

**North Hampton School District
North Hampton, New Hampshire
Warrant with Minutes
2024**

Moderator Bobbi Burns called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Community attendance consisted of approximately 39 people.

Lisa Gagalis lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Moderator introduced the following.

Supervisors of the Checklist – Jane Morse, Kevin Murphy, and Joanne Knox.

School Clerk Susan Buchanan.

School Board – Chair Katelyn Belanger, Vice Chair Lisa Gagalis, Michael Gendre, and Danielle Strater

Budget Committee – Chair Rick Stanton, Sean Dionne, Larry Miller, Tom vonJess, and Andrew Raucci

Principal Susan Snyder

Assistant Principal & Curriculum Coordinator Rebecca Carlson

Director of Student Services Deena Jensen

Superintendent Meredith Nadeau

Associate Superintendent for Finance and Operations Matthew Ferreira

Legal Council Robert Casassa

She thanked John Savastano and Troy Klidas for broadcasting and Stu Spooner for room set up.

Rick Stanton opened a Budget Committee meeting.

She reviewed the meeting logistics and rules.

Moderator noted the following open positions and individuals running for office.

Two School Board Members for the ensuing three years.

Noah Bourassa

Frank Ferraro

Lisa Gagalis

Ashley Hass

Katherine Raucci

One School District Clerk for the ensuing three years.

Susan Buchanan

One School District Moderator for the ensuing three years.

Bobbi Burns

One School District Treasurer for the ensuing three years.

Viginia “Gina” M. McLaughlin

North Hampton Student Government will host a candidates’ night is Wednesday, March 6 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm here at the school.

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 \$10,125,584? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$10,186,273 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.)

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

Recommended by the School Board: 4-1

Recommended by the Budget Committee: 6-0

Katelyn Belanger made a motion to move Article 1 to the floor, seconded by Danielle Strater

Matt Ferreira reviewed the budget in detail.

Moderator turned to the floor for comments and questions.

Ann Marie Banfield asked for clarification on 2 line items for school breakfast and lunch and why the charge for meals doesn't cover the full cost for providing them. Matt Ferreira noted that the cost that the school charges for meals has risen, but still doesn't fully cover costs.

Tim Faley asked for clarification on staff reductions noting concern that reduction in staff levels and additional training for special education would result in increased work load for already stressed teachers. Meredith Nadeau responded that the current special education needs and school enrollment justifies the reductions, the additional training is to enhance skills versus increase workload, and that the goal is not to add workload to teachers.

Ann Marie Banfield asked for clarification of the North Hampton portion of the SAU costs and for the staffing levels. Matt Ferreira stated that there are 14 staff members and that though the North Hampton portion of the costs rose by 4.75%, the SAU costs only rose by 2.5%. North Hampton's increase was based on North Hampton property values rising in relation to the other towns.

Kirsten Larsen Schultz also asked for clarification on how the SAU costs are distributed and asked what the impact will be if one of the towns leaves the district. Meredith Nadeau responded that the town considering this does not have it on the ballot this year, but only an article to study the impact. She then noted that this would have a large impact. Matt clarified that the SAU cost distribution model is based on enrollment by town and total real estate value of each town.

Ann Marie Banfield asked for the cost of membership in NH School Board Association and NH School Administration Association and who pays for them. Matt Ferreira noted that NH School Board Association is approximately \$2,500 paid for by North Hampton and the other is approximately \$3,000 paid by the SAU. Ann Marie Banfield suggested that membership should be reconsidered because of lobbying efforts by the organizations or at least asking that membership not include moneys going towards lobbying.

Seeing no additional questions/comments, the Moderator noted that Article 1 will move to the official ballot as written.

Katelyn Belanger made a motion to restrict reconsideration, seconded by Lisa Gagalis. Motion passed unanimously.

Article 02 Seacoast Educational Support Personnel 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 North Hampton School Board and the Seacoast Educational Support Personnel Association for the following increases and reductions in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

Year	Estimated Salary Increase	Estimated Benefits Increase	TOTAL Estimated Costs
2024-25	\$53,938	\$4,709	\$58,647
2025-26	\$49,475	\$4,320	\$53,795
2026-27	\$24,737	\$36,555	\$61,292
2027-28	\$23,845	\$34,923	\$58,768

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$58,647 for the 2024-25 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.)

Recommended by the School Board: 4-0; Recommended by the Budget Committee: 8-0

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).

Danielle Strater made a motion to open article 2 for discussion, seconded by Lisa Gagalis.

Matt Ferreira explained the article, emphasizing the need for the collective bargaining agreement to be approved by all towns in order to pass.

The Moderator opened the article to the floor for comments and questions.

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Danielle Strater made a motion to allow a non resident, Tami Gardner, President of the Seacoast Educational Support Personnel Association Union the ability to speak, seconded by Lisa Gagalis. Motion was approved unanimously.

Tami Gardner explained the job of support personnel, how vital they are to the operation of the schools, the training they receive, the low level of pay and benefits that they receive and the total commitment that they have to the students and their positions. She received applause when finished.

Tim Failey asked for clarification of what the \$53,938 salary increase meant. Matt explained that if it passes, that will be the total dollars spread across the total number of support personnel in North Hampton. Tim spoke about how vital they are to the school, that they deserve a reasonable wage, and the need to promote this article throughout the town. Matt noted that there is a presentation and video on the school website.

Seeing no additional questions/comments, the Moderator noted that Article 2 will move to the official ballot as written.

Danielle Strater made a motion to restrict reconsideration, seconded by Lisa Gagalis. Motion passed unanimously.

Article 03 Long Term Maintenance

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$80,000 to carry out long term maintenance work in the North Hampton School building and grounds. Anticipated projects include, but are not limited to: door automation upgrades and replacement of the public announcement system. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the projects are completed or June 30, 2027, whichever is earlier. (Majority vote required.)
Recommended by the School Board: 4-0; Recommended by the Budget Committee: 8-0

Lisa Gagalis made a motion to open article 3 for discussion, seconded by Michael Gendre.

Matt Ferreira explained the article.

Moderator turned to the floor for comments and questions.

Seeing no questions/comments, the Moderator noted that Article 3 will move to the official ballot as written.

Lisa Gagalis made a motion to restrict reconsideration, seconded by Michael Gendre. Motion passed unanimously.

Article 04 Building Maintenance Expendable Trust

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate \$50,000 to be added to the existing Building Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund, with up to \$50,000 to be funded from the June 30, 2024 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2024. No additional amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required.)
Recommended by the School Board: 4-0; Recommended by the Budget Committee: 6-2

Michael Gendre made a motion to open article 4 for discussion, seconded by Katelyn Belanger.

Matt Ferreira explained the article.

Moderator turned to the floor for comments and questions.

Ann Marie Banfield commented that she believes the current level of funding within the Trust at \$100,000 is enough and that adding \$50,000 is not necessary.

Seeing no further questions/comments, the Moderator noted that Article 4 will move to the official ballot as written.

Michael Gendre made a motion to restrict reconsideration, seconded by Katelyn Belanger. Motion passed unanimously.

Seeing no further business, the Moderator asked for a motion to adjourn, provided by Katelyn Belanger, seconded by Larry Miller and many others and approved unanimously.

Moderator reminded all present that voting on the official ballot will occur at the North Hampton School on Tuesday, March 12 from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Moderator officially closed the meeting at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Buchanan, School Clerk