swanzey and Open Seat for Gilsum

Also Present: L. Witte, Superintendent, J. Swanson, Business Administrator and L. Aivaliotis, Recording Secretary.

1. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments.

2. **Approval of the December 19, 2018 Minutes, January 10, 2019 Minutes and January 10, Public Hearing Minutes:** **MOTION:** D. Bersaw **MOVED** to approve the December 19, 2018 Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** T. Matson. **VOTE:** D. Bersaw-abstain, remaining members-yes. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** A. Hopkins **MOVED** to approve the January 10, 2019 Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** T. Matson. **VOTE:** D. Bersaw-abstain, remaining members-yes. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** A. Hopkins **MOVED** to approve the January 10, 2019 Public Hearing Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** T. Matson. **VOTE:** D. Bersaw-abstain, remaining members-yes. **Motion passes.**

3. **Default Update:** W. Lechliden explained he had a conversation with J. Swanson who explained the \$450,310.00 difference being the contract obligations in the MDEA Contract and the Specialists Contract. J. Swanson explained the GMR had increased 9.2% which is equal to and estimated \$442,686.00. NH Retirement has an increase of \$6300.00 and the transportation is a contracted service which moves forward as well. W. Lechliden explained the Budget Committee supports the Chromebook program and will leave the \$174,000.00 in the replacement equipment line. D. Coffman asked about the \$100,500.00 in the new equipment line. J. Swanson explained they are a recurring expense. L. Witte explained we do not have the level of detail available tonight. D. Coffman commented the Budget Committee needs to have that information. L. Witte explained the purpose of this meeting is to resolve the proposed default number and then after get that information in detail. D. Coffman explained he is not happy with this detail. L. Witte commented if you need detail ask prior to the meeting and she will make it available. W. LaCoste is frustrated,

they need that level of detail. There is no discipline on how these funds are spent or appropriated. C. Toomey commented there are multiple audits going on. D. Coffman commented we know where we spent the funds and he would be happy to go to the Supreme Court to talk about this. If we did not spend it you did a great job or the funds were budgeted wrong. If we did not spend we have had a surplus each year. We have taken more than deserved. Spent it if it deserves to be spent. J. Swanson explained she was not involved in the budget being worked on for the default. Next year you will see a considerable difference. We are trying to make corrections. W. LaCoste commented we are not wiping anything clean we have had a surplus for 2 years. The budget has not been spent or reported correctly but you are holding the Budget Committee to the ramifications of the default budget number. L. Witte commented follow the process. W. LaCoste said we cannot do it correctly if you do not report it correctly. **MOTION:** T. Matson **MOVED** to reaffirm the Budget Committee's default number in the amount of \$31,828,778.00. **Motion fails for lack of second.** J. Exel said the committee needs to put the contractual obligations and the zeroed items back in the default number. L. Witte explained \$800,000.00 in increases are uncontrollable. The proposed budget is \$200,000.00 less than this year's budget. The administration default budget is \$300,000.00 over the proposed budget. The proposed is lower than the default. B. Bohannon commented in order to move forward we need to agree on guidelines. The administration is working to fix the complaints of the Budget Committee. **MOTION:** B. Bohannon **MOVED** to accept the proposed default budget for 2019-2020 in the amount \$32,743,491.00. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **DISCUSSION:** D. Coffman asked if the number is different from what we spent he needs to understand. L. Witte explained there were items in the wrong line. It was commented the Budget Committee signed the default number as \$31,828,779. W. Lechluder said we have until March to change it. It was also commented the attorneys letter is missing key facts. D. Coffman asked how much in legal fees have been sent to date. L. Witte passed out that information to the committee. W. LaCoste commented the rules are one sided. **VOTE:** 1.404/8.008/0/4.588. **Motion fails.** **MOTION:** W. Lechluder **MOVED** accept the proposed default budget for 2019-2020 in the amount of \$32,470,776.00. **SECOND:** D. Bersaw. **DISCUSSION:** W. Lechluder would be removing textbooks in the amount of \$38,400.00, new equipment in the amount of \$107,750.00, replacement equipment in the amount of \$126,565.00 but will leave \$174,000.00 in the replacement equipment for the Chromebook. A total of \$272,715.00 out of the administration's recommended proposed default number. It was commented the default to the barebones plus contractual obligations. T. Matson asked the administration if the budget should be barebones. L. Witte said we need to enable the district to operate if the proposed budget does not pass. B. Bohannon

commented the administration is asking the Budget Committee to follow the law for the default process. The administration has never been accused of the budget as illegal. W. Lechluder said we agree. He said the textbooks are not consumable and can be used again. D. Coffman commented there is room for judgement in regards to one-time expenses. Is there a plan for English books or is there an error in the proposed budget? L. Witte said the attorney's letter speaks to the textbooks, new equipment and replacement equipment. W. LaCoste asked J Swanson how close are you to scrubbing the budget. J. Swanson said we are pretty close but not 100%. She explained we are in the process of 3 audits. L. Witte added we also have had a food service audit and a grant audit. B. Bohannon explained before J. Swanson arrived we had 2 audits still open. We are making progress. We are fixing what needs to be fixed. **VOTE:** 6.950/2.462/0/4.588. **Motion passes.**

4. School Board liaison: B. Bohannon explained the Finance Committee hope to have some proposal on the footprint of the District in the near future.

5. Superintendent's Comments: L. Witte commented on the good conversation tonight.

6. Chairperson Comments: W. Lechluder does not have any additional comments.

7. Setting next meeting: February 2, 2019 Deliberative Session. J. Swanson will ask the DRA how to change the posted default number.

8. Public Comments: The Budget Committee's default number was stated and the administration's number was also stated.

9. Motion to adjourn: MOTION: D. Bersaw **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 PM. **SECOND:** D. Coffman. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary