The 2023 Deliberative Session was held in the Town of South Hampton, in the County of Rockingham, in the State of New Hampshire, on the 7th day of February 2023. Moderator Kim Molin called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Members of the school district were introduced: School Board members Jim Kime (chair), Lauren Jurta, and Rebecca Burdick; Emily Kime, School District Clerk; Kim Molin, School District Moderator; Michelle Witt, Barnard School Principal; David Hobbs, Assistant Superintendent; and Sharon Somers, School District Legal Counsel. Also, in attendance were South Hampton Budget Committee members Dennis Blair and Will Hodge.

The Moderator outlined the procedures under which she would run the meeting; she 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 $2,883,266? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be $2,823,931 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. The School Board and the Budget Committee recommend this article.

Lauren Jurta moved to open Article 01 for discussion, seconded by Rebecca Burdick.

Jim Kime presented the items comprising the operating budget. He stated when developing the 2023-24 budget, the School Board and administration were very conscious of keeping the operating budget increases at a minimum; this is reflected in 0.24% increase over the current year’s (2022-2023) operating budget.

Jim stated enrollment has continued to be strong at Barnard School and remained steady at the high school level.

The following items are significant budget drivers:

- Cost escalation/inflation
- Fuel and electricity cost increases
- Cost of living adjustment
- Increase in custodial and administrative support
- Increase in high school tuition
- Investment in math curriculum and staff professional development
- Technology replacement cycle implementation
The following items saw significant budget reductions:

- Special Education
- Under-budgeting high school tuition through use of expendable trust fund
- Under-budgeting technology equipment through use of expendable trust fund
- Reduced retirement contribution percentage

Jim explained, last year a Warrant Article passed for Homeland Security upgrades with a starting balance of $20,000. It was planned to have similar warrant articles over the next two years. However, the school was able to obtain an $80,000 grant to be used for Homeland Security measures. The Board will no longer be looking to fund the Homeland Security upgrade warrant articles.

The Moderator asked if there were any questions or comments.

Pete DiStefano referred to the student activities account and wondered if High School students could be involved in leading/chaperoning these activities. Jim replied the school has had success with high school volunteers helping with playground mulching and at the Fall Festival.

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. Lauren Jurta 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: Seacoast Education Association Collective Bargaining Agreement**

To see if the School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the South Hampton School Board and the Seacoast Education Association for the following increases and reductions in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Estimated Salary Increase</th>
<th>Estimated Health/ Dental Insurance Costs</th>
<th>Estimated Salary Driven Benefits Increase</th>
<th>TOTAL Estimated Costs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2023-24</td>
<td>$68,718</td>
<td>$568</td>
<td>$18,000</td>
<td>$87,286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2024-25</td>
<td>$46,618</td>
<td>$75</td>
<td>$12,155</td>
<td>$58,848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2025-26</td>
<td>$40,960</td>
<td>$75</td>
<td>$10,654</td>
<td>$51,689</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2026-27</td>
<td>$36,188</td>
<td>$75</td>
<td>$9,443</td>
<td>$45,706</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of $87,286 for the 2023-24 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 current staffing levels in accordance with the current collective bargaining agreement. (Majority vote required.)

The School Board and the Budget Committee recommend this article.

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).
Lauren Jurta made a motion to open Article 02 for discussion. Seconded by Rebecca Burdick. Jim Kime presented the terms of the proposed agreement stating he strongly suggests voters support this article. He indicated the agreed upon 4-year contract is fair and benefits both the Seacoast Educational Association and the school district. The CBA must pass in all five SAU21 Districts.

With no questions or further discussion, the Moderator stated the Article 02 will be placed on the official ballot as read. Rebecca Burdick made a motion to restrict reconsideration for Article 02. Lauren Jurta seconded the motion. By a show of hands, the motion to restrict reconsideration of Article 02 was approved. The Moderator introduced and read Article 03.

**Article 03: Roof Expendable Trust**
To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $15,000 to be added to the existing Roof Expendable Trust Fund for the purpose of repairing or replacing roofs on the South Hampton School District Buildings.
The School Board and the Budget Committee recommend this article. (Majority vote required.)

Lauren Jurta motioned to open Article 03 for discussion. Seconded by Rebecca Burdick. Jim Kime presented Article 03 stating the roof on the left side of the building will need to be replaced in 3-5 years. The goal is to raise money to put in the trust so the roof replacement does not result in a one-year big burden on tax payers.

Pete asked what roofing material will be used? Jim said it will match the existing roof, which is shingle. Pete asked if other materials have been considered. Dennis Blair stated the gym roof was metal and that didn’t go well. Will Hodge said metal roofs may or may not be cost effective.

Will, as a member of the budget committee, stated is he is never in position to ask for more money, however he believes the roof will need to be replaced in less than 5 years. After speaking with a local roofer, he does not expect $15,000 per year will be enough to fund the roof replacement. Will made a motion to amend Article 03 to read, “To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $20,000 to be added to the existing Roof Expendable Trust fund for the purpose of repairing or replacing roofs on the South Hampton School District Buildings.” Dennis Blair seconded the motion.

Brian Caponigro asked for the roof replacement estimate. Will replied about $54,000. Jim said there is currently just over $15,000 in the account, with a target of $100,000. As the time gets closer to replace the roof, they will have a concrete estimate, however right now roofing costs are significantly increasing. Becky stated the replacement of the main building roof will be the last major roofing project and she doesn’t anticipate having this warrant article on the ballot once the roof is replaced.

Kim asked if there was any more discussion on the proposed amendment to Article 03. With none, the moderator re read the proposed amendment as stated and seconded by Will and Dennis, respectively.
The moderator asked for a vote. By a majority show of hands, Article 03 will be placed on the ballot as amended. Rebecca Burdick made a motion to restrict reconsideration for Article 03. Lauren Jurta seconded the motion. By a show of hands, the motion to restrict reconsideration of Article 03 was approved. The Moderator introduced and read Article 04.

**Article 04: Building Maintenance Expendable Trust**
To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate $25,000 to be added to the existing Building Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund, with up to $25,000 to be funded from the June 30, 2023 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2023. No additional amount to be raised from taxation.
The School Board and the Budget Committee recommend this article. (Majority vote required.)

Lauren Jurta motioned to open Article 04 for discussion. Seconded by Rebecca Burdick. Jim Kime presented Article 04 stated this fund has been used over time as the school is going through replacement cycle of key equipment. The fund currently has a balance is just over $50,000 with a target of $150,000. This is not direct taxation; it would be funded from excess in the 2022-2023 operating budget. The next big project is that the boiler will need to be replaced in the next 5 years or so.

Dennis noted that articles funded out of surplus are incentives to the administration to be frugal throughout the school year. He added, the administration has become very efficient in budgeting over the last few years, so there has not been much of a surplus. If this keeps happening, the accounts won’t be funded.

Jim replied the Board understands and they will certainly take that into consideration in upcoming years.

Barbara Knapp asked if Article 04 would be funded before Article 05? Jim replied, yes. Given the age of building the Board thought that was important.

Without any further questions or comments, the Moderator stated Article 04 will be placed on the official ballot as read. Rebecca Burdick made a motion to restrict reconsideration for Article 04. Lauren Jurta seconded the motion. By a show of hands, the motion to restrict reconsideration of Article 04 was approved. The Moderator introduced and read Article 05.

**Article 05: Special Education Expendable Trust**
To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate $20,000 to be added to the existing Special Education Expendable Trust Fund, with up to $20,000 to be funded from the June 30, 2023 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2023. No additional amount to be raised from taxation.
The School Board and the Budget Committee recommend this article. (Majority vote required.)

Lauren Jurta motioned to open Article 05 for discussion. Seconded by Rebecca Burdick. Jim Kime presented Article 05 stating the fund currently has a balance of $135,687 with a target of $400,000. This fund would offset unexpected costs if a special needs student moved into Town. Funding comes from potential year-end fund balance and is not raised via additional taxation.
Without any questions or comments, the Moderator stated Article 05 will be placed on the official ballot as read. Rebecca Burdick made a motion to restrict reconsideration for Article 05. Lauren Jurta seconded the motion. By a show of hands, the motion to restrict reconsideration of Article 05 was approved.

The Moderator asked if there were any further questions or discussions. Without any Kim asked for a motion to recess the meeting at 7:52 PM to be continued at Town Elections on March 14th. The motion was made by Rebecca Burdick, seconded by Lauren Jurta. The motion was approved by show of hands.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Kime
School District Clerk