

Monadnock Regional School District
Finance/Facilities Committee Meeting Minutes
July 21, 2020
ZOOM Virtual Meeting, Swanzey, NH

Members Present: Winston Wright, Betty Tatro, Colleen Toomey, Dan LeClair and Scott Peters. **Absent:** B. Bohannon and Eric Stanley.

Also Present: Janel Morin, Business Administrator and Laura Aivaliotis, Recording Secretary

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

2. **Motions to accept the April 28, 2020 and June 9, 2020 Fin/Fac. Committee Meeting Minutes:** **MOTION:** S.Peters **MOVED** to accept the April 28, 2020 Fin/Fac. Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** W. Wright **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.** **MOTION:** S.Peters **MOVED** to accept the June 9, 2020 Fin/Fac Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** D. LeClair. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

3. **Finance Report:**

a. **Monthly Expense Report:** J. Morin presented the Monthly Expense Report to the committee. She reported they have closed out the FY19/2020. There are still expenses from out of district placement that still need to be paid. We are still providing services to the students throughout the year. There were over \$500,000.00 in purchase orders that were not used. The auditors were reviewing the Students Accounts and controls last week. They also spoke to members of the accounting team on processes. The auditors are gathering information. The auditors will be back in a month. J. Morin would like the audits to be done sooner than later in order to get the information to the towns so they can set their tax rates. There is 4.2% remaining in the 2019/2020 budget.

4. **News From Dave LaPointe:** D. LaPointe attended last week's meeting which was canceled. J. Morin informed the committee on what is happening regarding building and grounds. She said they are getting the buildings ready for school. They are installing touchless faucets and automatic toilets. J. Morin and D. LaPointe prepared a

google sheet on each classroom size. They are installing hand sanitizers in each classroom. She explained the funding for the new equipment will come from transfers and the CARES Fund. They ordered desks district wide and funds will be coming out of the furniture replacement line. The budget transfers will go directly to the Board as discussed in a previous meeting. J. Morin did say she is not sure of the amount or from which account the funds will be transferred from. The transfers will happen later in the year.

5. Update on Kyle Barker joining the committee on Aug. 11, 2020: J. Morin has been in contact with K. Barker. He will be attending the August 11, 2020 Fin/Fac. Meeting. It was suggested to have a Zoom Meeting with K. Barker. B. Tatro asked the committee to come up with questions for K. Barker. S. Peters asked about the State Funding. J. Morin said it is biennium and would suggest the Board put the article on the ballot, do not wait another year. The committee would like to see all of the Options. J. Morin explained K. Barker does not usually give his recommendation but was asked by the Board. D. LaPointe suggested leaving Gilsum and Emerson alone and combining Cutler, MTC and Troy. J. Morin is concerned the elementary school will be too big. It was also suggested to combine MTC and Cutler and bring Troy and Emerson up to MTC standards. It is a little more expensive. She said we are looking at one vote, one bond. She explained there are a lot of apartment complexes going up in the district. That information would need to be looked at. S. Peters asked if there was something different we should have been doing when preparing for this article. It was asked if there was any perspective on the climate and culture regarding the willingness to take on a bond. J. Morin suggested showing the Board and illustrating how a bond would save the district money. C. Toomey commented the article failed because people thought it would cost more money. It was asked if anything has changed due to COVID regarding the permit process including blueprints or State application. J. Morin said that is an excellent question. J. Morin explained there is a July deadline. She has been in contact with Attorney Clark. K. Barker will be able to explain. S. Peters would like to inform K. Barker about any new members to the Board and committee. C. Toomey would like to know if K. Barker knows how other districts have done this and were successful. J. Morin explained K. Barker has a vested interest in this project. He wants Monadnock to succeed. S. Peters asked if K. Barker would be willing to give his presentation on Youtube and the CRC will benefit. We could record the presentation for Youtube. W.Wright commented there are some parents not willing to send their children back to

school, that may be an issue. Another question is Option 5 or another option. C. Toomey said Option 5 is the right choice. We need to look closer at it. It was suggested to get the State Aid first. B. Tatro would agree to stick with Option 5. D. LeClair would agree the hardest part is selling it to the taxpayers but it is the cheapest option. We need to sell this; we need to work hard with the CRC. B. Tatro commented if we change the option we look indecisive. S. Peters agrees. He is not a fan of renovations to the existing buildings. This option is most cost effective and we are not leaving any school in the dust. This will address everyone's needs. C. Toomey explained we need to work with the CRC. S. Peters commented that the CRC needs to know the plan in order to sell it. The CRC needs the information. They need to be out there and visible. B. Tatro explained she and D. LeClair are members of the CRC and asked if anyone would be interested in attending a CRC meeting. S. Peters said it is a challenge that this group only meets once a month. We are not asking the administration for help. We need to do the slideshow and get the information. Either pay a firm or do it ourselves. We may need more meetings and extra effort. It was suggested to let the CRC know K. Barker will be in attendance on August 11, 2020.

The following are the questions for K. Barker (The committee will forward these questions to K. Barker so he can be prepared for the meeting.):

- a. FYI on board and committee members that have changed.
- b. What is the status of State Funding?
- c. Has anything changed in the proposed process or timing? i.e. if a new warrant passes, would the activities that lead up to breaking ground change from what we believed last year (blueprints, permits, state application, etc.)?
- d. Is there something we could/should have done differently when preparing for the warrant article (from the time of Kyle's presentation to the point of the vote)?
- e. Is there a template or presentation visual that would help explain how a bond would save the district money, as opposed to continuing with Option 1 (do nothing), e.g. how a bond would lower taxes?
- f. Are there any outcomes from COVID that might affect our options or the supporting formula? For example, parents deciding to keep their children home, new facility costs or new requirements in building code to accommodate future pandemic?

- g. Any perspectives about our district on the climate/culture/willingness to take on a bond?
- h. What have other districts done successfully to get voter buy-in and complete similar projects?
- i. Is there any new information that would make sense to use/modify the original presentation? (or should we continue with year old numbers?)
- j. How much effort (cost and time) is involved for K. Barker in researching a new option, e.g. combine Troy with Cutler and MTC, modify or replace Emerson, keep Gilsum as is?
- k. Swanzey and Troy both have multiple apartment complexes proposed. Is there any way to gain insight into these projects or anticipate their impact in this planning?
- l. Is Option 5 still appropriate for our district?
- m. Would K. Barker be willing to re-present the original full board presentation, in a Zoom meeting format where we could record and highlight pages of the study and various formulas?

6. Policy Book D and Policy Book F for review: B. Tatro explained she had reviewed Book D and said the policies are really old and need to be checked. S. Peters talked with K. Noonan and they agreed the work with K. Barker and the CIP are priority. We will work on the policies in the Fall.

7. Setting next meeting's date, time and agenda: The committee will discuss the following at the August 11, 2020 meeting:

- 1. Questions for K. Barker

8. Adjourn: MOTION: S. Peters **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 PM.
SECOND: C. Toomey **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
MRSD Recording Secretary