

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THE TOWN OF ALLENSTOWN, QUALIFIED TO
VOTE IN DISTRICT AFFAIRS:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Allenstown Community Center, 8 Whitten Street, in said District on the 4th day of February, 2017 at 9:00 o'clock in the forenoon to deliberate on the warrant articles below. This session shall consist of explanation, discussion, and debate of each warrant article. Warrant articles may be amended subject to the following limitations: (a) warrant articles whose wording is prescribed by law shall not be amended and (b) warrant articles that are amended shall be placed on the official ballot for a final vote on the main motion, as amended; and, (c) no warrant article shall be amended to eliminate the subject matter of the article. An amendment that changes the dollar amount of an appropriation in a warrant article shall not be deemed to violate this provision.

Voting on the warrant article will be conducted by official ballot at the second session scheduled for March 14, 2017 at the St. John Baptist Parish Hall from 8:00 A.M. to 7 P.M.

The Moderator called the meeting to order at 9:15 am. There were 94 registered voters in attendance. He explained the rules of the meeting, read the first warrant article and asked if there were any questions.

1. Shall the Allenstown School District vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant article 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 \$10,000,000? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$10,184,208 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Allenstown 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.

*School Board Does Not Recommend Approval
Budget Committee Recommends Approval*

[Note: Warrant Article #1 (operating budget article) does not include Warrant Article #2, #3 and #4.]

Carol Angowski asked for an explanation of line budget items 216 and 217. Amber Wheeler stated that this line represents multiple employees, some shared throughout the SAU. She explained that they are employees of the SAU, not Allenstown. Carol asked what the total number of positions included are based on Allenstown's portion being so high. Amber stated that 8-12 people's salaries are included in this line. Carol stated that Allenstown's portion of these costs seems too high. She then asked if all of these employees go to other schools to work as well. It was stated by Karen Guiercia that the psychologist works solely in Allenstown.

Tom Irzyk inquired what the current deficit was, what new positions had been hired, and what lines had been spent. Tom Gilligan responded that the school was at a \$50,000 deficit. He stated that this is normal due to the increased enrollment in the school district that could not be foreseen. He stated that a spending freeze had been implemented since December of 2016. Gilligan said that one part time teacher had been hired to provide services that are required by law. The person then had to be moved to full time. He said that an additional kindergarten teacher had to be hired as well due to increased enrollment. Tom Irzyk asked where in the previous year's school budget that money had come from to pay the additional salaries. Tom Gilligan stated that the money had come from the budget and that is why they instated a spending freeze.

Kris Raymond presented a slide show on the schools proposed budget. Dennis Fowler asked if there were any more questions. Carol Angowski asked if the amount assigned to the staff increase included the cost of benefits provided as well as salary. Kris Raymond responded that yes it does. Judy Silva then asked if someone could please explain the decrease in revenues. Amber Wheeler responded that adequacy funding is expected to be lower. She stated that money was expected to be returned to the Town of Allenstown. Tom Gilligan state that there may be a surplus at the end of the schools year but that it is not guaranteed.

Jennifer Klawes asked for the role of the prospective new math specialist to be explained. ARD principal, Mark Dangora explained the role that the math specialist would play supporting the teachers. Jen asked if the budget line representing this salary also included the cost of math supplies. Dangora stated that it did not.

David Coolidge asked what happened to the \$78,000 put in at 2016 Deliberative session for an SRO officer. Tom Gilligan stated that that money was still in the budget, unspent, because the school has been unable to fill the position. Keith Klawes asked if that meant that there really is no \$50,000 deficit, then. Gilligan stated that the \$50,000 deficit would exist if the SRO position was filled. Gilligan stated that the \$78,000 is expected to be returned to the town if the spending freeze results in a surplus.

Tom Irzyk questioned Allenstown's schools recent decline in student productivity and lowered test scores. Tom Gilligan responded that the rate of transiency among the student population is high, resulting in lower scores. Chad Pelissier asked what percentage of the student population is transient. Gilligan stated that the school did not have those numbers. Gilligan stated that the school also has fewer math teachers than it previously had. Irzyk stated that due to his familiarity with the school and the school budget, he did not believe that statement to be true. Irzyk stated that the staff level had not changed. Dennis Fowler asked Irzyk to justify the point of his questions. Irzyk responded that the intention of his questions was to justify the spending of the additional \$80,000 on a math specialist.

Sue Hebert questioned the student – teacher ratios. Gilligan stated that there is currently 1 teacher assigned to each classroom. He said that the number of aides fluctuates as prescribed by law. Sue then asked if the kids move from class to class throughout the school day. Dangora stated that the middle school children do move, and the elementary students do not. Sue asked why the specialist is needed. Gilligan stated that test scores indicate that the specialist is needed. Sue stated that the cost for the specialist is too much for tax payers to afford. Tom Gilligan stated that the members of the school board are tax payers too and that the high costs of the school budget are predominately attributable to the deteriorating infrastructure.

Kelly Prue asked what the tax rate increase will be as a result of this proposed school budget. Gilligan responded that if the default were to pass without additional warrants passing, the effect would be a \$2.81 increase. If the proposed budget of \$10,000,000 were to pass it would create an additional tax of \$3.74 per 1,000. He stated that the teacher raise contracts would induce a .31 increase while the para professional's raises would induce a .11 increase if passed. Gilligan stated that if there was no surplus in the schools budget this year, and the schools proposed budget passed, as well as the teacher salary warrant articles, the total effect on the tax rate would be a \$4.15 increase per 1,000. Gilligan stated that that amount included the cost of the SRO.

Irzyk asked why the school board was requesting the hiring of a specialist before it was recommended by experts. He also asked for the new reading program to be explained. Gail Paludi stated that the curriculum director would be shared by other schools in the district while the math specialist would work in Allenstown only. Gilligan stated that the test scores indicate that the math specialist is needed. Anthony Blinn stated that the cost of the reading program is in lines 101 for books and supplies. He stated that grants will offset these costs.

Jen Klawes then questioned budget line 562 representing a fluctuation in the tuition cost of PACE academy. Gail Paludi stated this is a result of constant fluctuation in enrollment by the PACE students.

Chad Pelissier asked why a new math specialist position is being added before the SAU has stated that one is needed. Gilligan stated that this position has been known to be needed for 4 years now.

Judy Silva asked if it could be clarified that a vote to pass the \$10,000,000 budget in conjunction with the two teacher salary increases passing and the absence of a surplus would result in the \$4.15 increase to the current tax rate. Gilligan said no, that would not be correct. He stated that the increase in that circumstance would be \$2.99/thousand. \$4.15 would be the increase if the original proposed budget was passed with the increased teachers' salaries and no surplus. Judy stated that she believes that there will not be any surplus. Judy stated that less revenue alone will add an additional \$1.36 on to the projected tax rate. Judy made a motion that the school hold an additional meeting at the end of their budget year to work on the budget if the current operating budget did not pass. Gilligan stated that this course of action is not feasible as the school board will not know what their true financial situation is until they know what budget amount passes on the warrant. Judy then motioned that the proposed school budget be amended to the total for appropriations in the previous year, \$9,797,480. Larry Anderson seconded. Chad Pelissier requested the amount of last year's deficit. Amber Wheeler said that stated that it is too early to discuss the deficit. Irzyk asked how the two additional teachers hired are being paid for. Gilligan stated that they are being paid for out of the salaries line. Amber stated that the school prioritizes spending. Chad again requested the deficit amount at this time last year in the schools budget. He explained that he needed that number to make an appropriate comparison with this years. Jody Moore stated that the deficit was at least at \$100,000 at this time last year.

The moderator, Dennis Fowler then took the vote. The proposed amendment failed by a voice vote.

Jeanne Hills asked if the current budget proposed on the warrant article was the one that the school requested or an amended amount. Gilligan stated that it was an amended amount. Jeanne Hills motioned to change the warrant articles proposed school budget to the original amount requested by the school of \$10,392,853. Theresa Winger seconded. A voice vote was taken and ruled indecipherable. A raise of hands was then requested by the moderator. The amendment passed with 48 yes votes to 32 no votes.

2. Shall the Allenstown School District vote to approve the cost items set forth in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Allenstown School Board and the Allenstown Teachers Association for the 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 fiscal years which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

Year 2017/18	\$75,276
Year 2018/19	\$65,304
Year 2019/20	\$64,786

And further raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,276 for the 2017/18 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels?

*School Board Recommends Approval
Budget Committee Recommends Approval*

The moderator, Dennis Fowler read and opened the second article for discussion at 10:36am. Kris Raymond stated that these proposed amounts represent a 1% increase. There were no questions or further discussion.

3. Shall the Allenstown School District vote to approve the cost items set forth in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Allenstown School Board and the Allenstown Paraprofessional Association for the 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 fiscal years which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

Year 2017/18	\$ 27,160
Year 2018/19	\$ 24,022
Year 2019/20	\$ 23,945

And further raise and appropriate the sum of \$27,160 for the 2017/18 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels?

*School Board Recommends Approval
Budget Committee Recommends Approval*

The moderator, Dennis Fowler read and opened the third article for discussion at 10:38am. Kris Raymond stated that these proposed amounts again represent a 1% increase. There were no questions or further discussion.

4. Shall the Allenstown School District vote to create the position of School Resource Officer (SRO) for the 2017/18, 2018/19, and 2019/20 school years pursuant to an agreement with the Town of Allenstown, and furthermore to raise and appropriate the first year's costs of funding the position in the amount of eighty-four thousand dollars (\$84,000)?

Note: The SRO will be employed by the Town and contracted to the School District for the school year. The agreement reached between the Town and School District is for (3) years, 2017-18 through 2019-20, but the costs for years two and three will be submitted to the school district voters for approval each year.

(Majority vote required)

*School Board Recommends Approval
Budget Committee Does Not Recommend Approval*

The moderator read and opened the fourth article for discussion at 10:40am. Selectman Jeff Gryval stated that this article was not approved by the selectmen because the town cannot afford to fund the SRO position. Theresa Winger asked how

long since the last SRO had been in the school. Gilligan replied that it had been 2 years since the position was filled. Theresa asked what will happen to the money if the SRO position is not filled. Tom Gilligan answered that the money would be returned to the town if an SRO is not hired. Dawn Lebreque asked if an SRO would potentially have to be trained over and over again each year. Tom Gilligan stated that yes it might. David Coolidge asked why other schools do not have an SRO. Gail Pahudi stated that they have not identified a need for one. Gilligan stated that an SRO would not be an employee of the school. The position would be filled by the Town. He further stated that the money requested in the warrant article only represents the schools portion of the SRO cost. Jeff Gryval asked if the school changed their position on funding the SRO. Gilligan stated that they had not. Jeff stated that he did not believe that to be true. He also stated that none of the \$84,000 will be returned to the Town. The TA, Shaun Mulholland concurred that this was true. Natalie Francis asked if another police officer could have the capability of being in the school in lieu of a SRO. Gilligan stated that the SRO fills specific job functions solely assigned to the SRO position. He said that he believed the security and responses provided by the current PD were sufficient and not lacking in any way. Gilligan also noted that absences by the SRO would be filled in by the PD department such as when a hired SRO was on vacation or out sick. Natalie questioned the longevity of the SRO position. Gilligan stated that the previous officers to serve in that capacity had been long time employees and that he believes that that will continue to be the case.

5. Shall the School District authorize the School Board to accept on behalf of the District, without further action by the voters, gifts, legacies and devises of real or personal property which may become available to the District during the fiscal year?

School Board Recommends Approval

Article 5 was opened for discussion at 10:57am. There was no discussion. The moderator reminded the registered voters present to please re register if attending the town portion of the deliberative session. Chad Pelissier motioned to recess the meeting until March 14th. Larry Anderson seconded. The meeting was recessed at 10:59am.

To transact other business that may legally come before said meeting.

A true copy, attest:

Nathleen Pelissier
School Clerk