

**OYSTER RIVER COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**2026**  
**SCHOOL      WARRANT**

To the Inhabitants of the Oyster River Cooperative School District of Durham, Lee, and Madbury qualified to vote upon District affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Oyster River Middle School in said district on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February 2026, at 7:00 o'clock in the evening for Session I of the Annual School District Meeting for discussion of Articles 3 through 9 and for any amendments thereto. Warrant articles whose wording is prescribed by law shall not be amended and no warrant article shall be amended to eliminate the subject matter of the article at Session I.

Official ballot voting for school district officers (articles 1 and 2) and on articles 3 through 13 will occur at town polling locations on Tuesday, March 10, 2026:

Town of Durham	Oyster River High School	7:00 am to 7:00 pm
Town of Lee	Lee Public Safety Complex	7:00 am to 7:00 pm
Town of Madbury	Madbury Town Hall	11:00 am to 7:00 pm

**ARTICLE 1:** To choose a Moderator for the coming year.

**ARTICLE 2:** To choose two (2) At-Large School Board members for the ensuing three years.

**ARTICLE 3:** Mast Way/Moharimet Renovation Expansion Project

Shall the District raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,827,000 (gross budget) to finance renovations and additions at both elementary schools to include additional classrooms, expanding a cafeteria, and creating appropriate spaces to deliver services to students (the "Project"); and authorize the issuance of not more than \$9,827,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and authorize the School Board to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the dates, maturities, interest rate, and other details of such bonds or notes; and authorize the School Board to accept on behalf of the District any federal, state, or private funds that may become available to fund the Project and use such funds toward the Project or to reduce the amount of bonds or notes issued for the Project; and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$245,675 for the initial debt service payment due during the fiscal year? ***The School Board recommends this Article. (3/5 ballot vote required)***

**ARTICLE 4:** Operating Budget

The average cost-per-pupil for the preceding year as calculated in accordance with RSA 189:75, I (a) is \$24,268. ELA Proficiency: 75%; Math Proficiency: 65%; Science Proficiency: 61%.

Shall the District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant article and other appropriations voted separately, the amount 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 \$61,846,067. Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$60,463,982 (Default Budget) which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the District or by law; or the District may hold one special meeting in accordance with RSA 40:13, X, and XVI to take up the issue of the revised operating budget only. ***The School Board recommends this appropriation. (Majority vote required)***

**Note:**

Fund 10 = \$59,664,022 (regular operating budget); Fund 21 = \$1,432,045 (expenditures from food service revenues); Fund 22 = \$645,000 (expenditures from federal/special revenues); Fund 23 = \$105,000 (expenditures from pass through funds).

#### ARTICLE 5: Approval of the ORPaSS CBA

Shall the District vote to approve within the provisions of New Hampshire RSA 273-A:3 the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Oyster River Paraeducators and Support Staff and the Oyster River Cooperative School Board which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

2026-2027	\$543,972
2027-2028	\$577,025
2028-2029	\$176,733

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$543,972 for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increases in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels? ***The School Board recommends this appropriation. (Majority vote required)***

#### ARTICLE 6: Approval of the ORESPA CBA

Shall the District vote to approve within the provisions of New Hampshire RSA 273-A:3 the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Oyster River Office Educational Support Personnel Association and the Oyster River Cooperative School Board which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

2026-2027	\$213,498
2027-2028	\$104,826
2028-2029	\$106,852

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$213,498 for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increases in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels? ***The School Board recommends this appropriation. (Majority vote required)***

#### ARTICLE 7: Facilities Trust Fund

Shall the District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 125,000 to be added to the Facilities Development, Maintenance, and Replacement Expendable Trust Fund which was established in March of 2017. This sum to come from June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1. ***The School Board recommends this appropriation. No amounts to be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required)***

#### ARTICLE 8: Special Education Trust

Shall the District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 125,000 to be added to the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund which was established in March of 1999. This sum to come from June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1. ***The School Board recommends this appropriation. No amounts to be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required)***

#### ARTICLE 9: Open Enrollment

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$0 for the purpose of funding the estimated tuition of School District students who attend open enrollment schools/programs located outside of the Oyster River Cooperative School District in accordance with RSA 194-D.

***The School Board recommends this Article. (Majority vote required)***

#### ARTICLE 10: Petition Warrant Article

Shall the provisions of RSA 32:14 through 32:24 (Budget Committee) be adopted by the Oyster River Cooperative School District, as provided by RSA 195:12-a? ***The School Board does not recommend this article.***

#### ARTICLE 11: Petition Warrant Article

To see if the Oyster River Cooperative School District will vote to rescind the authority previously adopted regarding the retention of year-end unassigned general funds as provided by RSA 198:4-b, II. If adopted, this article mandates that any unassigned general fund balance remaining at the end of the fiscal year be used to reduce the District tax rate. ***The School Board does not recommend this article.***

#### ARTICLE 12: Petition Warrant Article

Shall the Oyster River Cooperative School District adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5-b, and implement a tax cap whereby the School Board and Budget Committee shall not submit a recommended budget that increases the amount to be raised by local taxes by more than the annual change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) for the Northeast Region? This cap may be overridden only by a 3/5 majority vote of the School Board and Budget Committee. ***The School Board does not recommend this article.***

#### ARTICLE 13: Petition Warrant Article:

To see if the Oyster River Cooperative School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$60,000 for the purpose of hiring an independent auditing firm to conduct a performance audit of the School District Administration? ***The School Board does not recommend this appropriation.***

Given under our hands at said Durham NH this 21<sup>st</sup> day of January 2026:

Matthew Bacon  
Matthew Bacon, Chairperson

Heather Smith  
Heather Smith, Vice-Chair

Renee Bennett

Denise Day

Giana Gelsey  
Giana Gelsey

Kelly Ickes  
Kelly Ickes

Sean Harrison