

Londonderry School District

Deliberative Session Minutes

February 9, 2018

5 A meeting of the School Administrative Unit No. 12 School Board and the Londonderry School District School Boards was held on Friday, February 9, 2018 at 7:00PM at the Londonderry High School for the purpose of holding the first session of the annual town meeting which is the Deliberative Session. In attendance were School Board members: Ms. Ganem, Mrs. Hendricks, Mr. Lekas, Mrs. Reilly and Mr. Young. Also in attendance were Superintendent, Mr. Laliberte, Business Administrator, Mr. Curro, Moderator, Mrs. Rice Conley, Assistant Moderator, Mr. Saur, School District Attorney, Mr. Peter Bronstein and School Board Secretary, Lisa Muse.

10 Budget Committee members present were: Tim Siekmann, Alex Rego, Greg Warner, Kirsten Hildonen, Duncan Campbell.

15 This session shall consist of explanation, discussion and deliberation of the warrant articles numbered 2 – 6. Warrant articles may be amended subject to the following limitations: (a) warrant articles whose wording is prescribed by law shall not be amended and (b) warrant articles, as amended shall be placed on the official ballot for a final vote of the main motion as amended.

20 Mrs. Rice Conley called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. The Londonderry Color Guard presented the flag and members of the Londonderry High School band played the national anthem. Mrs. Reilly led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Rice Conley went over the purpose of the meeting and the rules of the meeting. She mentioned that voting on warrant articles numbered 1 through 6 shall be conducted by official ballot to be held at the Londonderry High School Gymnasium on March 13, 2018. Polls will be open from 7:00AM – 8:00PM.

25 Introduction of the people at the table.
Mr. Lekas called up Mrs. Reilly to thank her for the last few years on the School Board.

30 Mr. Laliberte addressed the group and thanked them for their support of the school district. He mentioned that the theme of the budget was to prepare for growth. He believed it is our obligation to maintain all the current services, but at the same time address problems in the short term. The goal is to make the students college and career ready and maintain that focus. In a recent world report New Hampshire was ranked 3rd in the country for Best States for Education with PK-12 ranking #1. He mentioned that we pride ourselves on a strong education and our ranking as a District in the Niche report has us ranked in the top 5% nationally and 8th in New Hampshire overall. He discussed how we learn beyond the classroom in regards to Music, Interscholastic Athletics and Co-Curricular clubs and activities. The areas of focus are personnel and benefits, general programs, enrollment, capital needs, looking into the future and separate articles.

35 He continued discussing the number of staff, went over the summary of object codes and discussed general program such as regular education, pupil services, building and grounds and information technology. He showed the distribution of area by function of the different line items in our budget.

40 In regard to enrollment he mentioned that total enrollment is slightly lower. He is projecting a 22 student increase in our elementary schools. Class size is something that he is trying to maintain K-2 at 20 students per classroom and 3-5/25 maximum.

45 Space needs at Moose Hill is the greatest concern. There are 16 classrooms and at this point 8 of them are in use for Kindergarten and the other being used by LEEP and special education programs.

He touched on Dining Services and mentioned how we left the Federal Lunch Program at the high school level and this is the first year we ended in the black. Athletics has a slight increase in the budget as well as Music and Drama. They have been very conservative in their asked. Most of the increase is part of the equipment rotation and safety issues. At this time, all student clubs will continue.

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In regard to the financial impact the proposed budget is \$73,473,218 with a tax impact of \$13.57 an increase of \$0.28. The default budget is \$73,068,347 with a tax impact of \$13.46 an increase of \$0.18. The proposed budget is an increase of \$1,290,904 from the current budget. The proposed budget is \$404,871 above default. In regard to cost savings, we will have 98 Hooksett students at a revenue of \$1.1 million. There will be a cost avoidance of in-house special education programs of \$10.1 million. There is also a cost saving from the energy management program of \$300,000.

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Highlights of the general fund budget include staffing: reduces one FTE position at LHS, adds one elementary teaching position (assignment TBD) and adds one special education teaching position (LEEP), adds funding to small building maintenance projects, adds one bus to the fleet, addresses all operational costs for current programs, addresses maintenance and energy costs district wide and addresses capital improvement and space needs of the district.

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As far as capital improvement and space needs: General fund operating budget includes funds for: Additional classrooms at Moose Hill School a. lease for two modular classrooms and b. an annual lease of \$51,000. New location for district office: lease of office space at 6A Kitty Hawk Drive with an annual lease of \$165,000. Alleviating these two issues will help allow for growth. Moose Hill is out of space and now the library has been moved into the hallway. Some small instruction will be taking place in a trailer that has been rented for the rest of the year. Modular classrooms are a short term solution. He would like to make a committee and look at the space at Moose Hill and look at future possibilities and try to anticipate how we can make the best decisions for the students while being understanding of the taxpayer. If modular classrooms are not installed, kindergarten will lose a half-day classroom. The kindergarten class size could grow to 22-24 exceeding the district maximums. In regard to the district office, it has been on the CIP since 2010 and its currently on the CIP as priority one urgent and cannot be delayed. The school board has had a number of discussions on this and was aware of the health issues that are in the present district office and poor air quality. We looked at new construction onsite and off, temporary construction (modular and trailer), renovation of the current building and leasing space. Leasing gives us an opportunity to alleviate the health concerns in a short and timely manner and allows us to focus going forward when we start talking about the schools.

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Over the next few years, we have issues to look at such as Moose Hill School space needs, elementary space needs, upgrading and improving existing facilities, curriculum changes and adjust to increasing diverse needs of students and families.

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All the other articles will be open for discussion.

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Article 2 was read by Mrs. Rice Conley.

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:**

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A. \$73,473,218 (School Board Budget as amended)

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(Estimated Tax Impact \$13.57)

Yes No Abstained

Voted by the School Board: 3 1 0
Voted by the Budget Committee: 5 0 0

OR

B. \$73,068,347 (Default Budget)

(Estimated Tax Impact \$13.46)

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

Mr. Lekas made the motion to move the article to the ballot.

Ms. Ganem seconded the motion.

Mr. Laliberte presented the article.

Al Baldasaro, 41 Hall Road: He asked if the school worked with the town in regard to the air quality and if they were willing to do something. Mr. Laliberte said the school owns the building and we are responsible for it and we looked at all options to fix the air quality. Mr. Baldasaro thought the money should be spent on the students and teachers and not fancy office space.

Mr. Curro mentioned that to address the HVAC with no additional work it would cost \$1.3 million and the reason being is the units up on the roof would have to come off and a space would need to be created. Mr. Baldasaro felt that on the modular units we are reinventing the wheel. Mr. Laliberte said in the Spring we are putting together a study committee and we are looking for a long term solution as growth has come on so quickly.

Mr. Siekmann stated that the Budget Committee voted 5-0 to support the School Board Budget.

Bob Napolitano, 14 Currier Road: He would like to know how much on a \$300,000 house would taxes go up if the budget passes. Mr. Laliberte said on page 10 there is a chart with proposed budget if approved. On a \$300,000 home the taxes would be \$4815 vs \$4784 now. He asked why the taxes need to go up each year and believed there should be some tax relief with the construction at the airport on Pettengill Road. Mr. Siekmann mentioned that the increase is due to choices the District made in the past. The school district gets 75% of every dollar that comes in and has there been a time when our budget has increased \$3.5 million dollars in one year.

Mr. Napolitano continued that for 40 years he has voted yes on everything, with the idea that when Pettengill Road got built we would see some tax relief. We should be using that money to lower our taxes and that is not happening. He is going to suggest that everybody votes no on everything.

Tim Siekmann mentioned that he doesn't think people realize that Articles that passed in the past have effects on what is going on the year moving forward.

Leslie Schilling, 12 Nutfield Drive: She would like to know about the 3-1 vote and who voted which way. Mrs. Hendricks was absent and she did not vote, but mentioned that if she was there she would have voted to support. Mr. Young mentioned that he voted no because the Superintendent's budget is over the default by \$400,000 and one year they were over the default budget and that was the cost of a custodian. He thought the budget could have been reduced and he voted against the Superintendent's budget which became the same as the Board recommended budget. Mrs. Schilling mentioned that there has been no new technology in the schools this year and as an employee working in the school that is a mistake. Mr. Young whole heartedly agreed with Mrs. Schilling. He felt there are items in this budget we could have lived without such as the district office which is \$165,000 in the budget. Mrs. Schilling has lived in this town 29 years and when the Police Department was built we had the option to do the District Office at that time. Mr. Young said she is right and that should have been included in the \$2.1 million in that warrant article and it would have saved us a lot of money.

5 Mrs. Reilly mentioned that she was a yes vote and she felt last year we knew they were putting forth an extremely lean budget it was a contract year and they were asking all employees to buckle down and continue services and be resourceful. The schools did that and she hears they have done a great job right sizing accordingly. She voted yes because of the lean budget and knowing we have to give something back and focus and move forward. She felt for the additional \$400,000+ she believed this community is capable of that and she felt this Board has been fiscally conservative.

10 Ann Gaffney, 28 Tokanel Drive: She questioned if the District Office is in the default budget. Mr. Young explained that the Thursday before Christmas the public hearing was done so the public had fair warning and then on January 9th the School Board voted in a vote of 4-1. Mr. Young stated that he was the no vote and the vote has encumbered the District to that lease and as long as the lease is signed it becomes part of this year's default budget. To that point, the District has been encumbered with \$1.2 million for a 10-year lease. She asked Mr. Young if he is against
15 both budgets and he said that is fine. She felt that the difference between the school board budget and the default includes items that are a positive use of the money.

20 Mrs. Gaffney said that we use the default as our benchmark, but that is to not change anything. Mr. Curro said the difference would be the rent of the modular classrooms, one position that Mr. Laliberte talked about and one additional bus.

25 Tony DeFrancesco, 1 Cheshire Court: He doesn't care where the District Office is located, but that office is what drives the ship. If you don't have one that functions properly you can't have quality education. We are not taking money away from the children.

Martha Smith, 38 Shasta Drive: She heard the office is unhealthy and she would be ashamed if our employees were put in an unhealthy situation and she understood it has been that way for a while.

30 Greg Warner, 10 Pendleton Lane, Budget Committee: He voted for the proposed budget because it provided the minimum amount of money to get the job done.

Mr. Collachi made the motion to move the question. Mrs. Wagner seconded the motion. A raised ballot vote moved the question.

35 There was discussion on whether an amendment given to the moderator in writing could be made. Mr. Collachi made the motion to allow reconsideration, Dr. Gaffney seconded the motion. Mr. Saur counted the votes and the motion was defeated by a raised ballot count of 36 votes for yes to 49 votes for no.

40 Mrs. Rice Conley moved Article 2 to the ballot.

Mrs. Wing Soares made the motion to restrict reconsideration. Mr. Saur seconded the motion. Restricting reconsideration passed by a raised ballot vote.

45 Article 3 was read by Mrs. Rice Conley.

Article 3 School Lunch Program and Federal Fund Projects

50 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)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstained</u>
Voted by the School Board:	4	0	0
Voted by the Budget Committee:	5	0	0

Mr. Young made the motion to move Article 3 to the ballot.

Ms. Ganem seconded the motion.

Mr. Siekmann mentioned the Budget Committee voted 5-0.

5 Mr. Young presented the article: This article is for the free and reduced lunch program encourages all to vote for this.

Mrs. Rice Conley asked for public input. Seeing none Mrs. Rice Conley moved Article 3 to the ballot.

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Dr. Gaffney moved to restrict reconsideration. Ann Warner seconded the motion. Restricting reconsideration passed by a raised ballot vote.

Article 4 was read by Mrs. Rice Conley.

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

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?

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(Estimated Tax Impact \$0.16)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstained</u>
Voted by the School Board:	4	0	0
Voted by the Budget Committee:	5	0	0

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Mrs. Reilly made the motion to move Article 4 to the ballot.

Mrs. Hendricks seconded the motion.

Mrs. Reilly presented the article. This trust is a non-lapsing fund and supports large projects. We have a rolling 6-year project list that we look to fund each year. Some years there is a surplus and we save for future projects and by contributing annually to this saving account the District Office hopes to not use a bond in the future. Projects are listed in the Deliberative Packet. The money from this fund can only be used for these projects and not general use.

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Mr. Siekmann mentioned the Budget Committee voted 5-0.

35 No further discussion

Mrs. Rice Conley moved Article 4 to the ballot.

Ms. Hildonen moved to restrict reconsideration, Mr. Plaza, Pillsbury Road seconded the motion. Restricting reconsideration passed by a raised ballot.

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Article 5 is read by Mrs. Rice Conley.

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.

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(Estimated Tax Impact \$0.04)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstained</u>
Voted by the School Board:	4	0	0
Voted by the Budget Committee:	5	0	0

55 Mrs. Hendricks made the motion to move Article 5 to the ballot.

Ms. Ganem seconded the motion.

Mrs. Hendricks presented the article. This fund allows the district to purchase equipment and this could include furniture, computers, music, technology. This fund is funded by a surplus should the District have one.

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Mr. Siekmann mentioned the Budget Committee voted 5-0.
No further discussion

Mrs. Rice Conley moved Article 5 to the ballot.

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Dr. Gaffney moved to restrict reconsideration. Mrs. Schilling seconded the motion.
Restricting reconsideration passed by raised ballot.

Article 6 is read by Mrs. Rice Conley.

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Article 6 Lease / Purchase and Install New Spectator Bleachers [\$300,000]

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 in the amount of \$300,000, and raise and appropriate the sum of \$65,000 for the estimated first year lease payment for the stadium bleachers?

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This lease contains a non-appropriation clause. [Simple majority vote required]

Estimated Tax Impact \$0.02)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstained</u>
Voted by the School Board:	4	0	0
Voted by the Budget Committee:	5	0	0

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Mr. Young made the motion to move Article 6 to the ballot.

Ms. Ganem seconded the motion.

Ms. Ganem presented the article. These bleachers are located directly in front of the press box.

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They were donated in the 80s and the District has spent \$20,000 in repairs. The bleachers cannot be repaired anymore and they will need to be roped off or taken down. The Board is asking voters to vote in favor of this article.

Mr. Siekmann mentioned the Budget Committee voted 5-0.

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Discussion:

Jeff Katz, 7 Watercrest Drive: He asked after the five years if we own the bleachers. The Board confirms we will own them after five years.

Mrs. Rice Conley moved Article 6 to the ballot.

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Mr. Plaza moved to restrict reconsideration. Ms. Hildonen seconded the motion.
Restricting reconsideration passed by raised ballot.

Dr. Gaffney made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Schilling seconded the motion. The motion passed by a raised ballot.

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The meeting was adjourned at 8:35PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lisa Muse
School Board Secretary