

# WINNISQUAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes of the Annual Meeting

March 22, 2014

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 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March 2014. School District Moderator Kent Finemore called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by Kirk Young, Music Director. Moderator Finemore pointed out the section for non-voters. Kent Finemore asked for a moment of silence to honor the brave men and women who serve our country. He also took a moment to thank the Supervisors of the Checklist along with Kirk Young and the Music Department for operating the sound system. Kent Finemore went over the ground rules and the process of today's meeting, asking to limit testimony to five minutes. He also explained ballot vote rules and asked that amendments to articles be presented in writing.

Moderator Kent Finemore also swore in Assistant Moderators, Pat Riberdy, Tim Satler and Scott McGuffin. Adele Chertoff was sworn in as Assistant Moderator for Article 8 only to replace Pat Riberdy of Sanbornton due to his association as a football coach. Kirk Young, Music Director, gave instructions on how to use the newly improved microphone system. At this time Moderator Kent Finemore announced election results.

Moderator Finemore introduced himself and District Clerk, Patricia Risley. Moderator Finemore introduced Mike Gagne, School Board Chairperson, who introduced the School Board members present – Jasen Stock, Patricia Sawicki, Wayne Crowley, Timothy Lang, Tom Fulweiler, Sean Goodwin, Julie Lonergan and Kevin Washburn.

School Budget Committee Chairperson, Nina Gardner introduced herself and then introduced the Budget Committee members present – Leif Martinson, Keith Murray, Brian Gallagher, Dana Nute, Lance Turgeon Timothy Pearson, Wayne Brock and Jane Alden. She also took a moment to recognize Leif Martinson for his 3 year term on the Budget Committee and presented him with a clock. Nina Gardner made a point of thanking Mr. Martinson for stepping in when no one else was interested in serving on the Budget Committee.

Moderator Finemore then introduced Dr. Tammy Davis, Superintendent, who introduced John Teague, School District Attorney and the SAU administrators present; Cheryl Somma, Janice Grenier, Lori Krueger, Bonnie Jean Kuras, Cynthia Proulx, Andrew Brauch, Rich Hines, Rob Seaward, Pam Miller, Joseph Stone, Jonathan Dupuis, Kevin Sousa and Zachary Medlock.

Before Article 1 was read, Kathryn Ferrara asked if the Moderator would allow all those in line to speak or would he have a cut-off point. Kent Finemore replied that if a speaker is recognized by the Moderator, he would most certainly be called to question and he further stated that anyone can challenge any ruling by the Moderator.

Moderator Finemore read Article 1 as follows:

## **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 2015 school district meeting.

**Motion:** Motion made by Jasen Stock and seconded by Sean Goodwin.

**Testimony:** Jasen Stock explained that the formula in said article is to determine how we split the bill. Currently, it is a 70/30 split; 70% enrollment, 30% equalized value. A study committee is required to make recommendations to either make changes or decide if current system works.

**Discussion:** No discussion.

**Vote: Article 1 passes**

**Motion:** Kevin Waldron made a motion to move Article 2 to the end (before Article 10) as it is the largest money item and this would allow the opportunity, if needed, to make an amendment to the article. Motion seconded by Jon Cilley.

**Discussion:** Kevin Waldron stated that we should be able to allow the people an opportunity to amend the vote if necessary. He went on to say, if we leave the Article where it is, then vote on it and protect the vote, however there is then no opportunity to make any changes and this, he says, is fundamentally unfair.

**Voice Vote:** In doubt. Standing vote results: Tied at 113.

**Secret Ballot Vote** recommended by Kent Finemore. Results: In favor 117, opposed 133.

**Vote:** Does not pass. Article 2 remains in sequence.

Moderator Finemore read Article 2 as follows:

**Article-2**

To see if the Winnisquam Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's recommended amount of **Twenty Four Million Seven Hundred Forty Two Thousand Six Hundred Sixty One dollars [\$24,742,661]** 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 Nine Hundred Eighty One Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Five dollars [\$ 24,981,845]**. 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:** Moved by Keith Murray. Seconded by Jane Alden

**Testimony:** Nina Gardner gave a power point presentation and spoke to the article stating that the budget is .73% over current budget and the two factors driving these increases are enrollment and equalized valuations as they apply to the budget. She also added that the long term drivers include long range planning, safety and security, upgrades, job design and definition and teacher effectiveness and evaluation. She went on to explain current assessments, cost per student and state aid. . She further explained the significant increases in Special Education, increases in health insurance, technology improvements and replacements, merit increase pool, and adding single health insurance for staff over 30 hours. Also included in the budget from the strategic plan is a community consultant, text books for the middle school in English and Language Arts, and technology equipment for training to support the strategic plan. Nina also mentioned what is **not** in the budget which includes Kindergarten, three contracts and the School Board's article on football. Nina also pointed out that student enrollment is steady; however they anticipate a reduction of about 8 students. A demographic study was just done and has shown to be remarkably accurate. She also explained that the vast majority of how we spend the money in the budget includes wages, salaries and benefits as well as purchase services which leaves very little discretionary spending.

**Discussion:** *Kathryn Ferrara* questioned why we would need to increase help, adding an Assistant Superintendent, when class sizes are smaller and there are fewer students. She also mentioned that in the last 10 years we have lost over 319 students and questioned why we are touching the part of the budget that is supposed to be for the children when we can see it is not.

**Motion:** Greg Hill moved for an amendment to raise and appropriate **\$22,268,394.90** for Article 2, seconded by Ken Gorrell. Speaking to amendment, *Greg Hill* stated that what we have here is what's called a team budget and some would call it a SHIP budget, Schools Hope it Passes. He asked if we budget for what we want and then find the money somewhere. Generally, we do not spend what we want and then hope we get a raise or look for additional income. What we do is recognize what our income is and then spend it. The School Board should look at the income available and work within that. He recounted a study which revealed that UNH has the poorest record in the country in raising money through fund raising and by cutting their allotment from the state by 50%, it forced the trustees to go out and find ways of fund raising. As it turns out, they raised more by the time the budget passed than they would have received through the assessment from the state. He suggested that there are a number of things that the School Board could be doing to raise money. For example: The new state assessment replacing NECAP which is a compulsory program, mandated by the state. A number of towns are joining together and saying that the state should pay as it is a required program. Our School Board does not do this so he hopes this amendment will drive some new action in looking for funds other than from our wallet.

*Ken Gorrell* added that the number in the proposed amendment represents a 10% cut and he would support this, especially taking into consideration fewer students versus increasing budgets. He added that the School Board and Administration are not using their most creative tools to address budget drivers and the recommended 10% cut will help to do that. He is confident the district can figure out a way to creatively meet the educational needs of our children and meet the financial obligations they have to us. A question was raised for either the Chair of the Budget Committee or School Board; what is your equation for return on investment and how will you show a numerical return on investment next year on the budget you come up with?

*Jon Cilley* agreed with Mr. Gorrell in finding creative ways to make the budget work, adding Chrome Book and internet issues. Since the Budget Committee withdrew Chrome Books, at a cost of \$82,000.00, from their budget and placed it back on to the school district, how will the district be using those funds? Subsequently, as they are going home with the freshman class, what's to protect them from being stolen or damaged and how do we incur the cost? Regarding internet issues, Jon questioned why the district is planning to add an additional 345 computers next year even though the High School is frequently experiencing internet issues and asked how will this be resolved? Lastly, why is the High School still in committee after already spending two months trying to figure out grading policies?

*Gretchen Wilder* stated she supports the amendment and suggested as far as creative thinking and long-term planning, why not phase it in and make it part of a long-term plan instead of being pushed in to making these decisions right now. Her concern moving forward is cost as pricing on everything is going to be extraordinary and the budget will still not be in control.

**Vote on Amendment 1 to Article 2:** Standing vote in doubt. Moderator requests ballot vote.

**In Favor: 94**

**Opposed: 159**

**Amendment fails.**

**Discussion on Article 2:** *Kevin Waldron* proposed amendment (2) to Article 2:

**Motion:** 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 Sixty Thousand Two Hundred Twenty One dollars [\$23,960,221]** 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 Nine Hundred Eighty One Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Five dollars [\$ 24,981,845]**. The article does not include appropriations voted in other warrant articles.

Motion Seconded by *Kathryn Ferrara*.

**Discussion:** *Kevin Waldron* spoke to amendment explaining that the amount represents a 3.24% cut which he believes is feasible.

*David Court* reiterated that budgets are based on a zero base gain, meaning whatever we spent last year is our base for the next year and that is why our budgets increase. He finished by saying he would like this amendment passed and that we should start at a base line and attempt to keep it there.

*Kathryn Ferrara* spoke next asking why it doesn't matter what the people want. She stated she is tired of the School Board and some on Budget Committee telling us that they know best and do they really care about what we are asking?

At that point the Moderator stopped her, implying she was getting too personal.

*Paul Bonneville* from Tilton spoke to this amendment stating that every year the Budget Committee goes through the budget with a fine-toothed comb and most of the time they can tell you exactly where they differ from the School Board in the budget. He ended by saying he is against this motion to change the article, but would like to hear from the Budget Committee.

*Brian Gallagher*, Budget Committee member, explained that both the Budget Committee and the School Board are as conscious as the people are regarding the budget and that they are cognizant of every dollar that goes into the budget. He went on to say that the budget has remained relatively stable in the last four years. He also encouraged folks to come in and express their concerns and opinions when the School Board and Budget Committee hold their meetings before the annual meeting so that the Board members can get some direction on the budget before going into a large gathering like this. He does not support this amendment.

*Judy Huckins* motioned to call to question to end debate and was seconded by *Keith Murray*.

**Amendment 2 to Article 2 fails.**

**Vote: Article 2 passes.**

Motion to protect the vote made by *Keith Murray* and seconded by *Mike Gagne*.

Moderator *Finemore* read Article 3 as follows:

**Article-3**

To see if the Winnisquam Regional School District will vote to approve the cost item included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Winnisquam Regional School Board and the Winnisquam Regional Teachers Association, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

Year	Estimated Increase
2014-2015	\$609,674
2015-2016	\$347,569
2016-2017	\$270,592

And further to raise and appropriate **Six Hundred Nine Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Four dollars [\$609,674]** for the upcoming fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year.

[Majority vote required]

The School Board recommends this appropriation 9-0.

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 7-1-1.

**Motion:** Motion made by *Wayne Crowley* and seconded by *Tim Lang*.

**Testimony:** *Wayne Crowley* presented a power point presentation outlining said article, arguing that WRSD teachers' salaries fall behind other districts and are below state average which makes it difficult to attract new teachers at a starting salary of \$31,000.00. In 2011-12 the state average salary for new teachers was \$34,000.00 and the WRSD was at \$30,000.00, he went on to say. With this article, teachers would receive \$34,000.00 in the first year of a three year contract which would still leave us behind Laconia and Gilford, but would be a step in the right direction. Also, with this article, the current 41 steps are reduced to 10 by year three and after step three teachers would not receive an automatic pay raise. Other factors include adding one professional day, making the total number of days per year 190, reimbursements for CAGS where a teacher can advance to administrative positions if desired, provide subsidies at \$6,000.00 for a maximum of five teachers per year to retire at age 60. This would be a positive financial impact as we would then replace those teachers with someone just coming out of school or with lesser seniority at a lower salary.

**Secret ballot requested on Article 3.**

**Discussion:** *Brandy Drinkwine* of Northfield asked what performance measurements would be based on going forward and was answered by *Wayne Crowley* that a team will be formed to explore options.

*Ken Gorrell* argued that teachers have different skill sets so their market values differ. He opposes Article 3. *Greg Hill* who concurs with Mr. Gorrell added that there are no studies to prove that more money equals better teachers and referred to the teacher's survey on the school website where a low satisfactory rating shows it is more of a systemic problem, not a financial one.

*Candace Weingartner* read a letter from a student who praised the teachers and all the hard work they put into teaching and concluded that the reason these teachers are leaving is for better pay.

*Kevin Lachapelle* declared that he is in favor of Article 3. He also stated that he feels the fair market value would be much higher than what was shown on the power point presentation. He added that we have to be careful in the public sector and that this is an even playing field.

*Lynne Chong* of Sanbornton stated how teachers have a huge job and she supports Article 3. She also asked for clarification on CAGS (Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies) in which Wayne Crowley responded by first saying that this program is new to WRSD and it awards compensation and reimbursement to teachers (up to 5 per year) who go for administrative positions, including principals and superintendents.

*David Court* added how unnerving it is when everything is put in one basket and how he appreciates what \$200.00 a day means. He was also reassured by Wayne Crowley that the total contract represents an increase in salaries, benefits, professional days and 1 additional day.

*Gretchen Wilder* argued that we need to hire based on skill sets and pay accordingly. She does not support this article without performance evaluations.

*Marjorie Bonneville* of Tilton expressed as point of order to limit time people speak.

*Kent Finemore* reiterated the 5 minute limit for each speaker.

*Sue Bergman* stated that it is all about caring for the people and that it takes a village to teach a child. She encourages more people to come in and get involved.

Ms. Wilcox moved to question. Nina Gardner seconded.

**Ballot vote requested.**

**Vote: In favor: 191**

**Opposed: 73**

**Article 3 passes and is protected.**

Moderator Finemore read Article 4 as follows:

**Article-4**

To see if the Winnisquam Regional School District will vote to approve the cost item included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Winnisquam Regional School Board and the Winnisquam Paraprofessional Employees **AFSCME Local 3158**, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

Year	Estimated Increase
2014-2015	\$157,058
2015-2016	\$195,902

And further to raise and appropriate **One Hundred Fifty Seven Thousand Fifty Eight dollars [\$157,058]** for the upcoming fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year.

[Majority vote required]

The School Board recommends this appropriation 8-1.

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 7-2.

**Motion:** Motion made by Julie Lonergan, seconded by Mike Gagne.

**Testimony:** Ms. Lonergan gave a power point presentation to explain what this article does for Paraprofessionals at WRSD. Essentially, Article 4 would add a six month option for health care the first year and a full year option the second year.

Additionally, Flex Spending would discontinue, it would add \$1,000.00 to opt out and this would be paid at the end of the school year. It would also add one Professional Day per school year and a 1% increase in salary with a two year contract beginning July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016. A \$1,000.00 deductible HMO is also presented in this article effective January 1, 2015.

*Kathryn Ferrara* questioned why there would be a \$1,000.00 opt out option when, under the Affordable Care Act, we are all required to have insurance?

*Mike Gagne* replied that the \$1,000.00 buyout is an incentive to encourage employees to utilize spouse's insurance rather than the district's.

*Paul Bonneville* expressed his concern as to why Paraprofessionals are paid so little. By his calculations a 1% increase would mean a \$7.00 - \$8.00 increase per pay period (every two weeks). He sees their buying power is being eroded and would like to see a 2% increase.

*Nancy Court* questioned if the Para's would be getting training and where?

*Lori Krueger* answered that there is money set aside for training and workshops.

Barb Foster moved to call the question to end debate and was seconded by Jasen Stock.

**Vote: Voice vote. Article 4 passes and is protected.**

Moderator Finemore read Article 5 as follows:

**Article-5**

To see if the Winnisquam Regional School District will vote to approve the cost item included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Winnisquam Regional School Board and the Winnisquam Custodians **AFSCME Local 3158**, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

Year	Estimated Increase
2014-2015	\$15,708
2015-2016	\$10,506
2016-2017	\$10,818

And further to raise and appropriate **Fifteen Thousand Seven Hundred Eight dollars [\$15,708]** for the upcoming fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year.

[Majority vote required]

The School Board recommends this appropriation 9-0.

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 9-0.

**Motion:** Motioned by Sean Goodwin and seconded by Mike Gagne.

**Testimony:** *Sean Goodwin* explained Article 5 and its four objectives:

1. Eliminate Cadillac health plan
2. Add merit incentives
3. Eliminate wage differentials
4. Negotiate wage increase of 1.5% in a three year agreement.

*David Court* asked what wage differentials were and was answered by *Sean Goodwin* as extra money received for certain tasks such as painting. This article would eliminate the additional earnings.

**Vote: Voice vote affirmative. Article 5 passes and is protected.**

Moderator took a moment to thank the Tilton Police Department.

Moderator Finemore read Article 6 as follows:

**Article-6**

To see if the Winnisquam Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of up to **Four Hundred Fifty Thousand dollars [\$450,000]** to be placed in the Capital Reserve Fund-Building Renovations and Repairs, with such amount to be funded from the June 30, 2014, unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2014.

[Majority vote required]

The School Board recommends this appropriation 9-0.

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 9-0.

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

**Motion:** Motion made by Tim Lang and seconded by Mike Gagne.

**Discussion:** Tim Lang explained that this sum was primarily for roofing project.

**Vote: Voice vote affirmative. Article 6 passes and is protected.**

Moderator Finemore read Article 7 as follows:

**Article-7**

To see if the Winnisquam Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Seven Hundred Eleven Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Five dollars [\$711,975]** for the following purpose:

At Southwick School, install a standing seam metal roof on the remaining asphalt roofed north facing sections, at the Middle School, conduct asbestos abatement, at the High/Middle Campus, resurface the running track, and District Wide, conduct a capital needs assessment of the facilities and to authorize the withdrawal of **Seven Hundred Eleven Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Five dollars [711,975]** from the Capital Reserve Fund-Building Renovations and Repairs created for that purpose.

[Majority vote required]

The School Board recommends this appropriation 9-0.

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 9-0.

**Motion:** Motion made by Kevin Washburn and seconded by Tim Lang.

**Discussion:** *Greg Hill* asked how long the track has been in existence before resurfacing and was told ten years.

Bill Wilder requested a breakdown of the different projects and was given a breakdown by Kevin Washburn as follows:

1. To replace asphalt roof at Southwick with metal: \$523,975.00
2. Asbestos abatement at the Middle School: \$30,000.00
3. Capital needs assessment of facilities district wide: \$38,000.00
4. Resurface running track at the High/Middle campus: \$120,000.00

**Vote: Voice vote affirmative. Article 7 passes and protected.**

Moderator Finemore read Article 8 as follows:

**Article-8**

To see if the Winnisquam Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty Eight Thousand dollars [\$28,000]** for the purpose of funding the Winnisquam Football Program beginning in the 2014-15 school year. Cost of said program would then be added to the athletic budget.

[Majority vote required]

The School Board recommends this appropriation 9-0.

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 6-3.

**Two requests for secret ballot were received for Article 8.**

**Motion:** Motion made by Patricia Sawicki and seconded by Sean Goodwin.

**Testimony:** *Patricia Sawicki* gave some background to audience of a football feasibility study committee that was formed in response to the 2013 district meeting to study the overall sustainability of the program if taken over by the district. The committee members voted unanimously to recommend to the board that the program be brought under the district's management and funding and would be consistent with the many co-curricular activities at Winnisquam.

**Motion:** Kevin Waldron motioned to table and seconded by Jon Cilley.

**Voice vote fails.**

**Discussion:** *Ken Gorrell* asked what the projected ten year long-term cost would be.

*Zack Medlock*, athletic director for WRSD, responded it would cost \$280,000.00 which would include maintenance and replacements.

*Patricia Sawicki* added that we do not have a precise figure. At this point, Mr. Gorrell said he was unconvinced.

*Kevin Lachapelle* spoke to the article by stating we are evaluating a grass roots program and added that the football team works hard and has a lot of pride. Moreover, this is about a \$28,000.00 investment which he believes is a good investment where ultimately, the players will champion in life.

*Kathryn Ferrera* questioned why this wasn't projected 10 years ago and at that time we were told this was never going to happen?

*Nina Gardner* responded that the School Board would not put it in without bringing it back to the voters which is exactly what they did.

*David Court* spoke of how this has been voted down for forty years. He expressed how disappointed he is that there are no true projections as to what this will cost (not confident of the \$28,000.00 projection) and that this is all just fluff.

*Mr. Court* asked about the playing field and if that would continue to be used in the future. *Patricia Sawicki* answered that the field which is located on 132 and is leased with the Archdiocese of Manchester would remain the football player's field.

*Dick Gardner* expressed the need to discuss the issue of concussions and had a couple of questions:

1. What is the district doing to minimize this serious problem of concussions?
2. What about liability?

*Zack Medlock* answered by confirming that concussions are in fact a huge liability and because of this the state has passed a law enforcing districts to inform parents of prevention and treatment plans going forward. It also requires students playing football to take an impact baseline test with follow-up procedures. Mr. Medlock also mentioned that he has been through training and attended workshops on this topic.

*Cheryl Somma* responded to the question of liability by stating it is our liability, but liability lies with any of the student body. Our job is to control risk.

*Scott Hilliard* voiced his approval of Article 8 and went on to say that he applauds anyone who is doing something constructive with our youth, including our great group of volunteers and a School Board who recognizes the importance of this article.

*Gail Morrison* rejects this article, arguing that though kids benefit greatly from sports, there are real dangers in playing football, including severe injuries and we are going against the tide when we think about adopting this program.

Sean Goodwin motioned to call to question to end debate and was seconded by Kevin Washburn.

Point of order called by Greg Hill on precedent set in previous years to allow those lined up to speak and why are we not following this precedent today. He proceeds to challenge Moderator's ruling to accept call to question.

Challenge fails. Call to question stands.

**Vote: Secret Ballot vote requested.**

**In favor: 170**

**Opposed: 75**

**Article 8 passes and is protested.**

Moderator Finemore read Article 9 as follows:

**Article-9**

To see if the District voters will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Hundred Ninety One Thousand Fifty Eight dollars [\$291,058]** to establish and operate a full-time kindergarten program for the fall of 2014.

[Submitted by petition]

[Majority vote required]

The School Board does not recommend this appropriation 9-0.

The Budget Committee does not recommend this appropriation 9-0.

**Motion:** Motioned by David Court and seconded by Melissa Griffin.

**Discussion:** *Greg Hill* moved to table, but motion to table failed.

*Sarah Dupont* argued that full day kindergarten would lead to higher academic retention. She added there is a 40-50% increase in instruction, 30% increase in reading and 46% increase in math. She also added that full day kindergarten leads to early detection in identifying special needs and that early intervention would reduce costs for special needs children.

*Amy Small*, a special education teacher from Gilmanton, was shocked that we did not already have full day kindergarten and added that it does make a difference in literacy. The state of New Hampshire requires that by age six all children must have a full day kindergarten program available.

*Heather Goodwin* asked why the School Board does not support this article in which *Tim Lang* responded by saying the he supports the concept; however he argued that the taxpayers cannot afford or support this article financially.

*Ken Gorrell* brought up the fact that studies show only some modest successes to full day kindergarten in low income urban families and believes the benefits of a full day kindergarten are negligible and not beneficial. He went on to say that a one size fits all program as this will show zero value. He suggests working toward a more tailored program.

*Kathryn Ferrera* added she thinks parents need to be more involved in teaching their children before entering kindergarten.

*Lance Turgeon* opposes this article as he feels it is only good for some, not all and that if full day kindergarten is passed there will be negative consequences.

*Kevin Waldron* expressed his opinion by adding that we need to follow what the School Board and Budget Committee recommend. He also stated that the proposed cost of \$291,058.00 will not be enough to do what this article seeks.

*Dawn Cilley* supports this article and feels that the special education needs of the children will benefit from full day kindergarten.

*Lori Hill* said full day kindergarten should not be mandatory, but an option and parents should be able to choose half day or full day kindergarten. And on her question regarding kindergarten enrollment she was answered by *Nina Gardner* It would be approximately 113.

*Nancy Court* stated that kindergarten has become more and more academic in nature, but pushing curriculum to young children does not necessarily advance them.

*Nancy Plimpton* maintained that there are state standards in place for kindergarten so we are behind the eight ball and should implement for next year.

*Kevin Waldron* questioned whether \$291,000.00 is actually enough to do what this article seeks?

*Leif Martinson* then answered that it is, in fact, not enough and added that because it came in late as a petitioned warrant article, we had very little time and information to work with.

Marla Davis called to the question to end debate.

**Vote: Article 9 fails and is protected. No discussion.**

Moderator Finemore read Article 10 as follows:

**Article-10**

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

*Scott McGuffin* took a minute to thank the volunteers for their time and efforts. He also complimented Moderator Kent Finemore on his handling of some fairly sophisticated parliamentary issues.

*Ms. Edwards* asked how they could get full day kindergarten in the budget for next year and Leif Martinson replied by suggesting she and those interested should attend School Board meetings to better understand how the process works.

Meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

A true record, Attest:

Patricia Risley  
School District Clerk  
Winnisquam Regional School District