

WINNISQUAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes of the Annual Meeting

March 22, 2008

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 22nd day of March 2008. School District Moderator Ken Randall called the meeting to order at 10:08 A.M.

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

Moderator Randall introduced himself, District Clerk, Adele Chertoff, and Barbara Foster, assisting the clerk. Moderator Randall introduced Dave Foster, School Board Chairperson, who introduced the School Board members present - Aurlow Stanley, Kevin Washburn, Sean Goodwin, Lynn Chong, Jasen Stock, Nina Gardner and Mike Gagne. He then introduced Dr. Tammy Davis, Superintendent, John Teague, School District Attorney and the SAU administrators, Larry Prince, Jack Tiano, Suzan Gannett, Sandie Sterling, Kimberly Saunders, Tim Neville, Rich Hines, Tom Croteau and Kevin Sousa.

School Budget Committee Chairperson, Ken Gorrell, introduced himself and the committee members introduced themselves - Curt McGee, Valerie Sarber, Debbie Converse, Dana Nute, Patsy Wells, Foster Peverly, and Scott Davis.

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 on the handouts.

Motion: A motion was made by Aurlow Stanley, seconded by Dave Foster, to accept the ground rules.

Vote: Affirmative

Moderator Randall explained that Article 1 is a bond issue and the polls are required to be open for one hour. He stated that during that time it is not good practice to move on to articles that call for the raising of monies. He requested permission of the assembly to reorder the articles, going to Article 4, which becomes Article 2 and then to Article 5, which becomes Article 3.

Vote: Affirmative

Moderator Randall read Article 1 as follows:

Article-1

To see if the Winnisquam Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Hundred Seventy Five Thousand, Five Hundred and Seventy Dollars (\$675,570) for the purpose of building a two level one thousand, eight hundred twenty (1,820) square foot addition to the Vocational Agriculture Building and for renovations and alterations to the existing building. Six Hundred Seventy Five Thousand, Five Hundred Seventy Dollars (\$675,570) of such sum to be raised through the issuance of bonds or notes under and in compliance with the Municipal Finance Act, RSA 33:1 et seq.; to authorize the School Board to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; and to authorize the School Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and to authorize the School Board to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto.

And to raise and appropriate the additional sum of Twenty Thousand, Seven Hundred Nineteen Dollars (\$20,719) to pay for the first year of interest on the bond or note with said sum of money to be raised by general taxation. (2/3-ballot vote required)

The School Board recommends this appropriation.

The Budget Committee does not recommend this appropriation.

Motion: A motion was made by Nina Gardner, seconded by Dave Foster, to bring this article to the floor for discussion.

Nina Gardner explained that the Vocational Agriculture program is agriculture based and has been a very successful program. This program is part of the Area 8 program, which is the Lakes Region grouping of schools that sends students to Laconia for technical courses. Students are received from other districts and Winnisquam gets tuition from it. This project is about expanding the curriculum and course offerings.

Nina Gardner and Janet Rosequist, Director of the Vocational Agriculture program gave a PowerPoint presentation.

Discussion: Leif Martinson asked what the revenue has been for the program for the 15 years it has been in place.

Janet Rosequist said that she did not have the numbers for past years, but that last year \$84,000 was received in tuition revenue.

Judy Farr spoke on the benefits of this new program. She said it would provide a challenging curriculum, a connection to a career path and an awareness of civic and social issues.

Bob Girardin voted for the original agriculture program 15 years ago and is in favor of the new program. He said the bottom line is kids.

Ashley Kimball, a student, said she loves animals and this program would be a step in helping her reach her career goals. She believes this program would give skills for college or to take to the workplace.

Scott Hilliard spoke in favor of this article and applauds the efforts of everyone who took part in this plan. He said it expands the curriculum and provides revenue abilities.

Jon Scanlon supports a program that encourages career opportunities, but said that this field does not pay. He provided data that supported this.

Holly Miller spoke in favor of this article. She is a former student who believes that an animal science program would have kept her interested in school.

Kevin Waldron asked about a survey that said 40% of students are in favor of this program. He said that would be 60% who are not. He asked what the cost of the proposed project would be when paid off. Mr. Waldron added that the district needs to focus on what is required to get students through graduation. He does not support this article.

Nina Gardner responded that the cost of the project over 20 years would be over one million dollars (total of interest and payment). Going with the 20 year bond would have the lowest impact on the tax rate.

Point of order was called. Are the persons speaking registered voters?

Moderator Randall explained that he gave permission to non-residents and non-voters to speak on this article.

Attorney Teague said this is the call of the Moderator.

Riley Welch said he has been involved in the Ag program for the past five years. It has provided him with many leadership opportunities and involvement in the community. He asked the voters to vote in favor of Article 1.

Colton McCarthy would like students to have a chance to participate in an animal science program. He asked for support of this bond.

Grace LaPlante supports the Ag Center building project. She owns a small pet related business and said it is a \$41 billion industry per year and involvement in this field is growing rapidly.

Pat Clark said he is proud of the Ag students and asked the FFA members in the audience to stand. Mr. Clark commented that these students are taught real life skills and has seen what these students do. He said the building project is a worthwhile venture and encouraged voter support.

Representative Joy Tilton shared that she was recently on a sub committee on rural health. She believes this program would make it easier for students to get into colleges. She encourages support of kids in our community and neighboring communities and added that we should get kids interested in the sciences.

Earl Leighton spoke about his concerns with spending. He is concerned with rising gas prices and asked for the Budget Committees reasons for not supporting this article.

Moderator Randall said the Budget Committee would speak after the people lined up in front of the microphone have finished with their questions.

Barbara Wirth spoke in favor of this program. Her reasons are that there would be little tax impact, there is a 30% to 40% growth rate in non-farm animal related industries and she believes this program would inspire future entrepreneurs.

Helen Henks stated that only a small number of students would be getting into this program and would like to see a variety of other opportunities looked into.

Kenna Jean has been an active FFA member for four years. She commented that her classroom in the Ag building is a garage. She also read a letter from a local Veterinarian in support of this program.

Ralph Dixon spoke in favor of this article. He was in the education field for 41 years and has seen what wonderful things the children in the Ag program have done. He said the program offers hands-on education and relevance to what they are doing.

Don Bormes believes the future relies on educated children. He asked if the program would be dropped if the bond were not voted in. Mr. Bormes would like to hear the Budget Committee's reasons for not supporting this article.

Janet Rosequist said the existing programs, primarily in plant science, would not be dropped. This article would expand an animal science program.

Bill Dawson said this program would provide required skills and knowledgeable students in the agriculture department.

Katherine Ferrera wanted to know how many years the district has been looking at this program and asked why it was not brought up when the previous building project was proposed. She is concerned with the tax impact.

Janet Rosequist said animal science was talked about 17 years ago when the Ag program first opened. Ms. Rosequist did bring up this subject with Central Office staff at the time of the building project, but it did not go any further at that time.

Lorraine McNamara asked if additional teachers would be required.

Nina Gardner said the program would run with the existing staff.

Jon Scanlon clarified that the statistics he presented earlier were from the NH Employment Security Office and the employment projections were for years 2004-2014, which show no job growth in this area.

Normand Boudreau asked about the revenue stream from other districts.

Dr. Tammy Davis said the cost to the district to send students to Area 8 is \$56,000.

Christopher Hunt commented that anything this community can do to keep kids in school should be supported.

The question was called to end discussion. Moderator Randall asked the Chairperson of the Budget Committee to speak on this article.

Chairperson Ken Gorrell explained the reasons for the Budget Committees decision not to support this article. He said the bottom line is that less than 20% of 11th graders passed the NECAP test proficiency in math. Chairman Gorrell believes that there are innovative ways to use existing resources provided to the district to keep kids in school and to keep them interested. He gave additional reasons such as the cost per square foot was rather high, the revenue stream is not guaranteed and additional operation costs.

Curt McGee explained that the Budget Committee is not a policy setting board. They are a financial related entity looking at costs only. The square foot costs were too high and the committee also had concerns with the revenue stream of the nine students coming from other districts.

Patsy Wells said that a major concern was the cost per square foot, but also the loss of a learning opportunity to design a more efficient green building. The school district's population is declining and utilization of facility is what concerns the committee. She added that the teacher salary article is also on the warrant and her recommendation would be to put money into people and not into buildings. Mrs. Wells said that it is the committee's job to make sure tax dollars are being best utilized.

Scott Davis commented that the cost of the staircase alone was \$80,000.

Point of order was called. Did the Budget Committee answer all of the questions asked?

Chairperson Gorrell said that they were only asked to state their reasons for not supporting this article. There were no specific questions asked.

Moderator Randall declared the polls open at 11:50 A.M.

Moderator Randall told the assembly that he felt he owed them an apology. This is the first year with a Budget Committee and in the future, Moderator Randall said the article will be read, the School Board will move the article, the School Board will explain the article, and before it is open for discussion on the floor, the Budget Committee will at that time state why they disagree with the School Board and not be left for last. He had at least six people come to him who had an issue with the Budget Committee speaking after all questions from the floor were asked.

Moderator Randall read Article 2 as follows:

Article 2 (Article 4)

To see if the Winnisquam Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of up to Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) to be placed in the Capital Reserve Fund-Building Renovations and Repairs, such amount to be funded from the undesignated fund balance as of June 30, 2008.

(Majority vote required)

The School Board recommends this appropriation.

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation.

Motion: A motion was made by Aurlow Stanley, seconded by Dave Foster, to bring this article to the floor for discussion.

Discussion: Mike Gagne explained that this article is something that has been done in the past in order to keep money in the Capital Reserve account, which is used for repair and maintenance of facilities. The current projected balance is \$367,445. An additional \$200,000 is being asked for to replace the money in the account that will be withdrawn in Article 5.

James Vila supports the concept that is being presented, but just as he asked last year, he would like to see a long range plan of needs in order to understand why this expenditure makes financial sense.

Mike Gagne said these concerns were heard last year. The Capital Improvement Committee was reformed last summer and the committee inspected each building and the fields and grounds. Concerns were pointed out to the committee and the committee identified all Capital Reserve items and drafted a five-year plan. Copies of the plan will be available at the SAU office and the plan will be placed in the Annual Report next year.

The question was called to end discussion.

Moderator Randall called for a vote on Article 2.

Vote: Affirmative and the Moderator declared Article 2 as read passes.

Moderator Randall read Article 3 as follows:

Article 3 (Article 5)

To see if the Winnisquam Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Ninety Seven Thousand, Eight Hundred Thirty Eight Dollars (\$197,838) to replace two 1974 boilers at the Middle School, install a set of secondary exit doors for a heat loss barrier at the Middle School, complete Phase 2 of 3 of the playground at Southwick School to comply with insurance company's inspection report, correct sink holes around building perimeter drains, renovate parking lot storm drains, resurface and repave parking lot area at Southwick School, install air conditioning in computer lab and teacher's work room at Sanbornton Central, and replace broken sawdust collection at the High School and authorize the withdrawal of One Hundred Ninety Seven Thousand, Eight Hundred Thirty Eight Dollars (\$197,838) 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 Mike Gagne, seconded by Dave Foster, to bring this article to the floor for discussion.

Discussion: Mike Gagne explained the costs associated with Article 3: the doors at WRMS would prevent a major heat loss and the cost is \$8,640; the cost for the two boilers is \$96,760; the playground at Southwick School is in phase 2 and the cost is \$15,000; Southwick School has drainage issues and the cost is \$23,275; the cost for resurfacing the parking lot is \$9,000; Sanbornton Central School will get A/C in the library, computer lab and teacher's work room and the cost is \$20,385; and the high school needs a replacement for the sawdust collection system for \$24,678. Estimates were received on these projects, but will go out to bid before they are awarded to anyone.

Moderator Randall called for a vote on Article 3.

Vote: Affirmative and the Moderator declared Article 3 as read passes.

Moderator Randall said that Article 4 (2) and Article 5 (3) would both be ballot votes because they involve money for teacher and paraprofessional salaries and benefits. Because the polls would still be open for another twenty minutes for the ballot issue, Moderator Randall would allow discussion on the next article.

Moderator Randall read Article 4 as follows:

Article 4 (Article 2)

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 and benefits at the current staffing levels:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2008-2009	\$ 379,508

And further to raise and appropriate Three Hundred Seventy Nine Thousand, Five Hundred Eight Dollars (\$379,508) 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.
The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation.

Motion: A motion was made by Nina Gardner, seconded by Dave Foster, to bring this article to the floor for discussion.

Discussion: Nina Gardner reminded the assembly that at this time last year a teacher package was not presented. A special meeting was held in August and the voters did not accept the proposal. The two teams went back to the table and the teacher pay raise proposal is being presented today. Mrs. Gardner explained the percentage increases of the salary scale. The effect of the increase to the budget is 1.79%. The Board feels this is an appropriate pay raise for the teachers.

Budget Committee Chairperson Gorrell said the committee voted unanimously to recommend this article. He reminded the assembly that this is the last year of a three-year contract. He believes that next year's contract, which involves both language and salary will be critical to how the district deals with its challenges.

Curt McGee said the committee is in favor of this article. He gave the costs for each town's tax rate: Northfield \$.50, Sanbornton \$.26, and Tilton \$.25.

The Moderator told the assembly that the polls would be open for nine more minutes on Article 1.

School Board Chairperson, Dave Foster, read the results of the March 11th elections of School Board members and Budget Committee members. He told the assembly that there are two vacancies on the Budget Committee for the Towns of Tilton and Northfield and anyone interested should send a letter of interest to the Chair of the Budget Committee.

Moderator Randall declared a five-minute recess.

At 12:58 P.M. the Moderator declared the polls closed on Article 1.

Discussion continued on Article 4: Leif Martinson spoke in favor of Article 1 and feels teachers should have been given their raises last year. He told the assembly that teachers pay a percentage toward their medical benefits and the administrators do not. He said the teachers are expected to pay for insurance and administrators should be expected to do the same.

Moderator Randall declared the polls open for voting on Article 4.

At this time, Moderator Randall read the results on Article 1.

Ballot Vote: Yes – 151 No – 148 and the Moderator declared Article 1 as read failed.

The Moderator said there were three more ballots than the number of voters signed in with the Supervisors of the Checklists. He said the three ballots would not have mattered because the vote needed approximately 50 votes to pass. Moderator Randall asked John Teague to address the impact of three extra ballots. Attorney Teague said the extra ballots would not have made a difference given that the overwhelming vote was in the negative. Had the bond issue passed, he would be more concerned with the effect of extra ballots on Bond Council. But because it lost, Attorney Teague will rely on the ruling of the Moderator as to the validity of the vote.

Moderator Randall asked the assembly if they wished to move on to Article 5 while Article 4 is being counted.

Vote: Affirmative

Moderator Randall read Article 5 as follows:

Article 5 (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 Para-

Professional Employees AFSCME Local 3158, which calls for the following increases and benefits at the current staffing levels:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increases</u>
2008-2009	\$118,354
2009-2010	\$ 28,720
2010-2011	\$ 22,448

And further to raise and appropriate One Hundred Eighteen Thousand, Three Hundred Fifty Four Dollars (\$118,354) 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.

The Budget Committee does not recommend this appropriation.

Motion: A motion was made by Jasen Stock, seconded by Dave Foster, to bring Article 5 to the floor for discussion.

Discussion: Jasen Stock explained that 76 paraprofessionals provide instructional support; they are special education aides, library aides, building aides and speech and language assistants. They play an important role in the classroom in trying to further the education of students. A negotiating team met with the paraprofessionals and came to an agreement in December. The paraprofessionals will get six paid holidays and in years two and three they will be allowed two personal days. There will be a 2% pay increase in each of the three years. The salary also provides \$10.00 as the minimum starting salary. Mr. Stock said the paraprofessionals would receive an increase of \$250 to the flex benefit plan of \$1000 that they currently have. Short-term disability coverage costs will be split with the district in year one and in years two and three the district will pay 100%. The final piece of the agreement is course reimbursement. \$30,000 will be placed annually in an account to go towards education and training, as all paraprofessionals need to be working towards an Associate's Degree. Mr. Stock said the district wants to remain competitive and be able to attract and retain by investing in our paraprofessional staff.

Chairperson Gorrell said the Budget Committee does not recommend this article. There was a brief discussion at their meeting and they were not convinced that the district was having trouble filling the paraprofessional positions. The committee does not want to pay for a "D" grade on the reimbursement policy. He clarified that the \$118,354 needs to be added to years two and three.

Discussion: Brian Lamarinde, told the assembly that he was the staff representative that served as the chief negotiator for the paraprofessionals during negotiations. He commented that one third of the paraprofessionals earn less than \$10 per hour, approximately \$12,000 a year annual income. Paraprofessionals are required to be highly qualified and this contract allows partial assistance to help them acquire their Associates Degree. He said it is unfortunate that the Budget Committee voted against this article and asked the assembly to vote in favor of this.

Curt McGee commented that the total cost for paraprofessionals in the budget now is \$812,000 and with this article it is a 14 ½ % increase.

Chuck Wyman, WRMS teacher, said that recently the Winnisquam Regional School District has moved to an inclusionary package which means that special needs students are in the regular classroom. He said this could not be implemented without paraprofessionals in the classroom. Mr. Wyman supports investing in people who are working with our students.

Chris Hampe, WRMS teacher, expressed the important role of the paraprofessionals and asked the voters to put the money into people who are extremely valuable to the district.

Kevin Waldron, asked for clarification on the costs of paraprofessionals for the three year contract. He commented that it was said earlier that they make \$12,000 a year and he said the fact is they work 180 days.

Tim Pearson spoke on the “D” grade comments from the Budget Committee. He said that the committee should look at the financial perspective and leave the management to the School Board. If people are making the effort to educate themselves, we should encourage them to do so. He is in favor of this article.

Pam Washburn, former School Board member, said that this has been in the works for a long time and she is glad to see it come to fruition. She said if we do not support this dedicated group of people who deal with at risk students we will be the ones that pay later on.

Karen Wilcox, a district paraprofessional, commented that she is not working as a paraprofessional because of the money, but because it is extremely important to her. She added that at a previous job employees were reimbursed for education and the “D” grade is across the board - that you do the best you can and get compensated for it. She told Mr. Gorrell that she was insulted that he only gave the paraprofessionals a brief recognition during one of the Budget Committee’s meetings. She asked for support of this article.

Dave Tryon commented that \$118,000 for 76 people does not seem to be a huge amount of money. He recommends that the Budget Committee come in to the buildings to watch what these people do. He added they are tireless in their efforts to keep students on task. Mr. Tryon said the paraprofessionals work with at risk children and if we lose these children the cost to the towns and taxpayers would be huge.

Wayne Rowe, a former special education student, said if it weren’t for paraprofessionals helping him every day, he would not have graduated. He asked the assembly to vote in favor of this article.

Kathryn Ferrera commented that she is a taxpayer and is insulted when she hears that people deserve more money and that they are invaluable.

Kathy Boudreau said she started in this district as a paraprofessional because it met her families needs. She commented that there are other part time people working in the district, food service assistants and secretaries who are not included and feel they deserve the same benefits as the paraprofessionals.

Normand Boudreau asked if there is a mechanism in the agreement that would retain the paraprofessionals once they have their education so that we get something back on our investment. He applauds the paraprofessionals for the job they do.

Jasen Stock read the language in the agreement regarding the reimbursement for coursework.

Janice Perreault said that with all due respect to Mr. Stock, paraprofessionals are more involved than what was described. She explained that paraprofessionals are dealing with children with emotional and physical disabilities, are subjected to verbal and physical abuse and are not allowed to touch these children without a restraint certificate. Paraprofessionals help children with learning disabilities, ADHD, dyslexia, and retention disorder. She said children are frustrated with their disorder and paraprofessionals help them become excited about learning and assist them to learn what is being taught. Paraprofessionals are required to lift children out of wheelchairs and assist with toileting. Ms. Perreault said the job of the paraprofessional is not just checking paperwork and making sure the student is paying attention.

Lynne Long, a paraprofessional and a parent of a special needs student, commented that her son has thrived in this school district and she believes the main reason is because of the one-on-one support. In the six years her son has been in this district, he has been through many aides, and many left due to financial reasons. She added that these students deserve consistency and that level of education.

David Court asked about the paraprofessional turnover rate, training for paraprofessionals and the requirement of an Associates Degree. He added that he has heard complaints about paraprofessionals being not trained and being “thrown into the fire”. He wants to see solid, well-trained professionals in place who are actively involved in remedying the educational situation.

Jack Tiano, Director of Special Education, explained that the NH Department of Education has told the district that an Associates Degree is what it takes to be highly qualified as a paraprofessional. The DOE has not put a timetable as to when all paraprofessionals will need an Associates Degree. Mr. Tiano added that the average person stays in the district for two school years. He said that paraprofessional training depends on when they come on during the school year. There is training for paraprofessionals prior to the start of the school year and the ones that start mid year are often “thrown into the fire”.

The question was called to end discussion.

At this time, Moderator Randall read the results on Article 4.

Ballot Vote: Yes – 205 No – 33 and the Moderator declared Article 4 as read passes.

Moderator Randall declared the polls open for voting on Article 5.

Moderator Randall read Article 6 as follows:

Article 6

To see if the Winnisquam Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee’s recommended amount of **\$22,333,232** 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 **\$22,345,072**. The article does not include appropriations voted in other warrant articles.

(Majority vote required)

Motion: A motion was made by Ken Gorrell, seconded by Dave Foster, to bring this article to the floor for discussion.

Chairperson Gorrell gave a PowerPoint presentation on the budget. He explained the budget process and said the committee recommends a 3% reduction over the current operating budget. He said the process worked due to the cooperation of the Budget Committee working with the School Board and Administration. It will continue to work if the voters let the School Board, Budget Committee and administration know what their priorities are.

Mike Gagne, the School Board’s representative on the Budget Committee, said that both sides worked well together. The difference in the recommended budget amounts is a decrease in a salary line that the School Board could not support.

Discussion: David Court asked if the \$22,345,072 was the amount the School Board was recommending.

Ken Randall read the amount printed in the warrant as \$22,345,072.

Tim Pearson thanked the Budget Committee, the School Board and the Administration for working together and added that everyone benefits from this process. He asked if the SAU administrator health insurance is covered at 100%. Mr. Pearson added that he would like to see more money put into the budget for LCD projectors and technology.

Budget Committee Chairperson Gorrell asked the School Board to address this and thanked Mike Gagne for his attendance at all of the Budget Committee meetings.

Mike Gagne said that anyone on an Administrative contract receives 100% of his or her benefits.

Nina Gardner added that the School Board has done a benefit survey and is continuing to look at what the practices are in other districts. In the Lakes Region it is divided, some districts pay 100% and some districts have the administrators contribute towards their insurance.

Greg Hill congratulated the Budget Committee on their first year and thanked everyone who voted for the Budget Committee last year. He asked if there was money for the payment of a physician to perform athletic physicals and money for background checks for 200 people, noting that 100 are volunteers. He suggested that the cost for a background check be passed on to the volunteer.

Budget Committee Chairperson Gorrell said the money for the physicals is still in the budget. He said the Budget Committee was not aware that other districts do not have this practice in place. Chairperson Gorrell said that the background check money was kept in the budget.

Pat Clark said that Article 1 did not pass, but that a certain amount in the article for necessary repairs for the Voc Ag building. He asked what the fall back plan is for repairs and about repair and maintenance line item for the Voc Ag.

Mike Gagne said in year two of the Capital Improvement plan, they had provided for Voc Ag improvements in the event that the article did not pass. The amount for the HVAC is \$26,000 and \$31,000 for roof work.

Patsy Wells said that \$1 was left in the line in the event money needed to be transferred in for repairs.

Kevin Waldron asked if there was a surplus from last year and is there money in this budget for an Alternative School.

School Board Chairperson Foster said that there was a surplus and approximately \$250,000 was returned to the voters.

Nina Gardner said that the money for the Alternative School is still in this year's budget and there is no money in the 08/09 budget for the school.

Kathryn Ferrera said we are seeing the rewards of having a Budget Committee and asked about the difference in the Capital Reserve fund and maintenance projects. She said she has concerns with the surplus money at the end of the school year.

Budget Committee Chairman Gorrell said there is a balance between money that goes in the Capital Reserve and daily or week-to-week maintenance.

Rebecca Washburn called the question to end discussion on Article 6.

Vote: Affirmative

At this time, Moderator Randall read the results on Article 5.

Ballot Vote: Yes – 153 No – 66 and the Moderator declared Article 5 as read passes.

Moderator Randall called for a vote on Article 6.

Vote: Affirmative and the Moderator declared Article 6 in the amount of \$22,333,232 passes.

Motion: A motion was made by Tim Pearson, seconded by Chuck Mitchell, to protect the vote on Article 4 and Article 5.

Vote: Affirmative

Moderator Randall read Article 7 as follows:

Article 7

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

School Board Chairperson Foster presented the School Board Service Award to Aurlow Stanley for his years of service on the School Board.

Nina Gardner informed the assembly that the Chairperson, Dave Foster, submitted his resignation effective April 1, 2008 and presented him with the School Board Service Award for his years of service to the district.

Jasen Stock said that he failed to mention all of the members of the paraprofessional negotiating team and thanked Larry Prince and Jack Tiano.

Chuck Wyman asked the community to recognize the accomplishments of Sue McCaffrey who has been the physical education teacher at the middle school for 34 years.

Jon Scanlon said that Lakes Region Public Access has agreed to televise any of the public meetings of the School Board or Budget Committee at no cost to the district and asked if they would consider doing that.

Nina Gardner said that the equipment would be an additional cost to the district. She added that the School Board rotates meetings during the year so that they get to see all the schools.

Emily Spear commended Principal Tom Croteau and Assistant Principal Pat Troy for their many years of service to the district. The assembly gave them a standing ovation.

Faith Tobin was told by Janet Rosequist that the flowers on display would be donated to the Rotary Club pet contest and anyone interested in purchasing one to see her.

Motion: A motion was made by Aurlow Stanley, seconded by Jasen Stock, to adjourn the meeting at 3:23 P.M.

Vote: Affirmative

A true Record, Attest:

Adele Chertoff, Clerk
Winnisquam Regional School District