

# Hillsboro-Deering School District Deliberative Session Minutes

February 4, 2019 H-D Middle School Cafetorium

Moderator Jon Daley opened the meeting at 7:00pm with a Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence for Supervisor of the Checklist Arlene Johns, who passed away last month.

Introductions included School Board members Richard Pelletier (Rich), Chair, Kathryn McGinn, Vice Chair, Paul Plater, Chris Bober and Jessica Morris, and High School representative Joshua Marshall; School District Clerk Joyce Bosse, Superintendent Robert Hassett, Legal Counsel Chris Pyles, and Business Administrator Lori Schmidt. Moderator Daley then told the assembled the general rules of the meeting, including a little used RSA whereby he could fine individuals a dollar for verbally disrespecting other people in attendance. He also noted that the clerk must have the full names of both the person who makes a motion and the person who seconds that motion. All motions must be in writing and given to the clerk.

**Article 1:** Election of Officers: To choose by nonpartisan ballot the following School District Officials:

One School Board Member At Large for a three year term

One School Board Member from Deering for a three year term

One Moderator for a one year term

Those signed up are James Fedolfi and Herla Iadonisi from Hillsboro for the At Large seat; Donn Mann and Chris Bober from Deering; and John Segedy for Moderator.

No discussion

**Article 2** 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 2019-2020 Budget?

School Board Chair \$1,800; School Board Members \$1,000 each; School Treasurer \$3,400; District Clerk \$100 per meeting; Moderator \$90 per year; Ballot Clerks \$10 each per voting session

Recommended by School Board

No discussion.

**Article 3:** 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 \$22,138,515

(twenty-two million, one hundred thirty-eight thousand, five hundred fifteen dollars)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$22,032,286 (twenty-two million, thirty-two thousand, two hundred eighty-six 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 2019-2020 but does not include appropriations in other warrant articles, except Article #2) Recommended by School Board.

After a presentation by Rich Pelletier, including reading of both the School Board mission statement and goals, and slides showing that the budget is up by .079% with estimated revenues, and the default budget \$106,229 less than the proposed, John Segedy, Hillsboro, made a motion and Mary Plater, Hillsboro, seconded, to change the requested amount to the \$21,900,153, or \$109,446 less. John stated that his numbers were derived from figures that were in the default budget, but not in the operating budget such as Court Ordered placements and NH Retirement figures. JP Marzullo of Deering asked what line items he was talking about.

Rich Pelletier spoke against the motion stating that that money is needed because the Evergreen amount for the Teacher's contract isn't in the default budget, as the Board is attempting to adhere to the new laws regarding the default budgets. John stated that it isn't in the default budget because the voters never approved the Evergreen clause.

A vote by the body resulted in the motion being defeated.

Leigh Bosse had a lengthy speech in opposition of the proposed budget, but did not propose a reduction based on the vote of the previous motion.

Brad Chacos, Hillsboro, spoke.

Rich Pelletier made a motion to restrict reconsideration, a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Kathryn McGinn, with no further discussion. Motion passed.

**Article 4** Shall the Hillsboro-Deering School District raise and appropriate \$1,710,000 for the support of school projects as follows: \$680,000 (six hundred eighty thousand dollars) for Food Service and, \$1,030,000 (one million, thirty 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

No discussion.

**Article 5** Shall the voters of the Hillsboro Deering School District adopt a School Administrative Unit budget of \$1,192,200 (One million, one hundred and ninety-two thousand, two hundred dollars) for the forthcoming fiscal year in which \$937,742 (nine hundred thirty-seven thousand, seven hundred forty-two dollars) is assigned to the school budget of this district?

This year's alternative budget of \$1,094,781 (one million, ninety-four thousand, seven hundred and eighty-one dollars) for the forthcoming fiscal year in which \$923,055 (nine hundred twenty-three thousand, and fifty-five 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 the School Board.

Chris Bober indicated that the SAU Board had recommended this budget and the amount of the increases was primarily because the Curriculum Director position was changing from part-time to full time and other employees were scheduled for 2% raises. He also made a motion to change the amount of the alternative budget as it's printed to \$1,1174,781 with a second by Rich Pelletier. He stated that the difference was due to a clerical error. Motion passed. JP Marzullo asked how many staff members, Lori Schmidt answered that there are currently 10, with 9 being full time. Changing the one position would add \$50,000-60,000 to the budget, which would include benefits. John Segedy asked how much was in the SAU surplus fund, the answer was \$27,000 to be anticipated at the end of 6/30/20.

**Article 6** 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

2019-2020 \$377,780

2020-2021 \$344,143

2021-2022 \$370,305

And further to raise and appropriate \$377,780 for the 2019-2020 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

Rich highlighted the changes after negotiations with a slide presentation. Leigh Bosse questioned the Evergreen cost placements, Rich explained that they need to be in the operating budget in case this article doesn't pass. Mary Plater and John Segedy questioned the slides and the contract numbers. They both wanted the totals to be included on the warrant. John made that motion with JP Marzullo seconding. Superintendent Hassett stated that by changing the numbers on the Warrant it would make the article more confusing, rather than more transparent. Mary Plater spoke in favor of the motion. Upon a call for the vote, the vote was Yes-19, No-30. Motion defeated.

**Article 7** 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? Recommended by the School Board.

No discussion

**Article 8** To see if the school district will vote to establish a HVAC Repair and Replace Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 198:20-c, V for the purpose to purchase new or repair HVAC equipment and to raise and appropriate \$100,000 (one hundred thousand dollars) to be placed in the fund; further to name the school board as agents to expend from the fund. (Majority vote required) Recommended by School Board.

Chris Bober presented the article with slides, explaining that the cost of the items would be hard to place in a normal budget; therefore, it makes sense to establish a trust. John Segedy moved to strike the last sentence of the article which would allow the school board to withdraw from the trust at any time, stating that the Board has taken money from other trusts almost immediately rather than letting it build up for major projects. The motion was seconded by Donn Mann of Deering. Motion defeated.

Russell Galpin of Hillsboro requested that in the future acronyms such as HVAC be spelled out so the public can understand what is being put forth. A motion was made by Chris Bober and 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Segedy. The Board was in agreement that this should be done.

**Article 9** To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate \$75,000 (seventy-five thousand dollars) to match the funds raised by the Hillsboro-Deering Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization, towards the cost of removing the Hillsboro-Deering Elementary School Playground to build an American Disability Act compliant playground. This is a non-lapsing article and will not lapse until the project is complete or June 30, 2021, whichever occurs sooner. (Majority vote required) Recommended by School Board

Kathryn McGinn spoke in favor of the article stating that the PTO has already raised \$46,433.80, so only has about \$28,500 left toward the \$75,000. She said that the members of the PTO feel confident that they can raise the additional funds prior to 2021. John Segedy stated that while he is sympathetic to the cause, he was a member of the public who put in the current playground with all volunteer time and money. He also stated that the insurance report, which he received after filing a Right to Know request, does not require new equipment or design, and that the insurance has neither increased nor been denied. He also feels that the deficiencies are due to lack of maintenance. Herla Iadonisi of Hillsboro and a PTO member stated that the current playground is not ADA compliant and additionally there are line of sight issues as teachers cannot see all of the children when they are using the playground and that is when accidents happen. Paul Plater stated that he was in favor of this article.

**Article 10** To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate \$35,000 (thirty-five thousand dollars) to cover the cost of a feasibility study for the construction of a Performing Arts Center to be located on the School District's premises. (Majority vote required) Recommended by School Board.

Rich Pelletier presented the article stating, in part, that if the project is to be done, now is the time to begin the process as the building debt for the Middle School will be retired in 2022. It's not known how much the Duncan Jenkins Trust will donate and it will need to be brought before the Superior Court. It would be good to have a real auditorium, it would expand student opportunities and be a place for events as there could be a multi-purpose room for both school and town use. David Fullerton spoke as the Selectmen's representative to the Arts Center Committee and stated that it could be an economic boom to the town, as the space could be used for many activities. Gene Gould of Hillsboro, also on the committee, spoke on the advantages it would give students, as did Vanessa Gaffey.

**Article 11** 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 is to come from the Jun 30, 2019 unassigned fund balance available for transfer after July 1, 2019. No amount to be raised from taxation. Recommended by the School Board.

John Segedy asked how much is currently in this fund; Lori Schmidt answered \$506,798. It was noted that a single out of district placement could be as much as \$250,000.

**Article 12** To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 (fifty thousand dollars) to be added to the Technology Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum to come from June 30, 2019 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2019. No amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required) Recommend by School Board.

John Segedy asked how much is currently in the fund, and the answer was \$97,000. This money would be used more for upgrading the infrastructure rather than for student equipment.

**Article 13** 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.

No discussion.

A motion to adjourn was made by Rich and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kathryn. Meeting adjourned at 9:23pm

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Joyce Bosse

Hillsboro-Deering School District Clerk