

**Missisquoi Valley School District**  
**Annual Budget Informational Board Meeting Minutes MVU**  
**School Library**  
**June 10, 2024 at 7pm**

**Location:** The MVSD Board and Administration participated at the MVU School Library for this meeting. The meeting was held hybrid with remote access for the community and other interested persons

**Date: June 10, 2024**

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**Board Members Present**

Don Collins, Joanne Johnston, Peter Magnant, Meaghan Conly, Pierrette Bouchard, Renick Darnell-Martin, Jen Chevalier, Elaine Nester

**Absent Board Members**

Stephanie Gagne

**Administration and Visitors**

Julie Regimbal, Superintendent, Bonnie Moulton, HR Director, Philip Bauchan, MVSD IT, Northwest Access Cameraperson, Members from the Community (Virtual Only)

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**Call the Meeting to Order 7:00PM**

Jen Chevalier called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM

Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Jen Chevalier stated that the school board members prepared a presentation of the FY25 Budget #3.

First budget on town meeting day - \$50,779,437

Second budget vote – cut \$1,035,000

Third budget vote – cut \$835,000

New Reductions shared by Pierrette Bouchard. Reductions in capital projects, principal's office, special ed clerical, district office, student management, plant operations, and general instruction made up the additional cuts for the third budget vote.

Peter Magnant shared information on the Highgate Elementary Roof project. A budget would have needed to be in place for May 1<sup>st</sup> in order to sign the contracts for an FY25 project. This project will be a priority in the following fiscal year.

Elaine Nester explained the purpose of reallocated funds. The Highgate roof will still need some work, special education students have moved into the district and that adds to the special education needs, and additional funds necessary to account for contract changes in salary and benefits.

Julie Regimbal shared tax rate information. Equalized tax rate is the portion related to school budget taxes. When the merger took place in FY21 we were at \$1.429. This current budget proposal has the equalized tax rate at \$1.198. The common level of appraisal (CLA) is affecting the tax bills greater than the school district.

Meaghann Conly shared information on Proposal 3 versus Proposal 1. Demonstrating reductions for all three towns, Swanton, Highgate, and Franklin.

Julie Regimbal shared information on Tax Increases and where MVSD compares to other schools in the state as far as spending and budgets.

Joanne Johnston shared information on the Impact of the CLA. The CLA will not change regardless of what the school budget is.

Jen Chevalier shared information on School Borrowing. This refers to the second Article on the ballot. Explanation was provided on the fact that this article bridges the gap until property taxes are collected in each town.

Julie Regimbal discussed What Happens if the Budget Does Not Pass. This would mean pausing important student activities such as athletics, field trips, after school program transportation, etc.

Meaghann Conly presented School Performance information. The value of MVSD for student performance versus our per pupil spending was shared.

### **Questions**

Community Member asked a question regarding school budgets passed in the state of Vermont. Julie Regimbal shared that MVSD was one of the last nine districts in the state to not have a passed budget.

Discussion ensued on how the lowest spending districts are the remaining ones without a budget and that the higher spending districts have already passed essentially already creating the state's tax rates.

Community Member question on where the money is borrowed from and the interest. Julie Regimbal answered that money borrowed in anticipation of taxes we earn interest on. If we must borrow the 87% the district would then have to pay significant interest.

Community Member asked if we must go back to vote and when that could be. The Board responded with revote information.

Community Member asked about the amount of interest lost if we do not borrow and the board responded.

Community Member asked about class sizes if the budget does not pass again. Julie Regimbal explained that could be a possibility but not anticipated at this time.

Community Member thanked the Board for all of the hard work that they have put into this.

Peter Magnant shared the difficulties that not having a budget on July 1 creates. Pierrette Bouchard shared implications of holding items versus cutting it without a passed budget. Meaghann Conly shared that regardless of additional cuts if this budget does not pass, it will not have the impact to the tax rate given that 80% have already passed in the state. Renick Darnell-Martin shared that the district does a lot with less and welcomes the community to share information early since the budget starts being drafted in October. However, the district does require an operating budget in July. Jen Chevalier thanked the community.

### **Meeting Adjournment**

*Jen Chevalier adjourned the meeting at 7:40pm.*