

WINNISQUAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes of the Annual Meeting

March 20, 2010

Pursuant to the Winnisquam Regional School District Warrant, the Annual School District meeting was convened in the gymnasium of the Winnisquam Regional High School in the Town of Tilton in said District on the 20th day of March 2010. School District Moderator Ken Randall called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Moderator Randall pointed out the section for non-voters.

Moderator Randall introduced himself, District Clerk, Barbara Foster. Moderator Randall introduced Mike Gagne, School Board Chairperson, who introduced the School Board members present – Cyndee Chapin, Patricia Sawicki, Jasen Stock, Lynn Chong, Jonathan Dupuis, Sean Goodwin, Julie Lonergan and Kevin Washburn. He then introduced Dr. Tammy Davis, Superintendent, John Teague, School District Attorney and the SAU administrators, Cheryl Somma, Janice Grenier, Lori Krueger, Suzan Gannett, Mikel LaChapelle, Ronna Cadarette, Tim Neville, Rich Hines, Pam Miller, Jeff Lamb and Kevin Sousa.

School Budget Committee Chairperson, Keith Murray, introduced himself and then introduced the Budget Committee members – Wayne Crowley, Erika Cunningham, Curt McGee, Dana Nute, Nina Gardner.

Dr. Tammy Davis presented an overview of the WRSD Strategic Plan and its impact on NECAP results, what still needs to be done and the focus in going forward.

Moderator Randall explained the voting procedure and the ground rules for the meeting.

The Moderator asked for a vote on the acceptance of the ground rules as they appear in the handouts.

Motion: A motion was made by Jasen Stock to accept the ground rules as written and seconded by Mike Gagne.

Discussion: None

Vote: Affirmative

March 9th election results were read by Barbara Foster, School District Clerk.

Motion: A motion was made by Chuck Mitchell to reorder the articles to have Article 7 moved first and was seconded by Mr. Fields.

Discussion: None

Vote: Affirmative

Moderator Randall reads Article 7 as follows:

Article-7

We the undersigned voters of the Winnisquam Regional School District request the following warrant article be placed on the official warrant at the WRSD 2010 Annual School District Meeting: To see if the WRSD will vote to eliminate the Budget Committee. We are requesting the oversight and management of the Winnisquam Regional School District budget be placed with the WRSD School Board and Finance Committee members.

[Majority Ballot vote required]

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Field seconded by Robert Holt bring this article to the floor for discussion.

Discussion: Mr. Field stated that he does not think that the budget committee should be eliminated

Kevin Waldron states that he does not agree with eliminating the budget committee, and moves to table Article 7 seconded by Dave Port.

[2/3 vote required to table Article 7]

Call for standing vote to table of Article 7.

Vote: Yes = 108 No = 66 62% needed 66% to table Article 7

The motion to table does not pass.

Discussion: Cathryn Ferrera would like to know what percentage of the budget is the budget committee really allowed to look at. She commented the budget committee on the last 3 years of keeping our budget stagnant or lowered.

Robert Holt stated that he is one of the petitioners for this Article and one of the major concerns is the number of vacancies on the budget committee. The 2010 elections had 4 vacant seats with no candidates running. If the budget committee wants to continue then the vacant seats need to be addressed. The 2010-2011 Budget was crafted with no members from the Town of Tilton sitting on the committee.

Don Bormes stated one of his concerns is when the school board had full control the budget increased on average each year 8.5% and with the budget committee its average is 3.5%. The budget committee is a check and balance and should stay in place.

Jennifer Holt stated she is in support of the Article. "I was one of the people who voted for the formation of the budget committee. Somehow it has become something very different; it is controlling the purse strings and the school board no longer makes the decisions".

Gretchen Wilder stated she is in support of keeping the budget committee together, she said "look around you and see who has come today and know that the school board and budget committee put in long hours to do what they do. If the Tilton residences can't find 3 volunteers to sit on budget committee that is a shame. Pay attention and volunteer."

Norm Boudreau stated that Tilton residents need to step it up and that he is willing to put his name in to fill one of the Tilton vacancies. The school district needs this committee; they are a fresh pair of eyes looking at the budget. The budget committee is holding the bottom line for all of us.

Reta Deveer would like an explanation of the two columns for Budget Committee and School Board dollars in the annual report. If teachers are going to be cut who decides that?

Curt McGee explained that the budget is a collaborative number. We look at everything in the budget; we look for feedback from administration, and adjust numbers based on need. We will be voting on the Budget Committee numbers by law. The school board hires and fires. The budget committee does not do that. We are an extra set of eyes for the collaborative process.

Greg Hill stated its been alleged that the budget committee makes policy. Based on Tier 1, 2 and 3 cuts, what did you do with these figures? Can we poll the school board members to see if they are in favor of Article 1?

Keith Murray explained that the budget committee is not a policy setting entity, we asked the administrators to make the Tier 1, 2 and 3 recommendations to cut the budget.

Jasen Stock stated that he had the privilege of serving on the budget committee and he is of the opinion that the budget committee has served their purpose. When you look at the budget compared to a couple years ago, bare in mind the accounting changes and the tremendous administrative changes. From my perspective the district accounting house is in order at this time. Folks need to keep in mind, we review numbers and percentages and not all increases are the discretion of the school board or budget committee.

Tim Lang stated that he served on the budget committee 2 years ago, and explained that the average budget growth with budget committee is 1.5% increase. He stated "we are not looking at cutting the budget that the budget has increased by 2 million dollars". The budget committee is critical to keeping the budget in line.

Earl Leighton agreed with the budget committee. They make tough choices that have to be made. The budget committee puts pressure on the school board to relook at the budget and it is a necessary thing. Voters ultimately have control of what is going to be spent today. I hope we vote to keep the budget committee

Leroy French stated that he is for the budget committee. Look at the annual report and the separate columns and see the savings the budget committee finds.

Karen Wilcox spoke in favor of disbanding the budget committee. She agreed that our house is in order, and we elect a school board and they need to be able to do their job. We the community, should be the checks and balances for our school district.

Heather Goodwin stated that she believes that we (the community) vote our school board in and they are voted to be fiscally responsible. We need to think as a community if we value education. I am personally not in favor of keeping the budget committee.

Deb Converse stated that she served on the 1st budget committee from Tilton, and supports the process of the budget committee but thinks they need to take the suggestions of the school board.

David Court stated the budget committee has done a good service. They have kept our budget in line and we are one of the best funded districts in the state. I want the budget committee in for several reasons: 1) they do good service, and 2) they review the school board's recommendations.

Tracy Wood stated she is in favor of this article. She has attended several budget committee and school board meetings this year. The budget committee's main objective was to cut costs at all costs. The budget committee should be making suggestions to the school board not dictating percentage based decreases in the budget. The budget committee failed to consider the impact to student learning when doing their cuts.

Point of order: How does the school board feel about the budget committee? Lynn Chong, Jason Stock, Cyndee Chapin, Patricia Sawicki, Julie Lonergan, Sean Goodwin and Kevin Washburn support the warrant Article. Jonathan Dupuis supports the budget committee.

Moderator Randall has called for a ballot vote @ 11:51am, the polls need to remain open for 1 hour.

[Majority vote required]

Moderator Randle read the results of the ballot vote @ 1:05pm

Vote: Yes = 85 No = 120 The Article 7 does not pass.

Motion: A motion was made by Gloria Murasko and seconded by Keith Murray to protect vote.

Moderator Randall has called for vote.

Vote: Affirmative

Article -1

To see if the Winnisquam Regional School District will vote to establish a study committee pursuant to Article 14 of the Articles of Agreement of the District to study the apportionment formula contained in Article 5 of said Articles, last amended in March 2006; said committee to be composed and appointed as specified in Article 14; said committee to report its findings and recommendations to the School Board no later than one hundred twenty (120) days before the 2011 school district meeting.

Before this the Article is put on the floor for discussion, John Teague explained why this is on the warrant this year. This is properly on warrant for this year because it is a study committee for the formula. Your Article 14 in the Articles of Agreement, says it will be studied and reviewed every 4 fours. The statute states you vote on it every five years.

Wayne Elliott questioned how many members serve on the committee?

John Teague stated the membership of the committee is as follows: One selectman from each town for a total of three, one school board member from each town and one resident from each district all appointed by the town moderator.

Motion: A motion was made by Jasen Stock seconded by Mike Gagne to bring this article to the floor for discussion.

Discussion: None

Point of order: Jim Swancott would like to have clarified what article number this is.

Moderator Randall explained that this is Article 1 but it is the second article to be voted on.

Moderator Randall has called for vote.

Vote: Affirmative

John Teague recommended we move on to Article 5.

Article-5

To see if the Winnisquam Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Dollar [\$1.00]** for the purpose of contributing to the final settlement of one or more of the following cases:

Joan Barnum v. School Administrative Unit #59, Winnisquam Regional School District, Docket No. 08-C-0292, Belknap County Superior Court

Patience Cameron v. School Administrative Unit #59, Winnisquam Regional School District, Docket No. 08-C-0264, Belknap County Superior Court

[Majority vote required]

The School Board recommends this appropriation.

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation.

This article will give the School Board the flexibility to negotiate towards a settlement in one or more of the above cases. The voters at a School District meeting will have the final say as to whether the settlement amount will be approved.

Motion: A motion was made by Patricia Sawicki seconded by Jonathan Dupuis to bring this article to the floor for discussion.

Discussion: John Teague gave a brief explanation on the progress of these cases. He explained that because there is not an actual dollar amount for settlement that this Article should be tabled at this time. He explained that he was hoping to get everyone to the table to mediate, and we did, but the gap was too wide and were unable to reach a settlement amount. He explained that we were not able to successfully mediate these cases. Efforts are being made to have these cases dismissed due to statute of limitations. We are still quite optimistic that these cases will be dismissed.

A community member requested details regarding the projected costs to date.

John Teague explained the insurance company has been paying the lion's share of the defense costs. We have expended a total of \$30,000 with a balance of \$122,000 left.

Tim Pearson asked why do you expect the article to be tabled?

John Teague: Last year the question was brought up that the money from the reserve fund was only for costs of defense. That's why I put this article in to go toward settlement.

Motion: A motion was made by Donna Bouchard and seconded by Keith Murray to table this Article.

Moderator Randall has called for a vote.

Vote: Affirmative

Article-2

To see if the Winnisquam Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of up to **Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars [\$250,000]** to be placed in the Capital Reserve Fund-Building Renovations and Repairs, with such amount to be funded from the June 30, 2010, unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2010.

[Majority vote required]

The School Board recommends this appropriation.

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation.

This will help maintain a favorable trust fund balance to fund building repairs and replacement of equipment in accordance with the District's Capital Improvement Plan.

Motion: A motion was made by Kevin Washburn seconded by Jonathan Dupuis to bring this article to the floor for discussion.

Discussion: Cathryn Ferrera questioned if the money was in case we don't have enough in the Capital Improvement Fund.

Kevin Washburn explained that the money is to replace boilers, etc. The money in Article 3 is going to deplete this fund so we are asking for \$250,000.

Cathryn Ferrera wants to know if we are asking for an additional \$400,000 in the next article?

Kevin Washburn clarifies that it is not additional and that the \$492,772 in the next Article will deplete the Capital Improvement Fund account and we need to put money back into the fund. Thus, we are asking for the \$250,000 to replenish the Capital Improvement Fund.

Moderator Randall has called for a vote.

Vote: Affirmative

Article-3

To see if the Winnisquam Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Four Hundred Ninety Two Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Two Dollars [\$492,772]** for the following purpose: At the Middle School, to replace a pair of exterior gym doors; at Southwick School, to repair damaged leaking roof valleys and install security cameras and equipment; at Sanbornton Central School, to restore the flat roof section and reroof the older steep slope section, and replace the 4th-5th grade exterior door frame and playground entrance door; at Union Sanborn School to reroof the upper section of the building, replace both front doors, complete phase 1 of playground improvements including modifying a playground swing set; and at the Voc Ag Building, to replace the roof (this is in addition to last year's improvement article); and to authorize the withdrawal of **Four Hundred Ninety Two Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Two Dollars [\$492,772]** from the Capital Reserve Fund-Building Renovations and Repairs created for that purpose.

[Majority vote required]

The School Board recommends this appropriation.

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation.

Motion: A motion was made by Sean Goodwin seconded by Mike Gagne to bring this article to the floor for discussion.

Discussion: Sean Goodwin presented a powerpoint on the renovations.

Cathryn Ferrera requested an explanation as to why we have the Ag roof in this article when this was suppose to be in the Bio Mass project?

Sean Goodwin explained that the extra money in this article is for the balance based on the estimate. The initial estimate for the Ag roof came in over budget. The updated estimate to do the Ag roof is \$62,000.

Mike Gagne responded that the district will get 50% back in Building Aid funds for this over the 15 years of the bond, not all at once. We still need to be able to pay for the roof project.

Lisa Martin stated "if we do not fix the leaking roof issues, will we suffer structural damages? What is the warranty on the Southwick roof? She also asked if we have looked to see if any of the products are still under warranty."

Sean Goodwin explained that is one of the reasons we are going with a metal roof. Garland roofing company is being used for design.

Gretchen Wilder questioned whether we are sending out for bids? Are we getting multiple bids?

Sean Goodwin clarified that the bids obtained were from 9 companies.

Gretchen Wilder questioned some of the playground issues. How many phases to this playground?

Tim Neville explained that there are some drainage issues that will need to be taken care of in Phase 1, and that is why we are doing this in 2 phases.

Gretchen Wilder asked if we are spending the money and having to pull the playgrounds out in a couple years. Is this a wise investment?

Tim Neville explained when we put a playground in it meets all safety requirements at the time of installation. The government is always updating safety requirements to keep our kids safe.

Greg Hill would like clarified if the total cost of the Ag roof is \$124,000 and does this mean the district will be getting \$62,000 in building aid? Also, is this roof still being done as part of the Honeywell project.

Mike Gagne clarified that the Ag roof is part of the Honeywell project, but we will not get the \$31,000 back in the 1st year, the building aid will be over the life of the bond. The thing to remember is that the payback is over the 15 years of the bond not one lump sum. It is figured into the revenue side of our budget.

David Court stated that he objects to the article in the newspaper that states “everything is rosy and all the funds have been appropriated”. He then goes into the state of the districts roofs. Metal roofs are not magic and metal roofs do leak and they do expand and contract just like other types of roofs. They leak because they are flat roofs. I think we are going backwards in many ways, by just putting up something that is shiny.

Donna Bouchard stated that the Southwick School was built in 1992 and would like to know if the original builder is being held accountable for the roof.

Sean Goodwin explained that the entire roof is not going to be replaced it is only the valleys that will be repaired. We will check in to see about existing warranties.

Bill Dawson stated that properly constructed valleys should hold. One caution to note is metal roofs deliver the snow very quickly and without warning, should consider boundary around building.

Center Sanders commented that metal on a flat roof could be damaged by shoveling the snow off of it.

Sean Goodwin explained there is no proposal to put metal on the flat roof.

Cathryn Ferrera questioned when we will start noticing a benefit to what we are replacing/repairing today.

Mike Gagne explained that if we maintain our buildings, you will not see interior repairs, etc. and you will see in the revenue side projected revenue.

Moderator Randall has called for a vote.

Vote: Affirmative

Article-4

To see if the Winnisquam Regional School District will vote to establish an expendable emergency repairs trust fund under the provisions of RSA 198:20-c, to be known as the School Facilities Maintenance Emergency Repairs Fund for the purpose of repairing and maintaining the school buildings. Furthermore, to raise and appropriate a sum of **Fifty Thousand Dollars [\$50,000]** towards this purpose, and to designate the School Board as agents to expend from this fund or to take any other action in relation thereto.

[Majority vote required]

The School Board recommends this appropriation.

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation.

Annually, the district budgets an estimated amount for facility repairs. At year-end, these appropriations if unused lapse back to the unreserved fund balance. This will establish an emergency trust fund to address unforeseen repairs that are not included in the general fund budget.

Motion: A motion was made by Lynn Chong seconded by Mike Gagne to bring this article to the floor for discussion.

Discussion: Lynn Chong explained that each year there will be some emergencies we can't plan or foresee. This last year the Union Sanborn School sink installation was considered an emergency as part of the H1N1 virus, the sinks gave the students the ability to be able to wash their hands after coming in from recess before going to lunch. Also, the sink hole at the middle school athletic field was considered a safety issue and needed to be fixed before anyone could use the fields. Lynn explained that this fund will be a lapsing fund and will come back again next year to ask for the funds. This \$50,000 would be set aside for the kinds of emergencies you don't see coming.

Norm Boudreau would like to know the costs of the two incidents that Lynn explained.

Lynn Chong explained the costs for the sinks was \$14,214 and there were considerations on how many students could be served at one time, as well as the hallway width for safety reasons. The sink hole cost \$30,609 and it was for collapsed piping.

David Court asked how we managed all these years without this fund?

Lynn Chong explained that in previous years we have had some revenue savings, like snow removal costs, fuel savings because the winter was less severe.

David Court stated it's the nature of emergencies I don't understand. What deems an emergency and who decides if it is an emergency? I am not opposed to this, but it's the process that I have a problem with.

Mike Gagne commented that when an unexpected emergency occurs it would come out of the general fund, and it could impact our educational experience for our kids. It has not in the past, but it could. The way the school board has operated in the way it deals with these issues is it goes to the Finance Committee, they hear the need and review the bids, and then the Finance committee makes a recommendation to school board. The school board then has the option to accept the recommendations from the Finance committee. The school board will deem if it is an emergency.

David Court stated that he does not see how this will improve things.

Mike Gagne stated that it will improve things because it guarantees that we will have money set aside for emergencies.

John Cilley questioned if we have done anything in Sanbornton for H1N1 and have we fixed the sink hole. Will revenue be shown if it comes back to us if not used?

Mike Gagne explained that the sinks were not a new item. We had parent letters concerned that students could not wash hands before lunch. Sanbornton has not come to the school board with any problems.

Mike LaChapelle, principal at Sanbornton Central School explained that the students at Sanbornton go to lunch before recess and the students do have the ability to use the facilities because of smaller class sizes and the structure of their lunches.

Mike Gagne further explained that he cannot guarantee that we will only need \$50,000 each year and if we don't, the money will be going back to each town based on the formula.

John Cilley questioned how the extra money comes back into the budget and do we have 100% accountability.

Cheryl Somma explained that we report all our financial information to the state on September 1st, and it is not until October when they set the tax rates. A cash flow statement to request the money from the towns is completed, and this shows on remaining payments.

Donna Bouchard questioned if the transfer of maintenance capital reserve proposed on page 2 is the \$50,000.

Mike Gagne stated the \$50,000 in article 4 is new money and we are raising and appropriating it.

Donna Bouchard asked if this will be done every year?

Mike Gagne explained that this is a lapsing fund that will need to be requested every year.

Tim Lang pointed out that he is in agreement with this article because as the budget committee does their job more and more, there will not be a surplus to cover emergencies.

Cathryn Ferrera questioned the \$250,000 under capital reserve that was approved a couple of years ago, where did this money go?

Keith Murray explained that this money went back to the fund.

Moderator Randall has called for a vote.

Vote: Affirmative

Article-6

We the undersigned voters petition the members of the Winnisquam Regional School District to appropriate the sum of **Thirty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Four Dollars and Forty Cents [\$37,984.40]** for the Ferry Beach School for the 5th graders for the 2010-2011 school year.

[Majority vote required]

The School Board does not recommend this appropriation.

The Budget Committee does not recommend this appropriation.

Motion: A motion was made by Michele Corey seconded by Cathryn Ferrera to bring this article to the floor for discussion.

Discussion: Michele Corey explained that one of the reasons that she petitioned for this article was last year the parents agreed that they were willing to do the fund raising. But they ran into issues on how to run the funds through the school district or PTSO and was told that it could not be done, that we would have to form a nonprofit to collect the funds. We are asking for a way to put the money back through the school so we do not have to start a nonprofit organization. Michele explained that starting a nonprofit would be very difficult to organize and maintain. Parents are still willing to fund raise but we are asking for you to raise and appropriate the money this year until the details can be worked out.

Norm Boudreau stated when this was brought up last year that he does not recommend this and neither does the school board or budget committee. To this date nothing has been done to fund raise for this. I recommend that the parents get going for next year. This should not fall on the school district to fund this.

Nancy Trowsdale read a letter from her daughter a 7th grader regarding the importance of this trip for 4th graders and how the knowledge gained during this week at Ecology School has helped her over the last few years in her academic learning.

David Court stated that he is opposed to this and it should be a private citizen event. This should not have to be a one year committee. This should be set up for all classes going forward.

Rita DeVeer explained that the parents did try to raise the money. She went to PTO meetings and you cannot fund raise until you have a fund to put the money in. Michele is asking to have the funds appropriated that lets us use your tax ID number. We did work hard but did not have time to set up a nonprofit and fund raise before this meeting. Can we determine if we can use the EIN number for the school district?

Mike Gagne stated that we could not make this decision now.

Cheryl Somma elaborated that if the money is put in the district then it is the district funds and the over sight of the funds falls to district. The district auditor does not recommend we do this.

Lisa Swancott stated that she has a couple issues. The Ferry Beach is a great program, but it should be paid for by the parents and maybe Mr. Hines and Mr. Lachapelle can come up with a way to oversee. To start an organization is not that difficult but can be done. You can come to the PTSO at WRHS. We did it and we can help. I do not support having the district pay for this, this year.

Nancy Court stated that last year when this was brought up that both the board and budget committee did not support it. It was stated that no one argued the benefits of this program; the question was whether we choose to use district money to continue paying for this program.

Kevin Waldron stated that the 2010 trip is funded. The parents still have adequate time to get this organized for next year. The Washington DC trip is funded by the parents and the Ferry Beach trip should be paid for by the parents of these students.

Karen Wilcox stated she stood up last year in favor of this. My question is why isn't our PTO helping Ms. DeVeer and the other parents to fund raise and give them the help they need?

Jody Gallant stated that she is a co-president for Union Sanborn and Southwick PTO. They have been approached a couple times regarding the use of the PTO account but per our accounting recommendation we cannot pass the funds through our account because this would qualify our account at a higher level and we would be burdened with high expenses. The support is there to help fund raise but the holding account needs to be a separate account.

Greg Hill stated he is of the understanding that this program does not even fit in the current curriculum.

Mr. Hines explained that this is not the case, the curriculum component falls in line with the 5th grade.

Emily Spear felt that if the people are willing to fund this that maybe the district should look at supervising this money.

Moderator Randall has called for a vote.

Vote: Defeated

Motion: A motion was made by Norm Boudreau and seconded by Earl Leighton to protect vote.

Moderator Randall has called for vote.

Vote: Affirmative

Article-8

To see if the Winnisquam Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee’s recommended amount of **Twenty Three Million Nine Hundred Fifty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Seven Dollars [\$23,952,987]** for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for the district officials and agents, and for the payment of statutory obligations of the District. The School Board recommends **Twenty Four Million Three Hundred Five Thousand Five Hundred Thirteen Dollars [\$24,305,513]**. The article does not include appropriations voted in other warrant articles. [Majority vote required]

This article raises the appropriations for the General Fund, plus Special Revenue Funds for Food Service and Local, State and Federal Grants.

Motion: A motion was made by Keith Murray seconded by Mike Gagne to bring this article to the floor for discussion.

Discussion: Keith Murray began with a presentation of an overview of the 2010-2011 budget, and clarifies that the budget committee is a strictly fiscal entity and we do not get into policy making.

David Court questioned if any of our members of school board or budget committee has an inkling of what’s ahead of us from state and federal funding, because a lot of our projected costs included this funding.

Keith Murray explained that the state is asking for us to pay more for retirement and fund more of our education. I don’t see them stopping the building aid, but I cannot say they won’t with the way our economy is. I don’t know what the state is going to do but I know they are asking us to do more and more.

Greg Hill complimented the budget committee on their presentation, and makes a motion to amend to Article 8 and 2nd by Tim Lang:

Amendment to Article 8:

To see if the Winnisquam Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of Twenty Three Million Nine Hundred and Fourteen Thousand Five Hundred and Seventeen dollars (\$23,914,517) for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for the district officials and agents, and for the payment of statutory obligations of the district. The article does not include appropriations voted in other warrant articles.

Discussion: Greg Hill explained the difference between the amendment and article 8 is \$38,470 decrease. This amount is the increase to administrations salaries of 1.5% on top of the other increase to retirement. He also witnessed the school board trying their best to eliminate the termination bonus. We also gave administration paid leave to work from home on snow days.

Mike Gagne clarified that the 1.5% increase in merit pay is not just administrators; it is for secretaries and people on professional contracts and hourly employees. He stated the board reduced the severance bonus from \$31,000 to \$10,000. Also, we did not grant any extra days off. We did grant the administration to work from home on snow days. They have all the electronics needed to work efficiently from home.

Cathryn Ferrera asked what is the percentage that we cannot touch in this budget?

Keith Murray stated that 35% is what we can deal with in this budget.

Tim Pearson is not in favor of the amendment. We spoke loudly early that we support our budget committee and they are not in favor of this amendment.

Emily Spear stated she agrees with what Tim Pearson said and would hate to see our hourly and para’s pay decrease.

Gloria Murasko asked if this is passed, can we legally tell the board what to take away or is it strictly a dollar amount passed?

Keith Murray stated the board is under no obligation to take away the 1.5% pay increase. They can take the money away from another part of the budget.

Moderator Randall has called for a vote on the amendment.

Vote: Defeated

Discussion back on main motion: Deana Waldron questioned page 14 of the annual report; transportation for homeless of \$25,000.

Mike Gagne explained that when a student is declared homeless in this district and are residing in another district, we share the cost with the district in which the student is residing to transport them to school.

Suzan Gannett explained that temporary means that you have lost your apartment or home and have to move in with a relative or someone else. You are allowed to finish the school year, and if at the beginning of the next school year the family/student has not found a permanent home, then the transportation would continue.

Deana Waldron questioned if we share the SRO with the Tilton Police Department. It was my understanding that we do not have a back up for him. Please continue to work on the back up issue.

Mike Gagne explained that we do not have a back up for the SRO when he is out on vacation or sick. He explained that the board has been talking with Chief Cormier and that they are working on this. The dollar amounts for the SRO are on page 8 and 10 of the annual report. \$18,425 is the high school portion and the same portion for the middle school.

John Cilley requested clarification from either the SAU and/or School Board exactly what the cuts will be for the district. Is it 5 teacher positions and 5 para-professionals' positions?

Dr. Tammy Davis clarified that the positions being cut are: 1 teacher, 4 para professionals and a .5 professional employee.

John Cilley asked if the budget committee increased their budget with these positions being put back in?

Keith Murray stated we increased the budget with some of the Tier 3 money being put back in the budget. What the school board decides is up to them. We, the budget committee cannot know what the school board will do, we are not a policy making body.

Karen Wilcox would like to know how we can cut 1 teacher and 4 para-professions and yet hire a brand new media aid for Sanbornton Central school for a salary at \$18,038 when the Library media aids at SS and HS make less money and have been hear a longer period of time?

Mikel Lachapelle explained that the Library assistant has been hired at a higher rate because her job responsibilities are more than the normal library aid, such as the reading assistant and primarily Title 1 services. We are losing Title 1 next year and 3 tutors. She is maintaining her certification.

Gretchen Wilder clarified \$352,526 dollar discrepancies between the budget committees budget request and the school board's budget.

Tracy Wood has made a motion to amend Article 8 and 2nd by Cherie Snow.

Amendment of Article 8 as follows:

To see if the WRSD will vote to raise and appropriate the school board's recommended amount of Twenty Four Million Three Hundred Five Thousand Five Hundred Thirteen Dollars (\$24,305,513). The article does not include appropriations voted in other warrant articles.

Discussion: Tracy Wood explained that she has very little confidence on how the budget committee proceeded this year and the utmost confidence in the school board. That is why I recommend this.

Greg Callahan stated that one of the biggest discrepancies in the budget committee's and the school board's budget is the curriculum area. What is the school board's or Suzan Gannet's opinion on the funding and why the school board believes this is beneficial to us?

Keith Murray clarified that the budget committee requested the Tier 1, 2 and 3 recommendations. Tier 1 cuts do not have any impact on student learning. We asked the administration to identify these cuts.

Mike Gagne explained that Keith is correct in the identifying of the elementary science program. It is a 5 year plan and not funding it next year will impact our ability to move forward with the plan.

Suzan Gannett explained that the last time we have purchased a science program was in 1996. Last year we replaced the science books for the middle school and the elementary would have been this year. We will scale back and split with grades.

Greg Callahan thanked Ms. Gannett for the clarification. I support the amendment.

David Court stated that he is against the amendment.

Rita DeVeer questioned whether the 4 para positions that are being cut include a speech assistant position and ESOL position?

Suzan Gannett clarified that the ESOL position was an additional position and is not needed next year so it is a wash.

Lori Kruger stated that a speech assistant was also being cut.

Moderator Randall has called for a vote on the amendment.

Vote: Defeated

Moderator Randall recognizes the call for a standing vote on the amendment.

Vote: Yes = 52 No = 77

Amendment is Defeated

Discussion back on main motion: Cathryn Ferrera stated she is proud of the budget committee and what they have done for our district, and questions the multi-age classroom and the board's decision not to go with it.

Gloria Murasko stated that the picture on the front cover of the annual report is wonderful.

Moderator Randall has called for a vote.

[Majority vote required]

Vote: Affirmative

Article-9

To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Keith Murray presented Curt McGee with a Certification of appreciation and a Gavel for his service and knowledge to the budget committee.

Mike Gagne presented a plaque to Lynn Chong for her years of service to the school board.

Meeting adjourned at 3:54pm.

A true Record, Attest:

Barbara Foster
Winnisquam Regional School District