

**ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE
TOWN OF MADISON
February 3, 2020
MINUTES**

Members Present – Chairperson Nicole Nordlund; Ron Force; Ned Rogerson; Jeff Balogh; Steve Bartlett; School Board Representative Jim Curran

Member Excused – Selectman John Arruda

Others Present – School Board Attorney Upton

Where and When Posted – Town Hall upper & lower bulletin boards and Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices on January 21, 2020.

Meeting Called to Order – By Nordlund at 9:00 p.m.

Rogerson asked Curran about combining Kindergarten, as suggested repeatedly, to one teacher. Curran said the board was not in favor.

Balogh mentioned concerns about proficiency test scores falling from 80% down to 18%.

Bartlett suggested waiving class size policies during years where the budget was not getting support from taxpayer. Curran commented that that has happened a few times in the past.

Nordlund commented that not filling the open teacher position would show good faith to the taxpayer, as well as, a good compromise and may make it possible for the budget to pass. However, as of this meeting the place holder is still in this budget making it difficult to support this article.

Mr. Upton, the lawyer for the school district, stopped by and explained what the deficit warrant not passing town vote would mean. The ABC had previously thought it would have to be paid from somewhere during the same fiscal year however, Mr. Upton said that has changed and it gets paid down as surpluses are available.

School climate was explained by Curran, as well as the history of principal challenges in the past 15 years.

Balogh discussed the principal salary being so high. Curran commented it was in line with other schools. The board looked at other salaries in the area, both on paper and via the internet. Nordlund remarked that the examples still show that Madison has the highest paid principal in the area.

The article was moved to a vote.

Article 2 is NOT recommended by the ABC 2-4-0

9:35 PM – Nordlund made a **motion** to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chairman Nicole Nordlund