

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
MONADNOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
WARRANT FOR 2014-2015  
February 8, 2014**

**Board Members:** Richard Thackston, Mike Blair, Lisa Steadman, James Carnie, Phyllis Peterson, Pat Bauries, Winston Wright, Mike Morrison, Barry Faulkner, Dan Coffman, Robert Smith and Eric Stanley.

**Budget Committee Members:** Wayne Lechluder, Paula Miller, Neil Moriarty, Bruce Tatro, Betty Tatro and Tom Parker.

**Administrators Present:** L. Corriveau, Superintendent, K. Craig, Assistant Superintendent, T. Kennett, Dir. of Student Services and J. Fortson, Business Manager.

**Also present:** Attorney J. O'Shaughnessy and Moderator Hutwelker

**Moderator Hutwelker will be running the meeting.**

Moderator Hutwelker started the public with the Pledge of Allegiance. He explained the School Board, Budget Committee and the Administration have done all the work. This is your meeting. Use the microphone. You will need to state your name and the town you are from. You will have 2 minutes to speak. He would ask that there be no personal attacks. Moderator Hutwelker had the Board, Budget Committee and the administration introduce themselves.

Superintendent Corriveau asked to allow a video to be shown about the MRSD. This is part of a project for the teachers receiving their masters through the New England College in which the classes are offered to the staff at a reduced rate. There were students that also helped on this project.

**Moderator Hutwelker read the ballot as follows:**

**To the inhabitants of the Cooperative School District in the Towns of Fitzwilliam, Gilsum, Richmond, Roxbury, Swanzey and Troy qualified to vote in the District Affairs:**

You are hereby notified to meet at the **Monadnock Regional Middle/High School on Saturday, the 8<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2014 at 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon** for the purpose of hearing an explanation of the following subjects and to carry on any discussion or debate with respect thereto, with said subjects to be open to amendment:

**NOTICE: School District Officers will be elected at the second session of the Annual Meeting of the Monadnock Regional School District on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in accordance with the statutory election procedures adopted by a vote of the District on March 11, 1996. The School District Warrant for the election of School District Officials will be posted in accordance with Revised Statutes Annotated (RSA) 40:13 in each of the District's member Towns.**

**The polls will be open to voters in their towns of residence on March 11th, as follows:**

**Fitzwilliam – Town Hall, 11 am-7pm**  
**Gilsum – Gilsum Elementary School, 1pm-7pm**  
**Richmond-Veterans Hall, 11am-7pm**  
**Roxbury-Meeting House, 6:30pm-mid-meeting**  
**Swanzy-Christian Life Fellowship Church, 8am-7pm**  
**Troy-Troy Elementary School, 10am-7pm**

**Moderator Hutwelker read ARTICLE ONE:** Shall the Monadnock Regional School District raise and appropriate in the operating budget not including appropriations by special warrant articles, which will be voted on separately, totaling \$31,710,655, (\$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 \$32,497,579 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 Revised Statutes Annotated (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:** W. Lechluder **MOVED** Article One as presented to be placed on the ballot. **SECOND:** P. Bauries. **DISCUSSION:** W. Lechluder explained the Budget Committee worked with the School Board and administration and looked at the cost per pupil. He would ask the voters to support this article. T. Matson asked about the increase in line item 2310 and 2319. J. Fortson explained it is not an increase in the SAU it is to put the items where they belong. It is not an increase but a reworking of where things should be. T. Matson also asked about the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent moving to the high school. He asked about the increase in the budget for the move and what is the rationale. There is no increase in the budget for the move. It was explained the move is to motivate and to change the climate at the school. They will help the school move ahead with the common core and it will be a better place for the kids. **MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to amend the motion and zero out the technical integrated specialist line item. **SECOND:** T. Matson. **DISCUSSION:** N. Moriarty commented the District could hire anyone at \$2000.00 a shot. This position will cost about \$100,000.00 including benefits. M. Blair explained the technology program was expanded. The students are using the chrome books daily. The teachers want to be knowledgeable on the chrome books. This position will help in the process to train, implement and align the curriculum we are further implementing in the one to one program. They will observe and help. R. Thackston is in support of the motion. Attorney O'Shaughnessy explained making the line zero does not affect the overall budget. D. Coffman commented the staff has asked the Board for this position. We need to have someone teach the teachers. Betty Tatro commented we had this position before and they are no longer here. N. Moriarty commented the technology committee is not against the chrome books. If you need help you can call an expert. E. Cardine commented this position will support these teachers and also find ways to financially support technology. This is a wise investment. E. Kaplan commented having a person to help support the teachers would be great. He commented it would be great to have help on

daily assignments. W. Lechluder commented this position would help due to the staff reductions. M. Blair commented this position is a coach to assist on a daily basis. **VOTE:** Voice vote no. **Motion fails.**

**MOTION:** T. Matson. **MOVED** to reduce the proposed budget to \$31,000,000.00. **SECOND:** N. Moriarty. **DISCUSSION:** P. Bauries commented the School Board already cut the budget \$700,000.00 than the Budget Committee took out \$90,000.00 to eliminate the chrome books in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades. This is a bare budget. If it is reduced anymore it would be a detrimental to the students and we will have to take more teachers out of the budget. W. Lechluder explained they have trimmed the budget and we need to look at the big picture. The School Board has hired a consultant to look at the District. This is not the time. Erin Kelly commented on the climate in the schools. She said we need to embrace change to serve the students in the district. There needs to be a healthy working environment. She said there are negative attitudes with unhappy staff and students. R. Thackston explained he felt this is one of the most conservative budgets in a decade. J. Carnie explained the administration gave a proposed budget with 1 million in cuts and 1.5 million in cuts. The Finance Committee recommended the \$700,000.00 in cuts. This is the most reasonable presentation in a long time. **MOTION:** R. Thackston **MOVED** to call the question. **SECOND:** Man in audience. **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Motion passes.** **VOTE on amendment:** Voice vote no. **Motion fails.** **MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to zero out the last hired secretary/clerk at the SAU. **SECOND:** T. Matson. **DISCUSSION:** N. Moriarty would consider that position a door lady. We do not need that position. Maybe we need it because we are moving the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent to the high school. This is an added expense we have not used in 60 years. J. Fortson explained there is a \$65,000.00 cut in the SAU, a savings in medicade. This position is helping with the billing and saving the district about \$90,000.00. **VOTE:** Voice vote no. **Motion fails.** **MOTION:** Lady in audience **MOVED** to move the question. **SECOND:** J. Fortson. **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Motion passes.** **VOTE on Article One:** Voice vote yes. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to restrict reconsideration on Article One. **SECOND:** Man in audience. **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Motion passes.**

**Moderator Hutwelker read ARTICLE TWO:** To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,364,000 for renovations at the Monadnock Regional High School-Middle School. State funding of 56% of this amount is expected to be returned to the district to offset the cost. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32:3 VI. This will be a non-lapsing warrant article per RSA 32:7 and will not lapse until the maintenance projects are complete or June 30, 2017 whichever is earlier. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. (Majority vote required). **MOTION:** M. Blair **MOVED** Article Two as presented to be placed on the ballot. **SECOND:** J. Carnie. **DISCUSSION:** **MOTION:** M. Blair **MOVED** to amend to change the second sentence in Article Two as follows: State funding is expected to be returned to the district to partially offset the cost. **SECOND:** J. Carnie. **DISCUSSION:** It was explained DRA has asked the District to remove the language. **VOTE on amendment:** Voice vote yes. **Motion passes.** **DISCUSSION on Article Two:** D. LaPointe explained this is the last year we will be getting funding back. The science rooms are being expanded. They are far too short for what are required by the State.

We will receive 56% back but it may take longer than expected. T. Matson asked to make sure the funds go back to the taxpayers and not into the building fund. He would like to make an amendment on that. J. Fortson explained each year it goes back to offset taxes. This refund is two years out. J. Carnie commented since the beginning of the 5 year plan it was always the intent to give it back to the taxpayers and that will be the intent. **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to restrict reconsideration of Article Two. **SECOND:** J. Fortson. **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Motion passes.**

**Moderator Hutwelker read ARTICLE THREE:** To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$150,000 for repair of health and safety related maintenance items at the District's Elementary Schools. This a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32:3 VI. This will be a non-lapsing warrant article per RSA 32:7 and will not lapse until the maintenance projects are complete or June 30, 2017 whichever is earlier. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. (Majority vote required) **MOTION:** P. Peterson **MOVED** Article Three as presented to be placed on the ballot. **SECOND:** P. Sherring. **DISCUSSION:** P. Peterson listed off the items to be repaired if this article is passed. **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to restrict reconsideration of Article Three. **SECOND:** J. Fortson. **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Motion passes.**

**Moderator Hutwelker read ARTICLE FOUR:** Shall the Monadnock Regional School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be added to the 2003 Special Education Expendable Trust Fund created under Article #5 of the 2003-04 Warrant? The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. (Majority vote required). **MOTION:** W. Hutwelker **MOVED** Article Four as presented to be placed on the ballot. **SECOND:** L. Steadman. **DISCUSSION:** L. Steadman explained the balance in the trust is over the target of \$250,000.00 but at anytime it could be zeroed out due to an out of district student. **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to restrict reconsideration on Article Four. **SECOND:** J. Fortson. **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Motion passes.**

**Moderator Hutwelker read ARTICLE FIVE:** Shall the Monadnock Regional School District raise and appropriate the sum of \$150,000 to be added to the 2012 Before and After School Expendable Trust Fund created under Article #8 of the 2012-2013 Warrant. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. (Majority vote required) **MOTION:** W. Hutwelker **MOVED** Article Five as presented to be placed on the ballot. **SECOND:** W. Wright. **DISCUSSION:** W. Wright would ask for support on this article. The Before and After School Program helps to improve class performance. There are sites at all the schools. The program is funded partially by a 5 year grant each year the grant is less and the District will then have to be sustainable at the end of the 5 years through tuition, collaboration from the towns or other forms. **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to restrict reconsideration of Article Five. **SECOND:** J. Fortson.  
**VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Motion passes.**

**Moderator Hutwelker read ARTICLE SIX:** To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the two-year Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the Monadnock Regional School Board and the Specialists of the Monadnock District for the following increases in wages and benefits at the current staffing levels of 11 employees.

The Specialists and the Board have established a wage scale that will include six (6) of the members. The remaining five (5) members will be placed off scale and receive two percent (2%) raises in each of the two years of the contract. The members of the Specialists group will receive 13 wellness days a year (in lieu of sick days) that will be bought back by the district if unused as of June 30<sup>th</sup> of each year, these shall be paid at the current per diem rate.

The agreement includes a provision that will require the Specialists to pay more for their health insurance. Currently, the District pays 86 percent (86%) of the Blue Cross 3 Tier Plan. In the first year of the contract the district will pay eighty-three percent (83%) and remain the same in the second year of the agreement.

The estimated increase in the costs for wages and benefits under the collective bargaining agreement are as follows:

Year	Estimated Increase:	
2014-2015	\$46,734	Salaries
	\$10,193	Wage Driven Benefits (Social Security, NHRS)
	\$ 2,000	Short Term Disability Coverage
	(\$ 4,942)	Health Insurance Sharing to 87/13 (Blue-Cross 3-Tier driver)
	\$44,681	Unused Wellness days bought back
	<u>\$ 9,745</u>	Wage Driven Benefits (Social Security, NHRS)
	\$108,411	Total
2015-2016	\$ 6,547	Salaries
	\$ 1,428	Wage Driven Benefits (Social Security, NHRS)
	\$ 452	Unused Wellness days bought back
	\$ 99	Wage Driven Benefits (Social Security, NHRS)
	<u>\$ 15,135</u>	Retirement of one employee
	\$ 23,661	Total

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$108,411** for the 2014-2015 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional cost attributable to the increase in wages and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the 2013-2014 fiscal year. The School Board supports this appropriation. The Budget Committee does not support this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

**MOTION:** W. Hutwelker **MOVED** Article Six as presented to be placed on the ballot. **SECOND:** P. Bauries. **DISCUSSION:** P. Bauries explained this group of people has not received a raise in two years. It is about time. If this is passed they will receive a 2% increase in their salary. This is a fair and equitable contract. **MOTION:** J. Fortson **MOVED** to amend the motion. There is a typo and it needs to be corrected. The Health Insurance Sharing is 83/17 not 87/13 as stated in the motion. **SECOND:** M. Blair. **VOTE on amendment:** Voice vote yes. **Motion passes.** **DISCUSSION on motion:** Bruce Tatro asked about the wage driven benefits stated twice. J. Fortson explained. N. Moriarty commented he voted against the 120 sick days and the wellness days. It is crazy. P. Bauries explained the agreement was the three staff coming from the old SAU are able to keep their 120 sick days and they must use their wellness days before the 120 sick days. W. Lechlinder explained the Budget Committee did not support this article. There are only 11 members to make this bargaining unit. R. Thackston commented the School Board has statutory obligations to do this. He commented it is an absolutely dreadful proposal to have an 11 person union is a joke. He will vote against this motion. **VOTE:** Voice vote no. **Motion fails.** This will be placed on the ballot no matter the vote.

**MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to restrict reconsideration of Article Six. **SECOND:** T. Matson. **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Motion passes.**

**Moderator Hutwelker read ARTICLE SEVEN:** To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$60,000 for the purpose of hiring a School Security Officer (SSO) for the district. The School Board hired a School Security Officer for the 2013-2014 school year and would like the position to continue, and is therefore bringing forth this warrant article. The SSO's primary responsibility will be to assist the Monadnock Regional School District in maintaining a safe and orderly educational environment in all of its buildings, schools, parking lots, and on all school grounds. The SSO is responsible for enforcing all school and District polices and assisting in the enforcement of State and Local laws while promoting a safe and drug free environment. The SSO will serve as the District's liaison with Federal, State, County, and local law enforcement and State and Local Emergency Management officials. If passed this position would be included in the operating budget henceforth. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. (Majority vote required). **MOTION:** W. Hutwelker **MOVED** Article Seven as presented to be placed on the ballot. **SECOND:** D. Coffman. **DISCUSSION:** D. Coffman explained the District had a job description for an SRO but then realized we could not call it a SRO or carry a fire arm. The School Board modified the job description to a SSO. The kids, staff and administration get a lot of benefits from this position. If this position passes it will then be placed in the regular budget each year and not put out as a separate article. M. Morrison would support this article to continue to protect our students and staff. **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to restrict reconsideration of Article Seven. **SECOND:** J. Fortson. **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Motion passes.**

**Moderator Hutwelker read ARTICLE EIGHT:** 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:** W. Hutwelker **MOVED** Article Eight as presented to be placed on the ballot. **SECOND:** D. Coffman. **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Motion passes.**

**Moderator Hutwelker read ARTICLE NINE:** To listen to opinions of a purely advisory nature with regards to the conduct of school affairs for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required). **MOTION:** W. Hutwelker **MOVED** Article Nine as presented to be placed on the ballot. **SECOND:** D. Coffman. **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Motion passes.**

**MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to restrict reconsideration of Article Eight and Article Nine. **SECOND:** J. Fortson. **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Motion passes.**

**Moderator Hutwelker read ARTICLE TEN:** To close the Gilsum School as of July 1, 2014, with all unexpended funds returned to the district surplus and used to reduce the tax rate. **By Petition.** **MOTION:** R. Thackston **MOVED** Article Ten as presented to be placed on the ballot. **SECOND:** N. Moriarty **DISCUSSION:** Attorney O'Shaughnessy explained this article is an advisory article. The School Board will decide where the kids go to school regardless it will be put on the ballot. W. Hasbroucke of Gilsum commented the people of Gilsum want their school. The selectmen have been working to get students to come to the Gilsum School. We have a wonderful school. The town had contributed to the renovation of the school. If the School Board closes the Gilsum School they will have to pay Gilsum back. The principal is doing a great job. R. Thackston commented he was involved with the closing of the Surry and Sullivan schools. He said the Sullivan parents are not really happy. Their tax rate also increased. Closing Gilsum is not a good idea at this time. It is not the time to pull the plugs in Gilsum. **MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to allow Cheryl Valenta to speak. She does not live in the District. **SECOND:** W. Lechluder. **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Motion passes.** C. Valenta explained she is a tax payer in Sullivan and her children go to Gilsum. She likes the Gilsum School very much. T. Matson commented based on reading the Board and Budget Committee minutes it is commented it costs significantly more to run the Gilsum School. That is why he put this article on the ballot. It is not fair for the other towns in the District to carry the huge cost. J. Carnie explained when the Finance Committee asked for the 1 million cuts and the 1.5 million cuts closing the Gilsum School was part of the cuts. The Finance Committee did not bring it forward. We should look at it this coming year. **VOTE:** Voice vote no. **Motion fails.**

**MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to restrict reconsideration of Article Ten. **SECOND:** J. Fortson. **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Motion passes.**

**Moderator Hutwelker read ARTICLE ELEVEN:** To put in place reductions in the total budget, to reduce the average cost per pupil by \$500 per year for the next five years, or until the district average cost per pupil reaches the state average. This budget reduction will begin in 2014, and if passed will result in immediate reductions in expenses with a surplus being returned to the district. **By Petition.**

**MOTION:** W. Hutwelker **MOVED** Article Eleven as presented to be placed on the ballot. **SECOND:** G. White. **DISCUSSION:** G. White asked if it is legal for the group to amend the motion. Attorney O'Shaughnessy explained in his opinion the legislative body cannot direct the Board. The Board has an obligation to educate the kids. Do believe it is legal and advisory for the legislative body to amend. **MOTION:** G. White **MOVED** to amend the motion and change the \$500.00 to \$1.00. **SECOND:** Man in the audience. **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie would vote against the amendment. The cost per pupil is very high and the goal of the School Board is to reduce it to the State cost per pupil. The School Board has made an effort but R. Thackston would echo J. Carnie. N. Moriarty will vote against the amendment. **VOTE on amendment:** Voice vote no. **Motion fails.** **DISCUSSION:** T. Matson commented the tuition is about \$16,000.00 per pupil. In other areas the Districts are sending their students to other schools at a \$5000.00 savings per student. R. Thackston commented the School Board has been taking steps to reduce the cost per pupil. We cannot reduce costs as fast as the declining enrollment. We will not sacrifice the student's education. Attorney O'Shaughnessy commented there are other charges involved when sending students to other districts. M. Blair commented we do reduce costs. Our taxes are high but we have a moral obligation to our students. You need to balance the needs and reality. Becky Adams of Gilsum asked if we reduce the cost per pupil will we sacrifice our accreditation. L. Corriveau commented we could it depends on what we will have to reduce. Bruce Tatro commented all the articles are the driving force for the cost per pupil. T. Matson commented this article is to make a 5 year commitment. Having the highest property rate in the state is offensive. D. Coffman commented the administration knows what it is going to take. There are 1800 kids that we are trying to support. Enrollment is declining. We have a consultant coming into the District to help with the possible redesign of the District. **MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to recognize and allow L. Corriveau the opportunity to speak. L. Corriveau is not a member of the District. **SECOND:** P. Sherring. **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Motion passes.** L. Corriveau explained we have cut \$700,000.00 from the proposed budget. It is cut to the bone. We are sensitive. We are trying to be innovative and make changes. People do not like change. We want to help. We have reduced the administration. If we had to cut \$900,000.00 which is being proposed we would jeopardize our accreditation. Class size would suffer. We need to have an independent consultant to look at all the options. If we build an elementary school in Swanze for all the students it would bring the cost per pupil down. You cannot cut your way to excellence. Moving the SAU is a good idea. We are here to help. The article is not good for the District. N. Moriarty commented Jaffrey Rindge has a low cost per pupil. Closing the Gilsum School would save \$525,000.00. **MOTION:** Man in audience. **MOVED** to move the question. **SECOND:** P. Sherring. **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Motion passes.** **VOTE on Article Eleven:** Voice vote no. **Motion fails. This article will appear on the ballot.**

**MOTION:** P. Sherring **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 PM until March 11, 2014. **SECOND:** R. Thackston. **VOTE:** Voice vote yes. **Motion passes.**

**Respectfully submitted,**