

**Missisquoi Valley School District
MVSD Special Board Meeting Minutes
Swanton Central School Library
January 29, 2024**

6:30pm

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

Date: January 29, 2024

Board Members

Jen Chevalier, Chair, Devin Bachelder, Don Collins, Tobias Maguire, Peter Magnant , Joanne Johnston, Renick Darnell-Martin with Kelly Badeau participating remotely.

Absent from the Board Meeting: Meaghan Conly

Administration and Visitors Present

Julie Regimbal, MVSD Superintendent of Schools, Lora McAllister, MVSD Business Manager, Josh Bourdeau, Technology, Pierrette Bouchard, School Board Secretary

Call the Meeting to Order

Jen Chevalier called the business meeting to order at 6:36PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Correspondence, Visitors and Public Comments

None

Agenda Review – None

FY25 Budget Adoption

Budget Draft 7 and Various Budget Scenarios

Julie Regimbal reported that there is a lot happening in the legislature and there is a considered effort to make something happen. The Agency of Education has put out a 9171 yield but the December 1st letter from the tax commissioner put out a 9452 yield. Don Collins stated that the legislators usually go with the December 1st letter. Lora McAllister went over the different budget scenarios that she had prepared covering capital projects. She said that she reduced the special education revenue and the

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interest revenue due to updated information, and she felt that she needed to be more conservative on these projections. Peter Magnant stated that he would like to go with scenario 3 that the facilities committee discussed the other night. He stated that if we added too much, and the budget got rejected, then we will not have enough time to complete many of the projects for the summer of 2024. Renick Darnell-Martin stated that he understood what Peter was saying. He felt that if they went with scenario 3, then there will be nowhere to go if the budget is turned down. He stated that Act 127 is a known law, and does not feel comfortable to pass a budget short of the 5% cap. He considered it to be a missed opportunity and would like to go with the original draft 6 of the budget with the equalized tax rate that is less than what it was in 2020. Devin felt that he would like somewhere between scenario 2 and 3 because he feels that this scenario will be enough this year to cover the many projects that have been outlined and will help us to cover the following year's projects such as resurfacing the parking lots in several of the schools. Renick suggested scenario 7 but removing the parking lot resurfacing and lights. Don stated that there will be more projects that will need to be completed next year. Tobias Maguire commented that if the budget fails, MVSD will have to wait 30 days before we can go out to vote again which means we will not be able to sign contracts in a timely manner. Jen Chevalier asked every board member which scenario they preferred. The board members eliminated scenarios 1, 3, 4, 5 and 8. This meant that only scenario 2, 6 and 7 were being considered.

Peter Magnant moved, seconded by Devin Bachelder to approve a \$49,999,000.00 total expenditure budget for FY25. The motion failed on a 1:7 vote.

Renick Darnell-Martin moved, seconded by Devin Bachelder to approve \$50,779,437 for FY25 Budget. The board approved the motion on a 5-3 vote.

Julie Regimbal congratulated the board on working so hard through all the scenarios and making a difficult decision on finalizing the budget for FY25. Renick thanked Lora for all her hard work, creating many different scenarios for the board to choose from. Devin Bachelder commented that he supports everything that is in the budget.

Approval of FY25 Warning

Julie read Article IV that extended the terms of the treasurer, clerk and the moderator initially staggering the terms beginning on town meeting day 2025 with the goals of all reaching 3-year terms thereafter. Julie read the whole warning to the school board. Jen sought approval of the warning.

Devin Bachelder moved, seconded by Renick Darnell-Martin to approve the warning as read with a small revision. The board approved the motion on an 8-0 vote.

Future Board Meeting

The next meeting will be held on February 6, 2024 at MVU Library at 6:00pm.

Meeting Adjourn

Peter Magnant moved, seconded by Devin Bachelder to adjourn the meeting at 7:59pm. The board approved the motion on an 8-0 vote.

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