

**Minutes**  
**Nottingham Budget Committee Meeting**  
**SCHOOL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING**  
**January 13, 2015**

**Members Present:** Chet Batchelder, Anthony Dumas, Korey Ferland, Miska Hadik, Michael Koester, Gene Reed, Jackie Snow, Jeff Wheeler, Donna Danis – BOS Representative, Peter Perron – School Board Representative

**Excused Absences:** Doug Poulin

**Other in Attendance:** Secretary Dawn Wirkkala, Marjorie Whitmore-SAU, Chris Sousa-Principal, Robert Gadomski-SAU, Sue Levenson-School Board, Scott Reuning-SAU, Lauren Chaurette-School Board, Lorraine Ferland-School Board, Jeff Crosby, Annette Ledoux, Amy Pruett, Kristen Wade, Amy Barbeau, Dawn Fernald, Rose Dawson, Michelle Jeannette, Darlene Peterson, Janice Kane, Chris Arnold, Kristine Tuttle, Leslie Gordon, Donald Belletete, Dianne Belletete, Pat Desrosiers, Penny Osborne, Martha Smith, Jennifer Budny, Pamela Grotenhuis, Laura Healey, Jennifer Menard, Emily Ewing, Marianne Kouchoukos, Bree Marston, Patrice Warren, Allison Jean, Stephanie Robinson, Joanne Hoffman, Hope Batchelder Roach, Kerry Tennis, Chelli Tennis, Jennifer Dijkstra, Katherine Noni, Jamie Burleigh, Teri Elwell, Lisa Carey, Lee Lederer, Sue Harcourt, Rob Desrosiers, Bonnie Patten, James Bolduc, Monica Rogier, John Rogier, Sherry Burleigh, Krista Knight, Gary Anderson, Mark Carpenter, Sue Gunderson, Sandra Sternberg, Dan Comte, Kim Griffiths, Caryn Crego, Judy Doughty, Roslyn Chauda, Melissa Behr, Stephen Phillips, Mary Bonser, Terry Bonser, Elizabeth Smith, Michael Kreps, Alyson Deck, Jennifer Biron, Therese Thompson, and other members of the public

Chair Batchelder called the meeting to order and introductions were completed.

Chair Batchelder reviewed how the hearing purpose and process, School Board and Budget Committee actions/activities leading to the proposed budget, procedure for public comment, and the committee process once the hearing was closed. A page by page high level of review of the proposed 2015/2016 school budget would be given, warrant articles and possible tax impact would also be reviewed, and an explanation that the Deliberative Session on Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at the Nottingham School is the final place to recommend any other changes to the school budget.

**SCHOOL BUDGET HEARING:**

Chair Batchelder reviewed the proposed 2015/2016 School Default Budget is \$10,993,897.00, an increase of \$47,847.00 from the prior year budget.

#01-1100-5110-000 Teacher Salaries increased by 2% to \$1,938,820.00, but the amount listed on the budget worksheet does not include the salary increases proposed in the new teacher contract.

#01-1100-5125-000, Lunch Room/Recess Monitors is a new account adds \$13,500.00. Mr. Sousa reviewed the request for new part-time staff will free up time for teachers to collaborate with each other regarding curriculum and to work with students.

#01-1100-5211-000 Health Insurance increased 6% to \$507,205.00; Health Insurance expenses increased overall for the school by 12.2%.

It was stated the Teacher Salary amount has been adjusted to account for requested retirements. Mr. Reed requested a spreadsheet be provided to break out the details of individual salary and retirement amounts.

#01-1100-5260-000 Workers Compensation increased 88% to \$8,490.00

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#01-1100-5561-000 Tuition-Dover & Other Public Schools Tuition decreased 2% to \$1,103,238.0. This includes an estimated 92 students to attend Dover High School and 4 students to attend charter schools.

The audience questioned the ability of students to attend charter schools, if and how much Nottingham paid for the charter school choice. Mr. Reuning reviewed the available charter school; Nottingham does pay \$3000.00 to the Charter School per student. It was stated charter school are considered public schools and the funding method calculation, set by NH Department of Education, is different than other schools.

#01-1100-5563-000 Tuition Coe Brown increased 5% to \$1,747,277. This includes an estimated 119 total students to attend Coe Brown. It was stated home school students were asked if they might attend a public high school and one student responded in the positive, one would not attend, and the others were unsure.

#01-1100-5563-001 Tuition-Coe Brown Anticipated Move-Ins was a new account to budget for the possibility of new students moving into Nottingham during the school year.

#01-1100-5610-000 General Supplies increased 11% to \$24,635.00.

The total #1100 Regular Education budget amount is \$6,037,780.00, a 3% increase of \$174,510.00

#01-1200-5110-061 Special Education Teacher Salaries increased 1% to \$267,053.00.

#01-1200-5232-061 (SpEd) Retirement Certified increased 32% to \$49,491.00; the state of NH determines the retirement rates for both the school and the Town.

#01-1200-5322-061 Teacher of the Deaf increased significantly with a contract for the required teacher, per individual student education needs.

#01-1200-5111-061 Special Education Coordinator increased by 50%. Mr. Reuning explained the position is shared between Nottingham and Northwood with a 50/50 share of the expense.

#01-1200-5561-061 SpEd Tuition-Other Public Elementary has not decreased 100%, but has been moved to different section in the budget.

Discussion took place about how special education payments are made to each of the high schools; Coe Brown uses a structured differential amount depending on the needs of each student, Dover currently has no difference in tuition amount for special education students, but there is a tiered amount in the new proposed contract.

The total #1200 Special Education budget amount is \$1,596,996.00, a 6% decrease of \$110,979.00. Chair Batchelder reviewed some expenses were moved to different section in the budget.

#01-1299-5810-000 Cost of Medicaid Admin Fee increased by 8% to \$4,625; it is payment to assist in the processing of Medicaid application reimbursement/revenue for students.

#01-1410-5110-028 Co-Curricular (stipends) increased by 10% to a total of \$11,000.00.

The total #1410 Co-Curricular activities budget amount is \$18,465.00, a 8% increase of \$1,329.00.

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Chair Batchelder reviewed there were minimal changes for #1420 Athletics. Additional teams and associated expenses were added, including new uniforms for students and coaches.

The total #1420 Athletic budget amount is \$30,603.00, a 7% increase of \$2,110.00.

#01-2120-5110-0017 Guidance Salaries decreased 11% to \$87,534.00. A retirement is being planned and the new hire will have a lower starting salary; the staff count remains the same.

The total #2120 Guidance budget amount is \$136,516.00, a 12% decrease of \$18,001.00.

#01-2130-5110-018 Nurses Salary appears to be level funded. However, salary increases for all non-CBA contracted employees are included in a separate salary pool account in the Principal section.

The total #2130 Health budget amount is \$109,251.00, a 2% increase of \$2,625.00.

#01-2140-5462-061 OT (Occupational Therapy) increased 15% to \$76,790.00; includes an additional ½ day per week for additional services to students being provided.

The total #2140 Special Contracted Services budget amount is \$165,222.00, a 72% increase of \$69,050.00. Chair Batchelder indicated these are some of the accounts that shifted from one budget section to another; further refining how budgets are calculated.

#01-2150-5110-061 Speech Salary decreased 7% to \$107,652.00; a new hire with a lower starting salary amount.

The total #2150 Speech budget amount is \$171,510.00, a 3% decrease of \$4,699.00.

#01-2210-5112-000 Curriculum Development decreased 8% to \$18,000.00

#01-2210-5322-000 In-Service Training decreased 20% to \$20,000.00.

The total #2210 Improvement of Instruction budget amount is \$84,889.00, a 8% decrease of \$7,229.00.

#01-2212-5110-000 Curric Dir./High School Liaison Salary increased 5% to \$68,000.00.

#01-2212-5240-000 Workshop/Conferences at \$750.00 and #01-2212-5242-000 Courses at \$6,000.00 are new continuing education for the new position.

Mr. Reed stated the Liaison Salary does not appear to fall inline with the other recommended changes. It was stated the School Board made the decision to increase the starting salary from \$65,000.00 to 68,000.00, at the time of hire; he will also be eligible for a possible 3% above the amount listed from the salary pool.

The total #2212 Instruction and Curriculum Development budget amount is \$103,312.00, a 4% decrease of \$4,591.00.

The total #2220 Library and Educational Media budget amount is \$124,476.00, a slight decrease of \$552.00. Computer Assisted Instruction

#01-2225-5610-031 Technology Supplies increased 96% to \$3,290.00.

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#01-2225-5650-031 Software increased 92% to \$8,369.00; which includes online subscriptions to educational media, some that work with the new Common Core requirements, and a subscription for technology training for the Technology Director.

#01-2225-5731-031 New Equipment increased 56% to \$45,157.00. This includes new laptops and mobile carts moving toward a 1 to 1 student platform based on the Technology Plan. The prior year purchase was made with approval of a warrant article. Mr. Sousa explained how the school is moving forward with the technology plan to buy more chromebooks to increase student and teacher collaboration; bringing computers into the classroom, integrating use, instead of making it a separate tool to learn.

#01-2225-5750-031 Network Software has increased 278% to \$2,775.00, which will provide better firewall and antivirus protection. Mr. Perron stated this is a requirement for any federal funding.

The total #2225 Computer Assisted Instruction budget amount is \$64,030.00, an increase of 64%.

#01-2290-5110-031 Director of Technology indicates a 3% salary increase. Ms. Whitmore explained the budgeted amount is the amount of the current year salary, as it includes a 3% salary pool raise he received during the current year. The accounting software does not provide an ability to show the salary pool changes to each individual staff salary account that is affected, and she continues to determine the best method of explaining the change from the prior year budget amount.

The total #2290 Other Support Services-Instr Staff budget amount is \$95,814.00, an increase of 5%.

#01-2310-5114-000 School Board Secretary increased 45% to \$3,400.00, in an effort to hire a more permanent employee.

#01-2310-5332-000 Contracted Services GASB 45 Compliance was reduced to zero; the report is completed only once every three years starting in 2014/2015.

The total #2310 School Board Services budget amount is \$64,734.00, a 3% decrease of \$1,719.00.

The total #2329 SAU Expense budget amount is \$434,011.00, a 3% increase of \$13,006.00.

Mr. Reed asked about the status of approving the SAU budget. Ms. Levenson stated the discussion between the three schools is going well, with a significant number of changes taking place at the SAU. It was stated the SAU budget would be provided to the Budget Committee.

#01-2410-5110-007 Principal Salary decreased 11% to \$84,000.00.

#01-2410-5111-007 Assistant Principal Salary and #01-2410-5113-007 Secretary Salary 3% increase is the change from the current year salary pool raises.

#01-2410-5115-007 Salary Pool Administrators total is \$17,677.00, a 58% increase. The account is a pool of funds, previously referenced, which provides raises up to 3% to non-contracted school employees, at the discretion of the administration during the employee evaluation process.

#01-2410-5242-007 Courses Principal increased 100% to \$12,000 and will pay for two post graduate courses for the principal.

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#02-2410-5643-007 Computer Software Systems Supplies increased 60% to \$4,000.00, which adds website hosting and a service contract for Web2School assisting with student management, teacher and parent communication.

The total #2410 Principal Office budget amount is \$421,233.00, an 8% increase of \$31,365.00.

Chair Batchelder reviewed the School District Bookkeeper position was moved the prior year to be a position at the SAU, but the line remains open with \$1.00, just in case additional assistance is needed.

#01-2620-5110-032 Maintenance Director Salary also indicates the current year raise of 3%, as previously mentioned.

#01-26220-5111-032 Assistant Custodian Salaries is the salary increase for the current school year, but indicates an overall decrease with staff changes.

#01-2620-5421-032 Rubbish Removal increased 11% to \$9,360.00

#01-2620-5424-032 Lawn Care increased 19% to \$12,500.00; Dr. Gadomski stated the SAU had a difficult time finding a contract to provide the needed services.

#01-2620-5435-032 Repairs and Maint. Equipment increased 48% to \$2,952.00.

#01-2620-5610-032 Supplies General Custodial increased 3% to \$25,565.00.

#01-2620-5622-032 Electricity increased 2% to \$53,226.00; based on a five year average from actual amounts spent. The amount was recalculated to include only an additional 10% to the five year average, reducing the amount from the initial proposals.

#01-2620-5623-032 Propane increased 5% to \$61,016.00.

#01-2620-5735-032 Replacement of Equipment increased 15% to \$7,135.00.

#01-2620-5737-032 Replacement of Furniture increased 11% to \$20,299.00

The total #2620 Operation and Maintenance of Plant budget amount is 472,683.00, a 1% increase of \$2,970.00

#01-2700-5519-000 Elementary School Transportation increased 7% to \$382,012.00. Chair Batchelder review the amount includes one new additional bus to the routes. Ms. Snow reviewed work completed by the volunteer committee and the processes they are taking to improve transportation, and to refine how transportation is contracted now and in the future for better results.

#01-2700-5519-040 High School Transportation Dover increased 3% to \$129,930.00.

#01-2700-5519-041 High School Transportation Coe Brown increased 3% to \$86,620.00

#01-2700-5519-061 Special Education Trans. Elementary increased 9% to \$180,937.00.

The total #2700 Transportation budget amount is \$812,972.00, a 9% increase of \$68,525.00.

The audience asked questions about the number of stops and number of buses travelling to Dover versus the number travelling to Coe Brown, if the number of buses and stops would be enough with the expectation of more students at Coe Brown.

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Ms. Snow replied it would be something the committee will continue to look at to make sure students can get where they need to go in a cost effective manner and provide what is needed. There are more door to door stops for the Dover bus versus more community stops for Coe Brown. The Coe Brown transportation is a newer system, but the committee will review routes on a continuing basis. Dale Transportation establishes an estimate based on the total needs establishing a per bus price; consideration is being made for future contract changes for calculation of number of miles, number of stops, length of drive time, or even gas mileage.

Mr. Perron stated the sub-committee was established by the School Board to really focus on transportation, with their sole goal to try and find better solutions while being cost effective. Ms. Snow stated the committee is receiving additional rider and route information to try and find when and what size bus might be needed. Ms. Snow stated the committee is seeking volunteers.

An audience member asked if the School Board has the reviewed alternatives kindergarten programs, such as alternating full day program, to try and reduce the amount of buses needed.

Dr. Gadomski stated it something the board has started and continues to review, considering all options of full day, alternate day or hybrid full day/half day program, but no decisions have been made.

There is one item in the Site Improvements #4500 account, a Storage Shed rental to help address storage needs at the Elementary School with an annual amount of \$2,341.00.

#04-5220-5110-000 Food Service Salaries has been decreased, new staff was hired at lower starting salaries for a total of \$70,494.00.

#04-5220-5630-000 Food and Milk increased 4% to \$80,000.00.

#04-5220-5735-00 Replace Equip(ment) was reduced to zero; equipment appears to be in working order and no new equipment will be purchased.

The total #5220 Food Service budget amount is \$202,223.00, a 17% decrease of \$42,116.00.

The audience asked questions about the food service program, previously proposed suggestions for outsourcing and private contractors, and the current school food service staff members.

Ms. Levenson stated the School Board reviewed the option for outsourcing but isn't taking current action until further research can take place about the potential costs and moving forward with that plan and the process remains the same at this time.

Mr. Reed asked if organic food is part of the food program. Mr. Sousa stated the school continues to look at methods of finding more cost effective methods to provide the required foods and some reduced cost alternative purchasing methods have been found. Mr. Sousa explained fruit must be provided, which unfortunately is thrown away and wasted as students don't eat it; work continues to try and find ways to eliminate the waste.

Mr. Ferland indicated the food service expense amount does not include the received revenue. Chair Batchelder stated the school receives two forms of revenue, the student charged breakfast and lunch fees and a reimbursement amount from state and federal programs.

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Chair Batchelder stated the total 2015/2016 proposed operating budget amount is \$11,153,687.00, a 2% increase of \$207,637.00 from the prior year.

An audience member asked if they are taxed two times if they are paying both the Coe Brown differential amount and their tax bill. Chair Batchelder explained Nottingham is responsible for the total amount of tuition due to Coe Brown and the full amount is budgeted. The differential amount is considered in the estimated revenues and is used to offset the budget amount during the tax rate setting process.

An audience member asked if the total 2% budget reduction is misleading because it does not reflect the \$250,000.00 worth of lost revenue. Chair Batchelder stated it is considered and shown on the tax impact handout.

**Review of Warrant Articles**

**Warrant Article #2** is the proposed operating budget of \$11,153,687.00 and the default budget amount of \$11,010,114. Chair Batchelder reviewed the default budget process, stating if Article #2 passes the proposed operating budget amount is approved. If Article #2 fails the default budget is used instead.

**Warrant Article #3** is the collective bargaining agreement and the associated increases for the fiscal year 2015/2016 in the amount of \$52,380.00 and fiscal year 2016/2017 in the amount of \$61,992. It was stated the estimated increase for 2015/2016 is not included in the proposed operating budget total.

Chair Batchelder reviewed the significant changes in the proposed teacher contract, which includes salary increases, and health insurance premium payment increases of 1% to the teachers. Ms. Chaurette stated it was a positive negotiation process and explained the contract also includes an additional stipend for teachers who participate in overnight field trips and a special one-time retirement option. Dr. Gadomski stated one additional lower premium health insurance plan was offered for possible additional savings for both the teachers and school.

Mr. Carpenter asked what will happen if Warrant Articles #3, #4 and #5 are not passed by the voter. Chair Batchelder stated if the articles are not approved, the school will fall back to the previously approved contract; which has an evergreen clause.

Mr. Reed asked about the increases in salary steps for teachers. Dr. Gadomski stated each step is a 2% increase to each existing step.

**Warrant Article #4** is the new Coe Brown High School Tuition Agreement from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2022, and a three year renewal term until June 30, 2025.

Ms. Doughty asked if an estimated tuition amount could be included with the new high school tuition contracts. Dr. Gadomski stated the wording used is the recommended language according to legal counsel and the state of New Hampshire; the warrant article is to approve a tuition contract. The School Board has discussed the option of providing a bulleted list to show the estimated per student charges that could be seen if the proposed contracts are approved.

Mr. Reed stated the contract is a formula calculation and doesn't include a specific amount and asked if it would be possible to include at least one year of possible estimated total cost difference.

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Mr. Reed asked about current tuition contracts, if Coe Brown will become a school of record if Warrant Article #4 is approved. Dr. Gadomski replied there have been contracts with Dover for many years and a supplemental contract with Coe Brown for this year. Ms. Levenson stated the existing Dover contract is from 2009 to 2016 and Nottingham has a Memo of Understanding with Coe Brown to complete the existing school year.

Ms. Danis asked for an explanation of why the Coe Brown contract is good for the Town. Ms. Levenson stated there are 101 students to Coe Brown and 96 to Dover and after a review of the high school population, found both school offer complimentary services to the students. The School Board took into account a survey of elementary student parents and the current school choices being made; they like the option of choice. The contract offers the school some protection by giving a voice to Nottingham to participate in the education management of Coe Brown.

General discussion took place about the possible budget and tax impacts with the changes in tuition, as well as the additional budget impacts by having two schools of record, such as transportation. Audience members asked about the decision to eliminate the tuition differential and it was stated the decision was based on a change in statute from the approval of (House Bill) HB1447.

Mr. Reed stated the committee received information about the law change but no information about the genesis of the change and no information about the legality supporting the reason for the changes.

It was stated Nottingham has paid the entire tuition amount due to Coe Brown in school years prior to 2014/2015, parents paid the difference in tuition back to Nottingham. However, repayment of the differential amount was not always enforced.

Audience members asked what will happen if Warrant Article #4 does not pass, has Dover reduced their tuition amounts to receive a higher number of students, status of differential payments already made by parents for the 2014/2015 school year and reimbursement,

Dr. Gadomski stated if both contracts pass Nottingham has two schools of record, if Warrant Article #4 does not pass the School Board will need to renegotiate with Coe Brown. Chair Batchelder stated students from Nottingham have been attending Coe Brown for approximately 50 years.

Ms. Levenson stated history shows a change in how differential payments are established and the change in the Dover tuition amount has cause a bigger disparity in the amount of differential. There is an understanding of the concern with the change in tuition differential, but that issue isn't related to the approval of the contract. The School Board reviewed the tuition issue and made the decision they felt was best and have request their legal counsel to draft a summary regarding the legal reason for the tuition changes.

Dr. Gadomski stated those parents who made payment toward the 2014/2015 Coe Brown tuition would receive those funds back.

Concern was expressed about how the change may affect the elderly who live on fixed incomes, the benefits to students of having two contracts, and the possible tax impact.

**Warrant Article #5** is the new Dover High School Tuition Agreement from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2022, and a three year renewal term until June 30, 2025



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Mr. Perron stated the current Dover contract is more favorable and is the reason for the two different start dates but both have the same ending date, as well as extension periods.

An audience member asked if taxpayers are already seeing the additional tax payment impact, because a decision was made to pay the entire Coe Brown tuition, and will it be the same next year; is it better for negotiation to have a contract?

Dr. Gadomski stated there are existing contracts/agreements for both schools through to 2016. Mr. Perron stated it is status quo if both contracts are approved. However, if one does not pass it will require renegotiation, which may impact future contracts.

**Warrant Article #6** is to establish new capital reserve fund for Grounds Improvements in the amount of \$30,000.00.

**Warrant Article #7** is adding \$25,000.00 to the Building Repair Capital Reserve Fund.

**Warrant Article #8** Shall the Nottingham School District vote to authorize, indefinitely until rescinded, the retention of year-end unassigned general funds in an amount not to exceed, in any fiscal year, 1.5% of the current fiscal year's net assessment for the purpose of having funds on hand to use as a revenue source for emergency expenditures and over expenditures under RSA 32:11, or to be used as a revenue source to reduce the tax rate, all in accordance with RSA 198:4-b, II.

Chair Batchelder explained the warrant article will allow the School Board to retain up to 1.5% of the operating budget from any of the unspent budget fund on an annual basis. However, the unspent funds will be added to the Capital Reserve Funds before the additional money is set aside, which can be used for emergency services only.

Dr. Gadomski stated the School Board has reviewed both this option and a capital reserve fund option for concerns regarding high school tuition and the School Board chose this option because it offers more flexibility with the use of the funds.

Mr. Reed stated the law permits up to 2.5%, but a decision was made to drop it to 1.5%, and ask what the estimated amount that could be kept. Ms. Whitmore stated the amount that could be retained would be \$130,000.00. Mr. Perron stated the School Board listened to the recommendation of the Budget Committee and removed the high school tuition capital reserve fund warrant article.

**Warrant Article #9** is a Petition Warrant Article to designate Dover High School as the one school of record for Nottingham.

Mr. Reed explained this warrant article is to keep the status quo of keeping Dover one school of record, which is Dover High School, as has been done in the past; students will still be able to attend Coe Brown, but it will not be a school of record.

Mr. Koester asked what it means to be a school of record, can you have multiple contracts.

Dr. Gadomski stated it depends on the tuition contracts; if it is exclusive it is restrictive and students attend the one school. If attendance isn't exclusive students can attend other schools.

Mr. Ferland asked what happens if both articles pass. Ms. Danis asked if it action would be based on the numbered order of the warrant articles. Ms. Levenson stated the School Board will seek legal opinion regarding the matters.

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**Warrant Article #10** to limit individual pupil tuition payments to “Private schools” or “Public Academy” to the amount of the Dover High School rate.

Mr. Reed stated this warrant article also does not seek to restrict student attendance to Coe Brown, or other schools, but to limit the tax exposure to the amount of tuition that can be paid to other schools. The intent is to return the need for parents to make the differential payment if their student attends a school other than Dover, the Nottingham school of record. Residents are responsible for providing an adequate education, but if a parent chooses to send their student to another school they should be financially responsible for the difference in tuition amount.

Mr. Dumas asked if the warrant article follows the language of the statute in regards to economic discrimination and would it limit the ability to negotiate with other school in the future. Mr. Reed stated he doesn’t have the answer because the School Board hasn’t provided a legal explanation of their decision. Mr. Reed stated the warrant article can be good for one year, and it could be changed the next year; the warrant article is in effect until rescinded.

Ms. Danis asked if there should be a consideration of the possible liability of implementing the warrant article. Mr. Reed stated it should indicate possible liability and an amendment can be made to the Warrant Article during the deliberative session once further details from the School Board are received.

Mr. Anderson stated there was a 1989 warrant article identifying Dover as a school of record. There are some taxpayers that want to have a better understanding of the reason to eliminate the tuition differential.

Mr. Wheeler asked if it was more confusing to voter to include the Article #10; should it wait until further explanation is provided. Mr. Reed stated the process includes debate of all the issues, including an understanding of why changes were made; if legal liability is determined the warrant article can be changed during the deliberative session. The reason for the warrant articles was to try and receive further and better understanding of the change.

Ms. Danis asked if the intent of the article could be changed during the deliberative session. It was stated specific wording can be changed in a warrant article, but the intent of the warrant article cannot change.

Chair Batchelder stated an additional petition was received today, that is not included in the Warrant Article handout.

**Warrant Article #11** to maintain choice of public high school/public academy for the district’s students in accordance with the district’s policy and historical practice.

Chair Batchelder stated he listened to the School Board discussion and they had questions regarding the warrant article, including the legality of the wording. Dr. Gadomski stated the School Board received and accepted Warrant Article #11 at their meeting this afternoon (January 13, 2015) and the warrant article signatures need to be validated and the legality of the article determined before it can formally be put on the final Warrant.

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Mr. Perron stated there is a question regarding the legality of historical practice, which is to agree to something the School Board has been advised against. Ms. Levenson stated she believes the warrant article is maintaining a choice of high schools.

Ms. Gunderson stated the purpose of Warrant Article #11 has nothing to do with tuition differential but maintaining the option of choice of schools; residents have historically had an opportunity to choose.

Chair Batchelder reviewed the process in setting the tax rate and the possible school rate tax impact. The total proposed 2015/2016 Budget is \$11,153,687.00, the estimated NH Adequacy Grant amount is \$1,397,447.00, the estimated NH Education tax amount is \$1,260,714.00, and the estimated Revenue amount is \$267,151.00, with a final net amount of \$8,228,915.00 that will be raised by property taxation. The total estimated tax rate, excluding separate/special articles could be \$17.45/per \$1000 of property value, a 8.90% increase of \$1.43 more than the 2014 local school tax rate. If the warrant articles are approved an additional \$0.10 would be added to the proposed tax rate for a grand total of \$17.55/per \$1000 of property value, a 9.56% increase of \$1.53 more than the 2014 local school tax rate.

Mr. Carpenter stated he was the Selectmen's Rep on the Budget Committee in the prior two years and asked that the Budget Committee continue with prior voting policy and not vote on warrant articles that don't include dollar amounts; keeping the integrity of the Budget Committee

An audience member asked if Nottingham currently has an official School of Record and if approving the new Coe Brown contract means they become a school of record. Dr. Gadomski stated currently the State of NH lists Dover. Chair Batchelder stated it would mean Coe Brown to be a School of Record.

An audience member asked if the presented estimated revenue amounts include tuition differentials. Chair Batchelder stated tuition differential amounts were not included.

Chair Batchelder closed the hearing at 10:21 pm.

**Motion:** by Ms. Danis, second by Mr. Wheeler to adjourn the public hearing.

**Vote:** 9 – 0 in favor.

The Budget Committee took a recess from 10:22 to 10:35 pm

Chair Batchelder review the proposed budget page by page for any recommended account line changes, stating he would take a vote on the total after the page by page review.

**Motion:** by Ms. Danis, second by Mr. Koester to reduce #01-1100-5125-000 Lunch Room/Recess Monitors to zero.

Ms. Danis stated she understands the reasons but does not see that it is a big burden for the teachers.

Discussion took place about the pros and cons of budgeting for the new positions

**Vote:** 1 in favor, 9 opposed. The motion failed and #01-1100-5125-000 Lunch Room/Recess Monitors remained funded at \$13,500.00.

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Mr. Reed asked for clarification on #01-2140-5462-061 OT on page 11. It was explained the position hours were increased to 5 full work days from the previous 4.5 days.

**Motion:** by Gene Reed, second by Ms. Danis to reduce #01-2410-5115-007 Salary Pool: Administrators to a 2% salary increase, to match the Teacher contract salary increase.

Discussion took place about the differences in salary increase in the new teacher contracts and to other school staff and the total amount being budgeted. It was explained that the teachers are receiving a 2% increase on each step in their salary track, providing for more than a 2% increase with each step amount, and an example was given.

**Mr. Reed withdrew his motion to reduce the Salary Pool/Administration. Ms. Danis withdrew her second.**

**Motion:** by Mr. Reed, second by Ms. Danis to approve the \$11,153,687.00 total school budget.

**Vote:** 10 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Wheeler asked about the bid process for items such as lawn care. Dr. Gadomski stated it was difficult to get people to respond and the process cumbersome.

Chair Batchelder reviewed the estimated revenues for 2015/2016, for a total \$267,151.00

**Motion:** by Ms. Danis, second by Ms. Snow to accept the estimated revenues as described.

**Vote:** 10 – 0 in favor.

**Motion:** by Ms. Danis, second by Mr. Wheeler to accept the default budget in the amount of \$11,010,114.00

**Vote:** 10 – 0 in favor.

Chair Batchelder reviewed Warrant Article #2 for the school operating budget was previously voted on with a motion by Mr. Reed and second by Ms. Danis.

**Motion:** by Mr. Wheeler, second by Mr. Dumas to recommend Warrant Article #3 as written.

Mr. Reed asked for clarification on how the amount listed in Article #3 was calculated. Ms. Whitmore explained she took the previous step increases, added the 2% and totaled the new annual salary difference for each employee.

**Vote:** 10 – 0 in favor.

**Motion:** by Ms. Danis, second by Mr. Ferland to recommend Warrant Article #4 as written.

**Vote:** 9 in favor, 1 opposed. The motion passed.

**Motion:** by Ms. Danis, second by Ms. Snow to recommend Warrant Article #5 as written.

**Vote:** 10 – 0 in favor.

**Motion:** by Mr. Ferland, second by Mr. Reed to recommend Warrant Article #6 as written.

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Discussion took place about Warrant Article #6 for the Grounds Improvement Capital Reserve Fund. Ms. Danis stated she isn't comfortable with the variety of accounts set funds aside, this one given how it might affect funding for the Marston Property.

Mr. Perron stated he agreed with Ms. Danis, stating that Marston wasn't a singular focus in the discussion and it didn't make sense for the school to put a significant amount of money toward a playground when projects for the Marston property are fluctuating; especially when the school will pay for their work and the Town will pay for their work at their location.

Mr. Koester stated the school has a current need for repairs for ground improvements and is separate from the Marston property.

Mr. Reed stated he supports the change from money solely toward the playground, as most of the equipment is in good shape, and supports the article as written.

Mr. Perron stated the existing playground will need to be renovated, and the warrant article as written to allow the school flexibility in how those changes move forward.

Mr. Reed asked that the School Board schedule a personal inspection of the playground. Ms. Danis asked the School Board how large they expect the fund to get. Mr. Perron stated additional discussion needs to be held, but including additional funds will need to be justified and asked for by warrant article each year. The projects will become clearer in the future, but \$30,000.00 won't pay for a playground or fields.

Mr. Reed asked about the CIP proposal for the playground. Mr. Perron stated the capital reserve fund should be accounted for within the data.

Chair Batchelder stated he is sensitive to the proposal, given the Marston Property, and a decision should be made to move forward with establishing a plan; sooner versus later; the Marston project should be bonded in order to move forward.

Chair Batchelder called the motion to recommend Warrant Article #6.

**Vote:** 10 – 0 in favor.

**Motion:** by Mr. Reed, second by Mr. Hadik to recommend Warrant Article #7 as written.

Ms. Danis asked for the balance of the Building Repair Capital Reserve Fund. Ms. Whitmore stated the amount would raise the balance to \$75,000 after the 2015 payment is included. Discussion took place about what the funds might be used for and Mr. Perron stated the school will need a roof at some soon point.

**Vote:** 10 – 0 in favor.

**Motion:** by Mr. Koester, second by Mr. Reed to recommend Warrant Article #8 as written.

Ms. Danis opposed setting aside \$100,000.00 unused and unallocated for an unknown emergency, especially given the existing abilities to raise any needed fund if an emergency situation comes up.

Mr. Dumas asked if insurance coverages could be changed to help with possible emergency situations. Mr. Perron stated it won't help with potential tuition overages.

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General discussion took place about the ability to set aside money for the school in a similar manner as the Town.

Chair Batchelder stated this is a topic that should be discussed annually by the Budget Committee for future reconsideration.

Ms. Danis supported the amount of work the SAU and School Board have put in for a great budget. There are methods that can be used to determine student counts, to attempt to better determine what amount will be needed for tuition.

Mr. Reed asked for clarification of the 1.5% article. Chair Batchelder explained typically if the school has a surplus of \$100k, the funds are returned to the Town to reduce future taxes; this warrant article could put those funds into savings instead.

Chair Batchelder expressed his hope that the school board will collaborate with the Budget committee about how much if any they put aside.

Chair Batchelder called the vote to recommend Warrant Article #8.

**Vote:** 9 in favor, 1 opposed. The motion passed.

Mr. Koester stated he did not feel Warrant Article #9 would affect the budget and the obligation to fund tuition rates. Mr. Reed agreed the committee should not vote on Warrant Article #9 and asked about a point of order for the Budget Committee not voting on an article without a dollar amount.

Chair Batchelder stated historically the Budget Committee has voted on articles that impact the budget; these articles do affect the budget even if a given amount isn't known.

**Motion:** Ms. Danis, second by Mr. Ferland to not recommend Warrant Article #9 as written.

Discussion took place about the wording of the motion.

**Ms. Danis and Mr. Ferland withdrew the motion.**

**Motion:** by Mr. Perron second by Mr. Ferland to recommend Warrant Article #9 as written

**Vote:** 1 in favor, 9 opposed. The motion failed.

**Motion:** by Mr. Perron, second by Ms. Snow to recommend Warrant Article #10 as written.

**Vote:** 1 in favor, 9 opposed. The motion failed.

Chair Batchelder read Warrant Article #11, as it was only recently received.

**Motion:** by Ms. Danis, second by Mr. Ferland to recommend Warrant Article #11 as written.

Mr. Perron reviewed the historical practice of the school board, but it isn't necessarily written history.

Mr. Koester stated article #9 as written doesn't address payment but offers the ability of choice, which is historically set.

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Mr. Ferland asked if the wording could be changed at the deliberative session to clarify the wording while not changing the intent. Discussion took place about the ability to change the wording of a Petition Warrant Article.

Opinions were expressed that Petition Warrant Articles shouldn't be changed without approval of all those who originally signed it versus possibly changing the language.

Chair Batchelder asked about the true intent of the article. Mr. Wheeler stated he believed it was to maintain the ability of choice to attend one high school or another.

Chair Batchelder called the vote to recommend Warrant Article #11.

**Vote:** 8 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstained. The motion passed.

Mr. Ferland asked if warrant articles are modified during the deliberative session does the Budget Committee need to re-vote. Chair Batchelder stated the committee has the prerogative if the amount changes significantly to re-vote.

Discussion took place about when and how the Budget Committee School Budget forms because of changes in the reporting process.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Having no further business,

**11:48 PM Motion:** by Mr. Dumas, second by Mr. Wheeler.

**Vote:** 10 – 0 in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Wirkkala