

**Nottingham Budget Committee Meeting**

**1-12-21**

**Official Minutes as of 9-16-21**

**1 Call to Order**

2 Members Present: Tim Dabrieo (Chair), John Decker (Vice Chair), Tom Leveille, Michael  
3 Koester, Michelle King, Sandra Jones, Shawn Green, Tom Butkiewicz, James Stevens, John  
4 Morin (Select Board rep), Karyl Martin (School Board rep)

5 Absent:

6 Others: Lorraine Petrini, Glen Waring, Chris Sousa, Preston Hunter, Dave Dearborn, Debbie  
7 Ricker, Susan Levenson, Cristopher Salomon, Bonnie Winona MacKinnon, ET Reed

8 Chair opened the meeting at 6:30pm.

**9 Review of New Changes to the Proposed School Operating Budget**

10 Ms. Martin went over the changes to the proposed school operating budget. Line 28-29 high  
11 school tuition: 8<sup>th</sup> graders submitted preferred high school in December, so these lines were  
12 updated. More kids are going to CBNA than DHS. Mr. Decker asked if this is the number of  
13 students who are moving up from 8<sup>th</sup> grade and includes reductions for seniors. Ms. Martin said  
14 there were no additional students added. Mr. Decker asked if it included extra students. Ms.  
15 Martin said there are no move-ins added in. Ms. Levenson said 5 move-ins were removed from  
16 CBNA. Ms. Martin said if there were any homeschoolers who said they were going to a  
17 particular school; they were be included in this line as well.

18 Ms. Martin said there was a change in transportation line 351. A contract has not been signed  
19 with Dail Transportation yet, but they have agreed to a one year extension of the current contract.  
20 They are holding the DHS bus cost flat. There is a reduction in cost for elementary buses and a  
21 3% increase for CBNA buses.

22 The overall increase to the school budget is 8.7%.

23 Mr. Decker said he appreciated getting the excel version of the budget.

**24 Review Updated Revenue Projections**

25 Revenue projections were updated. Ms. Martin said Mr. Byrne spoke to the Medicaid  
26 reimbursements and how they had not been receiving this money for a bit. They are receiving  
27 money now. They are estimating \$20k revenue for the school year.

28 The COVID funding is coming in but must be spent on COVID related items so they are not  
29 included on this revenue sheet. Ms. Martin said they also do not know what they are receiving  
30 for future COVID funds.

31 Mr. Koester asked how the CARES Act grant is documented. Ms. Martin said there is a  
32 spreadsheet that the school is maintaining. They have spent all the money they have received,  
33 and they will receive more that needs to be spent by end of the year.

**34 Review of Other Warrants**

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35     *Article 1: Bond for the addition: \$6,165,490*

36     This assumes a March voting date. There were changes made to the plan based on BC  
37     suggestions. The courtyard was changed. Ms. Levenson said the interest number in the WA was  
38     updated and it is lower than what is on the WA currently. It will be updated on the warrant  
39     article. The number of years for the bond have not been determined yet. Dr. Butkiewicz asked if  
40     they thought that the interest costs should be included for all the options. Ms. Levenson said  
41     they are using the 20-year option in the WA. Dr. Butkiewicz said he would like to see any  
42     numbers in the WA. Dr. Butkiewicz and Mr. Decker would like the bond prices in there. Mr.  
43     Stevens said it is a possibility that this doesn't get voted on right away. Ms. Levenson said if they  
44     must delay voting and they have to build over the winter, it will increase the cost. Escalation  
45     costs were given. Mr. Hunter said they had added winter conditions costs of \$80k if they must  
46     build over the winter. The escalation contingency will be 2.5% for either schedule. Mr. Stevens  
47     asked if they should have those costs in the WA. Mr. Hunter said they are assuming a March  
48     vote. Any additional cost will be added at a future deliberative session if they must postpone the  
49     deliberative session. Ms. Levenson said it is not known if the deliberative session can be pushed  
50     out in 72 hour increments for the SB deliberative session. Mr. Green asked if the 30% state aid  
51     can be added into the WA. Ms. Levenson said they were advised by the state that the short list of  
52     schools chosen for state aid will not be available till March and then the state will make final  
53     decisions. They cannot put a guess of potential state aid in the WA. Ms. Levenson said they will  
54     speak about the state aid at the bond hearing tomorrow night. Mr. Decker said it is unfortunate  
55     that they don't know about the state aid ahead of the WA vote. Dr. Butkiewicz said they do not  
56     know and it's a chance. Ms. Levenson said it is due to one of the emergency orders from the  
57     state that they can push this decision back to award state aid out.

58     Dr. Butkiewicz suggested new wording for the WA: If this article passes, for up to 20 years,  
59     there will be an estimated tax impact of \$X for the principal and interest. Mr. Decker said they  
60     should have a not to exceed amount. Mr. Hunter said the tax impact changes over the 20 years.  
61     He said the website shows an average tax impact for the 20 years. Mr. Stevens suggested putting  
62     what was on the website in the WA. Ms. Levenson said they will disclose all the numbers in the  
63     bond hearing. Dr. Butkiewicz would like one of these statements in the WA more than only  
64     having a discussion at the bond hearing. Dr. Butkiewicz asked about the increased ongoing costs  
65     including janitor costs, electrical costs, etc. if the addition is approved Ms. Levenson said there  
66     was an \$80k solar allowance cost which will bring the new build to a net zero cost for electricity.  
67     Ms. Levenson said that there will not be further maintenance costs. Dr. Butkiewicz believes that  
68     they will need an additional janitor based on the building addition.

69     Mr. Salomon said originally the music room and science lab were built onto the front of the  
70     building. They eliminated the additions off the ends of the building. They made the world  
71     language classroom in the courtyard. The music room is off the gym now. It still allows daylight  
72     and outdoor space with the changes. There are solar panels added now as well so the costs are  
73     kept down for the taxpayers. Mr. Hunter said this plan simplifies things by consolidating the  
74     addition in the back. There would be no disruption in the classroom wing now when the addition

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is being built. The construction area can easily be fenced off. Mr. Salomon said if there is voting later this spring, they can still build in the fall. Mr. Preston said the change reduced the cost by \$168+k and no space was given up. The soft costs had a solar allowance added for \$80k. The total cost is \$6,165,490 for the addition. Mr. Stevens asked about what the contingencies cover. Mr. Hunter said Eckmann Construction would control contingencies for the hard costs. The soft costs are controlled by the owner. Mr. Stevens asked who manages the construction services. There is a \$30k for an owner's rep. Mr. Hunter explained the estimating contingency and escalation contingency. The owner contingency is for something that they did not foresee before they went out to bid; ledge is an example of this. Mr. Stevens asked if it will ever be over the \$6.1M. Mr. Hunter said it will not exceed that unless the school changes the plan or there are any unforeseen items like ledge. Mr. Salomon said it may come in less and they will go with the lower number if they find savings. Mr. Stevens asked if the students are dropped off at the back of the school; how will that look? Mr. Sousa said there are a lot more parent drop offs due to COVID. He hopes that there will be more ridership on buses after COVID. The road in the back will be paved and there will be extra places for students to be dropped off due to more entrances. There will be a larger area for drop off so the car line will move quicker.

*Article 2: Budget: \$14,974,841*

Ms. Martin said they will go over this in detail.

*Article 3: Withdraw from the SAU*

Ms. Martin said the report is posted on the school website. The language cannot be elaborated more in the WA as it is dictated by the state. Dr. Butkiewicz said he has submitted a citizen WA in the past and has put more preamble, but the town removed the preamble however after further discussion with the town, they put the preamble back. Dr. Butkiewicz suggested that they put more of a preamble for this WA as well so people will understand further. He suggests something like: this will save \$X in the future by the town leaving the SAU. Ms. Martin said the Nottingham SB does send a flyer to explain the WA to the households.

*Article 4: Textbook Capital Reserve Fund: \$20K*

Dr. Butkiewicz asked about the unassigned balance. Ms. Martin said there is a smaller limit that the school can keep, unlike the town who has a larger limit. They must return the money back to the town. Dr. Butkiewicz asked if there was a limit that they can keep. Ms. Martin said they can keep up to 1.5% of the unassigned fund balance. Ms. Levenson confirmed that. This year the state changed the limit to 5% but the SB decided to keep it at 1.5%.

*Article 5: Building Repair Capital Reserve Fund: \$35K*

There are some elements included in the CIP that the school will need to address if the addition does not pass. Dr. Butkiewicz asked if these articles don't pass, does the money get returned to the taxpayers. Ms. Martin said it does get returned. He would like it written into the WA.

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111 Article 6: Ground Capital Reserve Fund: \$15K

112 This reserve fund pays for things like the sidewalk and paving the parking lot. These are  
113 included in the CIP as well. Ms. Martin said the capital reserves are funded in the order that they  
114 are presented on the warrant.

115 *Article 7: Special Education Capital Reserve Fund: \$20K*

116 Ms. Martin said this fund covers unanticipated special education needs. Mr. Stevens asked if this  
117 is used to cover the budget. Ms. Martin said this is used for unanticipated needs not covered in  
118 the budget. Dr. Butkiewicz suggested wording: 'If this passes, it does not cost the taxpayers any  
119 additional money however, if it doesn't pass, the money goes back to the taxpayers.'

120 Mr. Decker asked about the 1.5% that the school can use from the unassigned balance. Ms.  
121 Martin said it's an additional 1.5% that the school can retain. Mr. Green asked about the 1.5%  
122 and up to 5%. Ms. Martin said while the state now allows the school districts to go up to 5%, the  
123 town has chosen to go up to 1.5%.

124 **Public Hearing**

125 *Opening Remarks*

126 Mr. Dabrieo explained that the SB and BC have been meeting since November. They will go  
127 through the budget section by section. If the audience would like to ask questions, they can speak  
128 up to 3 minutes per topic. Public comment will close at the end of the hearing and the BC will  
129 vote to recommend.

130 *Presentation of Proposed Budget*

131 There was a contracted increase for the retirement benefit. Statutory services are up 6.2%. Dr.  
132 Butkiewicz asked if retirement is included as a benefit to the teachers. Mr. Leveille said yes. Dr.  
133 Butkiewicz asked if the SB can go above the estimates they put into the prior year's warrant. Mr.  
134 Dabrieo said the retirement is not included in the benefits. Mr. Decker said there is no recourse;  
135 it was an estimate at that point and things changed over the year. Dr. Butkiewicz asked if the  
136 steps are predictable. Mr. Dabrieo said that the steps are predictable but not the retirement  
137 benefit. Dr. Butkiewicz said the voters approved it based on what was written in the WA, where  
138 the school board provided an estimate that was much lower than the actual cost increases we are  
139 seeing now.

140 Mr. Dabrieo said the tuition went up 12.6%. Dr. Butkiewicz noted that they are still paying a  
141 higher cost to send students to Portsmouth HS which is not an approved school of record, and  
142 noted that Pinkerton HS tuition is lower than all the others. Ms. Levenson confirmed that cost to  
143 Pinkerton HS is lower. Dr. Butkiewicz said since it is much lower to Pinkerton; perhaps we  
144 should encourage students to go there.

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145 There was an increase in special ed para. Dr. Butkiewicz noted that this is because it was more  
146 union contracted salary increases. Ms. Levenson said they are responsible for all the students  
147 regardless of the school they attend. They provide paras if needed. If we pay for the paras, we  
148 pay the regular rate for the students to go to CBNA. At DHS, we are required to pay for the paras  
149 needed there based on tiers. Ms. Martin said that there was an increase on the preschool line;  
150 Strafford left the preschool so now the costs are split between Northwood and Nottingham. Mr.  
151 Leveille asked if there were preschool classrooms in Nottingham, would this line item change.  
152 Ms. Martin said all the preschool costs will change if the addition is approved and Nottingham  
153 leaves the SAU. They expect it will be less. Ms. Levenson said Strafford left the district last year  
154 and had a cost savings however, they had a spot for the preschool right away.

155 There was a 2% increase for co-curricular activities. Dr. Butkiewicz asked what co-curricular  
156 means. Mr. Sousa said it is clubs, enrichment activities, sports. Dr. Butkiewicz said since they  
157 are over budget and increasing the budget from last year by 9%, he suggests cutting the budget  
158 here, as they are all things outside of the academic educational program the town is required to  
159 provide. Ms. Martin said the default budget is more than the proposed budget because the  
160 proposed budget reduced items already. She doesn't think that these items should be reduced. Dr.  
161 Butkiewicz said that the default budget is 10% and that is not giving the taxpayers much of a  
162 choice. He continued: this is a considerable tax hike. There is a constitutional mandate to provide  
163 an adequate education which doesn't include Legos and video games. It's a disservice to ask  
164 taxpayers to pay for these things.

165 Mr. Leveille asked what percentage of students take part in cocurricular activities. Mr. Sousa  
166 said they estimated 60% of students take part a couple years ago; this was before some of the  
167 newer activities were added in. He believes it's higher now. Ms. Jones said it's not simply kids  
168 playing video games; they are learning how to code. It's an educational boost for creativity and  
169 the kids are learning in different ways. Mr. Sousa said it's Legos robotic club that is about  
170 learning about presentation, robotics, etc. Dr. Butkiewicz believes it's not part of the core  
171 academic education. Ms. Jones said it is not kids playing; these are educational activities. Dr.  
172 Butkiewicz would like parents to pay for these. Mr. Stevens said that they are looking for places  
173 to cut the budget; this is 0.2% of the budget. Dr. Butkiewicz said this is emblematic of a budget  
174 that hasn't been reduced. He wanted to make it known that there are thousands of dollars being  
175 spent for Legos and video games. Mr. Dearborn said he thanked Dr. Butkiewicz for being  
176 fiscally responsible and trying to reduce the budget.

177 Athletics was increased by 2.2% over last year. Dr. Butkiewicz said athletics is not part of the  
178 academic pursuit. Referees cost a lot of money because of certification and playing in regional  
179 league; Dr. Butkiewicz suggested playing with other schools not in the league. He was told that  
180 it's more prestigious to play in these leagues. Mr. Decker argued that it's not prestigious for 8<sup>th</sup>  
181 grade to play in these leagues. Dr. Butkiewicz reiterated that is the excuse he was told in a  
182 previous meeting.

183 Summer school is no increase.

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184 Guidance increased by 8.8%. Mr. Decker said he thought epi-pens were by prescription. Mr.  
185 Sousa said these are a life-saving precaution in case someone doesn't have one. The school nurse  
186 has them and she would administer those. Mr. Decker asked if they need to replace all the  
187 equipment in this section. Mr. Sousa said they reduced that line, and they are in need of replacing  
188 items. Mr. Decker said last year it was \$0. Mr. Sousa said they haven't put many funds in this  
189 line in the past few years, but they would like to update items and get on a regular schedule of  
190 replacing items as needed.

191 Nurse section was increased by 8.6%.

192 Special contracted services decreased by 30.3%. Contracted OT/PT increased by 4%. Speech  
193 increased by 16.4%. Instruction and curriculum development increased 10.7%.

194 Library and media decreased 17.9%. Mr. Decker about the new line for new library equipment.  
195 Mr. Sousa said it is a holding line so they can create a more transparent budget. Mr. Decker  
196 asked if they could change to a penny. Mr. Stevens said they need to include that line item and  
197 they can move money to that line. Ms. Levenson agreed. Mr. Decker reiterated reducing to a  
198 penny. He asked about the American Assoc. of School Library membership. Ms. Levenson said  
199 there is a new librarian, and this would be part of her professional development. Mr. Sousa said  
200 they are adding more lines for transparency; these dues may have come out of other lines  
201 previously. The former librarian was an active board member of this association, so she didn't  
202 have to pay dues.

203 Mr. Reed asked if the BC reviewed the line item transfers from last year's spending to determine  
204 where money from each line was really spent. Mr. Decker said they have not reviewed specific  
205 transfers, but it should be in the actuals. Mr. Dabrieo said the admin goes over the areas where  
206 they had to change year over year. Mr. Reed asked if there is a way to track lines that are  
207 transferring. Ms. Levenson said that they used to do specific line transfers. Then they started  
208 letting the section overspend while savings would be seen elsewhere. Mr. Waring agreed with  
209 Ms. Levenson.

210 Technology decreased by 7.5%. Ms. Martin said they are renegotiating with Consolidated  
211 Communications. Comcast does not provide fiber service at the bandwidth that the school needs.  
212 Mr. Sousa said they have looked into breaking the contract and they will do that if there is a cost  
213 savings.

214 School board services decreased by 21.5%.

215 Office of the superintendent increased by 36.5%. Mr. Decker asked if the joint board could make  
216 further cuts. Ms. Levenson said they are trying to leave the SAU and they are obligated to stay in  
217 the district this coming year, but they could leave the following year if the WA passed.

218 Principal's office increase is 1.2%. Mr. Decker asked about the principal, AP salary increases  
219 and why they are higher than the CPI. Ms. Levenson said the language in the contracts are that  
220 the salary increases can be up to 3%. Ms. Martin said this is a year of extraordinary work from

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221 the admin. Mr. Dabrieo seconded that. Mr. Sousa said in the past, the salary increases have not  
222 always been up to 3% and he has given some of his potential increase to others.

223 Mr. Dearborn said as he looks at the history of the budget, it is increasing steadily. He  
224 commented that the taxpayers have to work to keep the schools open. Dr. Butkiewicz said he  
225 agrees. He showed a graph that shows the school increases along with the inflation rate. In three  
226 years, Dr. Butkiewicz said that school budget ballooned 23%. This is an unsustainable growth  
227 rate. Mr. Koester said there has been an increase in the size of classes entering high school in the  
228 past few years, which is not normal. Dr. Butkiewicz said the school spending has increased year  
229 after year whereas the town spending has remained flatter. Mr. Koester said that much of the  
230 increase is due to high school tuition. Mr. Decker said it is cheaper to send the kids to high  
231 school than it is to pay for the kids in the elementary school. Dr. Butkiewicz showed the  
232 enrollment figures which he showed as flat. He said there has not been any pushback from BC  
233 for spending. He said taxpayers are very upset about this. Mr. Dearborn said that he has done the  
234 same analysis as Dr. Butkiewicz and he agrees with him. Mr. Dearborn said it's the  
235 responsibility of the BC to bring the number back down. Dr. Butkiewicz said virtually no one  
236 supports lowering taxes on the BC. Mr. Dearborn said if people move out of town because the  
237 taxes are too high, it means less people to pay taxes. Dr. Butkiewicz spoke about taxpayers  
238 losing their houses because they can't afford their taxes. Mr. Reed said there is also the school  
239 addition. Mr. Reed said that the selectman/auditors are now processing many abatement requests  
240 from taxpayers who are proving poverty or inability to pay. Mr. Dabrieo and Dr. Butkiewicz had  
241 a discussion about tax bills. Mr. Reed said there is over \$800k not paid in taxes currently. Mr.  
242 Reed said if people can't pay last year taxes, how will they afford these taxes. Mr. Morin said  
243 that \$800k is not just this year; it is over potentially 5 years. He wanted to be clear about that.  
244 Mr. Dearborn suggested giving more information to the taxpayers so they understand what their  
245 tax bills will be. Mr. Koester said the bond hearing is tomorrow night and that's a good place to  
246 get into what the amortization schedules will be.

247 Operation/maintenance of plant increased by 6.6%. Dr. Butkiewicz said he believes there will be  
248 a substantial increase in propane for the addition. Mr. Stevens said the school was going to use  
249 heat pumps. Mr. Decker said the janitors and director have increases of 6%. Mr. Sousa said it  
250 was a 3% increase this year to bring him into line what others are making in the area and he felt  
251 the director deserved this.

252 Regular ed transportation decreased 5.8%. Special ed transportation increased by 54.8%. This  
253 was due to a lost ride share. Dr. Butkiewicz said this could be mitigated if the school would give  
254 mileage reimbursement to parents who drop off and pick up their kids. He said that Mr. Byrne  
255 and Dr. Henson were very hesitant to tell parents about this option. He said there is nothing  
256 wrong with telling parents that this is available, and it makes fiscal sense. Parents could spend  
257 quality time with their kids, and it would save money for the district. Mr. Green said this only  
258 works if 100% takes the school up on this. There is no savings if there are 10 kids, 5 take the bus  
259 and 5 are being driven by parents because the bus will still exist. Dr. Butkiewicz said there may  
260 be some rides that are single riders. Ms. Levenson said these are special ed costs and the SB are

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261 not provided any detailed information about those students who need these rides. Transportation  
262 costs are driven by the needs of the students and the SB has no authority to change that, but they  
263 could ask counsel about Dr. Butkiewicz's suggestion. Ms. Martin said Dr. Henson and Mr.  
264 Byrne's responses have been misrepresented and the transportation costs have to be budgeted  
265 regardless. Dr. Butkiewicz said it would be a savings at the end of the year. Dr. Butkiewicz said  
266 Mr. Byrne said he would refuse to do it. Ms. Martin said they can provide the information to the  
267 parents, but they cannot ask parents to do this. Mr. Dabrieo said he believes they are talking  
268 about 2 students' transportation costs; he is not sure of that number. Mr. Morin said that if the  
269 parents can only drive them 2 days, it doesn't save you anything because you still have to pay for  
270 the whole week.

271 School operations increased 8.8%. Food service increased 0.6%.

272 The entire budget increase is 8.7%. Dr. Butkiewicz said the HS tuitions were around 4-5%. He is  
273 wondering why other schools can keep their entire school budgets increases at 4-5%. Ms.  
274 Levenson said CBNA increased 3.99% and DHS was estimated at 5%. She said most of the  
275 increase is due to increased enrollment. Dr. Butkiewicz suggested staffing levels to be changed;  
276 some staff could be fired and hired back at lower rates. He said the budget is almost 5x the  
277 inflation rate.

278 Mr. Dearborn asked how much of the \$15M budget will fall on the shoulders of the taxpayers.  
279 Mr. Decker said most of it is from taxes. Dr. Butkiewicz said the taxpayers will pay all of that  
280 but \$170k. Mr. Dearborn said the budget has doubled in 5 years.

281 Mr. Decker asked about line 50, software for the high school alt-ed that is billed out of the SAU.

282 *Presentation of Other Warrants*

283 *Article 1: Bond for the addition: \$6,165,490*

284 Dr. Butkiewicz asked if the language will change on the WA. Ms. Levenson said she will discuss  
285 with the SB. Dr. Butkiewicz suggested supplementing the WA with what the tax impact for a  
286 median house in Nottingham would be. Ms. Jones said it would be confusing. Ms. MacKinnon  
287 said of the towns around us, Nottingham has the lowest tax rate. We beat Northwood only by 2  
288 cents and Lee by \$9. If we are unsustainable, then so is everyone else to a larger degree. Ms.  
289 Levenson discussed tax numbers from 1998. The values went down in 2009 and the rates went  
290 up. Mr. Koester said they had talked about a 'not to exceed' amount in the past. He said he  
291 would not be in favor of that.

292 *Article 2: Budget: \$14,974,841*

293 This was already discussed.

294 *Article 3: Withdraw from the SAU*

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295 There are no financial concerns with this. Mr. Decker said they don't make recommendations on  
296 this. Dr. Butkiewicz said they should recommend this because it's a really good idea and will  
297 save taxpayers money. Mr. Decker said they can't recommend due to law.

298 *Article 4: Textbook Capital Reserve Fund: \$20K*

299 Mr. Dabrieo read.

300 *Article 5: Building Repair Capital Reserve Fund: \$35K*

301 Dr. Butkiewicz said it would be helpful for the voters to have a statement that if this article does  
302 not pass, this money will return to the taxpayers. Mr. Decker said those are great points.

303 *Article 6: Ground Capital Reserve Fund: \$15K*

304 Mr. Dabrieo read.

305 *Article 7: Special Education Capital Reserve Fund: \$20K*

306 Mr. Dabrieo read.

307 Mr. Decker asked if anyone has any further questions from the public.

308 **Mr. Decker made a motion to close the public hearing of the school budget for the 2021-22**  
309 **school year. Mr. Leveille seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 11-0.**

310 *After the close of the Public Hearing, the Committee will reconvene to consider the public*  
311 *comments as we discuss any proposals to adjust the Operating Budget and vote whether to*  
312 *recommend each of the warrants deemed to have financial impact. Public is invited to stay and*  
313 *observe.*

314 **Post Public Hearing**

315 *Acceptance of Default Budget*

316 Mr. Dabrieo and Mr. Decker said they don't need to accept this.

317 **Mr. Koester made a motion to accept the default budget as presented. Ms. Jones seconded.**

318 **It was passed by a vote of 10-1 with Dr. Butkiewicz abstaining.**

319 *Acceptance of Revenue Projections*

320 **Mr. Koester made a motion that the BC accept the revenue projections as presented. Mr.**  
321 **Decker seconded. It was passed by a vote of 10-1 with Dr. Butkiewicz abstaining.**

322 *Consideration of Other Warrants*

323 *Article 1: Bond for the addition: \$6,165,490*

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324 **Mr. Decker made a motion to not recommend Article 1 because it lacks information on**  
325 **what the taxpayer will pay. Dr. Butkiewicz seconded.**

326 Mr. Decker said if the SB made changes, the BC could have another vote on this. Ms. Martin  
327 said they are asking to add projected interest however, what is written is accurate. Mr. Decker  
328 said the information in the article is too vague. Ms. Jones suggested Mr. Decker withdraw his  
329 motion as this is very confusing to the voter. Mr. Koester said there is an advantage to this type  
330 of voting. Mr. Leveille said they should vote whether they are in favor of WA. Mr. Decker said  
331 this article does not contain enough information for the lay person to determine how much this  
332 will cost them. Ms. Martin said the SB recognizes this and may reword this. She continued: they  
333 may add additional wording, but they will not change the amounts. If they knew the exact  
334 amount of the interest, they would put that, but they don't know that. Dr. Butkiewicz believes  
335 they could do an estimate. Mr. Stevens said if they vote in favor of this and there is no text  
336 added, it will remain this way on the ballot. Mr. Morin said the motion should be rewritten. Ms.  
337 Jones said the wording of the motion is very confusing and will be confusing for the taxpayers.

338 **The motion carries 6-5:**

339 **Butkiewicz /Decker/King/Leveille/Morin/Stevens voted in favor,**

340 **Dabrieo/Koester/Jones/Green/Martin voted nay.**

341 *Article 2: Budget: \$14,974,841*

342 **Mr. Koester made a motion to recommend Article 2 on the warrant as written. Mr. Green**  
343 **seconded.**

344 **Dr. Butkiewicz made a new motion. Whereas:**

345 **- The school budget has ballooned out of control, far beyond the rate of inflation, for many**  
346 **years now.**

347 **- Our nation is in the middle of an unprecedented economic crisis due to the COVID-19**  
348 **pandemic, destroying businesses and costing residents their jobs.**

349 **- The budget committee's role is that of a "fiscal watchdog", we have a responsibility to**  
350 **the taxpayers to control spending and prevent budget increases from pricing residents out**  
351 **of their homes.**

352 **I propose that the budget committee amend the proposed school budget for FY2021-22 to**  
353 **limit the total budget increase over the current FY2020-21 budget to 7% (down from**  
354 **8.7%), resulting in a total budget amount of \$14,739,267.46 (7% more than last year's**  
355 **budget of \$13,775,016.32). Mr. Stevens seconded.**

356 **Mr. Koester withdraws his motion.**

357 Mr. Decker said he would be in favor of a smaller amount. Ms. Martin said that all of the  
358 reduction will be cut from the K-8 school. Dr. Butkiewicz said they could take it from the school  
359 board stipends.

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360 **The vote fails:**

361 **Butkiewicz/Stevens voted in favor,**

362 **Decker/King/Leveille/Morin/Dabrieo/Koester/Jones/Green/Martin voted nay.**

363 Dr. Butkiewicz said this is a rubberstamp committee that has a history of giving the school  
364 whatever it wants and does not question any spending or do anything to control the outrageous  
365 budget increase.

366 **Mr. Koester made a motion to modify Line 634 to \$0 with the \$7000 to be funded from**  
367 **another source. Mr. Decker seconded.**

368 Mr. Koester suggested that this come out of the building repair capital reserve fund. Mr. Decker  
369 seconded.

370 **It was passed by a vote of 10-1 with Ms. Martin nay.**

371 **Dr. Butkiewicz made a motion to reduce Line 113 by \$1000. Mr. Stevens seconded.**

372 Ms. Martin said it is not a new club. Dr. Butkiewicz noted that it says it was new in the budget  
373 and that he doesn't believe that taxpayers should pay for video games.

374 **Motion fails:**

375 **Butkiewicz/Stevens/Morin voted in favor,**

376 **Decker/King/Leveille /Dabrieo/Koester/Jones/Green/Martin voted nay.**

377 **Dr. Butkiewicz made a motion to reduce Line 117 to \$1. Mr. Decker seconded.**

378 **Motion is passed:**

379 **Butkiewicz/ Decker/ Dabrieo /Stevens/Morin/Leveille voted in favor,**

380 **Green/Jones/King abstain,**

381 **Koester/Martin nay.**

382 **Motion carries.**

383 **Dr. Butkiewicz made a motion to reduce Line 104 to \$1. No second.**

384 Mr. Green said he doesn't want to pass an 8.5% increase but he is not in favor of reducing  
385 teachers. Dr. Butkiewicz said teachers' salaries and benefits are why we are in this position. The  
386 school has to cut the budget if the BC approves a reduction and the BC doesn't have to reduce  
387 the school budget line by line.

388 Mr. Koester said Mr. Dabrieo should go through the budget page by page. Dr. Butkiewicz and  
389 Ms. King suggested not doing that. Dr. Butkiewicz if they really want to go line by line, he has a

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390 version of the budget in which he cut a number of line items and all salary increases to get the  
391 budget increase reduced to only 2.4%. Mr. Decker said he would be in favor of a reduction of  
392 1%. Mr. Green asked if the 3% salary increases are contractual. Mr. Stevens said the principal,  
393 AP, office support staff and janitorial staff can be reduced. Mr. Decker asked how much went to  
394 the reserve fund last year. Ms. Levenson said they returned \$240K last year. Ms. Martin said  
395 they have incurred larger costs this year due to in person school and virtual school. Mr. Leveille  
396 suggested cutting the budget by 0.5%.

397 **Mr. Stevens made a motion to hold the budget to an increase of 8%. Mr. Decker seconded.**

398 **Butkiewicz/ Decker/Stevens/Morin/Jones/ King/ Leveille voted in favor,**

399 **Dabrieo/Koester/Green/Martin voted nay.**

400 **Motion carries.**

401 **Mr. Decker made a motion to recommend Article 2 for \$14,877,018. Ms. Jones seconded.**

402 **Motion carries:**

403 **Decker/Green/Jones/King/Koester/Leveille/Morin/Stevens voted in favor,**

404 **Butkiewicz/Martin abstained,**

405 **Dabrieo voted nay.**

406 *Article 3: Withdraw from the SAU*

407 There is no vote for this as there is no tax impact.

408 **Dr. Butkiewicz made a motion to recommend Article 3 on the warrant as written. Mr.**

409 **Green seconded. It was passed by a vote of 10-1, Koester abstained.**

410 *Article 4: Textbook Capital Reserve Fund: \$20K*

411 **Mr. Decker made a motion to recommend Article 4 on the warrant as written. Ms. Jones**

412 **seconded.**

413 Mr. Decker said it gives an incentive to stay below budget as they can use this money to pay for  
414 items at the end of the year through unassigned fund balance.

415 **It was passed by a vote of 10-1 with Dr. Butkiewicz nay.**

416 *Article 5: Building Repair Capital Reserve Fund: \$35K*

417 **Mr. Decker made a motion to recommend Article 5 on the warrant as written. Mr. Leveille**

418 **seconded. It was passed by a vote of 10-1 with Dr. Butkiewicz nay.**

419 *Article 6: Ground Capital Reserve Fund: \$15K*

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420 **Mr. Decker made a motion to recommend Article 6 on the warrant as written. Mr. Koester**  
421 **seconded.**

422 Mr. Koester said it's not a lot of money. Dr. Butkiewicz believes that all unspent money should  
423 be returned to the taxpayers, and that the "no tax impact" statement is misleading, and this is why  
424 he is voting no to all the unassigned fund balance articles.

425 **It was passed by a vote of 10-1 with Dr. Butkiewicz nay.**

426 *Article 7: Special Education Capital Reserve Fund: \$20K*

427 **Mr. Decker made a motion to recommend Article 7 on the warrant as written. Mr. Leveille**  
428 **seconded.**

429 Mr. Stevens asked if these funds could be used for special ed transportation. Ms. Martin said yes.

430 **It was passed by a vote of 10-1 with Dr. Butkiewicz nay.**

431 **Approve Minutes**

432 **Mr. Decker made a motion to approve the public minutes from 1/7/21 as amended on**  
433 **1/11/21. Mr. Leveille seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 11-0.**

434 **Other**

435 *Parting Thoughts*

436 *Next Meeting: Presentation of final Town Budget and Public Hearing-Thursday, Jan. 14 at*  
437 *6:30pm via zoom*

438 **Adjourn**

439 **Ms. Jones made a motion to adjourn at 11:08pm. Mr. Leveille seconded. Unanimously**  
440 **approved by a vote of 11-0.**

441