

**Annual School District Meeting
Washington New Hampshire
March 5, 2022**

Moderator Guy Eaton called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. He led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, introduced the School Board members, the ballot officials, the school district employees who were present and explained the rules of order. The Ballot Box was shown to be empty and was then locked. The polls were declared open at 9:10 AM and were closed at 10:40 AM.

Moderator Eaton noted that there were two School Board positions open. Voters were welcome to write in candidates.

Article 01 The following officials were elected by a non partisan ballot. A total of ballots were cast.

School Board member for 3 years:

Tyler Garvin (write in) 34

Tyler Garvin declared elected

School Board member for 3 years:

Eric Hodge (write in) 12

Eric Hodge declared elected

Moderator for 1 year:

Guy Eaton 39

Guy Eaton declared elected

Clerk for 1 year

Colleen Duggan 32

Colleen Duggan declared elected

Treasurer for 1 year

No one declared elected

Write in candidates receiving fewer than five (5) votes are not recorded here.

Moderator Eaton asked if there would be a motion to allow non-residents to speak.

Kathy Atkins moved to allow non-residents to speak at the meeting.

Motion seconded by Linda Musmanno.

Approved by Voice Vote.

Article 02 Arin Mills moved to hear the reports of agents, auditors and committees or officers chosen and to pass any vote relating thereto.

Motion Seconded by Danielle Moore.

Approved by Voice Vote

Article 03 Danielle Moore moved to determine and appoint the salaries of the School Board, and fix the compensation for any other officers or agents of the District as follows:

School Board Chair	\$750
School Board Member:	\$500
School District Clerk	\$75
School District Treasurer	\$500
School District Moderator	\$100

Motion Seconded by Cameo Mulliner.

Approved by Voice Vote.

Article 04 Cameo Mulliner moved to see if the Washington School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,791,050 (two million, seven hundred ninety-one thousand, fifty dollars) for the support of schools, the payment of salaries of School District employees, and for the payment of statutory obligations of the District, or take any other action in relation thereto. (This article does not include the budget of the School Administrative Unit.)

Motion Seconded by Linda Musmanno.

School Board Chair Linda Musmanno reviewed the budget. Overall, the budget decreased 0.82% (\$24,438.00). There was a decrease in Tuition because there are fewer students going to Hillsboro and a change in Staff & Programs. Increases were due to one special education teacher being made full time and a special education paraprofessional was added. The Media & Technology budget also saw a significant increase of 77.25% from \$18,700.00 to \$33,146.54.

Peter Martin asked if the librarian was working only 1 day a week and was told yes. Sue Hofstetter noted that the SAU Services line on the Expenses and Services chart should show a -1.34% decrease, not increase.

Approved by Voice Vote.

Article 05 Linda Musmanno moved to see if the voters of the Washington School District would adopt a SAU Budget of \$1,209,921 (one million, two hundred nine thousand, nine hundred twenty-

one dollars) for the forthcoming fiscal year in which \$172,177 (one hundred seventy-two thousand, one hundred and seventy-seven dollars) is assigned to the school budget of this school district. This year's adjusted budget of \$1,200,961 (one million, two hundred thousand, nine hundred and sixty-one dollars) with \$170,902 (one hundred seventy thousand, nine hundred two dollars) assigned to the school budget of this school district, will be adopted if the article does not receive a majority vote of all the school district voters voting in this school administrative unit.

Motion Seconded by Kathy Atkins

Musmanno noted that this reflected the loss of one employee.

Linda Marshall asked for a clearer explanation. Business Manager Mary Henry said this amount covered the cost of managing the district which includes four towns. The amount was determined by apportionment, 50% of the actual number of students and 50% of property taxes. The amount decreased because there were fewer students attending school. If the amount requested in this article were defeated, the school would operate on the default budget from last year.

Moderator Eaton called for a brief break for paper ballot voting. He asked Lynn Hendrickson and Mark Florence to count the ballots.

The motion was approved by Paper Ballot

Ballots Cast 34 27 yes 7 no

Article 06 Kathy Atkins moved to see if the Washington School District will raise and appropriate the sum of \$120,000 for the support of school projects as follows: for food service, \$30,000 (thirty thousand dollars) and for Federal and State projects, \$90,000 (ninety thousand dollars) with \$120,000 to come from school lunch sales and State and Federal revenue. (No amount to be raised by taxation).

Kathy Atkins noted that this article allows the district to accept funds & grant monies.

Motion Seconded by Linda Musmanno

Approved by Voice Vote.

Article 07 Linda Musmanno moved to see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 (thirty thousand dollars) to add to the unanticipated Special Education expendable trust fund created with the March 2005 Annual Meeting vote, for the purpose of paying for any unanticipated Special Education out-of-district tuition, related transportation and special therapy services and authorize the use up to the sum of \$30,000 (thirty thousand dollars) from the June 30, 2022 year end unassigned fund balance (surplus) available on July 1 of 2022, if any, toward this purpose.

Motion Seconded by Cameo Mulliner.

Musmanno noted that special education out of district placements can cost \$250,000 – \$500,000 per year. She said there was \$264,233.54 in the fund.

Mark Florence asked where these funds come from. Moderator Guy Eaton replied that they come from money left in budget at the end of the school year. It is surplus money not raised by additional taxation.

Linda Marshall asked if we have we ever needed these funds. Linda Musmanno answered yes. Superintendent Patricia Parenteau noted that the Town did not have to pay the total cost of one recent out of district placement, but planning for unanticipated out of district placements was prudent. Marshall asked if the fund generated any interest. Mary Henry replied that it did not generate much. Marshall asked if insurance would cover those costs and was told that it would not. Mary Henry pointed out that paying out of district placement costs is the law and the Town does not get to choose if or where a student can go. In the event that there are not adequate funds available, the school may have to freeze its budget to compensate for the difference or borrow money against future revenue. Tom Marshall commented that there may be other ways to do it, like having the Town borrow money. The School District cannot borrow money itself.

Other attendees noted that the Town itself adds money to funds in anticipation of future expenses and that providing for unanticipated expenses is fiscally responsible. There were further discussion about how the School Board determined the amount of money to put in the funds and whether there should be a cap on the amounts. Board members noted that they cannot predict how much money they may or may not need. They reiterated that the money going into these trust funds would come from end of year surpluses. If there is no surplus no money goes into them. They are funded in the order that they are presented in the warrant. Musmanno added that the School returned \$130,042.00 in unspent funding to the Town last year.

Approved by Voice Vote.

Article 08 Cameo Mulliner moved to see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 (twenty five thousand dollars) to add to the Building/Grounds expendable trust fund created with the March 2005 Annual Meeting vote, for the purpose of maintaining and repairing school buildings and authorize the use of the sum of up to \$25,000 (twenty five thousand dollars) from the June 30, 2022 year end unassigned fund balance (surplus) available after July 1 of 2022, if any, toward this purpose.

Motion Seconded by Danielle Moore.

Linda Musmanno said there was \$60,344.73 in the fund. Musmanno said that they considered items that were highlighted by the Energy Audit for the elementary school. Tom Marshall noted that the Town Building Fund had less than \$55,000.00 in it to cover 10 buildings. Ingrid Halverson asked if the Board anticipated having a \$55,000 surplus at the end of the year, and was told that they didn't know. Mark

Florence asked if surplus funds would be returned to the Town to offset the tax rate if they did not go into these funds and was told yes.

Approved by Voice Vote.

Article 09 Danielle Moore moved see if the school district will vote to establish a Tuition Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 198:20-c, V for the unanticipated tuitions and to raise and appropriate \$10,000 (Ten Thousand dollars) to come from the June 30, 2022 unassigned fund balance available for transfer after July 1, 2022 to be placed in the fund; further to name the school board as agents to expend from the fund.

Motion Seconded by Arin Mills.

School Board Chair Linda Musmanno said that the school had never budgeted for tuition to send Middle School and High School students to Hillsboro. They want to start such a fund so they would not have to freeze the budget if new students moved into town who would go to the Hillsboro schools.

Approved by Voice Vote.

Article 10 To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

School Board Chair Linda Musmanno presented a gift for Tamara Webber who retired after 23 years of teaching. Moderator Eaton read a poem for her. Webber was not present at the meeting. Eaton also read poems for retiring Superintendent Patricia Parenteau and School Board member Cameo Mulliner. Linda Musmanno also presented a gift to Mulliner. Board Member Kathy Atkins presented a plaque to exiting Board Member Linda Musmanno and Guy read a poem for her as well.

Linda Musmanno thanked everyone in the school and the Board for their support.

Sue Hofstetter acknowledged the difficult past 2 years for everyone in the school.

Linda Marshall read the following statement:

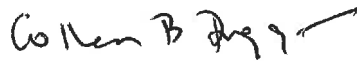
For the coming year the School Budget has surpassed the entire Town Budget by \$174,000. The tuition cost per student is among the highest in the state while the student's education is ranked among the lowest. Going forward, I would ask the School Board to make it their duty to put the interests of the students and the taxpayers of Washington their priority. Thank you.
Linda Marshall

Peter Martin moved to adjourn at 10:29 AM

Motion Seconded by Kathy Atkins.

The Polls were closed at 10:40 AM

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colleen B. Duggan", followed by a horizontal flourish line.

**Colleen Duggan
School Board Clerk**

**A True Copy – Attest:
Colleen Duggan
School Board Clerk**