

MINUTES OF THE DELIBERATIVE SESSION
ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
KINGSTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE
FEBRUARY 3, 2016

The Meeting was called to order by Richard “Rick” Russman 7:25 PM, held at the Sanborn Regional High School Auditorium at 17 Danville Road in Kingston, New Hampshire.

Moderator opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and welcoming the public. Moderator introduced the panel on the stage School District Clerk, Melissa Beal, next School Budget Committee, Beth Scanlon, James Doggett, Ami Faria, Annie Collyer, Patricia Stephan, Chairperson, Cheryl Gannon. School Board Members, Nancy Ross, Jon LeBlanc Janice Bennett, Corey Masson, Roberto Miller, Wendy Miller, Dustin Ramey, Superintendent Dr. Brian Blake, Legal Counsel, Mike Elwell, and Business Administrator Carol Coppola

Moderator announced that all non-registered voters must be seated in the upper balcony. In addition, there would be no discussion on Article 1 and would be moved forward to the ballot as printed.

Before the session, Voters’ Petition for paper secret ballot was submitted to the Moderator on article 3, which is the article on the school budget.

The Petition was accepted by the Moderator and submitted to the School District Clerk for filing.

Moderator read article 2

Article 2. Shall the reports of school district agents, auditors, committees, or officers chosen be accepted and placed on file?

Motion made to move question by Beth Scanlon and seconded by James Doggett

Moderator asked if there were any comments, discussion on article 2.

Moderator declared with no further discussion on article 2 it will appear on the ballot as printed

Article 3. Shall the Sanborn Regional 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 at the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling Thirty Five Million Fifty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$35,057,950)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Thirty Four Million Four Hundred Twelve Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$34,412,230), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Sanborn Regional 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. (This warrant article does not include appropriations in any other warrant article.) Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-3) Recommended by the Sanborn Regional School Board (4-2) Estimated Tax Impact Kingston: \$.74/\$1,000 Newton: \$.86/\$1,000

Motion made to move question by Cheryl Gannon and seconded by Jon Leblanc

Moderator asked any questions or discussion on article 3

Cheryl Gannon, Chairperson for the Budget committee demonstrated a slide presentation on the budget and explained each line item.

Jon Leblanc discussed the increases with the budget along with a handout was offered to all voters at the time of session. He touched base on the health insurance and transportation increases.

Jamie Fitzpatrick, a member of the Newton/Kingston Taxpayers Association also presented a few slides of his opinion on a proposed budget. Mr. Fitzpatrick also spoke that his figures show only an increase of 1.9 million, less than what the school budget is proposing. He also commented on a slide that showed that our Superintendent is one of the highest paid in the State.

Dr. Brain Blake spoke and commented on Mr. Fitzpatrick presentation because he felt it was a personal attack on him and needed to speak. Dr. Blake continued with he did not feel that the facts that were presented by the last speaker are accurate. He did not get a chance to study the slide that indicated he was the 6th highest paid, but he does know that some of the towns listed on the slide have part-time Superintendents. He also does not take the medical insurance that is offered from District, and does not take a lot of the benefits that are available to him.

Jim Baker made a motion to amend article 3 and seconded by Roger Clark

Jim Baker spoke to change the proposed budget amount from \$35,057,950.00 to 34,117,000.00, this proposal is 1,943,000.00 more than was spent in the year ended last June, just 8 months ago, and is a 6% increase in 2 years. It is less than the 9.9% increase proposed by the Budget Committee. It would result in ½ percent of less of a property tax increase. This proposal leave all money allocated in the District budget for continued improvements to education and results: It supports investment in technology, adding a 5th grade teacher at Bakie, it supports a move towards adjusting our class sizes, capital investments in roofing, security cameras, swing sets and temperature control. This is a 6% increase in 2 years, far above inflation, but reasonable increase to accommodate education and increase health cost.

Roger Clark spoke in support of the amendment to article 3

Jamie Fitzpatrick commented on the proposed amendment to article 3.

Tammy Gluck spoke against the amendment to article 3, stating that it is only a little under \$4 dollars a week increase, doesn't feel that should affect people that much and feels that our children are worth a \$4 dollar a week increase.

Andrea Ducharme made a point to let the boards know that she think everyone does a great job and in Administration but she has a concern with cutting the budget.

Barry Lime commented on the \$4 increase a week that he needs that for his own budget and it does affect him.

Stan Wentzell spoke against the amendment stating that he has lived in Kingston for 40 years and very proud of the job that the Administration and staff are doing for our District. Stan continues with his kids have gone through the system and continue in life to be very successful. Master

electricians, master plumbers, lawyers, and all have done very well. He understands the taxes believe him he has been paying them too. He has faith in the Budget Committee and School Administration, but would like to put education first and no burden to the children.

Julia Fitzgerald speaks in concern of cutting the budget because she has firsthand knowledge of a child with Autism and Autism is grower in this country. She is very concern of what will happen to her daughter if she does not have the structure in her day-to-day activities. It is a lot harder at the middle school because she does not have the same level of guidance she has at the elementary level and that she got at the Charter School, and if there are cuts it will be extremely hard for her to go through each day without the support she needs.

Laura Thibeau spoke against the amendment; we need to put trust in the school administration. We need to support a trend on continuing to support our staff and teachers. I refuse to short change the school district.

Tammy Mahoney spoke in support of the amendment

Mary Klemarczyk spoke against the amendment stating that if we do not get a 5th grade Bakie schoolteacher that will make almost 30 kids in a classroom.

Lisa Gonyer spoke in support of the amendment stating she has been here 22 years and is a huge supporter the school district her children have been through the district and appreciate what they do. She also added that she remembers when the Kindergarten was up for a vote, and the voters said no, it did not pass, but the District took the money anyway and started the Kindergarten program. She continues to talk about people need to understand they are voting on the bottom line and the Administration can do whatever they want with the money once it passes. Therefore, even if we say no, they can take money from somewhere else in the budget and do it anyway, just wanted people to understand they are only voting on that bottom number.

Ceara Hunt spoke against the amendment letting people know the children's involvement in community and the fun they have in the District. The kids promote and participate in fundraiser.

Marissa Piper spoke in support of the amendments because her and her husband just moved her and they are a young couple, just starting out, the taxes are high. She would not like to see the taxes continue to increase because it will push them right out of town.

Jason Faria made a motion to move the question and seconded by Barbara Frake.

Moderator explains that at this point there will be a secret ballot vote on article 3 using "K" on your forms of Yes and No.

School District Clerk and the Moderator supervised a secret ballot vote with the voters and the supervisor of the checklist assisted with the hand count of the ballots. Yes 165 No 151

Moderator announces totals of the vote on article 3 and the article has passed as amended.

Jim Baker made a motion to restricted article 3 and seconded by Roger Clark

Moderator educated the crowd on what this motion to restricted mean that article 3 will be done with debate and no longer can talk about article 3

Moderator asked all in favor to restrict article 3 please hold up your voter card when asked, which the majority of voters did and then No's please hold up your card.

Moderator states the yes vote carries and article 3 has been restricted.

Moderator declared with no further discussion on article 3 it will appear on the ballot as amended.

Article 3 as amended Shall the Sanborn Regional 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 at the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling Thirty Four Million One Hundred Seventeen Thousand Dollars (\$34,117,000)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Thirty Four Million Four Hundred Twelve Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$34,412,230), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Sanborn Regional 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. (This warrant article does not include appropriations in any other warrant article.) Not Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-2) Not Recommended by the Sanborn Regional School Board (4-2)

Moderator read article 4

Article 4. Shall the Sanborn Regional School District approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement for professional staff reached between the School Board and the Sanborn Regional Education Association, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at current staffing levels over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year:

<u>Year</u>		<u>Estimated Increases</u>
1	2016-2017	\$ 404,655
2	2017-2018	\$ 506,701

and further, to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Hundred Four Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Five Dollars (\$404,655) for the 2016-17 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at the current staffing levels? Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-1-1 Abstain) Recommended by the Sanborn Regional School Board (4-2) Estimated Tax Impact Kingston: \$.30/\$1,000 Newton: \$.33/\$1,000

Motion made to move question by Cheryl Gannon and seconded by Jon Leblanc

Moderator asked any questions or discussion on article 4

Roger Clark asked what qualifies you for retirement in the district.

Jon Leblanc answered the question with after 55 years of age, and after your 20 years with the district.

Mr. Czyzowski English teacher for Sanborn High School spoke in support of article 4

Jason Faria made a motion to move the question and Donna Felisberto seconded.

Moderator states with no further discussion on article 4 with appear on the ballot as printed.

Moderator read article 5

Article 5. Discontinue Facilities Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund

If Article 6 is adopted, Shall the School District vote to discontinue the Facilities Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund established in 2005 with said funds together with the accumulated interest to the date of the withdrawal (in the approximate amount of \$53,621) to be transferred to the School District's general fund? (majority vote required) *Recommended by the Sanborn Regional School Board (6-0) Estimated Tax Impact Kingston: \$.00/\$1,000 Newton: \$.00/\$1,000*

Moderator asked if we have a motion on article 5

Jon Leblanc made a motion and Nancy Ross seconded

Jon Leblanc did a brief presentation on article 5 and noted that both article 5 and article 6 needs to pass for them both to be implemented.

Jim Baker asked how many capital reserve fund does the district have.

Carol Coppola answered with one other fund for Special education with \$227,357.00 balance. Jim Doggett spoke on his support for article 5 because these accounts need to be created for situations that may or may not happen to the district. We need these accounts in case of a septic systems fails or those unknowns that could cost the district money.

Moderator declared with no further discussion on article 5 it will appear on the ballot as printed

Moderator read article 6

Article 6 Capital Improvement and Maintenance Capital Reserve. If Article 5 is adopted, Shall the School District vote to establish a new capital reserve fund to be known as the Capital Improvement and Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of the care, upkeep and improvement of School District facilities, and appoint the School Board as agents to expend this fund, and finally to raise and appropriate up to \$153,621 to be placed in this fund with said sum to come from the June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1 (approximately \$53,621 of that amount will be from the discontinuation of the 2005 Expendable Trust Fund)? No amount to be raised from additional taxation. (majority vote required) Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-2) Recommended by the Sanborn Regional School Board (6-0) Estimated Tax Impact Kingston: \$.00/\$1,000 Newton: \$.00/\$1,000

Moderator asked do we have a motion on article 6

Jim Doggett made a motion and Annie Collyer seconded.

Moderator asked any discussion or comments on article 6

Roger Clark questioned the way article 6 was written indicating that the voters at the poll will think that it is coming from article 5.

Carol Coppola answer the comment with the DRA and counsel have already reviewed the article and had no concerns, and she cannot control the way the voters think at the polls.

Marian Sapolei asked if she could clarification on article 5 and 6

Moderator spoke to article 5 and article 6 needs to pass together because one cannot happen without the other, need to have the other account open to transfer the funds.

Beth Scanlon commented that Jim Doggett is speaking as a resident and just because he is speaking from the panel does not mean that he is speaking on behalf of the Budget Committee members or we are all in agreement with what he is saying.

Jim Doggett commented on Beth Scanlon stating he is always a citizen and can speak and answer questions from where ever he wants to.

Moderator declared with no further discussion on article 6 it will appear on the ballot as printed

Moderator read article 7

Article 7. List SRSD Employees Submitted by petition: To direct the Sanborn Regional School Board to include a list of employees who work for the School District in the Annual Report starting in 2016 and continue each year until voted out by voters. The list should be alphabetical by last name, followed by first name. The list should show the following: name, position held, salary for year reported, total cost of employee to district, step level, years at SRSD *Total cost shall include the following: all benefits including retirement cost, and life, dental and health premiums paid by the District Not Recommended by the Sanborn Regional School Board (6-0)*

Moderator asked if there is a motion on article 7

Motion made by Jim Doggett seconded by Annie Collyer

Jim Baker asked why HIPPA totals cost

Counsel, Mike Elwell spoke that this is an advisor article so it would be Board decision to do what this article calls for which is individual employee benefits.

Mrs. Fitzpatrick what is Advisor mean.

Counsel, Mike Elwell advisor article means that even if it passes the authority is still given to the Board if they wish to do it or not.

Jason Faria speaks against article and would like it deleted.

Moderator explains that he cannot do that, sorry.

Mary Cyr asked do other departments

Peter Broderick commented that the Town does not print employees name in the Annual Town Report but it is all public information except for HIPPA.

Kurt Baitz spoke on behalf of a 12 year veteran of the School Board and longtime resident of Kingston how disgusted he is in the Deliberative Session this evening. It is easy to be the Monday morning quarterback but these members of the board work diligently to prepare the budget all year long, these are the people volunteering their time. It is a shame to hear attacks on our Superintendent, and Jon Leblanc great person for the position not running for reelection after only 3 years this is why you cannot get good people for the positions, it makes me sick.

Moderator declared with no further discussion on article 7 it will appear on the ballot as printed

Moderator read article 8:

Article 8. Dispose of the Old Sanborn Regional School Building: Submitted by petition: To direct the Sanborn Regional School Board to come up with a plan to dispose of the buildings located in Kingston, NH, known as the Sanborn Seminary Building and the Science building, by December 31, 2016 by whatever means possible, whether it be selling, returning to the Trustees or some other method. Any monies received by SRSD must be used to pay down bond. Not Recommended by the Sanborn Regional School Board (5-1)

Moderator asked for a motion on article 8

Jim Dogget made a motion to move the question and seconded by Annie Collyer
Jack Cusack spoke in favor of article 8

Moderator declared with no further discussion on article it will appear on the ballot as printed

Moderator read article 9

Article 9 Annual Report: Submitted by petition: To direct the Sanborn Regional School Board to have the Sanborn Regional School District Annual Report available & distributed two (2) weeks before Annual deliberative session starting with 2016 report. Not Recommended by the Sanborn Regional School Board (6-0)

Jim Doggett made a motion to accept and Annie Collyer seconded

Moderator declared with no further discussion on article 9 it will appear on the ballot as printed

Moderator read article 10

Article 10 Deliberative Session Submitted by petition: To direct the Sanborn Regional School Board to move the Deliberative Session to the Town of Newton NH every other year starting in 2017. Recommended by the Sanborn Regional School Board (4-2)

Motion made by Jim Doggett and seconded by Annie Collyer

Moderator asked if there is any discussion on article 10

Kevin Holt asked if the article passes where in Newton would you accommodate this meeting.

Kathy commented that the understanding was when the High School was built it was geographically located for both towns, centered for travel for Kingston and Newton.

Moderator declared with no further discussion on article 10 it will appear on the ballot as printed

Moderator read article 11: Default Budget Submitted by petition: Upon petition of 25 or more registered voters: Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:14-b to delegate the determination of the default budget to the municipal budget committee, which has been adopted under RSA 32:14? Not Recommended by the Sanborn Regional School Board (5-1)

Moderator asked for a motion on article 11

Jim Doggett made a motion and seconded by Annie Collyer.

Jim Doggett spoke on support of article 11

Peter Broderick wanted to make an amendment to article 11 that it should read 3/5 so the voters understand that when voting.

Jim Baker seconded the amendment

Moderator asked the voters for a vote on amendment by holding up their voter card.

The majority of the vote was yes to pass the amendment

Moderator declared that the amendment passed and Article 11 will be printed on the ballot as amended to add 3/5 vote.

Jon Leblanc spoke against article 11 if it passes it will take away the checks and balance and he does not agree with that.

Moderator declared with no further discussion on article 11 it will appear on the ballot as printed

Meeting Adjourned 10:27 PM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melissa J. Beal".

Melissa J Beal
School District Clerk