

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
MONADNOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
WARRANT FOR 2015-2016
Ballot Version January 31st, 2015**

BOARD MEMBERS: Ed Jacod, Winston Wright, Phyllis Peterson, Mike Blair, Richard Thackston, Barry Faulkner, Betty Tatro, Lisa Steadman, Pat Bauries and James Carnie.

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Wayne Lechliden, Dan Coffman, Tom Parker, Wendy Martel, Bonnie Black, Paula Miller, Kristine Goodenough and Neil Moriarty.

ADMINISTRATION: K. Pfeifer, Interim Superintendent, K. Craig, Assistant Superintendent, L. Carey, Interim Superintendent, T. Kennett, Director of Student Services and J. Fortson, Business Manager.

ALSO PRESENT: L. Kalloger, MS/HS Principal, A. Noel, Gilsum Principal, A. Saulzman, Troy and Emerson Principal and M. Suarez. Mt. Caesar Principal, L. Reinhart, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, Moderator Hutwelker and Keith Thibeault.

Moderator Hutwelker opened the Deliberative Session at 10:00 AM. Everyone stood as Moderator Hutwelker led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. He explained the rules of the meeting.

Moderator Hutwelker explained he will not be following Roberts Rules of Order. He would ask voters who would like to speak on a specific article to sign up but it will not limit those who wish to speak and did not sign up. He would ask everyone who wishes to speak to use the microphone, state their name and town in which they live. Each person will have 3 minutes to comment on the article. The person explaining the article from the Board, Budget Committee or person who wrote the petitioned articles will have up to 10 minutes to speak on the article. K. Thibeault will keep the time. He would ask that phones be placed on silent or turned off all together. The purpose of this meeting is to debate and speak regarding the articles. No one can change the subject of the article. He will allow Attorney J. O'Shaughnessy to speak regarding any legal questions during the meeting. Moderator Hutwelker will not read the article and there will be no motion or second unless the article is amended.

Moderator Hutwelker read the warrant.

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 31st day of January, 2015 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 10th, 2015 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 10th, 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

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 \$31,539,000 (\$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 \$31,564,030 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). **DISCUSSION:** B. Faulkner explained the Budget Committee approved the proposed budget and the School Board supports the number. He is happy both committees are endorsing this proposed budget. He would urge the voters to support it as well. N. Moriarty of Richmond commented the Budget Committee creates the budget, if all the items pass on the warrant we will exceed the amount we are already over on the cost per pupil. N. Moriarty gave a list of items he would suggest cutting in the proposed budget, the Assistant Superintendent position will be combined with the Title One position and her administrative assistant is still in the budget, the AD position and the new tech position, he would suggest certain staff share positions and eliminate the tech person position. He listed other items which total up to \$214,000.00. W. Lechliden explained the Budget Committee started with the administration's proposed number subtracted the track, chrome books, the closing of Wilcox and the \$92,000.00 by combining the Title One-Assistant Superintendent position. There has been a lot of work regarding the Budget Committee's proposed budget. D. Connell of Richmond asked why the cost per pupil is between \$2500.00 and \$3000.00 over the State average. W. Lechliden explained we are not at a point where we can cut more in the budget. We hired consultants to look at the overall district. **Moderator Hutwelker declared Article One will be moved to the ballot as**

presented. MOTION: N. Moriarty **MOVED** to restrict reconsideration of Article One. **SECOND:** R. Thackston. **VOTE:** Voice vote-yes. **Motion passes.**

ARTICLE TWO: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,181,000 for renovations at the Mount Caesar Elementary School. 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, 2018 whichever is earlier. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. (Majority vote required). **DISCUSSION:** Betty Tatro explained some of the items included in Article Two. She explained there are two boilers, a transformer, windows, data wiring and items to correct air quality. She said the Budget Committee and the School Board are in favor of Article Two. T. Parker commented he is not opposed to Article Two because D. LaPointe said it is necessary. He is concerned regarding Article Six. He is asking if the \$630,701.00 coming back from the State as a reimbursement is going to offset the project. **MOTION:** T. Parker **MOVED** to amend Article Two by allowing the \$630,701.00 in Article Six to be used to offset the \$1,181,000.00 with the remaining funds to come from taxation. **Moderator Hutwelker called the amendment out of order.** Moderator Hutwelker explained Article Six has not been debated. The intent of the Budget Committee was to have the funds go back to the taxpayers. **MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to amend Article Two in the amount of \$551,000.00. **SECOND:** T. Parker. **DISCUSSION:** N. Moriarty volunteers at Mt. Caesar and is aware of the electrical problems but believes the cost of this project could be spread over two years. There is no reimbursement from the State. D. Connell asked the tax impact. Moderator Hutwelker asked for the tax impact on the \$551,000.00. J. Fortson did not have that information available. W. Lechliden explained the Budget Committee supports Article Two and not Article Six. He would vote against the amendment. R. Thackston would challenge if we can make an amendment on funds based on the hope if you pass the amendment and Article 6 passes you will not be able to do the job. He would vote against the amendment. J. Fortson explained if Article Six fails it automatically reduces Article Two if it passes it will be put in a Capital Reserve and we will not be able to touch it for a year or so. K. Wheeler would suggest tabling Article Two and discussing Article Six. Moderator Hutwelker would disagree. J. Carnie would suggest moving to Article Six and then going back to Article Two. **MOTION:** R. Thackston **MOVED** to table the discussion on Article Two until there is discussion and movement on Article Six. **SECOND:** N. Moriarty. **DISCUSSION:** J. Stroshine would suggest voting on Article Two then Article Six. D. Connell commented you may not get anything on Article Two but you might on Article Six. **MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** to call the question. **SECOND:** R. Thackston. **VOTE:** Voice vote-yes. **Motion passes. VOTE on motion to table:** Voice Vote-yes. **Motion passes.**

ARTICLE SIX: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$630,701.00 to be added to the 2009 School Building Capital Reserve Fund created under #8 of the 2009 warrant, the sum of which is to be from the return of the School Building Aid resulting from the Monadnock Regional High School-Middle School renovations. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee does not support this article. (Majority vote required). **DISCUSSION:** Bruce Tatro questioned the 2/3 vote to move the question. Moderator Hutwelker stated in his opinion

unless there is a desire to challenge the moderator he will move the meeting. B. Faulkner commented the Article was initiated by the School Board funded by the return of the State Building Aid. If defeated the funds would go back to the voters. The School Board supports this article. W. Lechliden commented the Budget Committee does not support this article. The \$630,701.00 was to go back to the taxpayers. There needs to be money to fix Mt. Caesar. A. Guy of Fitzwilliam asked the balance in the Capital Reserve. J. Fortson stated \$4000.00. **MOTION:** R. Thackston **MOVED** to amend Article Six as follows: To see if the MRSD will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$630,701.00 from the return of the School Building Aid resulting from the MRMS/HS renovations, to be used towards funding renovations under Article Two above if article 2 passes; if Article Two does not pass then shall the MRSD vote to raise and appropriate said amount to be added to the 2009 School Building Capital Reserve Fund created under #8 of the 2009 warrant. **SECOND:** N. Moriarty. **DISCUSSION:** After much discussion R. Thackston and N. Moriarty withdraw their amendment. **MOTION:** R. Thackston **MOVED** to amend Article Six by changing the amount of \$630,701 to zero. **SECOND:** N. Moriarty. **DISCUSSION:** N. Moriarty commented this is the simplest way and then he will withdraw his amendment on Article Two. W. Lechliden commented the Budget Committee will meet after this meeting. This is one of three payments from the State. The District will receive funds for the next two years. B. Price is sorry to hear the Capital Reserve has only \$4000.00 in the account. E. Cardine commented the amendment is dangerous we need to have more than \$4000.00 in the Capital Reserve. M. Szymcik asked the intent. B. Faulkner commented the funds would credit against the town charges and reduce the tax rate. A. Guy commented you are taking the opportunity away from the voters. Do you want funds for the future? We need to spend funds for repairs tomorrow. Allow the voters to vote. N. Moriarty commented we have been spending money for renovations over the years and they have passed. W. Lechliden commented this District is not at a spot where we are able to save. We spend over 1 million dollars a year on renovations. K. Wheeler asked about the interest rate the District would receive in the Capital Reserve. J. Fortson explained it is 1% and we have two accounts. L. Steadman explained for the first year of the 5 year plan the Board used the funds from the Capital Reserve for the renovations. J. Carnie commented the funds from the State Building Aid were intended to go back to the taxpayers and he would agree with W. Lechliden we have decided the funds would go back to the taxpayers. He does agree with this motion. The funds for Mt. Caesar will not receive State Aid. R. Thackston commented the Capital Reserve earns no interest, the balance is \$4,000.00, the reimbursement from the State will continue for 2 more years and this is reasonable and fair to go to zero. **MOTION:** N. Moriarty **MOVED** the question. **SECOND:** R. Thackston. **DISCUSSION:** Bruce Tatro commented a cleaner way of doing it is putting the funds in the Capital Reserve. **VOTE on moving the question:** Voice vote-yes. **Motion passes.** **VOTE on Article Six as amended the amount to "0"** Voice vote-yes. **Motion passes. Moderator declared Article Six will move to the ballot as amended.**

N. Moriarty withdrew his motion to amend on Article Two and T. Parker withdrew his second. Moderator Hutwelker declared Article Two will be moved to the ballot as presented.

MOTION: E. Kaplan **MOVED** to restrict reconsideration of Article Two and Article Six. **SECOND:** N. Moriarty. **VOTE:** Voice vote-yes. **Motion passes.**

ARTICLE THREE: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 for repair of health and safety related maintenance items at the Middle/High School. 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, 2018 whichever is earlier. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. (Majority vote required) **DISCUSSION:** L. Steadman explained the \$100,000.00 will repair the stage floor and for asbestos abatement. **Moderator Hutwelker declared Article Three will be moved to the ballot as presented.**

ARTICLE FOUR: Shall the Monadnock Regional School District raise and appropriate the sum of \$63,500 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) **DISCUSSION:** B. Faulkner explained the article. K. Wheeler said it is a great program but it is not in Gilsum. The program in Gilsum is funded by the Gilsum Recreation Center and now is parent supported. She is not in support of it because it is not District wide. **Moderator Hutwelker declared Article Four will be moved to the ballot as presented.**

ARTICLE FIVE: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to create an expendable trust fund under the provisions of RSA 198-20-c, to be known as the Emergency Fuel Fund 2015, for the purpose of providing funding towards fuel costs when there is an unanticipated increase in the fuel costs, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 from any undesignated fund balance on June 30, 2015, and to name the School Board as agents to expend from this fund. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. (Majority vote required). **DISCUSSION:** W. Wright explained originally this article was created due to the high cost of fuel. The cost of fuel has come down and so has the amount of this article. In the beginning the amount was higher. The Board brought the amount down to \$5000.00 to have a starting point. These funds will come from any surplus. **Moderator Hutwelker declared Article Five will be moved to the ballot as presented.**

MOTION: M. Blair **MOVED** to restrict reconsideration of Article Three, Article Four and Article Five. **SECOND:** N. Moriarty. **VOTE:** Voice vote-yes. **Motion passes.**

ARTICLE SEVEN: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the three 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 level of 9 employees.

The Specialists and the Board have established a wage scale broken down into steps with increases of at least \$1,000. The members of the Specialists group that are off step will get a four point seventy-five percent (4.75%) increase in the first year of the contract, a two percent (2%) increase in the second year and a one point five percent (1.5%) increase in the third year.

This results in a 7.11% wage increase in year one, a 1.99% wage increase in year two and a 1.54% increase in wages for year three.

The agreement includes a provision that will require the Specialists to pay more for their health insurance. Currently, the District pays eighty-six percent (86%) of the Blue Cross 3 Tier Plan, going forward the District will pay Eighty-five percent (85%) of the Matthew Thornton Blue Plan.

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

Year	Estimated Increase:	
2015-2016	\$37,155	Salaries
	\$ 400	Salary for unused sick days
	\$ 8,191	Wage Driven Benefits (Social Security, NHRS)
	\$13,500	Staff Development (to be used over two years)
	(\$ 9,438)	Health Insurance Sharing to 85/15 (Matthew Thornton Blue driver)
	<u>\$ 5,400</u>	Supplies (\$600 per member)
	\$ 55,208	Total
2016-2017	\$11,373	Salaries
	<u>\$ 2,480</u>	Wage Driven Benefits (Social Security, NHRS)
	\$13,853	Total
2017-2018	\$ 8,935	Salaries
	<u>\$ 1,949</u>	Wage Driven Benefits (Social Security, NHRS)
	\$ 10,884	Total

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ **55,208** for the 2015-2016 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in wages and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. The school Board supports this appropriation. The Budget Committee does not support this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

DISCUSSION: L. Steadman explained the contract. She explained there is a 7.11% increase in the first year of the contract because the members have not received a raise in 4 years and there were two members who were under paid. She also explained the insurance. W. Lechliden explained the Budget Committee does not support the contract. They did not get the contract in time to review. P. O'Connor of the Specialists Union explained there are 9 members in the Union due to staff reduction. This group has had their benefits frozen for 4 years. They have also collected \$350,000.00 in Medicaid reimbursements for the District. There are two employees who are significantly under paid. The members will pay more for their insurance. This is a fair agreement and would ask for the voters support. **Moderator Hutwelker declared Article Seven will be moved to the ballot as presented.**

ARTICLE EIGHT: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the three year Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the Monadnock Regional School Board and the Monadnock Education Support Staff Agreement (MESSA) of the

Monadnock District for the following increases in wages and benefits at the current staffing levels of 120 employees.

The agreement includes a one percent (1%) increase in wages, advancement of two steps on the wage scale, and paid half hour lunches for all employees within the unit. The second year of the agreement will include a one percent (1%) wage increase for the Maintenance unit, and a two percent (2%) increase for all other bargaining unit members, advancement of one step on the wage scale for those on step and a \$250.00 stipend to those employees not on a wage step that does not advance in salary. The third and final year of the contract will include a one percent (1%) increase for the maintenance unit and a three percent (3%) increase for all other bargaining unit members, an advancement of one step on the wage scale for those on step and a \$250.00 stipend to those employees not on a wage step that does not advance in salary.

This results in wage increase percentage in year one of 11.11%, in year two of 4.28%, and in year three of 4.01%.

The agreement includes a provision that will require the MESSA to pay more for their health insurance. Currently, the District pays Eighty-Six percent (86%) of the Blue Cross 3 Tier Plan, going forward the District will pay Ninety Three percent (93%) of the Matthew Thornton Blue Plan for year 1, Ninety percent (90%) for year two and Eighty-Five percent (85%) for Year three of the contract.

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

Year	Estimated Increase:	
2015-2016	\$299,460	Salaries
	\$ 55,161	Wage Driven Benefits (Social Security, NHRS)
	(\$168,534)	Health Insurance Sharing to 93/07 (Matthew Thornton Blue driver)
	<u>\$ 200</u>	Added costs for two additional substitute days
	\$186,287	Total
2016-2017	\$128,211	Salaries
	\$23,616	Wage Driven Benefits (Social Security, NHRS)
	<u>(\$50,107)</u>	Health Insurance Sharing to 90/10 (Matthew Thornton Blue driver)
	\$101,720	Total
2017-2018	\$124,881	Salaries
	\$23,003	Wage Driven Benefits (Social Security, NHRS)
	<u>(\$100,427)</u>	Health Insurance Sharing to 85/15 (Matthew Thornton Blue driver)
	\$47,457	Total

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$186,287** for the 2015-2016 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in wages and benefits required by the new

agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. The School Board supports this appropriation. The Budget Committee does not support this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

DISCUSSION: L. Steadman explained the MESSA Agreement. She said it reflects 120 employees, they will be receiving paid lunches in the contract and there is a 1%, 2% and 3% increase in wages over the three years of the contract. The contract is expensive but the employees will now pay more for their health insurance. She explained there is one typo. **MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to correct the typo in the article (one-hundred percent (100%)). **SECOND:** Man in audience. **VOTE:** Voice vote-yes.

Motion passes. W. Lechliden explained the Budget Committee did not receive this contract in time. He will not support this contract. **MOTION:** J. Carnie **MOVED** to amend the article as follows on the end of the third paragraph: The District estimates that the total cost of funding health insurance for these employees will be up to \$1,956,770.71 for the first year of this contract. **SECOND:** N. Moriarty.

DISCUSSION: Moderator Hutwelker explained this is a clarification statement. J. Carnie commented it is an estimate but he is stating up to. This is letting the voters know. The figure is from the Business Manager. To let the voters know the cost of the first year. J. Fortson explained this is only an estimate, figures change over the months of negotiations regarding which plan, married, single, family, and the LGC rate. P. Bauries commented the step employees will be going up 2 steps in the first year which is not usual. The association did set up a matrix, they are also asking for \$250.00 for those members off step. The salary increase allows 120 employees to receive paid lunches. The cost of the paid lunches for the first year is \$191,000.00, over a 5 year period that is over 1 million dollars. The increase in the first year is 11.11%, the second year 4.28% and the third year is a 4.01% for a total of 19% over three years. P. Bauries explained in the last contract the employees received a pool of money for 142 employees due to staff reduction the taxpayers paid 100% of the employee's health insurance. Becky Dion is a paraprofessional and commented on the paid lunches. She said currently they clock out for lunch but there are several people who do not receive lunch because of cut backs. This is a fair contract and is costing the District less. Vote for the contract. D. Connell asked the cost of the health insurance. L. Steadman explained the savings was stated. She said this is not like the previous contract. There are decreases and increases regarding insurance in the contract when people come and go. M. Alexander MESSA President thanked everyone who took a part in the negotiations. She also explained the different groups of members in the Union. She said the reason for the paid lunches is the employees will be paying more for insurance and getting paid less. The extra step in the first year is for those who did not get one. Sharon Thomas commented the paraprofessionals work with some tough kids. They will be receiving an increase but have to pay more for their insurance. E. White of the Budget Committee is concerned the paid lunches could bump someone up to receiving benefits. **Moderator Hutwelker read the amendment.** R. Thackston said this is very good and important event. It makes it clearer with the amendment. It does not change the agreement. It is housekeeping. B. Faulkner commented Article One contains the old contract amounts. Bruce Tatro felt the amendment was very confusing. J. Fortson explained the 2015-2016 budget of \$2,125,305.00 is in the budget to provide insurance. L. Steadman explained the paid lunches are offered to full time employees and will not change the benefits. E. White questioned the "estimated up to" what if the number of employees changes? **VOTE:** Voice vote not clear. Moderator Hutwelker calls for a ballot vote. **Ballot vote:** yes-64, no-49. **Motion passes.**

MOTION: A. Guy **MOVED** to add the words “which is \$168,534.00 less than the amount \$2,125,305.00 which is currently budgeted for such health insurance” to the article. **SECOND:** B. Faulkner. **DISCUSSION:** J. Carnie commented by law you must state the increase this amendment number was based on 145 employees last year and based on other contractual obligations. The amendment confuses the issue. R. Thackston said it gives a defective result. This is improper. We have a clear amendment. If we add another it will confuse the issue and have potential to ruin the whole article. W. Lechlinder agrees with the School Board. It is confusing. M. Szymcik asked how it would be any different from the estimated cost and warning the voters. It was asked why “up to”. B. Faulkner explained the School Board negotiated the contracts in good faith, they supported it and individual members can express their opinion. The School Board has approved and worked with the Unions and is satisfied. J. Fortson said the estimate is based on population and options elected. D. Connell said to change the amendment to 120 employees. Moderator Hutwelker said it would be bothersome. M. Alexander asked why not spell everything out. J. Carnie commented the Supreme Court stated the article has to have the amount of the three year contract. He is making sure everyone in the District is aware of the cost for the 1st year of the agreement. The conversation now is not required. The previous contract was exactly this way and stated the health cost. **A. Guy and B. Faulkner withdrew their amendment.** Someone stated to add “estimate does not affect amount to appropriate”. **Moderator Hutwelker called it out of order.** M. Alexander asked why not any other cost associated to this article. J. Carnie stated the original amendment is what took place in 2012. There may be other cost items but these were necessary under law. R. Thackston commented on the motion as amended. The Negotiating Committee went on as long as they could. It was the 11th hour when we came to terms. This is a reasonable proposal as it sits. The paid lunches are painful, the increase in health insurance is painful but it is in the best interest to pass the contract as negotiated. Items in the last contract were unclear. If it is true and enrollment will decrease it is probable to have a reduction in staff if need be. Bruce Tatro commented on J. Carnie stating required by law. We should refer to the attorney it is misleading as if he was speaking law. Ask the lawyer to be the one to answer the law issues. P. Bauries commented we had an amendment on the language and that passed. There is no longer an amendment. Moderator Hutwelker would agree. Gayle Hummel a Keene resident was allowed to speak. She asked about the \$1,956,770.71 which was already debated. Bruce Tatro asked why the health insurance and why not the salaries. Moderator Hutwelker stated we do not have the figures. J. Carnie has been opposed to this article since it was proposed. He hopes the body objects to the article. He has a problem with the timeline. We were given the contract on Sunday and asked to vote on Monday. It was not done correctly or procedurally. No one can read the contract and make a reasonable decision in 24 hours. He commented on the 11% increase in salaries and the staff being behind step because they did not negotiate a contract. The amount for the paid lunches is not stated in the contract. It was stated 145 employees and we have 120 employees. They had previously received 100% of their health insurance paid. B. Faulkner commented the Emergency Meeting/Session Meeting was called by the Chair and notice was posted. **Moderator Hutwelker declares Article Eight to be moved to the ballot as amended.**

MOTION: N. Moriarty **MOVED** to restrict reconsideration of Article Five, Article Six, Article Seven and Article Eight. **SECOND:** B. Faulkner. **VOTE:** Voice vote –yes. **Motion passes.**

ARTICLE NINE (Formerly ARTICLE ELEVEN): To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will: Close Gilsum School effective June 30, 2015; transfer all Gilsum elementary school students to other district schools at the discretion of the Superintendent & School Board; coordinate use of the Gilsum School building as a community center by the town Of Gilsum through the Select Board of that town and the Superintendent's office of SAU #93 and raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000 for purposes of winterization, utilities and maintaining the building for not more than one year after closing.

By Petition. DISCUSSION: R. Thackston stated he was the originator of this article. He stated in October the School Board voted to close the Gilsum School at the next meeting they changed their mind. The MRSD needs to decide what they want to do. Last year the voters voted to close the Gilsum School and reduce the per pupil cost, it has not been done. It was commented the voters did not know what they were voting for. That is the reason for this article, to bring this issue back to the voters. K. Wheeler commented the motion has too many issues in one motion. In Gilsum we have been working hard to expand STEAM. We have applied to become a Public Charter School. This will secure funds and reduce costs. W. Hasbrouck of Gilsum commented he was shocked when another town said to close our school. Gilsum is the best elementary school in the district. It has a very good facility. We do not want to pull out of the District but if forced we will pull out of the District. Gilsum wants to stay. The Charter School idea has already attracted some students from Swanzey. We will be increasing enrollment. M. Divens commented the voters voted on closing the school based on inaccurate numbers last year. We did not know the exact figure. If we close the school any funds to run the school will not go back to the voters. P. Bauries commented it would be nice to know what the District wants for our District. What happens if the Gilsum Select Board decides to withdraw? NESDEC would like to see all the elementary schools closed, form one elementary school and see all the high school students go to Keene. She would suggest you inform yourself before you vote. E. White commented you need to educate yourself on NESDEC not on what P. Bauries stated. It is very clear they are merely suggestions if we continue we are going to struggle. There is a huge acreage in Swanzey NESDEC suggested all the students go to school in Swanzey not to Keene. E. Jacod of Gilsum was not aware of a presentation in Gilsum that if the decision to close Gilsum would be to withdraw as commented by W. Hasbrouck. Perhaps he did not hear the conversation. R. Thackston commented it is a great program with devoted parents any additional funding is a good thing but that is not the decision of the parent group. To make the program has to be a decision of the School Board it does not mean the group has the School Board's authorization. W. Hasbrouck commented Gilsum is the best school in the area. Bethany of Fitzwilliam would vote no on this article. She likes the idea of giving the program 5 years. It is important to have this program in the District. K. Wheeler commented the School Board approved the Charter School application process moving forward. She would ask the voters for 5 years for the STEAM Program in Gilsum. J. Carnie is concerned the District has already lost two towns. It is not in the best interest, it will impact the high school. We need to take a serious look at STEAM and Gilsum. The School Board and the Budget Committee have not taken a serious look. We have a problem with the number of students but we have a

good facility. S. Silverman commented her children did benefit from starting out in a small school. She does not want to have kindergarten students and 6th graders on the same bus. We need to have individual schools in the towns. P. Sherring commented what happens if Article 11 and Article 12 pass. Moderator Hutwelker commented they are advisory. R. Mitchell commented to continue innovations in Gilsum. The Before and After Program began in Gilsum. That was a great start now the STEAM. W. Martel of Fitzwilliam commented that advisory means nothing. It is not clear. Last year the voters voted to close Gilsum that did not happen. They voted to reduce the cost per pupil by \$500.00 and that did not happen. The School Board is the managing agent for the District. M. Divens commented there are 15,000 voters and only 1500 voted last year. R. Thackston does not believe there are 15,000 voters in the District.

Moderator Hutwelker declared Article Nine to be moved to the ballot as presented.

ARTICLE TEN (formerly ARTICLE TWELVE): To See if the Monadnock Regional School District will continue to operate Gilsum School for a period of not less than Five Years regardless of enrollment or cost, (current number of Gilsum elementary students is estimated at 32, as a Pilot program to develop a so-called STEM curriculum for the Monadnock School District. **By Petition.**

DISCUSSION: R. Thackston wrote this article asking the voters what they want your School District to be. He said if you do not stipulate the 5 years and if passed the School Board will know what the voters are feeling, to be the best School District in the State and willing to pay more or the lowest cost to run.

DISCUSSION: MOTION: Sara of Gilsum **MOVED** to amend Article Twelve by removing “regardless of enrollment or cost, (current number of Gilsum elementary students is estimated at 32)” also remove “so-called”, remove “STEM” and add “STEAM, Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics”

SECOND: M. Divens. **DISCUSSION:** R. Thackston commented this is dishonest. Are you prepared to come back year after year? You are afraid to put it before the voters. R. Mitchell disagrees. This is advisory. We are not getting a blank check. K. Wheeler commented on the energy and positive thoughts on ways to come up with the funding. D. Coffman commented if the program does not grow he will not vote for it. Swanzey has to pay for it all and it is not available to them. You have not done enough to bring more people in and bring awareness to the program. He will not continue to subsidize for 12 kids. W. Hasbrouck commented the cost per pupil is less than what it was and will continue to go down. They want a good basic start. J. Carnie commented there is a bit of bias in which the article was written. It is difficult to keep the number of students because the School Board proposed closing the school and reversed itself. The vote to close came in one month after the start. We need to deal with the cost but we need to look at the education aspects of this program. You need to give the education to all the students in the District. A member from Gilsum is concerned with continuing to go in this direction of closing schools. We lost money. If Gilsum closes that will leave Troy and Fitzwilliam, you are next. M. Divens commented we have up to 40 students, we have students to tuition in but when the Board said we will close they leave. **VOTE:** Voice vote-yes. **Amendment passes.**

Moderator Hutwelker declared Article Ten to be moved to the ballot as amended.

ARTICLE ELEVEN (formerly ARTICLE THIRTEEN): Shall the Monadnock Regional School District voters agree that all our open Elementary Schools are important and reject the NESDEC recommendation to close Elementary Schools and have one central school in Swanzey. **By Petition.**

DISCUSSION: K. Wheeler would like to have the voters look at the NESDEC presentation and become educated. R. Thackston believes the recommendation is an option. This is a broad range report. It has to look at all the possibilities. To change the high school schedule to correspond with Keene's for the CCC was a recommendation. The collaboration of SAU 93 and SAU 29 as well as others was one recommendation. It does not say Keene and Monadnock merge it states they could in the NESDEC report. **MOTION:** K. Goodenough **MOVED** to amend the motion and remove the word "NESDEC" from the motion. **SECOND:** R. Thackston. **DISCUSSION:** K. Goodenough commented we do not have the full report from NESDEC. We have a preliminary report. We have an interpretation. K. Wheeler commented she is against the amendment to remove the word "NESDEC". She said this is where people will be able to kind the knowledge. **MOTION:** K. Schneider **MOVED** to amend the motion and add the word "preliminary" before the word "NESDEC". **SECOND:** K. Wheeler. **DISCUSSION:** K. Wheeler is in favor of "preliminary" but not removing the word "NESDEC". J. Carnie commented we hired these people. Add "preliminary" but do not remove "NESDEC". We helped pay for this. K. Craig commented it is clear this is not a complete report. It is not in the best interest of the District. It is not true. It is not complete. **MOTION:** P. Sherring **MOVED** to place the word "any" before the word "NESDEC". **SECOND:** K. Wheeler. **DISCUSSION:** W. Martel commented on the amendments. She said she has a feeling that if we do not do this for Gilsum it will be their way or no way. This is not black and white. Let it be in the best interest for all the communities. It would be wonderful to have STEAM in Fitzwilliam. What is in the best interest of all the communities and schools, not all or nothing? This is very disturbing. E. White is concerned about the whole article. We have serious issues beyond Gilsum. Troy is the white elephant with major issues. It will deceive the voters. There is bias and deception. She would ask the voters not to support the amendment or the article. **VOTE:** Ballot vote yes-21, no-40 **Amendment fails. K. Goodenough and R. Thackston withdraw the motion to remove the word "NESDEC" Moderator Hutwelker read the amendment as it stands:** "reject the preliminary NESDEC option" **DISCUSSION:** It was commented we hired NESDEC. The sense of the meeting sets a dangerous precedence. The report states the number of students in SAU 29 and SAU 93 together is 7200. For the most cost effective education educate both Districts together, it is a recommendation. To reject advice is irresponsible. **VOTE:** Voice vote-yes. **Motion passes. Moderator Hutwelker declared Article Eleven to be moved to the ballot as amended. MOTION:** L. Steadman **MOVED** to amend Article Thirteen by eliminating the words "to close elementary schools". **SECOND:** P. Sherring. **DISCUSSION:** K. Wheeler would object to the amendment. **VOTE:** Voice vote-no. **Motion fails. MOTION:** Virginia Clark **MOVED** to amend the motion and eliminate everything after the word "important" in the article. **SECOND:** Lady in audience. **DISCUSSION:** R. Thackston commented it changes the intent of the article. He asked for a point of order. Attorney O'Shaughnessy stated it is legal. **VOTE:** Ballot vote-yes-53, no-25. **Motion passes. Moderator Hutwelker declared Article Eleven to be moved to the ballot as amended.**

ARTICLE TWELVE (formerly ARTICLE TEN): 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). **Moderator Hutwelker declared Article Twelve to be moved to the ballot as presented.**

ARTICLE THIRTEEN (formerly ARTICLE ELEVEN): To listen to opinions of a purely advisory nature with regards to the conduct of school affairs for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required).

DISCUSSION: Bethany Guion of Fitzwilliam would ask the Board to consider a Vice Principal for the Middle School. There is a tremendous increase in behavior incidents. They are more than the staff can handle. It is affecting the learning environment. **Moderator Hutwelker declared Article Thirteen to be moved to the ballot as presented.**

Moderator Hutwelker declared a recess until March 10, 2015.

MOTION: B. Tatro **MOVED** to adjourn the Deliberative Session at 2:00 PM. **SECOND:** R. Thackston. **VOTE:** Voice vote-yes. **Motion passes.**

By the Monadnock Regional School Board: Given under our hands and seal this 31st day of January, 2015, Monadnock Regional School Board:

Copy of notice – Attest: _____
District Clerk Date

School Board Signatures:
