

**GOFFSTOWN SCHOOL
DISTRICT
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
DELIBERATIVE SESSION**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2010

Moderator, James Raymond, called the 2010 School District Deliberative Session to order at 7:00 p.m. There were 371 registered voters in attendance. Counters were Marie Boyle, Jane Raymond, Mark LeMay and David Bunton.

J. Raymond, Moderator called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m.

The cast of IADA led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance; and sung the National Anthem. The cast then shared a wonderful musical number with the audience.

J. Raymond: I would like to introduce the members of the boards and administration.

The Following members of the SAU #19 Administration were introduced: Stacy Buckley, Superintendent of Schools; Brian Balke, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; MaryClaire Barry, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Raymond Labore, Business Administrator; Jerry Agate, Facilities Director; Suzanne Pyszka, Principal of Maple Avenue Elementary School; Carol Kilmister, Human Resources Director (not present); David Bousquet, Principal of Bartlett Elementary School; Frank McBride, Principal of Goffstown High School; James Hunt, Principal of Mountain View Middle School; Leslie Doster, Principal of Glen Lake Elementary School; Jerry Agate, District Facilities Director; Steve Fountain, Athletic Director; Peggy Zola, Mary Grasset and Cecile Perretta, Teacher Representatives; Kyle Carreau, Student Representative and Attorney Ed Kaplan.

J. Raymond: I would also like to introduce Fred Plett, Assistant Moderator; Jo Ann Duffy, School District Clerk; and myself, Jim Raymond, Moderator.

Moment of Silence

Keith Allard asked the meeting to join him in a moment of silence in remembrance of Jennifer Wentz.

Keith Allard – Presentation of awards

Dream Keeper Award

Ellen Vermokowitz – presented by Keith Allard

The Goffstown School Board wished to recognize exceptional service to our school district. To this end, the Dream Keeper Award is established. It is designed to recognize people or organizations that truly have gone the extra mile to make the Goffstown dream of providing a superior education a reality. This award would have the magnitude similar to the following: act of heroism, published manuscript or research project in a state or national publication relating to education, an election or appointment to state or national executive leadership position promoting education, a scholastic achievement such as a National merit Finalist or Semifinalist,

a state or national competition winner relating to education, a presentation at a national conference or convention relating to education, a major investment of capital, time, supplies or equipment that will enhance education, an achievement, accomplishment recognized at the state or national level relating to education, significant contribution to the district in service, creativity, etc., which enhances the quality of education in our schools, outstanding academic, athletic and/or community service achievement.

This year, the Goffstown School Board is pleased to announce that Ellen Vermokowitz is receiving the Dream Keeper Award. Ellen served numerous terms on the Goffstown School Board; she served as School Board Chair, SAU Chair, and was a member of almost every subcommittee of the School Board in her tenure on the Goffstown School Board. Ellen served on three major building projects; MVMS, GHS Renovations and Glen Lake School. Her experience with school building projects and her attention to detail ensured that our school dollars were well spent. Ellen proved to be a tireless advocate for our school system, its teachers, staff and students. One of Ellen's greatest contributions was her steadfast commitment to the planning and communication committee of the Goffstown School Board. Leading by example, Ellen emphasized how important it was to regularly communicate with the community. Goffstown and our school are a better place thanks to Ellen's passion, educational vision and tremendous work ethics. It is with great honor that we present the Dream Keeper award to Ellen Vermokowitz.

Cornerstone Award

The Cornerstone Award Program is a recognition program whereby the Goffstown School District has the opportunity to recognize outstanding achievements by staff members as well as community members working within our schools. These awards are open to all members of the Goffstown staff and school community who have been employed or dedicated to the district for at least one full school year.

Valerie Chess – presented by Keith Allard

The first recipient of the Cornerstone Award is Valerie Chess. She currently serves as Guidance and PowerSchool Secretary. Valerie has held numerous positions with GHS. She is known to be knowledgeable, pleasant and willing to interact with all members of our school community.

Valerie routinely proves herself to be a valuable member of the school community and a dedicated worker. With Valerie's eye to detail and working closely with our district data manager, the school district has been able to streamline the flow of information and provide real-time data for the educators. On behalf of the Goffstown School Board, I am pleased to present Valerie Chess with the Cornerstone Award for 2010.

Dr. Athena Chisolm – presented by Keith Allard

The second recipient of the Cornerstone Award is Dr. Athena Chisolm. Athena has been with the school district and at Maple Avenue School for 17 years, and currently holds the position of Reading Specialist. Athena is a proponent of lifelong learning and shares this enthusiasm with the students, parents and teachers. Athena has also dedicated time to serving on various boards and committees over the years. One of the driving examples of Athena's dedicated to the betterment of our students is her organizing a school summer reading program. Because Athena

is generous, compassionate and selfless, the Goffstown School Board is pleased to present her with a Cornerstone Award.

Board Member Retirement

Jeffrey Tate – presented by Phillip Kendall

I am here to present an award to Jeff Tate for his service to the School Board, but more importantly, to the Town itself. Jeff and I have been friends for a long time. We were both on the Budget Committee together. Six years ago, when we ran for the Budget Committee, we shared signs. He has been a great friend and board member. He has done a lot for this Town. Thank you for your dedication to this Town.

Moderator Raymond explained the procedures of this meeting.

Jen Foley: In the event you do a voice vote and it seems similar, how will we have the opportunity to have a ballot vote?

J. Raymond: You would have the opportunity for seven ballot voters to ask for a ballot vote. If I cannot discern, I will ask for a standing vote.

Article 1

To choose all School District officers for the ensuing years:

To choose three members of the School Board for the ensuing three years.

No action needed by this body.

Article 2

“Shall the Goffstown School District raise and appropriate as an Operating Budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling THIRTY FIVE MILLION SIX HUNDRED TWENTY SEVEN THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED NINETY TWO DOLLARS (\$35,627,392.00)? Should this Article be defeated, the Default Budget shall be THIRTY SIX MILLION FOUR HUNDRED THIRTY THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FORTY SIX DOLLARS (\$36,430,646.00), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Goffstown School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised Operating Budget only.” This warrant article (the Operating Budget Article) does not include appropriations in ANY other warrant articles. (Majority vote is required).

The Budget Committee voted 7-5-0 to recommend

P. Pancoast moved seconded by K. Nolan to move and speak to Article 2 as printed on the Warrant.

P. Pancoast moved to increase the school district budget by \$837,529 from \$35,627,392 to \$36,464,921. Seconded by Kent Nolan.

K. Allard: The goal this evening is for the district to educate you on the budget process, effects of revenue, resources, where Goffstown ranks, impact of a default budget. The School Board's budget is \$1,804,273 or 5.2% more than the current school year's budget. These dollars support programming and services for pre-school, kindergarten, two elementary schools, the middle and high school. Our operating budget this year is below our default budget. Should we not receive the number we are requesting, these cuts would need to be in all departments. Administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals, co-curricular, transportation, Special Ed, etc., would all be affected by these cuts. The salaries for first year teachers have been flat. Employee benefits have had quite a fluctuation. Our guaranteed max cap for insurance increases is 21%. This is not unusual. We don't have our exact increase at this point. Energy has fluctuated significantly over the years as well. Student transportation shows a decrease of five percent. We transferred the cost back onto the co-curricular activity. We did not eliminate any sports/co-curricular programs, but transferred some costs to the parents. In July 2009, the school board returned \$3.3 million back to the taxpayers. The cost per valuation went down last year \$2.40. The current tax rate is \$11.91, default budget tax rate is \$15.31 (increase of \$3.40), School Board's tax rate is \$15.45 (increase of \$3.54) and Budget Committee's tax rate is \$14.74 (increase of \$2.83). Our budget is not doubling every ten years. There has been approximately a 20% increase over the last ten years in the school district's budget. Over the last four years, there has been a 9.77% increase in our budget. We have been increasing less than the COLA put out by the US Government.

Phillip Pancoast: This is an important night for the district and each one of you. It's not an easy time or an easy decision. If we have done our job properly this evening, then we have done our job. Everybody that sits at that table pays taxes. Please listen and ask the questions you have and then make the best possible decision for yourselves. The School Board's goal is to make the best decisions for the schools. This is not a challenge that changes because the economy changes. We have a business to run. Businesses make budgets in much the same way the school district makes a budget. They try to predict how much to sell, revenue to make, etc. The district needs to consider enrollment, how do we educate the children and with what resources. They are doing great things in our schools and should be applauded for what they do. Our enrollment is flat. What we need to do has not changed since 2002 to the present. (presented slide on staffing trends for the past seven years). There is one less administrator at the high school now. (A slide was also presented on the cost per pupil data comparing Goffstown with the state). 94 percent spent more than the district you support. We are spending \$6 million less educating the students than if we were spending the state average. I would say we are doing something very right. I encourage you to understand the numbers and say that the fox is not guarding the hen house. We look to you for your support.

J. Raymond: We will not permit negative attacks on anyone individual. Everybody is pulling in the same direction for the benefit of the Town. I will not permit any variance from that. I will only allow one amendment on the floor at one time. I will allow you to tell us about it, so people know what is coming next, but you must wait until this amendment is moved on.

Calvin Pratt: Clarification, I see that in special programs line 1200 there is almost \$200,000 cut. I understand that is mandated by Federal Law. How is it possible for this cut to be in there? When Mr. Allard was speaking, I misheard what he said about the percentage increase. I don't see a 9. Figure. I see a 10.79 figure there and a COLA. I am wondering why my figures are different from what I have heard. Next question concerns "No Child Left Behind". Has Goffstown's status changed? On the page that shows the average cost per pupil, it shows that it has doubled.

K. Allard: 1200 line – most will be contractual under the IEP programs. If there is not enough money in that line, we are forced to take it from another line. The handout does say 10.79, which is a typo. Currently, we have to meet AYP two years in a row in order to not be designated as needing improvement. I am not sure what you were referring to in your fourth question.

C. Pratt: I just put two check marks next to that particular column.

K. Allard quoted the average costs in 1997-98.

Scott Gross moved to call the question.

J. Raymond: I will suspend that motion and entertain others. The purpose of this meeting is to have discussion.

Ken Rose: I would like to hear feedback from the Budget Committee as to why they are proposing lower figures and why they think their budget is more appropriate.

Guy Caron: I understand you will not allow amendments to amendments. There are going to be other motions for different numbers.

I will permit one more motion to amend after this amendment.

G. Caron: I am certainly going to. Mr. Allard made reference to this flyer. He is correct; the column on the top did change. The default budget numbers are correct and the budget committee numbers are correct, as are the column on the right. I am stunned a motion was made to increase this number. The School Board does not operate like any business I know, if they did, they would act to streamline costs. I intend to request a secret ballot on this motion.

David Bunton: I don't understand this budget. I think there would be no problems if everything was status quo with the economy. We have people in Town on the verge of losing their home.

Because we want to keep the class size at 25 students does not justify for people losing their homes. We need to cut the increase down to zero.

Ivan Beliveau: I would like to thank the students. I want to thank the School Board for returning \$3.3 million. We saw a reduction in our tax rate of about 5%. That was really helpful. The comment I would like to make is we are in hard times. We do see lots of things happening. We are looking at some significant tax increases here. Any number over \$31.9 million will mean about 70 cents increase per million. We will be looking at increases Wednesday night also. One thing I want to observe, the total school budget was \$300,000. \$300 per student. It took to 1972 before we had a \$1 million school budget. In 2000, we were up to \$17 million. Now we are double that.

K. Allard: I will not argue the trends in the 1950's or 1960's. Look at our current trends. This School Board is one of the most conservative school boards in the state.

Steven Druin: My taxes are over \$8,000. The company I work for is an \$8 million company. We would be fired if we ran our business like this.

John Caprio: If you look at the budget at 2000 and the current proposed budget factoring out Glen Lake School, there has been about a \$15 million increase. The increase in the students is only 59 students. Something is wrong with the math here.

Jen Foley: I printed off the budget. It shows you have been conservative in some respects. My concern is, if you look at the \$99,000 line that you spent \$17,000 on. Why are you budgeting \$84,000 in this budget. There are several items that I see are increasing. Our court system is shutting down 17 days next year. Our school system needs to take some cuts too.

Bill Exner: I have four kids who went through the system and the community supported the schools when my kids were attending. We are here as a community to invest in one another. I am here to urge we support the school board's recommendation. There are social costs associated when we start cutting back on schools. We will have to look at the tax structure in the state of NH. That is an issue in Concord for both Democrat and Republican state representatives. This will not change until they take that issue up where it belongs. We have fewer Master Degree teachers in our system. Our classroom space is going up a third more than the state average teacher:pupil ratio. My four year old granddaughter is going to be in our school system too. I think it is a privilege to support this. I am overburdened as a taxpayer too. It will not change by going after the school budget. It will change by asking our State Representatives to do it right.

K. Allard: We do the best we can on budgeting. When kids roll into school in September, we are starting to project the following year's budget. \$2 million was from unanticipated revenue. \$1.3 million was from fiscally conservative doing the responsible thing. We could have created new programs and we didn't.

Request for Written Ballot submitted by nine registered voters for Article 2.

Ellen Vermokowitz: If we were paying \$2,000 more per child than the state average, I would be yelling cut it. The fact is we pay \$2,000 less. I can't image what we could cut out if anybody does not want to support the school board's motion. I ask you to stand up to say what service, what program and what child you do not want educated. It will not happen with less than what they are asking for. We are responsible for our community as a whole. My children are grown and gone and they are taxpayers here in Goffstown. We should never be penalizing the education of our children for the dollar. Anybody who wants to not support the school's proposal please tell us what program, children, etc., should receive less than an education.

Tim McPease: I looked at the warrant article guide. There are some things that are troubling going up. I don't think we can control any of them. One thing that was brought to my attention is employee benefits. I have not gotten a raise in two years. My health care costs have gone up 15%. I shouldered that burden.

Dian McCarthy: I have been a long time taxpayer in town and I am a small business owner. Good economy or bad, educating our children is not an option. Education will be there greatest asset and the greatest gift we can give them. I have spent hundreds of hours in the school. I am seeing a strong influence of conservatism. We have 92 percent of the district spending more than us. I have spent a lot of time at meetings, the budget committee made many cuts. Next year's fourth graders will feel the effects. They are looking at 28 class sizes. The school is at capacity and even if we could afford another teacher, we don't have any place to put another classroom. Education is not a luxury to be cut out of the budget. Education is a necessity.

Mark Campbell: Our budgets have increased over the last ten years. I've lived here eight years. Approximately 15 years ago, GHS lost its accreditation. A lot of things have changed. No child left behind was instituted in 2001. Mandates increased the cost. We are in a global economy where skills are necessary. The best thing we have is to educate our children. Education is where it increases are value as world leaders. We now have a graduation age of 18. Our economy has changed. The world has changed and I hope you support this budget.

Calvin Pratt: You are well represented in Concord. Your representatives are in the minority. What you can expect from the state level, there will be more license fees, etc. You can also anticipate Uncle Sam will have his hand in your pocket too.

Len Stuart: I have had two children go through the school system. There is no business I know that is proposing five percent increases. You are talking about layoffs, cut backs in hours, cut backs in unions. We are talking about a five percent increase in expenditures which will add to your monthly mortgage bill. We are talking about dealing with the pain of the economy this year. Most of the five percent increase is due to the salaries and benefits. I think the board could have looked at other areas. Having had children go through the system, I don't think we are penalizing the system. I think we are asking for realities of what people can afford. You don't want people losing their homes because of these tax increases.

J. Raymond: A motion was made to move question and there was a second.

Fred Plett explained the procedures in order to vote by secret ballot.

Meeting suspended at 8:54 p.m. to engage in the vote. Meeting called back to order at conclusion of ballot voting.

Results: Yes – 168 No – 174. Motion defeated.

C. Caron: Motion to reduce that number to a number identical to what the School Board has as a budget \$34,660,647, which is a reduction of \$966,745. Last year, the School Board's operating budget was \$34.8. This year it is \$34.6 and we have heard they are planning on returning about \$610,000. Considering what we are going through, keeping the budget at the same budget is not an unreasonable reduction.

Seconded by Carmine Gange.

Bill Gordon: Most of us in the private sector are operating on 5, 10, 15% of our income has been reduced, yet we are obligated to feed our families, clothe them, health insurance, etc. This school budget with this reduction is a reduction somewhere in the vicinity of 4-5%. I worked for several corporations that would come through and make ten percent across the board cuts and expect that we produced the product that we did our job with less. I have been through untold number of pay freezes. Five percent is not a huge number. We are not committing any crime against humanity with this number.

Francesca Hanson: As a parent, teacher and a member of this community, that we are doing a crime against humanity. Corporations are not required to accept all of the population and educate them no matter what their needs are. We take every child and offer them an education. We are doing a disservice to our students and our community. We are looking at class sizes with 28 and 29 students per class.

Jeff Tate, resident: Every year we vote in new School Board members. They spend countless hours going over these budgets. It goes through the administration, budget committee. Every step of the way it was cut. Now this motion is asking you to arbitrarily take a number and remove it from the budget.

Carmine Gange: I have listened to a lot of people tonight that it is for the children. We all want to educate the kids. I'd like to know who is negotiating these contracts. Who is getting us into these contracts? Who is paying them? If I might remind you, the teachers union supports these programs, so if you don't like what is happening in the schools, your union is pushing this through. I don't think the number was arbitrary.

David Butler: I just want to reiterate. This is not about me having to go cold for a few days. We are in the absolute worst financial crisis than I have ever seen in my lifetime. What we are asking them to do is give another 5, 10, and 15% of their salary for the kid's education. The

school board has to sharpen your pencils and cut it back some more. You may have to cut programs for a few years. We are in a financial crisis for anything to raise our taxes at all.

Ivan Beliveau: We live in the live free or die state. I believe most of us believe in no new taxes. The way that works is we rely on the property tax. It forces the decision making down to here. I agree with Rev. Exner, we may not be taxing people with the ability to pay, and that is an issue. My request is that you support this amendment. I chose to believe the school board can make this happen.

Scott Gross: I am not speaking on behalf of the Board of Selectmen. I am a resident of 15 years and I have two kids in the system. I find it disconcerting that there are three members of the budget committee who voted for a reduction and they were difficult decision and it was a budget they voted for. I believe the budget committee did a difficult job and set the ceiling for spending. The \$1 million they cut originally is the ceiling and any further reductions would be irresponsible.

Barbara Carbonneau: I am a single person living on a fixed income. What money I do have in savings helps pay my taxes. There is no way I would want to jeopardize the education of our children in this town. If you have any consideration for the children in this town, you won't vote for it either.

Guy Caron: This number is not a cut in the budget at all. It is exactly what they have now. It is a reduction in their requested increase.

Request for written ballot received submitted for amendment to Article 2.

?: We did a lot with not very much at a Catholic school in Philadelphia. Sometimes it is something what we have to do. I am not against education, I am a teacher. I can see how everybody can cut corners. It falls down to who you hire and the parents. I did a lot in Philadelphia with nothing and I still felt I could reach the students.

Josh Douglas: I would like to say thank you to all of the teachers and the budget committee as well. What has not been asked are appropriate questions. I don't want to see any programs cut that will affect the students. Things like contractual obligations for health care, why can't we shop around?

P. Pancoast: The motion before you is not the recommendation of the budget committee. I participated in the union negotiations. They considered many different things. The issue with health insurance, is not the cost of the insurance, it is the use. After the contract was negotiated, it was put before the voters, who had the opportunity to ask questions, the voters supported that contract. Now because of the times, it is a do-over. Next year, that contract will increase our obligations by \$1.4 million. That is not for administration, food service, that is to compensate the teachers. If you increase by \$1.4 and drop by \$1.9, I'll leave the math to you.

F. Plett explained the process for the next vote by secret ballot.

Meeting suspended at 10:15 p.m. to engage in the vote. Meeting resumed at 10:35 p.m.

Results: Yes – 102 No – 164. Motion defeated.

Amount of the operating budget to appear on the ballot will be the amount on the warrant as written.

K. Allard moved to restrict reconsideration of Article 2. Seconded. Voted unanimously. Motion carried.

Article 3

To see if the Goffstown School District will vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of TWO HUNDRED FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$215,000.00) to conduct engineering and architectural plans for the expansion and renovation of the School District's elementary school facilities. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 and will not lapse until the plans for the expansion and renovation of the elementary schools are complete or by June 30, 2012 whichever is earlier. Funds to come from impact fees available on July 1 of 2010. This appropriation has no tax impact. This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article #2, the Operating Budget Article. (Majority vote is required).

***The School Board voted 7-0-0 to recommend
The Budget Committee voted 13-1-0 to recommend***

J. Tate moved seconded by K. Allard to move and speak to Article 3 as printed on the Warrant.

P. Pancoast: This article asks the voters for permission to raise up to \$215,000 to conduct architectural and engineering studies of the district's elementary schools. The district's elementary school expansion project is on the Town's Capital Improvement Program Matrix for 2012-2013. Facilities expansion is still a forecasted need for the district. Current population trends suggest that the addition of several classrooms and office space at Bartlett and Maple Avenue sites will satisfy current and future needs. The purpose of the studies is to determine the feasibility of construction at these facilities. Given their age and the different building codes in place at the time of original construction, a detailed evaluation of existing structural, electrical, mechanical and life safety infrastructure systems will need to be conducted. Funds for this engineering and design study will come from existing impact fees. There will be no tax impact resulting from this article.

No further discussion. Article 3 will appear on the ballot as printed.

Article 4

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$300,000.00) to be added to the existing Bartlett Elementary School Facilities Capital Reserve Fund for Phase II of the upgrade and expansion of the Bartlett Elementary School. Furthermore, to fund this trust from the year end undesignated fund balance available on July 1 of 2010. This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article #2, the Operating Budget Article. (Majority vote required).

*The School Board voted 6-1-0 to recommend
The Budget Committee voted 11-2-1 to not recommend*

G. McKinnon moved seconded by H. Boyle to move and speak to Article 4 as printed on the Warrant.

Kent Nolan: This special article asks voters for permission to place up to \$300,000 into the existing Capital Reserve Fund established for the renovation of the Bartlett Elementary School. This amount will be transferred from the projected unreserved fund balance which will be available to the school district on July 1, 2010. On December 31, 2008, there was \$341,000 and accumulated interest in the fund. There is no scheduled deposit for the current school year. The school district voters established the Bartlett Capital Reserve Fund during the 2005-2006 school year with the transfer of \$300,000 from the district's unreserved fund balance. The purpose of the reserve is to provide for the funding required to support building and infrastructure updates necessary to maintain the facility as a viable elementary school capable of supporting projected student enrollments as well as the regular use as a multi-purpose community facility. Utilization of the capital reserve fund would reduce the total of any long term financing requirement which might arise from any new work authorized by the voters. The school district has organized this work to be completed in two phases. Phase I work totaling \$976,000, was completed in December 2008 utilizing capital reserve funds and impact fees. Phase 2 will be based upon the results of the engineering and architectural studies discussed within Article 3.

Len Stuart: In addition to the \$600,000 that was going to be returned, we are also talking about another \$300,000 as undesignated funds to go into this reserve account at the end of the year. I question whether this is a good idea during these tough economic times.

Dan Cloutier: I noticed the Budget Committee voted 11-2-1 to not recommend. I would offer up an amendment to change this to \$1.00. Seconded by Bill Hart.

D. Cloutier: I was following with what the budget committee didn't recommend. I am trying to figure out what people think.

P. Pancoast: The opportunity is to use some of the unencumbered fund balance. That would reduce that \$610,000.

Myrtle Clapp: We were talking about assigning a different name to the Bartlett School capital fund. They said \$300,000 was left. Is this in addition to the \$300,000 that we already have?

K. Allard: Currently the reserve fund has \$300,000. This would be in addition. The \$610,000 we anticipate giving back, this would come out of the \$610,000.

Vote on the amendment to amend from \$300,000 to \$1.00: Voice vote – nay’s have it, motion defeated.

J. Foley moved to compromise and reduce the \$300,000 to \$150,000. Seconded by B. Hart.

J. Foley: The vote sounded like it was even enough that we could compromise.

Vote on the amendment to amend from \$300,000 to \$150,000: Voice vote – nay’s have it, motion defeated. The moderator entertained a standing vote: Yes-55 No-88. Motion defeated.

Article 4 will appear on the ballot as presented.

Article 5

To see if the School District will vote to change the purpose of an existing Bartlett Elementary School Facilities Capital Reserve Fund to the Elementary School Facilities Renovation Capital Reserve Fund. Furthermore, to see if the School District will vote to designate the School Board as agents to expend from the Elementary School Facilities Renovation Capital Reserve Fund. This article has no tax impact. (2/3 vote is required).

The School Board voted 7-0-0 to recommend

P. Kendall moved seconded by K. Allard to move and speak to Article 5 as printed on the Warrant.

Kent Nolan: This article asks voters for permission to change the name of the existing Bartlett Elementary School Capital Reserve Fund to the Elementary School Facilities Capital Reserve Fund and to appoint the School Board as agents to spend from this fund. Approval of this article will allow the school district to utilize all of the funds and accumulated interest within the existing fund to address the complete scope of the elementary facilities project which will include Phase 2 work at Bartlett. Broadening the intended use of these funds will serve to provide a more uniform and efficient approach to project financing.

John Caprio: Under what RSA does the School Board have authorization to put their recommendation on a non-budgetary article?

K. Allard: We believe that authority is contained in RSA 40:13.

Pam Manney: Have all the concerns with Bartlett School been addressed? How much money is left in the reserve fund at this time?

K. Allard: We had Phase I and Phase II. We addressed Phase I. The fund has \$300,000. There are remaining issues to address at Bartlett.

P. Manney: Bartlett is an old school and I would hate to see any money deferred into another building. I would like to have that school taken care of. I am a little concerned about the Article.

No further discussion on Article 5. Article 5 will appear on the ballot as printed.

Article 6 Submitted by Petition

“Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:14-b to delegate the determination of the default budget to the municipal budget committee which has been adopted under RSA 32:14?” (3/5 Majority vote required).

The School Board voted 6-0-1 to not recommend

K. Allard: There is a hearing on February 15 at the Goffstown High School Media Center for all petitioned articles.

No further discussion on Article 6. Article 6 will appear on the ballot as printed.

Article 7 Submitted by Petition

“Shall the voters of the Goffstown school district within school administrative unit number 19 adopt the provisions of RSA 194-C:9-b to allow for insertion of the school administrative unit budget as a separate warrant article at annual school district meeting?” (Majority vote required)

The School Board voted 6-0-1 to not recommend

D. Cloutier moved seconded by C. Simard to move and speak to Article 7 as printed on the Warrant.

D. Cloutier: I brought this forward. In my zeal to learn the law, I was looking at things the Budget Committee does. The one thing that is little known, although on the Article of the budget there is a figure that is called the default budget. What part does not include a portion of the default budget is the SAU budget. There is an SAU Board. The law says whatever the board members say is the budget, you have no choice. You are stuck with it. My point in putting this

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forward is to give the people the opportunity to have the Budget Committee provide this budget. The DRA feels unless this is on all three town's warrants, it would not be legal. I believe it could be a referendum to the people.

A motion was made to restrict reconsideration of all articles. Motion carried unanimously.

Dan Cloutier, Chair of Budget Committee: No appropriation articles successfully amended. No need to have a meeting of the Budget Committee following this meeting.

The School District meeting adjourned at 11:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann Duffy
School District Clerk