

Hillsboro-Deering Cooperative School District

Deliberative Session

February 5, 2022 – 9:00 am

Hillsboro-Deering High School Gymnasium

School District Moderator John Segedy opened the meeting at 9:12am and made introductions: School Board members; Chair Herla Iadonisi, Vice Chair Paul Plater, Chris Bober, Jessica Morris, Heidi Welch; School District Clerk Megan Shower, Superintendent Patricia Parenteau, Legal Counsel Matt Upton, and Business Manager Mary Henry.

Paul Plater then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Article 01 Election of Officers -

To choose by nonpartisan ballot the following School District Officials:

One School Board Member At Large for 3-year term

Michael F. Kenney

Danielle Pelletier

Michael Luciano

Richard Pelletier

One School Board Member from Deering for 3-year term

Chris Bober

Betsy Harrington

One Moderator for a 1-year term

John Segedy

Presented by Jessica Morris

A. Questions/Comments

a. None

Article 02 Set Salaries of School Board, Agents/Officers

Shall the Hillsboro-Deering School District set the salaries of the School Board and compensation of any other officers or agents of the District as printed in the 2022-2023 Budget?

School Board Chair \$1,800

School Board Members \$1,000 each

School Treasurer \$5,000

District Clerk \$100 per meeting

Moderator \$90 per year

Ballot Clerks \$10 each per voting session

Recommended by School Board

Presented by Paul Plater noting an increase of the treasurer's pay of \$1,600.

A. Questions/Comments

a. Andrew Morris from Hillsborough

- i. Would like the microphones turned up because it is difficult to hear the people speaking.

Article 03 Operating Budget -

Shall the voters of the Hillsboro-Deering 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 \$23,775,573 (twenty-three million, seven hundred seventy-five thousand, five hundred and seventy-three dollars)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$23,624,145 (twenty-three million, six hundred twenty-four thousand, one hundred forty-five dollars), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the school district or by law; or the School District 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. (Funding the operating budget for 2022-2023 but does not include appropriations in other warrant articles, except Article #2) Recommended by School Board

Presented by Herla Iadonisi who gave an overview of the school board's mission, goals and budget. Key factors include an increase in salaries and health insurance; and a decrease in Special Education out of district costs. The proposed budget reflects only a 0.57% increase over the FY2022 budget.

A. Questions/Comments

a. Riche Colcombe from Hillsborough

i. School Resource Officer

1. The resource officer was removed from the budget last year, but the school still had the resource officer in the school
 - a. The town of Hillsborough paid for this resource officer, and the town of Deering did not pay for this service.
2. Requests the School Board to add the school resource officer back into the school budget so that the cost of this service is shared between both Hillsborough and Deering, and take it out of the town budget.

B. Motion on Article 3

a. Iadonisi moved to restrict reconsideration of Article 3. Bober seconds.

i. Discussion

1. Riche Colcombe from Hillsborough
 - a. If this article is restricted, and does not put the resource officer back into the school budget, will the school be expecting the town to provide a school resource officer?
2. Betsy Harrington from Deering
 - a. Believes that this article should be brought up again for reconsideration.

ii. Vote to restrict consideration

1. Motion to restrict consideration passed by general majority of voting members of the community present.

- The Moderator addressed the concern from a member of the community whose vote was not included in the previous vote to restrict reconsideration of Article 3. Counting the 1 vote from the other room, the original vote stands as “passed” because the single vote added to the votes against the motion to restrict does not overturn the previous vote.

Article 04 Appropriation for Food Service and Federal / State

Shall the Hillsboro-Deering School District raise and appropriate \$1,862,000 for the support of school projects as follows: \$700,000 (seven hundred thousand dollars) for Food Service and \$1,162,000 (one million, one hundred sixty-two thousand dollars) for Federal and State projects? Such sum to be offset by school lunch sales and State and Federal grants. Majority vote required. Recommended by School Board

Presented by Chris Bober

- A. Questions/Comments
 - a. None

Article 05 Appropriation for SAU Budget

Shall the voters of the Hillsboro Deering School District adopt a School Administrative Unit budget of \$1,209,921 (one million, two hundred and nine thousand, nine hundred twenty-one dollars) for the forthcoming fiscal year in which \$1,023,413 (one million twenty-three thousand, four hundred thirteen dollars) is assigned to the school budget of this district? This year's alternative budget of \$1,200,961 (one million, two hundred thousand, nine hundred and sixteen-one dollars) for the forthcoming fiscal year in which \$1,015,834 (one million, fifteen thousand, eight hundred thirty-four dollars) is assigned to the school budget of the district, will be adopted if the article does not receive a majority vote of all school district voters in the School Administrative Unit. Recommended by School Board.

Presented by Paul Plater who noted that the approved SAU budget is proportionally split between Hillsboro-Deering, Washington and Windsor School Districts. Each district has an SAU budget article on their warrant for their apportionment.

A. Questions/Comments

- a. Riche Colcombe from Hillsborough
 - i. Last year, she believes that we voted this down. We asked to be provided with a breakdown of what is included in the SAU #34 budget. It is very hard to approve a budget increase without details.
 1. Response to comment by Superintendent Parenteau
 - a. We have done multiple webinars on how the SAU 34 budget is put together, and what is included. The budget and timeline is

also posted in this room and online available for the public to review.

No action taken.

Article 06 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 Hillsboro Deering School Board and the Hillsboro-Deering Federation of Teachers (AFT Local #2348) which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Fiscal Year Estimated Increase

2022-2023 \$300,065

2023-2024 \$314,006

2024-2025 \$326,955

And further to raise and appropriate \$300,065 for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the most recent collective bargaining agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. (Majority vote required)
Recommended by School Board

Presented by Chris Bober reviewed the school boards goals for negotiations and the contract changes; 3 year contract, 2-5% increase to salary steps, evergreen will be grandfathered, top step employee receives \$1,000, class period substitution rate increase from \$40 to \$55, members pay 1% more towards health insurance premium, increase penalties for contract termination after May 15th.

A. Questions/Comments

a. Elizabeth Kirby from Deering

- i. Is very concerned about the test scores of our children. Does not understand why teachers are getting a raise if the performance of the students is not improving.

1. Response to comment

- a. Test scores are important, but they are not the entire picture.

b. Rich Pelletier from Hillsborough

- i. Would like to congratulate the school board on the Evergreen stipulation in the contract.
- ii. For the people on the top step, do they get an additional \$1,000 each year?
- iii. The CBA states - Top step employees will get an additional \$1,000 regardless of a new CBA being passed - What does this mean?

1. Response to comment

- a. The \$1,000 for the top step employees will only be for 1 year.

c. Betsy Harrington from Hillsborough

- i. How are we going to spend our money wisely, and not just give more money to the teachers or administrators who are not doing well?
- ii. Understands and supports the top step additional \$1,000 as a way to keep our best teachers.

- iii. Also feels that we need to get rid of the teachers who are not performing well.
- d. Elizabeth Kirby
 - i. Why approve across the board raises?

No action taken.

Article 07 If Article #6 is Defeated

Shall the School District, if Article # 6 is defeated, authorize the School Board to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 6 cost items only? (Majority vote required) Recommended by School Board

Presented by Paul Plater noting that this authorizes a second voting session on just the CBA. Atty. Upton clarified that the statute does not specify a time period.

A. Questions/Comments

- a. None

No action taken.

Article 08 Fund Special Education Expendable Trust

Shall the Hillsboro-Deering School District vote to raise and appropriate up to \$50,000 (fifty thousand dollars) to be added to the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund previously established? This sum to come from the Jun 30, 2021 unassigned fund balance available for transfer after July 1, 2022. No amount to be raised from taxation. Recommended by the School Board

Presented by Heidi Welch noting that the balance of the fund is \$615,849 and that one student can cost more than \$500.000 per year.

A. Questions/Comments

- a. None

No action taken.

Article 09 Fund School Building Maintenance Expendable Trust

Shall the Hillsboro-Deering School District vote to raise and appropriate up to \$150,000 (one hundred fifty thousand dollars) to be added to the School Building Maintenance Fund previously established? This sum to come from the Jun 30, 2022 unassigned fund balance available for transfer after July 1, 2022. No amount to be raised from taxation. Recommended by School Board

Presented by Jessica Morris who explained that the fund was established in 2004 by a vote of the tax payers. The balance of the fund is \$185,246 and there have been 2 deductions from the fund in 2016 and 2017. The fund will be used to fund the Capital Improvement Plan, giving the board flexibility to meet project needs as priorities change.

A. Questions/Comments

- a. Riche Colcombe from Hillsborough

- i. Would like to know why we are being asked to approve \$150,000 for this fund.
 - 1. Response to Comment
 - a. In the past, we have asked for money to be put into multiple funds. Feels that putting this money into a single fund, enables the Board to cover various projects when they need to be addressed.
- ii. If we have a heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) fund, why are we putting money into this fund for the same types of projects?
 - 1. Response to comment
 - a. The HVAC fund would be used first for any HVAC projects, and then if needed, this trust would be used to cover the balance.
- b. Betsy Harrington
 - i. We got a lot of money from the ESSER funds to cover these types of projects. Feels that this money is not needed this year for the maintenance fund.
 - 1. Response to comment
 - a. ESSER funds will be able to cover this, but we have more projects than money to cover them. 20% of the ESSER funds are required to be spent on students, so while we received ESSER money, it is not enough to cover all of the projects.
- c. Riche Colcombe from Hillsborough
 - i. Why would we fund this trust when we already have separate funds for HVAC, Paving, and Roofing funds?
 - 1. Response to comment
 - a. Those funds will be used for what they are designated for, but ultimately it is the goal of the Board to phase out those funds and put the money needed in a single fund to provide more flexibility to cover priority maintenance needs as they arise.

No action taken.

Article 10 Fund Technology Expendable Trust

To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$2,500 (two thousand, five hundred dollars) to be added to the Technology Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum to come from June 30, 2022 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2022. No amount to be raised from taxation. Recommend by School Board

Presented by Heidi Welch noting the current fund balance is \$102,121.

A. Questions/Comments

- a. Betsy Harrington from Deering
 - i. We have now done the same thing twice, how do we fund these if there is no money left over?
 - 1. Response to comment

- a. The trusts are funded in priority order, as numbered in the warrant, from the money remaining in the unassigned fund balance.

No action taken.

Article 11 Accept Annual Reports

Shall the Hillsboro-Deering School District accept the reports of agents, committees and officers chosen as printed in the Annual Report? Recommended by School Board

Presented by Herla Iadonisi - it was clarified that by statute the annual report must be made available 7 days prior to ballot voting; it will be available earlier on the school district's website.

A. Questions/Comments

- a. None

No action taken.

Meeting adjourned at 10:34am

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Megan Shower".

Megan Shower

Hillsboro-Deering School District Clerk

