

# Winnacunnet Cooperative School District

Hampton, Hampton Falls North Hampton, Seabrook

Winnacunnet High School Auditorium

Hampton NH

Deliberative Session February 6, 2020

## 2020 Minutes

The twenty-fourth deliberative session of the Winnacunnet Cooperative School District Meeting held in accordance with RSA 40:13 was called to order by School District Moderator, Robert R. Cushing on February 6, 2020 at 7:00 pm. This will be the only meeting before the warrant articles are voted on Election Day, March 10, 2020.

The Moderator asked Patricia O'Keefe to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Moderator gave the rules of the deliberative session and advised that he will read each Warrant Article. The sponsor of the article will be called on first to explain the article. Amendments must be in writing and signed by the sponsor.

The Moderator introduced school officials seated on the stage. Shirley Doheny, School District Clerk; School Board Chairperson Henry Marsh, School Board Members David Gandt, Leslie Lafond, Frances Henderson, Heidi Taracena; Superintendent of Schools, William Lupini, Principal Bill McGowan; Business Administrator, Matt Ferreira, Budget Committee Chairman, Tony Delano. Also seated at the table was Attorney Robert Casassa.

### **Article 01 Operating Budget**

Shall the School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$28,569,586? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$28,389,340 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Majority vote required.)

Note: Warrant Article #1 (operating budget) does not include appropriations in any other warrant articles.

Recommended by the School Board: 5-0      Recommended by the Budget Committee: 6-0

MOTION by Henry Marsh, Seconded by David Gandt to move Article 1 for discussion.

Tony Delano gave a short description of the budget. He stated that the three components that attributed to most of the increase were Special Education, SEA CBA Salaries and ROTC Salary.

Matt Ferreira gave an overview and background of Article 1 and the budget process. He discussed the Budget Summary and went through the Budget components in more detail. He highlighted the items that increased as well as decreased and gave an explanation of why. He also discussed the Default Budget.

Max Abramson, Seabrook asked how much was spent on Special Education per student. It was stated that it was consistent with State averages but that number was not with them at that time.

Don Janik, Hampton Falls asked about the impact of having the Default Budget. Matt Ferreira explained that it is the responsibility of the School Board to make decisions on the reductions.

MOTION BY Don Janik, Seconded by Max Abramson to reduce the operating budget to \$28,389,340.

Max Abramson asked if it was legal to have same figures, because voters would not have a choice.

Michael Edgar, Hampton spoke against the amendment.

Ed Beattie asked if the Budget Committee was satisfied with the Budget. Tony Delano stated that the budget committee was satisfied. He also stated that it was well researched and that many questions were asked.

MOTION TO AMEND FAILED 22 TO 2.

Max Abramson asked about tuition for out of district students.

Being no further Discussion, Motion Passed. Article 1 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Motion by Henry Marsh, Seconded by Tony Delano to Restrict Reconsideration of Article 1. Motion Passed.

**Article 02 Seacoast Educational Support Personnel Association**

To see if the School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Winnacunnet School Board and the Seacoast Educational Support Personnel Association which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the proposed staffing levels:

Year	Estimated Salary Increase (including Salary Driven Benefits)	Estimated Health Insurance Increase	TOTAL Estimated Cost
2020-21	\$13,143	\$ 0	\$13,143
2021-22	\$13,311	\$ 0	\$13,311
2022-23	\$ 6,670	\$ 0	\$ 6,670
2023-24	\$ 6,770	\$ 0	\$ 6,770

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$13,143 for the 2020-21 school year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at proposed staffing levels in accordance with the current collective bargaining agreement. (Majority vote required.)

Recommended by the School Board: 5-0 Recommended by the Budget Committee: 6-0

Note: In order for this article to be adopted, it must be approved by the voters of the school districts of Hampton Falls, North Hampton, Seabrook, South Hampton and the voters of the Winnacunnet Cooperative School District (which includes Hampton voters).

Motion by Henry Marsh, Seconded by David Gandt to place Article 2 on the ballot as written.

Matt Ferreira gave an overview of the Contract. He stated how invaluable SESPAs employees are. This contract provides improved compensation and benefits to better retain and attract educational associates. He reviewed the Health Insurance, Language Adjustments, School District Costs and Impact to the School Districts. Matt also stated that all five districts need to vote and pass the warrant article for it to take effect in any one district.

Max Abramson spoke in favor of this Article. He asked two questions regarding the Affordable Care Act and the penalties.

Linda Libbey, North Hampton stated she was totally in favor of this Article. She stated the importance of these professionals and the need to become competitive in order to attract new and keep existing workers.

Being no further Discussion, Motion passed and Article 2 shall appear on the ballot as written.  
Moved by Henry Marsh, Seconded by Dave Gandt to Restrict Reconsideration of Article 2. Motion Passed.

**Article 03 HVAC Upgrades**

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$231,910 to continue the HVAC replacement project at Winnacunnet High School? This project is part of the facility plan adopted by the school board. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until the project is complete or June 30, 2022, whichever is earlier. (Majority vote required.)

Recommended by the School Board: 5-0 Recommended by the Budget Committee: 6-0

MOTION by Fran Henderson, Seconded by Heidi Taracena to place Article 3 on the ballot as written.

Matt Ferreira described the project. He stated that the project is part of the ongoing HVAC replacement cycle including ongoing HVAC replacement, upgrades controls integration and duct cleaning as the systems reach end of life.

Being no further Discussion, Motion passed and Article 3 shall appear on the ballot as written.  
Moved by Fran Henderson, Seconded by Heidi Taracena to Restrict Reconsideration of Article 3. Motion Passed.

**Article 04 Auditorium Sound System Replacement**

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$85,000 to replace the auditorium sound system. The current system is not fully functional and is undersized for the space and design of the auditorium. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until the project is complete or June 30, 2022, whichever is earlier. (Majority vote required.)

Recommended by the School Board: 5-0 Recommended by the Budget Committee: 6-0

Motion by Heidi Taracena, Seconded by Leslie Lafond to place Article 4 on the ballot as written.

Matt Ferreira gave an overview of the sound system replacement project. He explained that it is a full replacement and upgrade of the auditorium sound system.

Being no further discussion, Motion Passed. Article 4 shall appear on the ballot as written.  
Moved by Heidi Taracena, Seconded by Leslie Lafond to Restrict Reconsideration of Article 4. Motion Passed.

**Article 05 Special Education Expendable Trust**

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate \$75,000 to be added to the existing Special Education Expendable Trust Fund, with up to \$75,000 to be funded from the June 30, 2020 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2020. No additional amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required.)

Recommended by the School Board: 5-0 Recommended by the Budget Committee: 6-0

MOTION by Leslie Lafond, Seconded by Fran Henderson to place Article 5 on the ballot as written.

Matt Ferreira gave the background on the fund, as well as an explanation of the funding source. He noted that the target was updated to \$400,000 to reflect increased out of district placement costs.

Being no further discussion, Motion Passed Article 5 shall appear on the ballot as written.  
Moved by Leslie Lafond, Seconded by Fran Henderson to Restrict Reconsideration of Article 5. Motion Passed.

**Article 06 Health Care Expendable Trust Fund**

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate \$75,000 to be added to the existing Health Care Expendable Trust Fund, with up to \$75,000 to be funded from the June 30, 2020 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2020. No additional amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required.)

Recommended by the School Board: 5-0 Recommended by the Budget Committee: 6-0

MOTION by Heidi Taracena, Seconded by Fran Henderson to place Article 6 on the ballot as written.

Matt Ferreira gave the background of the Trust and explained the purpose of the Trust. He also stated that the funding for the Trust comes from any potential available year end-fund balance.

Being no further discussion, Motion Passed and Article 6 shall appear on the ballot as written.

Moved by Heidi Taracena, Seconded by Fran Henderson to Restrict Reconsideration of Article 6. Motion Passed.

**Article 07 Citizen's Petition Article – Sanctuary Cities**

To see whether police officers shall be permitted to enforce federal immigration laws, comply with immigration detainer requests, or contact federal immigration authorities to conduct a background investigation on anyone arrested on evidence of any other crime. No school district nor town official shall establish "Sanctuary Cities" policies that prevent immigration laws from being enforced by any police officer nor federal immigration officer in the performance of their job. Four towns, Cheshire County, and the City of Manchester have enacted "Sanctuary City" policies for illegal immigrants without notifying the general public beforehand. A Yes vote is to stop our communities from being turned into Sanctuary Cities." CITIZEN'S PETITION by 25 or more registered voters of the Winnacunnet School District. (Majority vote required.)

MOTION by Max Abramson, Seconded by Don Janik to place Article 7 on the ballot as written.

Max Abramson spoke in favor of the Article. He stated that it would help put the public on notice.

Ed Beattie spoke against the Article.

Michael Edgar spoke against the Article. He stated that the definition of Sanctuary Cities was not defined. He also saw issue with involving town officials on school ballots.

MOTION by Michael Edgar to Amend Article 7 by deleting the last two sentences. Seconded by Ed Beattie.

Max Abramson explained why he included last two sentences and stated that deleting them would confuse people.

Motion to Amend passed. 16 TO 3

No further discussion, Article 7 shall appear on the ballot as amended.


**Article 08 Other**

To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting. There was none.

The Moderator reminded the voters of election locations and hours and announced the candidates that would be on the Ballot on March 10, 2020

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Shirley Doheny, School District Clerk on February 8, 2020.

  
Shirley Doheny, School District Clerk