

**SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT NO. 12  
Office of the Superintendent of Schools  
Londonderry, New Hampshire 03053**

A concurrent meeting of the School Administrative Unit No. 12 School Board and the Londonderry School District School Board was held on **Thursday, January 11, 2018** at 7:00PM at the Londonderry Town Office, Moose Hill Conference Room, 268B Mammoth Road, Londonderry, NH. In attendance were School Board members: Ms. Ganem, Mr. Lekas, Mrs. Reilly and Mr. Young.

In attendance for the Budget Committee were: Tim Siekmann, Christine Patton, Greg Warner, Alex Rago and Kirsten Hildonen.

**1. Non-Meeting with Counsel**

**2. Call To Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:04PM by Mr. Lekas.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Tim Siekmann

**4. Questions, Announcements and Presentations**

**4.1 Filing Period for Candidates – First Day is Wednesday, January 24, 2018 and Last Day is Friday, February 2, 2018. The following positions are open:**

- **Two (2) School Board Members – 3-year term**

To make arrangements to file, please contact Mrs. Mary Wing Soares, School District Clerk at (603) 247-1679. Mrs. Soares will be at the School District Office from 3:00PM to 5:00PM on Friday, February 2, 2018, for the purpose of final registrations.

<b>5. <u>Meetings:</u></b>	<b>January 16, 2018</b>	<b>Regular Meeting*</b>	<b>7:00PM</b>	<b>Town Offices</b>
	<b>January 17, 2018</b>	<b>Adult Ed Graduation</b>	<b>6:00PM</b>	<b>LHS Cafe</b>
	<b>January 23, 2018</b>	<b>Regular Meeting</b>	<b>7:00PM</b>	<b>Town Offices</b>
	<b>January 24, 2018</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Day of Filing Period for Candidates</b>		
	<b>February 2, 2018</b>	<b>Last Day of Filing Period for Candidates</b>		
	<b>February 9, 2018</b>	<b>Deliberative Session</b>	<b>7:00PM</b>	<b>LHS Café</b>
		<b>Meeting directly after Deliberative Session LHS Cafe</b>		
	<b>February 20, 2018</b>	<b>Regular Meeting</b>	<b>7:00PM</b>	<b>Town Offices</b>

**\*Denotes change**

*Ms. Ganem made a motion to open the public hearing. Mrs. Reilly seconded the motion. The motion passes by a vote of 4-0.*

Mr. Curro mentioned in the front of the meeting room there are packets of all the information that will be discussed. There are also copies of tonight’s budget hearing packet available. If there are any questions, he invited anybody to please ask and we will get the information.

**6. Open Public Hearing on Operating Budget and All Other Warrant Articles**

**6.1 Article 2 - To see what action(s) the Board will take regarding the General Fund-Operating Budget for 2018-2019:** Mrs. Reilly mentioned that two nights ago there was discussion around the budget and there were disagreements amongst some of us. She referred to the list of items that was handed out to get to the default. In regard to Article 6 on the bleachers, she felt that is something that is a safety issue as part of our campus and she would like to see it as part of the budget. She continued that if you read the warrant as it reads now it talks about a lease to own scenario. She proposed an operating budget that absorbs the bleacher cost by year of \$65,000 and the funding for the LAX program is so small she felt they could find that money in there. She suggested that they keep

5 \$73,473,218 and but also find the money for the lacrosse program and the \$65,000 for the first payment of the capital lease; then that article would go away.

Mr. Lekas asked if it is a flat line budget and we can't say what goes in and does not, but the Board can ask for assurances. Mr. Curro said in regard to the capital lease, that needs to be identified due to the DRA and the banking and leasing companies want to see that the Board intended to  
10 lease/purchase.

Mr. Lekas reaffirmed that if it was left as a warrant article and got voted down then we would not be able to replace the bleachers. They would be removed due to safety issues. The bleachers have been there since around 1980 and they were used when they were installed. Mrs. Reilly felt it should be part of the budget and not a warrant article.

15 Mr. Young asked about the lacrosse issue and it is a small amount of \$6,250. It has traditionally been done that we do new programs/positions as warrant articles and then verify the voters agree and once they agree we then roll into the following year budget. Mr. Curro said it is being done this way because it is an expanded program at the Middle School. Mr. Curro said we already have a High School program and we are expanding the program and already have 100 children already signed up willing to  
20 play both boys and girls. We need to decide if the program worthy of the District having and if yes then it will be expanded down to the Middle School.

Mr. Young said in regard to the bleacher item, he understood Mrs. Reilly's concern about it not passing and he doesn't think it's unreasonable to tape it off and make it non accessible. However, rolling just the first year into the budget means that this Board will for the second time this week  
25 encumber future Boards to a lease and it's not small lease it's a \$300,000 five-year lease. He is not happy about that and not going to the taxpayers.

Ms. Ganem agreed it's a safety issue, but she thought it's a deterrent to other teams and hurts our program. If staying as an article, we really need to make it clear the ramifications to the public if it didn't pass.

30 The bleachers that are in question are the ones in front of the press box – the bleachers to the south – they probably make up more than half of the bleacher capacity on the home side.

Tim Siekmann mentioned that as a safety factor, it is the School Board's responsibility to fix it. His biggest problem was that this is the first time in a while the proposed budget is above the default budget. If the Town people vote for the lower side, where are you going to make up that money. This  
35 could create a major financial problem.

Mr. Laliberte said we have been able to keep things moderate and around default because we have had some good fortune and we need to get the message out that enrollment is coming up, housing turnover is increasing and we are trying to get ready to grow and get that message out and make sure the residents know that.

40 Mr. Warner asked why we have two budget numbers out there in the proposed and a default budget. Mr. Curro said the school charter when written wanted to follow the provisions on the official ballot. The School Board or Town Council presents a budget and you sit there until you agree on a budget. However, because it's a ballot, you need to check off a number and a number has to be calculated. So the School Board proposes a budget and then the default is in summary a calculation of  
45 the current budget +/- contractual obligations. (debt schedule). Ms. Hildonen agreed with the safety issue, but does not like the five-year lease. She mentioned that there are roughly 286 children in band and 100 in the football program. Mr. Lekas asked why doesn't it fall under building maintenance or capital reserve fund. Mr. Curro said it could. If we bought them straight out, we would save \$25,000. Mr. Curro thought in this case we left it as a separate article and dealt with the building and classrooms,  
50 but we could. That would deplete the maintenance trust balance for things already on the docket to be repaired. Mr. Warner mentioned that repairing or replacing unsafe equipment is mandatory not an

5 option. He asked if the \$300,000 or lease/buy program could be included in the default budget. Mr. Lekas said bleachers are not required by law so we cannot.

10 Tony DeFrancesco, 1 Cheshire Court: He felt this item is yet another of what will be a long line of items that come to this Board because we have been kicking the can down the street to make a budget number. At some point, he felt that you need to bite the bullet and pay for things that should have been done years ago. Now we have a safety issue. It is sad that this Town, the last seven or eight years, has been particularly faulty trying to save dollars. To Mr. Siekmann's point, the items on the warrant typically in past years, if the Budget Committee approved then most of the time those items pass. However, these are different times. Social media has changed the world. Eleven percent of the population typically make the decisions for the rest of the town. For a Class 1 school not to have safe  
15 bleachers is ridiculous.

Mr. Young disagreed that we have been kicking the can down the street in regard to the bleachers and mentioned that we have in fact replaced bleachers over the past. We have been looking at this the last few years. The District has done a great job to make sure our facilities are clean and safe.

20 Mr. Young mentioned that the voters might put us at the default budget number. We are at a difference of \$569,871 more for the Board budget. He would like to know how did the vote on Tuesday to support the District Office leasing space for \$1 million effect the default number. Mr. Curro said it hasn't changed yet. He asked how much could it change if that occurs. Mr. Curro said the \$165,000 and each year after that. Mr. Young continued with the fact that if we base it on a five year lease its \$200,000 and then each year the proposed in default would be \$200,000 and that would automatically be  
25 in. For this year, what would the \$200,000 have on the \$570,000. Mr. Curro said it would go down even though the proposed budget has the lease already in it. By having the signed lease, we have a commitment and by law that can be added to the default budget any time up until printing of the ballots.

Mr. Lekas mentioned that if we got a bond would also be encumbering future Boards to pay that off and Mr. Young said that is not the point.

30 The District Office lease actually brought us even closer and there is no way the Superintendent can decrease that \$570,000. Mr. Laliberte said it's the Boards budget now, and he has proposed what he felt was necessary to maintain current programs.

Mr. Siekmann asked if we anticipate this lease being signed before it goes to the elections so the default goes up. Mr. Curro said yes but he can't guarantee it.

35 Mr. Lekas agreed that the bleachers need to be replaced, and he felt the people will pass it as a warrant and Mr. Young agreed.

Mrs. Reilly read the Article.

40 **Article 2 General Fund - Operating Budget**

**Shall the voters of the Londonderry School District vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget for the fiscal year 2018-2019, not including appropriations by special warrant articles, or separate warrant articles, one of the following amounts for the purposes set forth in the budget posted with the warrant? Vote for only one:**

- 45 A. \$73,473,218 (School Board Budget as amended) (Estimated Tax Impact \$13.57)
- |  |                                |     |    |           |
|--|--------------------------------|-----|----|-----------|
|  |                                | Yes | No | Abstained |
|  | Voted by the School Board:     | 3   | 1  | 0         |
|  | Voted by the Budget Committee: | 0   | 0  | 0         |
- 50 B. \$72,903,347 (Default Budget) OR (Estimated Tax Impact \$13.42)

5 **NOTE: Warrant Article 2 (Operating Budget) does not include appropriations proposed under any other article in this warrant.**

*Mrs. Reilly moved that the School Board note in the warrant that it recommended Article 2 in the amount of \$73,473,218. Ms. Ganem seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 3-1.*

10 *Mr. Young motioned to move Article 2 to the Deliberative session. Ms. Ganem seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.*

**Mr. Lekas will make the motion at Deliberative Session.**

**Ms. Ganem will second.**

**Mr. Laliberte will present.**

15

**6.2 To see what action(s) the School Board will take regarding the following articles:**

**Article 3 – School Lunch Program and Federal Fund Projects:**

20 **Shall the voters of the Londonderry School District vote to accept and receive federal grants and other such funds to support the school lunch program and federal projects; further to raise and appropriate such funds in a special revenue fund as follows: school lunch program, \$1,483,000; and federal projects, \$1,453,000; for an estimated total appropriation of \$2,936,000 such funds to be self-supporting through local, state or federal revenue sources?**

(Estimated Tax Impact \$0.00)

25

	Yes	No	Abstained
<b>Voted by the School Board:</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Voted by the Budget Committee:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Mrs. Reilly read the article.

30 Mr. Curro mentioned that this gives the authority for the School District to accept grants, funds, fees, etc. Mr. Lekas mentioned that this is so we can take money and not pay money.

*Ms. Ganem moved that it is noted in the warrant that the School Board recommended Article 3. No Discussion. Mrs. Reilly seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.*

35 *Mr. Young motioned to move Article 3: School Lunch Program and Federal Fund Projects to the Deliberative Session. Ms. Ganem seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.*

**Mr. Young will make the motion at Deliberative Session.**

**Ms. Ganem will second.**

**Mr. Young will present.**

40

**Article 4 – Special Article (School Buildings Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund)**

45 **Shall the voters of the Londonderry School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$625,000 to be placed in the School Buildings Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund established at the March 1995 School District Meeting for major one-time capital costs for district facilities including roofs, paving, boilers and small renovation projects?**

(Estimated Tax Impact \$0.16)

45

	Yes	No	Abstained
<b>Voted by the School Board:</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Voted by the Budget Committee:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

50

Ms. Ganem read the article. There was no discussion.

5 *Mrs. Reilly moved that it is noted in the warrant that the School Board recommended Article 4 in the amount of \$625,000. Mr. Young seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.*

*Mr. Young motioned to move Article 4: Special Article (School Buildings Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund) to the Deliberative Session. Ms. Ganem seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.*

10 Mrs. Reilly will make the motion at Deliberative Session.

Mrs. Hendricks will second.

Mrs. Reilly will present.

15 **Article 5 – Special Article – Equipment Capital Reserve Fund**

Shall the voters of the Londonderry School District vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of \$150,000 to be placed in the School District Equipment Capital Reserve Fund established in 2013 to provide funds to procure essential small equipment for classrooms, offices, technology, and buildings and grounds? This sum to come from the June 30, 2018 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2018.

(Estimated Tax Impact \$0.04)

Yes No Abstained

Voted by the School Board:

4 0 0

Voted by the Budget Committee:

0 0 0

25 Mr. Young read the article.

Mr. Curro referred to the last line of the Article and mentioned if that money is not there we go up to whatever we have. There was no discussion.

*Ms. Ganem moved that it is noted in the warrant that the School Board recommended Article 5 in the amount of \$150,000. Mrs. Reilly seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.*

30 *Mr. Young motioned to move Article 5: Special Article – Equipment Capital Reserve Fund to the Deliberative Session. Mrs. Reilly seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.*

Mrs. Hendricks will make the motion at Deliberative Session.

Ms. Ganem will second.

Mrs. Hendricks will present.

35 **Article 6 – Lease/Purchase and Install New Spectator Bleachers (\$300,000)**

40 Shall the voters of the Londonderry School District vote to enter into a five-year lease purchase agreement for a new set of spectator bleachers for the High School, and raise and appropriate the sum of \$65,000 for the estimated first year lease payment for the stadium bleachers? This lease contains a non-appropriation clause. [Simple majority vote required]

Estimated Tax Impact \$0.02)

Yes No Abstained

Voted by the School Board:

4 0 0

Voted by the Budget Committee:

0 0 0

45 Ms. Ganem read the article.

*Mr. Young moved that it is noted in the warrant that the School Board recommends Article 6 in the amount of \$300,000. Ms. Ganem seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.*

50 Discussion: Mr. Young asked why it is simple majority vote. Mr. Curro said Attorney Graham said because it is a non-appropriation clause then a simple majority is required.

5 Mary Wing Soares: 2 Gail Road: She mentioned that in regard to the bleachers it is not just the football team using the bleachers. Anybody that uses the fields use the bleachers and she hoped that the Board reaches out to other groups and let them know it needs to be passed. She believed the difference between this and the District Office lease and a bond was that people have an opportunity to vote on it and this way with the way it has been done the people have not had the opportunity to voice.

10 ***Mr. Young motioned to move Article 6: Lease/Purchase and Install New Spectator Bleachers (\$300,000) to the Deliberative Session. Ms. Ganem seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.***

**Mr. Young will make the motion at Deliberative Session.**

**Ms. Ganem will second.**

15 **Ms. Ganem will present.**

7. **Adjourn Public Hearing: Mr. Young made a motion to close the public hearing for the school district warrant. Ms. Ganem seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0**

20 8. **Adjournment: Ms. Ganem motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Reilly seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11PM.

25 Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Muse  
School Board Secretary

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35