

**State of New Hampshire
Monadnock School District
Warrant for 2024-25
Deliberative Session February 3, 2024
Monadnock Regional MSHS Auditorium
Swanzey, NH**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Scott Peters, Lisa Steadman, Kristen Noonan, Eric Stanley, Betty Tatro, Cheryl McDaniel-Thomas, Stephanie Lawlor and Jeff Cesaitis. **Absent:** Dan LeClair, Brian Bohannon, Gina Carraro, Jennifer Strimbeck and Edmund LaPlante.

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Adam Hopkins, Doug Bersaw, Richard HKS Thackston, Dan Coffman, Anne Marie Osheyack, Robert Audette, Nancy Carney, Robert Young and Edward Sheldon. **Absent:** Wayne Lechlides, Jon Hoden and Unassigned representatives from Roxbury and Gilsum.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: J. Rathbun, Superintendent, C. Woods, Director of Student Services, J. Morin, Business Administrator and C. Czifrik, Director of Technology.

ALSO PRESENT: William Hutwelker, Moderator, K. Thibault, Assistant Moderator and Attorney J. O'Shaughnessy.

CALL TO ORDER: W. Hutwelker opened the Deliberative Session at 10:00 AM.

S. Peters, Chair of the School Board introduced the members on the Board.

A. Hopkins, Chair of the Budget Committee introduced the members of the Budget Committee. W. Hutwelker mentioned that this is the last year that A. Hopkins will be serving on the Budget. (Round of applause)

W. Hutwelker thanked the administration, the teachers, the support staff, C. Czifrik, the custodial staff and the nutritional staff for doing so much for the students in the district and for the preparation of this Deliberative Session. (Round of applause). Also an extra thank you to Lillian Sutton, administrative assistant and School District Clerk. (Round of applause). She did an amazing job.

Everyone rose for the Pledge of Allegiance. A. Jones and L. Weber students at Cutler School led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

W. Hutwelker informed the voters that he will not read the article unless he is asked. The articles are displayed on the screen. Everyone will be given 3 minutes to speak. He did explain that there is an open seat in Roxbury for a School Board Member and four seats open for the Budget Committee, Swanzey has 2, Gilsum 1 and Roxbury 1.

Moderator Hutwelker thanked the School Board and administration for allowing the public to use the gym on the day of voting.

Moderator Hutwelker introduced the new Superintendent, J. Rathbun. J. Rathbun explained that he has been working in the district for 22 years. He was a teacher at Emerson, Assistant Superintendent and now the new Superintendent. He welcomed everyone on behalf of the students and staff. He thanked the School Board and the Budget Committee for all of their hard work on the budget for the students. He introduced C. Woods the Director of Student Services and J. Morin, Business Administrator. He thanked J. Morin for all of the hours of work on the budget.

Moderator Hutwelker explained that the district is a SB2 District and at this Session the group will discuss, move the articles to the ballot and vote on March 12, 2024.

ARTICLE ONE: Shall the Monadnock Regional School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations votes separately, totaling \$37,750,000 (\$970,000 is required for federal grants and nutrition grants that are funded by separate State and Federal revenues)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget will be \$37,011,680 (\$970,000 is required for federal grants and nutrition grants that are funded by separate State and Federal revenues) which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Monadnock Regional School District by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40: 13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised Operating budget only. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. (Majority vote required) MOTION: L. Steadman MOVED to forward Article One to the ballot as presented. SECOND: P. Sherring. DISCUSSION: There was no discussion on the article. VOTE: Voice vote yes. Motion passes. W. Hutwelker declared that Article One will be placed on the ballot as presented.

ARTICLE TWO: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the 3-year Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the Monadnock Regional School District and the Specialists of Monadnock District, SAU 93 for the following increases in wages and benefits at the current staffing level. The estimated increase in the costs for wages and benefits under the collective bargaining agreement are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2024/25	\$28,805 - Salaries <u>\$ 7,276</u> - Wage associated costs \$36,081
2025/26	\$27,085 - Salaries <u>\$ 6,869</u> - Wage associated costs \$33,854
2026/27	\$25,492 - Salaries <u>\$ 6,506</u> - Wage associated costs \$31,998

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$36,081 for the 2024-25 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional cost attributable to the increase in wage and benefits over those of the appropriation at the current staffing level paid in the 2023-24 year. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. (Majority vote required) **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to forward Article Two to the ballot as presented. **SECOND:** P. Sherring. **DISCUSSION:** There was no discussion. **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Motion passes.** W. Hutwelker declared that Article Two will be placed on the ballot as presented.

ARTICLE THREE: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1 to be added to the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum is to come from the June 30, 2024 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2024. No new amount will be raised from taxation. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article (Majority vote required) **MOTION:** K. Noonan **MOVED** to forward Article Three to the ballot as presented. **SECOND:** P. Sherring. **DISCUSSION:** **MOTION:** B. Tatro **MOVED** to amend Article Three from \$1.00 to \$54,000.00. **SECOND:** S.Peters. **DISCUSSION:** K. Damasco of Richmond asked if this account is just in case a special ed. student were to move into the district. B.Tatro explained that the Special Ed. Expendable Trust has about \$346,000.00 in it. If a family were to move into the District and require an out-of-district placement the funds would have to come out of the budget and we would have to cut in other places in the budget. K.Damasco asked the cost of an out-of-district placement. C. Woods, Director of Student Services explained that the District has 29 out-of-district placements. The tuition is set by the providers. We are required by law to provide services to the students. There are also day placements. In the current budget there were not enough funds to cover the Special Ed. costs. S. Lawlor commented that there is a lot of new housing coming to the district and we do not know the needs of the students. If there are not enough funds we will have to cut in other places in the

budget. **VOTE on the amendment:** Voice vote yes. **Motion passes.** W. Hutwelker declares that Article Three will be placed on the ballot as amended.

ARTICLE FOUR: Shall the Monadnock Regional School District receive and approve the reports of the agents, auditors, committees, and officers chosen as printed and distributed in the Annual Report? (Majority vote required) MOTION: L.Steadman **MOVED** to forward Article Four to the ballot as presented. **SECOND:** P.Sherring. **DISCUSSION:** There was no discussion. **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Motion passes.** W.Hutwelker declared that Article Four will be placed on the ballot as presented.

Moderator Hutwelker recessed the Deliberative Session at 10:24 AM until the vote on March 12, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Aivaliotis
Recording Secretary

By the Monadnock Regional School Board: Given under our hands and seal this 10th day of February 2024 Monadnock Regional School Board:		
NAME	POSITION	DATE
Kristen Wagoner	School Board Fitzgibbon	2/12/24
Chris Daulton	School Board Swansey	2/12/24
Joe Ro	School Board Swansey	2/12/24
Betty Latno	Board Chair	2-12-24
Bob Allen	Board	2-12-24
Joan Steadman	board	2/12/24
Jillian Sutton	School Board, Troy	2/12/24
	District Clerk	2/13/2024

