

**Seabrook School Deliberative Session**  
**Seabrook Middle School, 256 Walton Road, Seabrook NH. 03874**  
**Monday, February 5th, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.**

<b>Present:</b>		
School Moderator - Rio Tilton	School Board - Christina Keiser	SAU 21 Superintendent - Meredith Nadeau
School Clerk - Shayna Merrill	School Board - Kelli Hueber	Middle Principal - Colleen Lennon
Checklist Supervisor - Bruce Brown	School Board - Jennifer Hubbard	Elementary Principal - Bryan Belanger
Checklist Supervisor - Kaleb Brown	School Board - Michele Perkins	Executive Assistant - Rhonda Evans
Check-In - Diana Cerasi	Business Admin - Matthew Ferreira	SAU 21 Attorney - Robert Casassa
Approx. 65 members of the Public		

Moderator Rio Tilton opened the meeting at 7:06 pm to an audience of approximately 53 legal voters. Moderator Tilton led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Moderator Tilton announced the rules of the meeting, allotting voters 5 minutes maximum, and proceeded to read the Seabrook School District Warrant.

Business Administrator Matthew Ferreira showed a Power Point on each article in the warrant.

**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 \$17,980,496? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$17,661,175 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. (Should this article be approved, it is estimated it will constitute \$5.1727 per thousand of the tax rate.)

The School Board and the Budget Committee recommend this article.

Harold Eaton asked why the revenue number does not match the number on the Department of Revenue website. Matthew Ferreira stated the numbers do match, and that this is just the total for Seabrook. Eaton asked if any grants were received for McKinney-Vento Act students. Ferreira stated they do have grants and it is not something that is included here.

Paula Wood asked for figures of general education and special education. Ferreira said there were 645 students as of October 1<sup>st</sup> and approximately 135 are special needs. Ferreira stated there is 3 million in the budget for special education.

Srinivasan Ravikumar asked how many students are in out of district placements. Meredith Nadeau answered 7 students. Ferreira stated it is a line item in special education.

Samantha Hinson stated the district has a five-year 1st student contract, and they are down multiple buses, and asked where the money goes. Ferreira answered they reconcile and get a refund.

Lacey Fowler asked if this accounts for the students in Haverhill and other districts. Ferreira said yes, all 645 students are included. Fowler questioned if there are 64 students in the McKinney-Vento Act. Ferreira confirmed yes approximately, and stated it is a federal law.

**MODERATOR PASSED ARTICLE 01 AS READ**

**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 Seabrook 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	\$91,442	\$ 7,984	\$99,426
2025-26	\$88,606	\$ 7,399	\$96,005
2026-27	\$45,105	\$50,300	\$95,405
2027-28	\$44,264	\$42,871	\$87,135

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$99,426 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.)

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.)

(Should this article be approved, it is estimated it will constitute \$0.0286 per thousand of the tax rate.)

Alexis Perkins read a letter from Cathy Brown expressing praise for the Seabrook Educational Assistants. Multiple staff members stood behind Perkins in support.

Cassandra Hashem complimented the staff and stated they are underpaid.

**MODERATOR PASSED ARTICLE 02 AS READ**

**Article 03      Social Worker**

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$154,796 for the salary and benefits for Social Worker to serve the Seabrook School District. (Majority vote required). The School Board and the Budget Committee do not recommend this article.

(Should this article be approved, it is estimated it will constitute \$0.0445 per thousand of the tax rate.)

Laura Carty, Laura Litcoksky, and Jessica Caron all spoke on the importance of the social worker

Frank Souther stated there needs to be more discipline in the school.

Eric Small said this article will be hard to pass if the school board does not recommend it. Kelli Hueber stated there is not a big enough caseload to support it. Hueber explained Seabrook is 70% behind in English and Math, and they should keep one full-time social worker and utilize the shared social worker. Christina Keiser stated she supports the additional social worker and feels the article should have been included in the operating budget and not made into a separate article.

Philip Scolardi stated a social worker is important, but it was just a temporary position and he does not support the article.

Paula Wood questioned the benefits of the social worker. Ferreira stated there is a higher need for social workers in Seabrook compared to other towns, and if the article does not pass, they would need to contract services to comply without receiving the benefits of suicide awareness, homelessness and DCYF.

Laura Carty made a motion to amend the article so the social worker does not sound like a new position.

Ashley Mckenzie seconded the motion.

Robert Casasa recommended a change in the language of the amendment. The change was made.

Moderator asked for a show of hands in favor of the amendment. It appeared most voters raised their hand. One voter voted against the amendment.

**MODERATOR PASSED AMENDED ARTICLE 03 WHICH READ:**

**“To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$154,796 for the salary and benefits of a Social Worker to serve the Seabrook School District. This article would allow for the continuation of a social worker role which has been in place for three years, paid for with federal ESSER funds which have expired.**

**(Should this article be approved, it is estimated it will constitute \$0.0445 per thousand of the tax rate.)**

**Article 04      Roof Replacement**

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$379,995 to replace the roof on the Seabrook Middle School? This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is complete or June 30, 2027, whichever is earlier. The School Board and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required.) (Should this article be approved, it is estimated it will constitute \$0.1093 per thousand of the tax rate.)

**MODERATOR PASSED ARTICLE 04 AS READ**

**Article 05      Petition Article – Child Benefit Services**

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$16,762 to provide child benefit services, in accordance with RSA 189:49, for students who are residents of the Seabrook School District and attending Sacred Heart School located in Hampton, New Hampshire. CITIZEN’S PETITION by 25 or more registered voters of the Town of Seabrook. (Majority vote required.)  
The School Board does not recommend this article. The Budget Committee recommends this article.  
(Should this article be approved, it is estimated it will constitute \$0.0048 per thousand of the tax rate.)

**MODERATOR PASSED ARTICLE 05 AS READ**

**Article 06      Withdrawal from SAU #21**

Shall the School District, in accordance with RSA 194-C:2, approve the creation of a planning committee to conduct an analysis of the educational and fiscal benefit and cost of being part of the School Administrative Unit (SAU) #21 and the advisability of establishing a new school administrative unit, in accordance with this chapter, its organization, operation and control? The planning committee will consist of: 1) two school board members; 2) one budget committee member; 3) four public members representing the community at large appointed by the school district moderator; and 4) the Superintendent who will be a nonvoting member. The committee will serve without pay for a term ending no later than the 2025 School District meeting at which time it will submit its findings and recommendations which the community will vote upon at the March 2025 ballot vote. The School Board recommends this article. (Majority vote required.)

Harold Eaton said our students are scoring below other communities and he feels the curriculum should be the same across the board. He supports leaving SAU21.

Maria Brown said a study should be done to see what is not working. She said South Hampton is doing great and asked why we are not. She stated there is a need for leadership.

Philip Scolardi stated he does not want his child stifled. Kathy Rita-Ahan and Cassie Perez both expressed they feel the school failed their children.

**MODERATOR PASSED ARTICLE 05 AS READ**

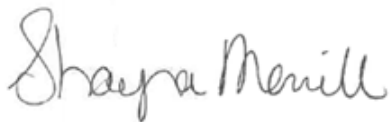
**Article 07      Other**

To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

None.

Moderator Rio Tilton adjourned the meeting at 9:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Shayna Merrill, School District Clerk  
February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024