

**Monadnock Regional School District**  
**Finance/Facilities Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**September 29, 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:** L. Witte, Superintendent, Janel Morin, Business Administrator, D. LaPointe, Director of Buildings and Grounds, Laura Aivaliotis, Recording Secretary and A. Hopkins, Budget Committee Chair.

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

**2. Motion to accept the August 24, 2020 Fin/Fac. Committee Meeting Minutes:**

**MOTION:** C. Toomey **MOVED** to accept the August 24, 2020 Fin/Fac Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. **SECOND:** S. Peters. **VOTE:** W. Wright-yes, B. Tatro-yes, C. Toomey-yes, D. LeClair-abstain and S. Peters-yes. **Motion passes.**

**3. Motion to accept the September 9, 2020 Fin/Fac. Committee Meeting**

**Minutes:** **MOTION:** C. Toomey **MOVED** to accept the September 9, 2020 Fin/Fac. Committee Meeting Minutes as amended. **SECOND:** D. LeClair. **VOTE:** S. Peters-yes, B. Tatro-yes, C. Toomey-yes, D. LeClair-yes and W. Wright-abstain. **Motion passes.**

**4. Option Nine and OptionTen:** B. Tatro explained she would like to start with Option 9 and Option 10 and spend time on Option 10. B. Tatro asked J. Morin about the video K. Barker had prepared for the Raymond School District and would be willing to prepare for our district. J. Morin explained K. Barker has not worked on the video yet. The cost will be about \$3000.00. It will take K. Barker about 3 days to do this. It can be done in the next few weeks. B. Tatro informed the committee that K. Barker had prepared a video for the Raymond School District. They were also trying to sell a building project to the voters. B. Tatro said it is a wonderful tool. K. Barker is knowledgeable and articulate. C. Toomey and D. LeClair would agree. K. Barker will create a video regarding our elementary option in the district. L. Witte will find a budget line to cover the cost. J. Morin explained there is no need for a motion. This committee and the CRC want to move forward with this and a motion is not necessary.

There was a question regarding the dollar amount on the warrant article for the design plans for the project. J. Morin will get that information.

D. LaPointe commented people are not informed that is why he thinks the article was defeated. You need to be willing to take cuts elsewhere. B. Tatro commented the district has 3 contracts to negotiate.

**Slide Presentation to the Board:** The committee is preparing a slide show to present to the Board on October 6, 2020. W. Wright commented on Option 10. The cost of Option 5 which was presented to the voters last year had a cost of \$29,420,000.00. Option 10 is to renovate Troy, Emerson and Gilsum and expand MTC and move the Cutler students to MTC. Option 9 requires additional bussing. B. Tatro and K. Barker were concerned about the bussing. S. Peters explained the 15-page report presented by K. Barker contains specific calculations of what the renovation projects will consist of. He said the information is public but has not been discussed with the full Board. W. Wright asked if the administration has heard from the principals about the options. L. Witte said this is up to the Board not the principals. L. Witte said she does not have an opinion except one large elementary would not be feasible. This is a community decision. We can make the educational program work. W. Wright is in favor of Option 10. Option 10 would expand MTC to add Cutler students and have a new MPR. Troy, Emerson and Gilsum will be renovated. The bond cost would be roughly \$14,665,318.00. C. Toomey said it is great to keep all of the kids in their towns but we will have to update old buildings or have two state of the art schools. D. LaPointe said it is old on the outside not the inside. J. Morin said you need to consider COVID and the apartment buildings coming into the towns. Troy and Swanzey may see a population increase. S. Peters said the work at Gilsum is fairly minimal. S. Peters asked why Option 10 besides the cheaper cost. B. Tatro said the towns want their own schools S. Peters said Option 10 allows us to keep pride in each town. B. Tatro said if there are COVID outbreaks they would stay in their towns. **MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to recommend Option 10 to the full Board. **SECOND:** D. LeClair **DISCUSSION:** It was explained the proposal would be to expand MTC, close Cutler and move the students to MTC, renovate Emerson, Gilsum and Troy. The total cost would be \$23,816,000.00; State Aid would be \$11,438,352 with a 20-year bond in the amount of \$14,665,38. J. Morin explained the interest rates are very low at this time. The committee will look at the cost

of the bond for each year and at the CIP. J. Morin gave an example of a bond amount. J. Morin explained the amount of the bond each year would go down and start at around 1.194 million on a 13.8-million-dollar bond. B. Tatro commented that is the amount we pay in renovations each year. S.Peters commented this does not fix the MS/HS or the SAU. They will need attention. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

**5. CIP:** The CIP plan contains information on each school in the district. There are short and long term projects. The items on the plan are prioritized. B. Tatro explained the items in the CIP were developed by D.LaPointe. He has hands-on knowledge. The CIP can be updated each year. It was commented that Cutler has 17 projects which would be resolved if we pursue Option 10. The committee discussed items which should be on the warrant in March. The committee felt the unit ventilators would be best for the kids and staff. S. Peters said the total amount for the CIP items for next year is 3.1 million. He said it will not fly with the voters. We need to slide some of the projects into the future. We cannot ask for 3.1 million, negotiations and design/blueprint fees. D.LaPointe feels the air quality is most important. D. LaPointe has no problem with any of the options but would like to know what we are doing for the cost. Air quality in all of the schools is 2 million dollars. It was commented to forget all of the schools. We need to get the design/blueprint fee warrant passed. L. Witte commented we need to maintain the buildings. D.LeClair asked what if we take a year off for the projects. L. Witte explained we would be behind. Some of the projects cannot be put off. Any hope of return on the buildings would be diminished. The buildings are housing students and staff. C.Toomey asked if the ventilators in some of the buildings are worse than others. L. Witte suggested prioritizing. There is nothing glaring in the air quality reports. C. Toomey commented she does not want to put kids in a bad place for air quality. S.Peters would suggest a \$300,000.00 warrant article for the elementary schools. D.LeClair would be happy to support a \$300,000.00 article and have the CRC do their job and effectively let the voters know what they will be saving. It was commented the MS/HS also needs to be done. D.LeClair and W. Wright would agree. A warrant for \$300,000.00 for design/blueprint fees for the elementary schools and the ventilators for the MS/HS in the amount of \$600,000.00. C. Toomey would like to add the ventilators for Gilsum to the MS/HS article proposal.

The slide presentation will also have a timeline. **L. Witte leaves the meeting.** J. Morin commented on the great illustrative measure to let people know the need. C. Toomey

would agree. S. Peters does not want the Budget Committee or the public to think we have not done our diligence. The committee would like to thank D. LaPointe for all of his hard work. D. LeClair would agree. The slide presentation will have Principles of the CIP. The warrant article for the elementary design/blueprint fees, \$600,000.00 for the MS/HS and \$240,000.00 for the unit ventilators for Gilsum. This totals 1.14 million dollars. S. Peters asked if the committee would like to keep Gilsum separate. C. Toomey commented that Gilsum may not pass alone. **MOTION:** W. Wright **MOVED** to recommend to the full board a CIP warrant article of 1.14 million for the MS/HS and Gilsum ventilators and \$300,000.00 for design/blueprints for the elementary school option. **SECOND:** C. Toomey. **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

**6. Setting next meeting's date, time and agenda:** The committee will discuss the following at the next meeting:

- a. **Review the slideshow presentation**
- b. **Timeline**
- c. **Bond Rate**
- d. **Outcome of Board Presentation on October 6**

**7. Public Comments:** A. Hopkins said the CIP project tool is great. It is easy to digest. It should help sell the plan to the general public. He would disagree with S. Peters regarding not needing one spokesperson. There needs to be a point person, not just anyone from the School Board to answer questions. He would like to see Gilsum separate in order to know how people feel. Pay attention to the proposed budget. There are 3 contracts to negotiate. Keep the rest of the articles light.

S. Peters thanked D. LaPointe for all of his hard work. He deserves a lot of credit.

**8. Adjourn: MOTION:** S. Peters **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 PM. **SECOND:** W. Wright **VOTE:** Unanimous for those present. **Motion passes.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Laura L. Aivaliotis**  
**MRSD Recording Secretary**