

**South Hampton School Board Deliberative Session
Barnard School Gymnasium
Wednesday, February 3, 2021**

The 2021 Deliberative Session was held in the Town of South Hampton, in the County of Rockingham, in the State of New Hampshire, on the 3rd day of February 2021. Moderator Lee Knapp called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Members of the school district were introduced: School Board members Jim Kime (chair), Sharon Gordon, and Rebecca Burdick; Emily Kime, School District Clerk; Barnard School Principal, Michelle Witt; Interim Superintendent, Dr. Caroline Arakelian; Business Administrator, Matthew Ferreira; and School District Attorney, Bob Casassa. Also, in attendance were South Hampton Budget Committee members Dennis Blair and Will Hodge.

The Moderator outlined the procedures under which he would run the meeting; he then introduced and read Article 01.

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 \$2,793,940? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$2,730,402, 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.

Sharon Gordon moved to open Article 01 for discussion, seconded by Rebecca Burdick. Jim Kime presented the items comprising the operating budget stating the proposed operating budget is an 9.98% increase over the current year's (2020-2021) operating budget.

The line items: special education, employment benefits, retirement, and collective bargaining agreement are main drivers of the increase and account for just under \$200K, however, these items are out of the School Board's control as they are required by law or contracted services and State/federally mandated.

There are two line items that are main drivers between the default budget and the proposed budget. The first is moving the guidance counselor to a permanent position. The administration identified a need within the school system to close a gap in services provided. The intention of a full-time guidance counselor is to provide intervention services that would lead to a decrease in special education costs. The second is new K-5 math program estimated to cost \$12,000, which will provide improved instruction for the students.

The Moderator asked if there were any questions or comments.

With no further discussion, the Moderator stated Article 01 will be placed on the official ballot as read. Rebecca Burdick made a motion to restrict reconsideration for Article 01. Sharon Gordon seconded the motion. By a show of hands, the motion to restrict reconsideration of Article 01 was approved. The Moderator introduced and read Article 02.

Article 02: Gym Roof Replacement

To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$98,828 for the roof replacement project on the Batchelder Gymnasium and authorize the withdrawal of \$62,246 from the Roof Expendable Trust Fund created for that purpose. The balance of \$36,582 is to come from general taxation. The School Board and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

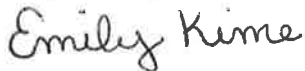
Sharon Gordon motioned to open Article 02 for discussion. Seconded by Rebecca Burdick. Jim Kime presented Article 02 stating the article reads a little backwards. The Town has already raised \$62,246 and needs to fund the remaining \$36,582 to replace the gym roof. The roof has been leaking for a number of years. Many temporary repairs have been done, however the seam remains problematic.

Martha Anderson asked if the whole roof would be replaced. Jim replied yes.

Without any further discussion, the Moderator stated Article 02 will be placed on the official ballot as read. Rebecca Burdick made a motion to restrict reconsideration for Article 02. Sharon Gordon seconded the motion. By a show of hands, the motion to restrict reconsideration of Article 02 was approved.

Without any further questions or discussion, the Moderator asked for a motion to recess the meeting at 7:22 PM to be continued at Town Elections on March 9th. The motion was made by Rebecca Burdick, seconded by Sharon Gordon. The motion was approved by show of hands.

Respectfully Submitted,



Emily Kime
School District Clerk