The twenty-seventh deliberative session of the Winnacunnet Cooperative School District Meeting held in accordance with RSA 40:13 was called to order by School District Moderator Pro Tempore, Christopher Muns on February 9, 2023 at 7:04 pm. This will be the only meeting before the warrant articles are voted on Election Day, March 14, 2023.

The Moderator led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance. He then spoke about Renny Cushing who passed away last year. Renny was the School District Moderator and supported this community in many other ways. Chris then asked for a moment of silence in Renny’s memory. Chris also stated that there would be a dedication naming the auditorium after Renny Cushing.

Chris gave an overview of the rules and purpose of this meeting.

Motion by Leslie Lafond, Seconded by Patricia O’Keefe to allow Winnacunnet School Staff and SAU 21 Staff who are not residents of North Hampton, Hampton Falls, Hampton or Seabrook to speak. He specifically named Meredith Nadeau, Bill McGowan and Matt Ferreira.

Motion Passed

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 $30,273,491? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be $29,876,572 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 Leslie Lafond, Seconded by Patricia O’Keefe to move Article 1 for discussion.

Matt Ferreira began by thanking the School Board and the Budget Committee for the hard work that they put in developing the budget. He spoke about the many different elements that are considered when preparing a budget that follows a personalized learning model that incorporates Winnacunnet's core values, beliefs, and learning expectations.

He stated that a slight increase in enrollment was anticipated next year, going from 1,085 to 1,107 students. He also stated that the proposed budget reflects a 2.57% increase and the default budget reflects a 1.33% increase over the last year's budgets. He went on to discuss the significant budget drivers in the proposed budget. Included in the list were cost escalation due to price inflation, increase in electricity and heating fuels, technology increase due to reverting to norm after one-time federal funding, non-union staff cost of living adjustment, increase in special education costs, NEASC accreditation fees, under-budgeting health insurance account with the provision to utilize health care expendable trust if necessary, NHRS employer contribution percentage reduced, higher percentage allocation of SAU services based on enrollment increase, vocation program cost decrease, ESOL contracted services increase, implementation of 5 to 4-year athletic uniform
replacement cycle and reduction in anticipated college course reimbursement expenditures. He continued by discussing the cost of living adjustment and how the rate of 7.0% was determined. He ended by going through each budget item and stated whether or not they increased or decreased and explained why. Matt also explained how the default budget was determined.

David Lang spoke in favor of the Article. He reminded everyone that we are shaping the lives of students, and suggested that we spread the word about the many ways that this is being done.

Being no further Discussion, Article 1 shall appear on the ballot as read.

**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 Winnacunnet 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>$558,437</td>
<td>$6,121</td>
<td>$154,520</td>
<td>$719,077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2024-25</td>
<td>$388,750</td>
<td>$1,875</td>
<td>$107,567</td>
<td>$498,192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2025-26</td>
<td>$344,389</td>
<td>$1,875</td>
<td>$96,292</td>
<td>$441,556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2026-27</td>
<td>$292,871</td>
<td>$1,875</td>
<td>$81,037</td>
<td>$375,783</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of $719,077 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
Winamacunnet Cooperative School District
Deliberative Session Minutes – 2023
Page 4 of 7

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 Winamacunnet Cooperative School District (which includes Hampton voters).

MOTION by Nicole Cico, Seconded by Leslie Lafond to move Article 2 for discussion.

Matt Ferreira stated that SEA employees and the amazing teachers represent the greatest impact to our students learning growth. He discussed how critical it is for the budget to pass. In order to retain the best teachers and hire high quality teachers we have to be able to compete with other school districts. He stated that if the contract fails, teachers do not receive pay increases or steps and just increases the compensation differences with surrounding SAU’s. He advised that the proposed CBA warrant article needs approval from each member district.

Mike Edgar spoke in favor of this article.

Dave Lang spoke in support of this article. He stated that we expect high quality teachers in order to bring the best education for all.

Being no further discussion, Article 2 shall appear on the ballot as read.

Motion by Leslie Lafond seconded by Patricia O’Keefe to restrict reconsideration of Article 2.
Winnacunnet Cooperative School District

Deliberative Session Minutes – 2023
Page 5 of 7

Article 03  HVAC Upgrades

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $125,000 for HVAC upgrades 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, 2026, whichever is earlier. (Majority vote required)

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

Motion to move Article 3 for discussion by Patricia O’Keefe, Seconded by Leslie Lafond

Matt Ferreira explained that this project is part of the facility plan adopted by the School Board.

Being no further discussion, Article 3 shall appear on the ballot as read.

Article 04  Auditorium Lighting

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $160,000 to replace lighting in the Auditorium at Winnacunnet High School (Phase 2 of 2). 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 completed or June 30, 2026, whichever is earlier. (Majority vote required.)

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

Motion to move Article 4 for discussion by Nicole Cico, Seconded by Tamara Le

Matt Ferreira explained that this is Phase 2 of 2 and is a part of the facility plan adopted by the School Board.
Being no further discussion, Article 4 shall appear on the ballot as read.

**Winnacunnet Cooperative School District**

Deliberative Session Minutes – 2023  
Page 6 of 7

**Article 05  Athletic Field Lighting**

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate $180,000 to replace and repair athletic field lighting (Phase 2 of 2) 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 completed or June 30, 2026, whichever is earlier. (Majority vote required.)

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

Motion to move Article 5 for discussion by Leslie Lafond, Seconded by Patricia O’Keefe.

Matt Ferreira stated that this is Phase 2 of 2 of a project that is part of the facility plan adopted by the School Board

Being no further discussion, Article 5 shall appear on the ballot as read.

**Article 06  Discontinue Technology Expendable Trust**

To see if the School District will vote to discontinue the Technology Expendable Trust Fund created in 2013. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the district’s general fund. (Majority vote required.)

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

MOTION by Nicole Cico, Seconded by Tamara Le to move Article 6 for discussion.
Matt Ferreira explained that if this article passes all funds including accumulated interest would be transferred to the district's general fund.

Being no further discussion, Article 6 shall appear on the ballot as read.

Dave Lang shared a story about Renny Cushing and the part Renny played in having the vote on the Winnacunnet Auditorium pass.

**Article 07 Other**
To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

There was none.

The Moderator announced the candidates that would be on the Ballot on March 14, 2023. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.


Shirley Doheny, School District Clerk