

**Minutes of the School District Deliberative Session of February 11, 2023**  
**Community Center, Lyons Avenue**  
**Hudson, New Hampshire 03051**

**1. OPENING**

The Honorable Paul Inderbitzen, Town Moderator, called the meeting to order at 9:04am.  
Presentation of the flags by Alvirne High School JrROTC Honor Guard  
National Anthem sung by Alvirne High School's B-Naturals [via video recording]  
Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by School Board Member Campbell

**2. REMARKS BY THE MODERATOR**

Ladies and Gentlemen, this is the Deliberative Session of the Hudson School District. You will act as a legislative body to determine the final form of the Warrant Articles that will be voted on at the March 14th. Election. All the Articles, by law, **MUST** be placed on the Ballot. The rules we will follow are the Moderator's Rules which are in the handout you received when you checked in. If you have any questions about the rules, please feel free to ask for a clarification at any time by rising a "Point of Order". This body may also vote to establish rules that you deem necessary. You may also vote to overrule any decision by the Moderator. If you are new to the Deliberative Session, please review those rules.

As a Legislature, we will be discussing the Warrant Articles before us. Those discussions will be respectful of everyone's opinions. Please, be respectful of all comments and opinions as you would want yours respected. To keep personalities out of this debate, please do not use names we will use terms such as "the previous speaker", "the School Board member, or "the Budget Committee member". All questions and comments are to be directed to the Moderator. There is no requirement that anybody must yield to answer a question posed to them. If you are a registered voter of Hudson, you were issued a **YELLOW VOTER CARD**. We will use those cards for any votes that are taken at the meeting. Do not lose your **VOTER CARD**. You will not get another one. After the meeting you can recycle your voter card in a box at the back of the room.

Only registered voters of Hudson are allowed to participate in the discussion of the warrant.

There are some non-voters, staff members from the School District and others who will be allowed to speak and answer questions to assist us in the meeting.

Please turn your phones and pages off or to silent mode so as not to interrupt the discussions. We will be taking a few breaks as needed. Refreshments are for sale by the Hudson's Women's Club. Also, **this meeting is being televised and will be available for viewing or streaming after today on HCTV**. We appreciate the Hudson Cable Committee and staff for all they do in keeping the citizens of Hudson informed.

At the end of this meeting, the Budget Committee and the School Board will hold separate meetings to consider their recommendations on the Warrant Articles in case they need to adjust them.

**3. INTRODUCTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL BOARD by Chairperson Gasdia**

Gretchen Whiting, Vice-Chairman

Dan Moulis, Superintendent

Ethan Beals, member

Michael Campbell, member

Maureen Dionne, member

**4. INTRODUCTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE by Chairperson**

**Trost**

Norman Martin, Vice Chair

Rich Weissgarber, member

Patrick Quinlan, Clerk

Dave Morin, Selectman Liaison

Kathy Leary, member

Shawn Murray, member

Bob Clegg, member

Bill Cole, member

And recognize Gretchen Whiting, School Liaison

**5. NONVOTERS**

Non-voter staff will be allowed to speak to assist with the meeting.

Dr. Daniel Moulis, Superintendent

Kimberly Organck, Assistant Superintendent

Rachel Borge, Director of Special Services

Jennifer Burk, Business Administrator

Diane Gorrow, Attorney for the District

**6. RETURN OF THE WARRANT TO THE DISTRICT CLERK**

Moderator Inderbitzen: I ask the School District Clerk, Diane Cannava, has the Warrant been returned to you.

School District Clerk Cannava: (holding up the Warrant) Yes it has.

**7. READING OF THE WARRANT ARTICLES AND ACTION OF THE MEETING**

Moderator Paul Inderbitzen: To the inhabitants of the School District of Hudson, Hudson, New Hampshire, qualified to vote in district affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet in the Hudson Community Center in said district on Saturday, on the 11th. Day of February, 2023 at 9:00 am for the first session of the annual school district meeting, for explanation, discussion, and debate of the Warrant Articles 1 through 10. Warrant articles may be amended subject to the following limitations: (a) warrant articles whose wording is prescribed by law shall not be amended, (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.

You are hereby notified to meet again at the Hudson Community Center or the Alvirne High School Cafeteria in said district on Tuesday, March 11, 2023 between the hours of 7:00 am and 8:00 pm for the second session of the annual school district meeting to vote on official ballot upon the following subjects:

**Moderator's reading of Warrant Article 1[SLIDE]**

**WARRANT ARTICLE 1 - Alvirne High School Renovation**

Passage of this article shall override the 10 percent limitation imposed on this appropriation due to the non-recommendation of the budget committee. Shall the Hudson School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$27,000,000 for the design, construction, and equipping of additions and renovations to Alvirne High School; to authorize the issuance of not more than \$27,000,000 in bonds or notes in accordance with the Municipal Finance Act, (RSA Chapter 33); to authorize the School Board to apply for, obtain and accept a grant or grants

and/or any other federal, state, or other aid which may be available for said project and to comply with all the laws applicable to said project; 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; to authorize the School Board to take any other action necessary to carry out this vote or pass any other vote relative thereto; and further raise and appropriate the additional sum of \$750,000 for the first year payment on the bond?

(3/5 ballot vote required) \$.15

Estimated tax rate Estimated tax rate impact: \$.16

Recommended by the Hudson School Board 3-2

Not recommended by the Budget Committee 2-8

**Moderator:** (continuing) **I will recognize School Board Member Dionne to present Warrant Article 1.**

**Dionne:** presentation included information and explanation related to prepared slides. First slide: *The priorities of the Alvirne High School Renovation* centered on safety, security and ADA Compliance. The next slide was a visual rendering of the sought renovations: new secure main entrance & main office, new bus loop; new parent drop-off & pick-up loop; renovated cafeteria, kitchen and locker rooms; new auditorium. Following slide was a visual of the present traffic conditions of the parking lot area. Interior *Safety & Security Upgrades Floor Plan Level 1* were diagrammed on the next two slides. The next slide was a diagram of *Enhanced Co-Curricular & Community Spaces Floor Plan Level 2*.

Dionne continued her presentation to a slide listing *Funding Allocations* that included *Note: School has applied for state building aid with a potential up to \$8.1 M in state funds*. Further slides summarized *Warrant Article 1's Tax impact* and *Bond Term Comparison 2020, 2023*. Dionne closed with: The proposed Warrant Article addresses the School District's Strategic Goal to provide a safe and secure learning environment for all students and staff and it further provides opportunities for enhanced school, family and community connections.

**Moderator:** **We will now open Warrant Article 1 to comments, questions, amendments.**

Please remember that bond issue warrants can not be amended, the wording. You can only deal with the money amount. Please limit yourself to one subject at a time, questions, comments, amendments...only one at a time...gets too confusing. Yes, Ma'am.

**Peggy Huard, 10 Henry Drive:** I rise with a few comments and questions. Having been involved in the theater program at Alvirne I would like to support this warrant article. Concerned that any revenue for theatrical events goes into a revolving fund...not sure of that...anticipate a significant increase in revenue. Would like to understand how this revenue would applied to the general fund to offset taxation,,,that would make it a little bit more attractive. Other concern is presenting this as predominately security and safety... that is yet another false and exaggerated narrative coming from the School District....Thank you.

**Moderator:** There's a question on the finances. Does anybody want to yield to that question. Our Business Administrator, Miss Burk, will respond.

**Business Administrator Jen Burk:** We have a revenue line in our budget for facilities. So anytime an outside source uses our facilities we apply that revenue towards that specific line There's school-related function that do go into a revolving fund.

Moderator: Anymore discussion on Warrant Article #1, Yes, Ma'am.

Theresa Stewart, 2 Tamarack Street: My question is with all the funds you received from COVID if safety was such an issue on the Warrant Article why wasn't a lot of this COVID funds applied to the safety up at Alvirne. Thank you.

Moderator: Question of the Board. Would you like to yield to that question. Mr. Gasdia.

Gasdia: This question has come up a lot. There's two parts to the safety, The money from COVID, fund balance allow us to do somethings. Over the years we've upgraded the fire alarms, we've changed doors, locks, radios, on the I.T. side security. All of those types had to be done piecemeal. The challenge with this it's a much bigger project that needs to be done all at once...an all or none....

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion Warrant Article 1. Yes, Sir.

Randy Brownrigg, 2 Little Hills Lane: I have a question on the number \$27,000,000. How many years is the bond and how much is the bond.

Moderator: Do we have any potential information on the bond yet.

Burk: The final bond terms would be determined by the Board as part of the process.... The rate I received from the Municipal Bond Bank for a 30 year bond has a 6% interest rate. So the bottomline total for that cost was \$51,975,000. That's the total cost over 30 years for principle and interest.... The principle of \$27,000,000 plus \$24,975,000 interest, total cost \$51,975,000.

Brownrigg: So we will see that tax impact next year if this were to pass this year. Taxes will go up because of this bond.... So that's around 2.6 million a year we will be paying. So I hope everyone is paying attention...your taxes will go up again...some of us already saw a tax increase on last bill, another on next tax bill so why are we paying all this if the school system isn't working the way it should be working. That's open to debate. So pay attention how much your taxes are going up.

Moderator: Further discussion on Warrant Article #1.

Diana Lamothe, St. Laurent Drive: I stand in favor of Warrant Article 1. The time and effort that has invested in developing a plan and finding ways it will benefit the School District and the community at-large has been happening since 2017. I understand with the pandemic, economic changes it's alarming the costs have increased... I want to point out that time and effort went into trying to get state funding. They are ranked number 9, not a good chance for them to come through with some state funding...Not a definite, there's a chance next year...to reduce the tax rate funding. I believe that this will be a performing arts auditorium there will be so many people interested in the benefit that will come from that. It's not just the school it's the whole community. I have talked with people about fundraising...there is interest in getting involved in a capital campaign. It's speculation, if this warrant article passes, efforts like that will happen and it's a large investment over time and it will have a great payout....

Moderator: Miss Stewart

Stewart: I'm going to direct this to the Chairman of the School Board. The list I received from the Superintendent on how COVID funds were spent in this town, no where on the list does it state security at any of our schools. So this warrant article pushing security I feel also is a false

narrative.

Moderator: Thank you, Yes, Sir, Mr. Weissgarber.

Rich Weissgarber, 21 Flying Rock Road: I don't think there's anybody in this room that doesn't completely care about the students and the faculty. I think that we want them all to feel safe and secure. Want to take care of their health and welfare, and that's kind of the mindset that I have and go into everything with. One of the things, one of the primary things, that drove me to not recommend this was that we've never include the other five schools in the discussion. It's always been a high school safety and security project, and after touring [interrupted] -

Voter: Point of Order

Moderator: Point of Order. We are talking about the Article 1 and the reasons given safety and security. Please, go ahead, Mr. Weissgarber.

Weissgarber: [Sure, so in regards to Warrant Article 1, the [budget] chairman created a subcommittee. I was the chairman of the subcommittee. I toured all the schools as it relates to Warrant Article 1 to see what the impact was and to get a better understanding of the layout of the schools and to get feedback from the faculty. So again I think we need to take into consideration all the schools within SAU81 when it comes to safety and security, not just always focus on the high school. I would like to understanding better things that have been said regarding ADA. I don't think I've ever seen anything formally that say something that is not ADA compliant. It's always been kind of anecdotal. So I really want to understand that because I do think to take care of that right away. These types of things to me kind of fall into an emergency situation. My personal view is why do we keep kicking the can down the road for a warrant article when we should be addressing safety and security maybe through some of the funds that we have. This project was formed by a 2018 Homeland Security assessment that we received a limited report on, and eventually the full report that called out the schools. There was a reassessment done in January of 2023, just recently. I think we should take a step back and look at the assessment and see what it says and how we should realistically frame this project more properly going forward, and to me it's about priorities.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion on Warrant Article #1. Yes, Sir, for a first time.

Kevin Walsh, 5 Stoney Lane: Just making a comment on the article. I was a member of the CTE committee that the School Board convened in 2021 and this was one of the big projects that we looked at. I just wanted to share the discussions we had that consumed a lot of time. The hope was that this the file with the state for some relief wasn't a mistake. Would hold the town of Hudson for 30%...Rank list came out on November 14. Alvirne was number 10 out of 17 projects....And as the previous speaker said unless the if the entire community looks at this as an investment this is never going to happen. Until and unless that happens this is a project that won't see the light of day. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion on Article #1. Mr. Brownrigg for a second time.

Brownrigg: If I'm wrong, I'm wrong, but my understanding is that this bond that we are taking out for \$27,000,000...that makes it \$75,000,000. So am I right...before I leave and we're all clear on this, can you explain how that \$27,000,000 at .06...

Gasdia: The way a bond is amortized over the years, it's not the simple math of 6% ...similar to

your mortgage. So if you look at a 6% bond for that time, the interest on that bond is going to be 24 million. You have principle of 27 million, interest of 24, so the total payment is 51million.

Brownrigg: Just so I'm clear and everyone understands it. Appreciate it...It means your taxes will go up. I am neither for or against this.

Moderator: Yes, Ma'am.

Mary Joy Gasdia, 4 MacCann Road: I'm against the warrant article. I want to speak against the warrant article. Actually I am so frustrated and irritated tat we have to spend anytime today, the voters, on this warrant article. As the speaker said this is multiple times we brought this same warrant article to go forward. It is my understanding that when taxpayers vote no to something it means no...and to move on. You brought it back once, you didn't get it. You brought it back twice, I don't know how many times for the same things. And I have a perspective. I am someone who voted for this in the past and supported this. I'm now at the place where I no longer support it...It was supported ...now 2023 everyone is struggling with their taxes...You have to pick and choose what you are going to vote for...The voters have voted no, a resounding failure multiple times in a row...To keep bringing the same thing back is almost like we're just Hudson we will keep putting it in until they vote for it...I know a lot of teachers who expressed concern that this would take time off of the new superintendent... could be focussing on bettering our schools, improving the school's His time is being taken away with meetings about this...did you talk to the teachers...The School Board's focus this year should have been that they did everything possible to get the teacher contract to pass... was told by a Board member that the voters were told, know to expect this...Historically Hudson has voted this down...it failed. If it fails this time, please, do not bring this in front of us again. You wasted everyone's time this morning. We should be taking about why the teacher contract should pass and why we need to support our students in these times...No more Alvirne renovation...You want to come back, talk about all the schools not just Alvirne...I support the Music Department. Your Band is smaller than ever. Your theater events just fill the space. You think we want a theater, we don't. And renting it out is not the way to bring tax dollars into Hudson. What we need to do is vote no to this warrant article and not put it back on the Ballot because we voted no. If you put it back, then any of us should remove yourself from office. Thank you.

Moderator: Further discussion Warrant Article #1. Yes, Sir.

James Wilkins, 112 Belnap Drive: I just have a question whether or not tis bond will be callable. What that means if called we would owe the purchasers of the bond the 27 million immediately.

Moderator: Does anyone wish to yield to that question

Burk: Not in accordance with the Municipal Bond Bank

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion. Yes, Sir.

Steve Beals, 10 Beachwood Road: I am the principal of Alvirne High School. I'm a graduate of Alvirne High School. And I urge the voters to support this warrant article. I'm a school staff member who is very happy that this article is back on the ballot. I believe it should have passed previously. I don't think that is a reward for the town of Hudson that six votes through a recount didn't happen. I applaud the Board members who brought it forward. I equally applaud the members who voted against it. The will of the voters is to have rights at voting day. Exercise your vote at voting day. Don't preach at the deliberative session. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Is there anymore discussion. Yes, Ma'am.

Heather Smalley, 18 Farmington Drive: I stand in support of this warrant article and yes I agree it was voted down but I would like to point out the majorities of the voters were in support of this with the exception of the most recent year it was on ....

Moderator: Thank you, Further discussion. Mrs. Lamothe for a second time.

Lamothe: I would like to make some comments in reply to a previous speaker. To say that this failed when it had almost 60% approving this in prior years, it's the challenge of a bond warrant article requirement to pass. If it were any other warrant article has the majority vote. That people have moved on from this, the needs remain, ADA compliance, well-rounded auditorium. It will benefit the community at-large. Those have not gone away. And I'm sad to say, I thought I would never say this in public but I am glad that my children are no longer a part of the School District in Hudson. It's a great School District...it would be sad if this were not to pass.

Moderator: Thank you. Any further discussion. Mr. Clegg.

Robert Clegg, 39 Trigate Road: I just want to say something. My granddaughter is 14 months old. We are looking at something that is going to take 30 years to pay off. It's a building with a shelf-life of probably 15 years...you start to replace a whole lot of things. Total shelf-life is probably 20. So at 20 years old she will be strapped with the payment of a building for another 10 years that really isn't working. I know how buildings go, it's been part of my life...If you are going to do something don't strap the future generation with a payment because they may not be able to afford it. They certainly won't be able to afford another 10 years on that bond and the need for another building to replace it. So I ask you to vote this down this year and do it looking at a way where all of us actual pay for it, and we don't strap our grandchildren. Thank you.

Moderator: Any further discussion. Mrs. Huard for a second time.

Huard: I just wanted to clarify the terminology the majority of the voters. When you are talking about the voters you aren't talking about the entire population, you are talking about the 3-4,000 voters who actually show up to vote. So that is not the majority...a small percentage show up to vote. And out of that small percentage of voters a majority wanted this. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you, Yes, Sir. Discussion on Warrant Article #1.

Mike Truesdale, 3 Watts Circle: I've always voted for this warrant article but I'm not today. I'm not when I go to cast my vote because in my humble opinion the elephant in the room for education is consistent. How are we going to get our kids back on track from COVID. And if it's not a theme of our budget and our warrant article then I'm going to question you hard. There's a good reason to have this. I don't like the word safety. I don't like the way this thing was repackaged because if it is a safety...we would be worried about safety for all the schools. This is something we should focus on and pass something we could be proud of. But it has to address safety for the complete District number one. And number two how are we going to help our kids get back from COVID. If your activity doesn't focus around that I'm now going to support it. Thank you

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion on Warrant Article #1 the Alvirne High School Renovation. Yes, Ma'am.

Phyllis Appler, 62 Glen Drive: I rise in support of this warrant article. Our daughter was graduated from Alvirne in 1993. She was very active in the theater program. She dodged volleyball, basketball, whatever was in-season. As she practiced on that stage, gym. And a few years later kids are still having to do the same thing. It's time to have an auditorium at our high school. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Yes, Ma'am

Tracy Parae, Central Street: In response to everyone talking about safety, I run a daycare here in Hudson. I have kids in every school in the District with the exception of Hills Garrison. Alvirne is the only school I can walk into unaccompanied and wander through the building. I should not be allowed to do that.

Moderator: Anyone else wish to discuss Warrant Article #!. Yes, Ma'am.

Kimberly Allan, 3 Daniel Webster Drive: Will the 6% interest rate be absolute or will it go up by the time this passes.

Moderator: Question on the interest rate, will it go up

Burk: The 6% that was presented by the Municipal Bond Bank was intended just to be a conservative estimate because we won't know what the interest rates will be like in July. It would not go up from there... expecting a favorable percent based on the amount of various projects they will get from across the state. So the expectation is we won't know until it actual goes for sale.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion. Yes, Sir.

Brian Thomas, 6 Gillis Street: Just in response to a couple of previous comments. The suggestion that shrinking arts program as evidence for not needing a better performance space and better arts space relating getting students back on track from COVID. I think we can link the shrinking arts program to COVID because of the inability to participate because of COVID. And that a more robust performance facility would provide more opportunity and provide a better arts program provide students more engagement coming back from COVID>

Moderator: Thank you very much. Mr. Brownrigg for a third time.

Brownrigg: The subject kind of gets to me a little bit, but I want to make a change on the warrant article. I want to make an amendment.

Moderator: You want to make an amendment and what is your amendment

Brownrigg: The \$27,000,000, I want to put zero. Someone wants to seconded it that's fine.

Huard: I'll second

**MOTION: TO CHANGE THE \$27,000,000 TO ZERO [\$.00]  
MADE BY: RANDY BROWNRIGG; SECONDED BY: PEGGY HUARD**

Voter: Point of Order



Moderator: Wait a second. Okay, Mr. Brownrigg amends. Seconded by Mrs. Huard. Yes, Sir.

Voter: Can you change the money on a bond warrant

Moderator: You can change the money, you can't change the wording the money can be changed. We have an amendment. We are now going to deal with just the amendment to take the 27 million to zero. Let's just talk about that. Is there anyone who wishes to speak to change 27 million to zero. Mr. Brownrigg, who is the maker of the motion. Then we will be able to vote whenever the body is ready.

Brownrigg: One of the previous speakers talked about how often this has come up and it's come up several times. I like my money in my pocket and I like to make good investments. We all like to make good investments. At a time when we are seeing lower wages more...Question is how much to put into that you see no investment...,,Can we afford 27 million....

Moderator: Thank you. On the amendment of taking down the 27 million to zero. Yes, Sir.

Chuck Pearson, 21 Quail Run Drive: I rise in opposition to the amendment. The previous speaker spoke on how few people go to vote on the town election. There is a fraction of that here today...Let the voters of the town in March turn it down. We shouldn't in this body of 50 people or so make the decision for the town.

Moderator: Thank you. Yes, Sir, Mr. Barbard. On the amendment.

Leo Bernard, 3 Bungalow Avenue: If this goes to zero and passes, how is this going to do anything. Is this still going to go through.

Moderator: It will not. There will be nothing. They are not going to bond zero dollars. Yes, Sir. On the amendment.

Jeremy Slottje, Old Coach Road: I believe the amendment to be hilarious in base, and hope I can call the amendment.

Moderator: Mr. Slottje moves the question. Is there a second on moving the question. Mr. Giuffrida. Thank you. Mr. Slottje moves the question. Seconded by Mr. Giuffreda. We'll take that

**MOTION: TO MOVE THE QUESTION**

**MADE BY: JEREMY SLOTTJE; SECONDED BY: ALFRED GIUFFREDA**

Moderator (continuing): If you want to cut off debate on the amendment, please raise your voter cards. Thank you. Those who do not want to cut off debate

**THE "AYES" HAVE IT. WE ARE CUTTING OFF DEBATE.**

**We are now going to vote on the amendment to take the \$27,000,000 down to zero.**  
If you are in favor of reducing Warrant Article #1 to zero, please raise your voter card. Thank you. Opposed, please raise your card.

**THE "NAYS" HAVE IT. AMENDMENT#1 FAILS.**

**We are now on the original Warrant Article#1.** Motion has been made to move the question

on Warrant Article #1 to cut off debate. Seconded by Mr. Murray.

**MOTION: TO CUT OFF DEBATE ON WARRANT ARTICLE #1  
MADE BY: NORMAN MARTIN; SECONDED BY SHAWN MURRAY.**

If you are in favor of cutting off debate and not talking about Warrant Article anymore, please raise your voter cards. Thank you. If you are opposed to that and wish to discuss it further

**THE "AYES" HAVE IT. THE QUESTION IS MOVED.**

**We are then shutting down Warrant Article 1 and it will move to the ballot as it is.** We do not need to vote on the warrant. It moves to the ballot as it is. Okay, there is a motion, Mr. Martin moves to restrict. Mrs. Lamothe is a second. To restrict, that is to prevent it from coming up again.

**MOTION: TO RESTRICT WARRANT ARTICLE #1  
MADE BY: NORMAN MARTIN; SECONDED BY: DIANA LAMOTHE**

By restricting reconsideration that means we are dispensing with, it can not be reconsidered later in this meeting. If you are in favor of restricting reconsideration of Warrant Article #1 raise your voter cards. Thank you. Those opposed.

**THE "AYES" HAVE IT. ARTICLE #1 IS RESTRICTED.**

**Moderator's reading of Warrant Article 2 [SLIDE]**

**WARRANT ARTICLE 2 - Operating Budget**

Shall the Hudson 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 the vote at the first session for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$61,018,119? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget will be \$63,748,201 which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Hudson School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting under RSA 40:13-X and XVI to take up a revised operating budget only.

Estimated tax rate impact: (\$.24)

Default tax rate impact: \$.34

Not Recommended by the Hudson School Board 0-5  
Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-1

Moderator: (continuing) **I'll recognize Chairman Trost of the Budget Committee to present Warrant Article 2.**

Trost: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. Last Fall District Administrators and Principals worked together to create a comprehensive budget to meet the needs of the District. The School Board reviewed the budget and made cuts to the proposed operating budget. The School Board then voted to send the budget to the Budget Committee the General Operating Budget

of \$63,392,486. The Board also approved the General Fund Default Budget that you just heard in the amount of \$63,748,201. After reviewing the General Fund Operating Budget the Budget Committee is recommending to you a General Fund Operating Budget of \$61,018,119. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. **I will now recognize Chairman Gasdia of the School Board.**

Gasdia: Thank you. So in a couple of minutes I'm going to go over the budget and how we got there, but first I think it's important that if we are talking about the budget this is the largest amount of money, right, that we need to understand the foundation and what this District is about and what we're accomplishing. So I'm going to yield a couple of minutes of my time to bring up the Superintendent to set a good foundation of what's going on in the District.

Moderator: Thank you. Superintendent Moulis.

Moulis: Thank you, Mr. Gasdia. Good Morning everyone. So I'm going to spend a couple of minutes, if we could go to the next slide which talks about our *District Goals*. All our District Goals are aligned with our Strategic Plan: #1 *Strong learning environment: provide safe and secure schools for students and staff*; #2 *Support students so they are ready to learn*; #3 *Use data to drive instruction*; #4 *Provide administrative feedback to support teachers and staff*; #5 *Supporting teachers and staff*. Moulis presented next slide with Operating and Default Budgets' totals and their tax impact. He moved his presentation to slide *Strategic Plan* which listed its three pillars: *Strong Learning Environment*; *Strong Connections: School, Family and Community*; *Vibrant Learning Systems*. Next slide *Highlights* listed accomplishments, achievements, programs, awards, studies. Moulis acknowledged Colonel Cheatham as NH Teacher of the Year. Moulis continued to slide *Challenge: Teacher and staff retention*; *Teacher and staff hiring and recruitment*; *Student transitions between schools*. Moulis mentioned that teacher turnover is at 22% and that staff turnover is at 12%. Moulis turned over presentation of Warrant Article #2 to Chairman Gasdia.

Moderator: Chairman Gasdia

Gasdia: That's what it's all about. Funding the schools to meet those strategic goals. Students and the staff. I want to start by saying this year's proposed budget is significantly below the default budget. This doesn't happen very often. In most years the budget is a lot higher. I want to take a moment to say that all parties involved the School District, the School Board the Budget Committee were all insistent in meeting the needs of the students and staff and while being fiscally responsible,,all against the backdrop of inflation...I really want to thank everyone here for their efforts because it is really important. This slide [*Warrant Article 2 Operating Budget*] illustrates that commitment.

Gasdia referred to said slide to explain comparison figures of 2023 and 2024. He then continued his presentation noting specifics on additional slides: *Budget Overview (Funds)*, *Tax Impact*, *General Fund Summary*, *Budget Proposals For FY24*, *Community School Tax Rates*, *Fund Balance History*, *Cost Per Pupil FY22*.

Gasdia closed with I just want to conclude with thanking the Administration, the School Board and the Budget Committee for all the work they did. Everyone did their job. I ask no one to come up here and say the Budget Committee shouldn't have done this, the School Board shouldn't have done this. Everyone did their job...now we hand it off to you so you can decide what you want to do with the budget. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you very much. **We will now open Warrant Article #2 to questions, comments, amendments.** Yes, Ma'am.

Patty Langlais, 22 Stonewood Lane: I rise to make a motion to amend the Operating Budget, and put back in \$2,374,367.

Moderator: Is there a second. Yes, Ma'am, your name. [Cristina Farris] Okay, Miss Langlais moves to add to the budget \$2,374,367. Seconded by Miss Farris. We will now discuss the Amendment of changing the numbers. Yes, Miss Langlais.

**MOTION: TO ADD \$2,374,367 TO THE BUDGET  
MADE BY: PATTY LANGLAIS; SECONDED BY: CRISTINA FARRIS**

Langlais: I think Gary [Gasdia] said everything that needs to be said. So I'm just going to give you a different spin on it. Being someone who is an educator for over 40 years and has lived in this town for close to 30 years at this point, been on that School Board for 12 years, I need you to understand something. Every single time you take money like this out of the budget, a huge amount of money, all it does is make staff feel like crap and that they're not worthy. I don't get it. Twelve years I sat there and tried to build their morale up and tell them how much we appreciated them. And when you do this all it does is make them feel unappreciated. We need these people. Children are our most important thing in this town. And if you don't believe that you shouldn't be sitting on this Budget Committee. Gary, I know you don't won't me to call people out. Oh, well, too bad -

Moderator: Please, direct your comments to the Chair please.

Langlais: So my point is this. Remember who it affects. All it affects is the staff up here who are so worthy. Who work so hard every single day. You remember something, this is not a fun job anymore like it used to be. When a six-year old gets up and shoots a teacher in a first grade classroom, that's not fun anymore.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion on the amendment for changing the numbers. Yes, Sir.

Truesdale: My theme is COVID. Our School District performed phenomenal during COVID. I have no kids but I know, I watch the TV. I hear what's going on. I got my ear to the wall. I listen to what's happening with our School District. Cutting this money is a slap in the face. There's no reason to take that much money. You can't even staff it. Just because they can't get staff doesn't mean you cut the money...you can't take the funds out of that. So I rise in favor of putting the original amount back....

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion. Miss Farris.

Cristina Farris, 67 Sousa Boulevard: I'd like to speak on behalf of restoring the operating budget. The budget cuts a lot of money from staff and resource areas that I see could be detrimental to our students. The reality is that these children have to deal with something most of us haven't while we were in school, COVID. Due to COVID and the disruption of school routine...our children need more resources more now than ever to help them get back on track and up to where they need to be.... If we want to keep our top and talented staff, keep our enrollment numbers, healthy the school system we need to tax accordingly. Not by cutting programs...must show we care about our children.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion. Mrs. Huard. On the amendment.

Huard: This is not democracy in action. This amendment is hypocrisy. We heard from a previous speaker that... the people in this room do not represent democracy. This room represents scare tactic. This room represents the false narrative presented by the School District who's telling you that they have to cut these line items. That is absolutely false...The reason why the budget is less than the default the School District has already admitted at a School Board meeting that they anticipate a three million dollar deficit.

Voter: Point of Order

Moderator: Please, stick to the amendment. The amount. Mrs. Huard. Stick to the amendment about adding in the money.

Huard: Presenter of the motion comes up here and scares everybody. And put in a shooting to make you think we are going to have a shooting if we don't put this money back,

Multiple voters: Point of Order, Point of Order

Huard: It's okay for her to say it but I can't contest her drama...

Moderator: (banging gavel)

Huard: Thank you

Moderator: I'll recognize Mr. Weissgarber

Weissgarber: I am the Budget Committee Member that made the motion to make the reduction of the 2.7 million that was subsequently seconded and passed by the majority....So being your Budget Committee we take an unbiased look when taking things into consideration... [Initiating slide presentation: *Historical Fund Balance/Year End Transfers and Spendings*] So basically the slide depicts the fund balance/year end transfers, spending for SAU81 from 2015 to 2023. Weissgarber began to explain what the tables of numbers represent and the meaning of some terms.

Moderator: (banging gavel) Mr. Weissgarber, we're talking on the amendment, adding the money in. So if you have a relation why the money was taken out that's fine. The stuff you're talking about relates to the Operating Budget Article which we will do after we dispense with the amendment.

Weissgarber: Okay. So the amendment was to put back the 2.3 million which was a product of the end of the year find balance, bottomline reduction. So -

Moderator: Must relate to the amendment.

Weissgarber: Okay. So you're saying it doesn't. relate. So are you saying to wait..

Moderator: Well, when we get back to the other one. You can talk about why you reduced the amount because that's what there're putting back in.

Weissgarber: Okay, So basically I reduced the amount because historically SAU 81 over the last five years has had very large fund balance pretransfer and spending. I guess that's all I say until I come back and can give more of the details, explanation.

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Moderator: You'll have a chance to do it once we are back on the original article. Yes, Sir, your name.

Slottje: Just a Point of Order. Are we following Robert's Rules of Orders.

Moderator: No, we're following my rules of order

Slottje: Your rules of order ... is it in order to amend the amendment

Moderator: No, I'm not going to amend the amendment. We'll deal with this amendment and then we can do another amendment if you so wish. It gets too complicated and too confusing when you try to amend an amendment. As I said in my rules, we deal with one amendment at a time.

Slottje: Okay, thank you.

Moderator: On the amendment adding in 2,374,367. Yes, Ma'am.

Fabiana Fickett, 13 Tamrack Street: I speak in favor of the amendment. Year after year we stand here and we listen to the directions of an ill-informed Budget Committee. Against town input they continue to make -

Voter: Point of Order

Moderator: Please, direct your questions to the moderator. Do not disrespect anyone in this room.

Fickett: Fine...Education needs to be supported in this town. We need a better education system. We need choices for high school students who love trades who are a dying ... we need support for the kids who lost years of instruction and are currently struggling. We need support for teachers who continue to work with students with socio-emotional needs, as well as the behavioral challenges, with a ratio of 1:24. We need teachers to be compensated for their time so we don't lose the 22% which is roughly one of every four staff. Teachers are working for \$40,000 or less. This is ludicrous. The District needs money to make that all happen. This is part of the budget...We need the fund balance...

Moderator: Any discussion to add the 2,374,367. Mrs. Lamothe.

Lamothe: I am in favor of the amendment to restore the budget...The speaker before me made many excellent points about the risk of cutting it. I wanted to point out one other item. It's mentioned often that the fund balance is so large and I do recall in the first year of the pandemic, the Fall of 2020, when the new approach to the school system, how we were going to educate the children before ESSER grants came through. The fund balance actually got so low the school system had to freeze the budget. There is a risk if you don't have sufficient budget in place and you have to freeze it. That's a severe situation. So having a 1-2% fund balance of the budget is frugal and makes sense, And that is around \$600,000-1.1 million dollars. And to have a budget that is so much lower is just not prudent and not good for the School District.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion. Okay, Mr. Martin moves to cut off debate. Seconded by Mr. Murray. We have had sufficient positive and negative comments on the amendment. This is to cut off debate on that amendment. Then we will vote on that amendment.

**MOTION: TO CUT OFF DEBATE**

**MADE BY: NORMAN MARTIN; SECONDED BY: SHAWN MURRAY**

If you are in favor of cutting off debate on the amendment, please raise your voter card. Thank you. If you are opposed, please raise your card.

**THE "AYES" HAVE IT. THE MOTION IS MOVED.**

We are now going to vote on Amendment #1. Is to add #2,374,367 to the Operating Budget. If you are in favor of adding that amount, please raise your voter cards. Thank you. Those opposed.

**THE "AYES" HAVE IT. ARTICLE 2 IS NOW AMENDED.**

**Warrant Article #2 is now at \$63,392,486. To discuss Warrant Article #2 as amended [in red].** Mrs. Huard was up first. Then, Mr. Murray.

Shall the Hudson 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 the vote at the first session for the purposes set forth therein, totaling **\$63,392,486**? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget will be \$63,748,201 which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Hudson School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting under RSA 40:13-X and XVI to take up a revised operating budget only.

Huard: I'd like to piggyback on the Strategic Plan...Excellence in education should include the integrity of the Administration and the teachers. I don't see excellence in this room today -

Multiple voters: Point of Order

Moderator: There's no need for a Point of Order, unless you have a question. Direct your comments to the budget, the Operating Budget.

Huard: We keep seeing the need, the false narrative for an increase. We keep having money left over. Once again we hear the false narrative here today...If you had schools achieving excellence, you would not need this -

Multiple voters: Point of Order

Moderator: (gavel banging) Everyone in order, please, Do not do this. Everyone's opinion is respected here. If you want yours respected then respect everyone else's. I'm going to insist on that. You may not like what people say, as long as they are not directing towards you or an individual. We are going to talk about the budget. Please, be in-order.

Huard: Excellence does not cost a lot of money. Mediocrity does. Mediocrity leaves room for error and creates the need to spend more money than you need to on clean-up, putting out fires. Truly want to see a School District that exemplifies education. I suggest that the Administration starts looking at it selves and what it's turning out for a budget. Thank you.

Moderator: Mr. Murray, to speak on Warrant Article #2 as amended.

Shawn Murray, 55 Canon Road: I rise in opposition to the budget which was reflected in our vote, but I want to clarify a few things. Ladies and Gentlemen, your Budget Committee are taxpayers also. I fully agree with the School Board Chairman's explanation of the School Budget process. It takes us months to go through hundreds and hundreds of pages. When the School turn it over to us it is the Budget Committee's budget. There's a lot of moving parts to the budget. It's not only about taxpayer funds to fund it. There are grants that play into it. There's a lot of federal money. I'm going to quickly talk about a couple of the grants that come through and some of the money that the School District spends...there are pieces of those grants budgeted in the budget...to save money we try not to have that duplicate. They have ESSER Grants, ESSER 2. They had 1.86 million dollars budgeted at 1.7, purchased things like additional software, indirect administrative costs, Summer Scholars, staff materials (interrupted)-

Moderator: Please, be in order. We are talking about the budget and the line items.

Murray (continues): transportation and food services that grants help pay over one-million dollars for those programs. Teaching assistants 109 million, instructional coaches. I could go on and on. All those are grant money available to the School District and we try to find that balance...We look at the money and try to slow the rising tax rate. Despite what people think, the Budget Committee has a great relationship with the School District. We do run them through the wringer as Miss Burk will tell you. But they are always straight forward and we do discuss the differences. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you, Yes, Sir. Warrant Article #2 as amended.

Bob Guessferd, 39 Flying Rock Road: I just had a clarification. Directed toward the presentation made earlier about the fund balances...from the Budget Committee member that spoke earlier. FY 2016 and 2015, the numbers...there appears to be a \$200,000 difference between what the School board presented and what was on that slide. Just trying to figure out which number is correct...may a typo or something

Moderator: Mr. Weissgarber of the Budget Committee. If Mr. Weissgarber would yield.

Weissgarber, (21 Flying Rock Road): This Table was provided by SAU81

Guessferd: Just want a clarification. Does anyone know.

Moderator: They're taking a look now. Does anyone have an explanation why the numbers are different. We do not. They have to look into it. They really aren't going to give you an answer today.

Moderator: Yes, further discussion.

Mary Joy Gasdia: In regards to the operating budget I rise in support of this amended operating budget with the money put back in. I appreciate the time both Boards have put into coming forth and giving the budget. I love that explanation today. I wish everybody had true understanding so that we all can understand so the taxpayers can... I appreciate Mr. Gasdia explanation, Mr. Murray's kind words about the School Board today...I know the Boards work together because I have first hand knowledge...I just to say as a taxpayer I support this amended amount as opposed to what you [Budget Committee] recommended because I do watch the Budget Committee meetings...when it comes down to the final number, these people [School Board] are in it everyday. They know what it costs ...It was clear a few meetings ago that some of your members don't understand some of these roles...like when you talk about a paraprofessional and somebody says they clap erasers. It's 2023, so to me that's very



offensive and to the paraprofessionals that do more than that. I can't take a recommendation on the cuts in the Budget if you don't fully understand what these people of whom we are paying the salaries do. Going forward ask what these people do to pay them that amount... then come back with a real reason as to why..not fair to make a cut...based on what paraprofessional did in 1943 when half of us weren't born...I appreciate the School Board sticking to the 2023 matrix of what people do in providing that to us.

I also as a parent want to speak to the term of academic excellence. It is part of the operating budget that supports the School District. Academic excellence is something that Hudson is awesome at. I have three kids that are perfect examples of that. And Ill tell I don't have to vote for a renovation in order to recommend this School District to anybody. Look at students who have graduated ahead of their fourth year in college...awesome education at all five schools in Hudson. Our School District is phenomenal...We have academic excellence in our School District for sure and our students are a walking reminder of that everyday.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion. Mr. Truesdale.

Truesdale: Can we put up the chart where the Superintendent showed the turnover rate of teachers. Please

Moderator: Give us a second. 22%.

Truesdale: Okay, so we have a 22% turnover with our teachers. To me it's an extremely high number. It's another reason why I support this budget it's because money that we spend can go to retainment...The more we invest in our schools the better it is going to perform...When you can come up to us and talk about what you deliver I have no problem putting this increase into this budget amount.

Moderator: Thank you. Mr. Weissgarber.

Weissgarber: Couple things, one is in regards to the FY23 fund balance, I believe that was projected from the first quarter of the fiscal year, end of November into December. So SAU81 knew that they would be projecting a 3.3 million dollar fund balance before the end of the second quarter. I think there needs to be a conversation now related to this warrant article about we potentially fund projects and where moneys come from. But that's for a later date. There are ways to do it and I think SAU81 has taken a step in that direction with other warrant article relating to taking from the fund balance. My average reduction was understanding that there's should be some kind of end of year fund balance....there's an historical precedence that from the Budget Committee perspective, it's very large. And that's all I have. Thanks

Moderator: Mrs. Huard for a second time.

Huard: What's done is done and it can't be undone by this body that clearly does not represent the wide, vast democratic ...

Moderator: Please, speak to the amendment.

Huard: I want to clarify two comments that were made by previous speakers. One of the previous speakers said that the funds had to be frozen during the year because they were afraid that they weren't going to have enough money...despite they froze money there was money left for the year to spend money on a project. So there's a disparity there. The other point I'd like to clarify is the comment made by the previous speaker on my comment about academic excellence. Academic excellence has a numerical connotation in the School District.

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I support the School District for their ability to provide academic excellence for a certain number of students. My son graduated with academic excellence. My comment was directed towards the Administration who is putting forth this, creating drama, a false narrative, making you believe it is harmful when it is not. In my line of work when you present false and exaggerated statements to induce a body, an individual into making certain action, there's a certain word for it and that is fraud. Thank you.

Moderator: Yes, Sir.

Bob Everett, Derry Road: I was just wondering what's the new estimated tax rate would be with the amendment and why this one has parenthesis [Estimated tax rate impact: (\$.24)]. Because to me that would mean you're getting 24 cents back...Thank you.

Moderator: (recognizes Budget Chairman Trost and Superintendent Moulis)

Trost: It would have been a reduction in the tax rate versus the previous fiscal year.

Moulis: Miss Burk just told me it would be a 27-cent increase.

Moderator: Further discussion.

Allan: Do you happen to know what the turnover rate is the surrounding towns where they pay there teachers more.

Moderator: Question of the Board. Do we have any information on the turnover rate in surrounding towns. Miss Burk will yield.

Burk: Approximately 10-12 % turnover rate.

Allan: To our 22%

Burk: Right

Moderator: I will recognize...

Smalley: I certainly stand here in support of the updated budget, but I would like to make a motion to move the question.

Moderator: I'm not going to take that because you spoke first. That has to be out by itself. You can't make a statement and then try to cut off debate. That doesn't work either. Yes, Sir.

Ed Jonson, 16 Hawkview Road: An enrollment study was mentioned earlier and I've heard no other comment. I'd like to know what the trends are, students, what the numbers are, and what your forecast is.

Moderator: Mr. Jonson has a question on the enrollment rate.

Moulis: So I'm going to speak to globally, but on our website there is the enrollment study that was done by NESDEC. In 5-6 years there will be a decrease in enrollment. It's an annual projection...by 2030 there will be an increase, an uptick, again in enrollment over the 10+ years, there will be an increase of 299 students. But I want to be clear those first 5-6 years it will decrease before it increases. The specific detail to your question, I would reference you to our website [[SAU81.org](http://SAU81.org)] where we have the comprehensive study presented at one of our School Board meetings this Fall.

Moderator: Thank you. Yes, Ma'am

Karen Emerson, 3 Sousa Boulevard: I rise in support of this amended operating budget. I feel that both Boards did an excellent job. I watched all the meetings and I feel everybody did due diligence. I think supporting the teachers is definitely a correlation to care about students. If we are just spending money onboarding new teachers a lot of time, that's money we are taking away from the educational caring of students. And I feel like that's a big number. And all of the transparency of pushing all the others to warrant articles rather than trying to spend out of end of the year fund balance, I think that is really transparent. There're big efforts on both parts and with that I would support this.

Moderator: Thank you. Miss Leary, go first, Then Mr. Peterson.

Kathy Leary, 8 Par Lane: I'm a member of the Budget Committee. I just want to make a comment. My second year on the Budget Committee I kind of learned a lot. One of the things I learned. Regardless of how you feel the Budget Committee voted...found interesting...did not know that one of the concerns with the large year end budget balances is [referring to Member Weissgarber's prepared handout] the transfers from one line item to another...People need to know that a lot of those transfers are coming out of that year end fund are things that may not have been in the original budget that you all voted on... Leary continued to express concern that taxpayers are not aware of spendings on what wasn't voted, not in the voted-on budget.

Moderator: Mr. Peterson.

Jeff Peterson, 32 Quail Run Drive: I make a motion to end debate, to call the question on Warrant Article 2.

Moderator: Mr. Peterson moves the question. Is there a second. Your name. Jessica Mackey seconds. This is to cut off the debate on Warrant Article #2 at which case it will go to the ballot.

**MOTION: TO CUT OFF DEBATE ON WARRANT ARTICLE #2  
MADE BY: JEFF PETERSON; SECONDED BY: JESSICA MACKEY**

Mr. Cole: Point of Order "on way they did it"

Moderator(dismissing Point of Order): If you are in favor of cutting off debate on Warrant Article #2, please raise your voter cards. Thank you. Those opposed to cutting off debate. Thank you

**MOTION PASSES**

**The discussion on Warrant Article 2 is closed and it moves to the ballot as amended.**

Mrs. Lamothe makes a motion to restrict reconsideration. Is there a second. Mr. Guiffreda. Motion made and seconded so it can not be brought up again.

**MOTION: TO RESTRICT RECONSIDERATION OF WARRANT ARTICLE #2  
MADE BY: DIANA LAMOTHE; SECONDED BY: ALFRED GIUFREDDA**

If you are in favor of restricting reconsideration, please raise your voter cards. Thank you. Those opposed.

**THE "AYES" HAVE IT. WARRANT ARTICLE #2 IS RESTRICTED.**

**Moderator's reading of Warrant Article 3 [SLIDE]**

**WARRANT ARTICLE 3 - Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Hudson School Board and the Hudson Federation of Teachers**

Shall the Hudson School District vote to approve the cost items in the collective bargaining agreement between the Hudson Federation of Teachers, Local 2263 AFT-NH, AFL-CIO and the Hudson School Board which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year:

2023-2024	\$1,897,268
2024-2025	\$1,252,413

and to further raise and appropriate \$1,897,268 for the upcoming fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement that would be paid at current staffing levels.

Estimated tax rate impact: \$.40

Recommended by the Hudson School Board 5-0  
Recommended by the Budget Committee 10-0

**Moderator: (continuing) **I'll recognize School Board Member Campbell to present Warrant Article 3.****

Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. Thank you, everyone, for coming out. This is a two-year agreement negotiated by the School Board in good faith that will have a total cost increase of \$3,149, 681 for two years. Tax impact in the first year is estimated to be 40 cents [slide presentation initiated]. First slide shows the salary that a first time teacher who comes to Hudson with a Bachelor's Degree and no experience... \$39,000 under the current contract... other area Districts average \$41,000-\$46,000. The contract that is proposed for next year would provide a starting salary at first year teacher of \$43,000...makes Hudson more competitive for salaries for new hires and encourages retention of current staffing. Cambell continued with slide: *Teacher Salary Schedule* that listed comparisons for FY23 top step [Masters +30 credits} at \$73, 250 and FY24 at \$79,750 and surrounding towns at \$82,319-\$90,000. Following slides included a detailed information on the new contract's affected employees, salaries, specific actions, initiatives and additional monetary benefits.

Cambell stressed that the new contract and its new programs incentivizes staff for achievement and professional growth that will enrich the teaching experience and to make contributions to the District programs...These numbers might be a little higher than you've seen in previous contracts, this is a great first step to supporting our teachers, attracting other teachers, for our District. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. **We will now open Warrant Article #3 to questions, comments, amendments.** Does anyone wish to speak on Warrant Article #3 the Hudson Federation of Teachers contract. mrs. Huard.

Huard: I fully support the teachers in the School District. But I'd like to see along with the contract's increase in their salaries, accountability for the grades...and the small portion of academic excellence. I mean no disrespect to the teachers when I talk about the contract. I

fully support the teachers. Thank you

Moderator: Further discussion on Warrant Article #3. Yes, Ma'am.

Langlais: I rise to support the article. You're all wonderful. You all do a great job. I only wish we could give more because you deserve so much more than you get. So keep up the good work. Thank you.

Moderator: Further discussion Warrant Article #3. Yes, Ma'am

Lamothe: I also rise in support of Warrant Article #3. The Hudson School District has amazing faculty and staff and it is nice to see them receive more in wages. We want to be retain our current staff and we want to be able to attract more staff that will stay on for a long time. The success that comes out of the schools is the result of the teachers is not just based on G.P.A. ...Some students who work hard and do their school work and they have other lessons that they learn because of highly-qualified teachers...they graduate with high success.

Moderator: Thank you. Anyone else wish to address Warrant Article #3. Yes, Sir

Peter Lanzillo, 12 Blackstone Street: I was just wondering if the School or someone on the Budget Committee can answer if there are any bonuses from last year to this year going on top of the teacher's salary..just for information.

Moderator: Question for the Board, either one. Bonuses this year or next year.

Gasdia: Just to clarity, last year there was a new retention bonus, but that's already been paid and that's not going to affect here. There are no bonuses per se. One of the things Mr. Campbell talked about was there will be a teacher grant starting in year two... But no significant teacher bonus.

Moderator: Yes, Sir, Mr. Jonson.

Jonson: You mentioned the staffing levels, I was just wondering what you're using for your forecast...staffing levels to what you actually have on-board...what staffing levels are you talking about.

Moderator: Question of the Board on staffing levels. Superintendent will yield.

Moullis: So the website that we have is currently showing we have 35 openings that includes not only teaching positions but athletics positions, paraprofessionals. Total we are trying to fill Approximately 54 positions to get our staffing levels to where they need to be. Hope that answers your question, sir.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion on Warrant Article #3. Seeing done. **We will close the discussion on Warrant Article 3 and it moves to the ballot.**

**Moderator's reading of Warrant Article 4 [SLIDE]**

**WARRANT ARTICLE 4**  
**Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Hudson School Board and the Teamsters**

Shall the Hudson School District vote to approve the cost items in the collective bargaining agreement between the Teamsters Local No. 633 of NH for the Hudson School District Custodians, Electricians, HVAC Technicians and Maintenance Staff and the Hudson School Board which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year:

2023-24	\$116,106
2024-25	\$66,435
2025-26	\$74,970

and to further raise and appropriate \$116,106 for the upcoming fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement that would be paid at current staffing levels.

Estimated tax rate impact: \$.02

Recommended by the Hudson School Board 5-0  
Recommended by the Budget Committee 10-0

**Moderator:** (continuing) **I'll recognize Mr. Beals of the School Board to present Warrant Article 4.**

**Beals:** Thank you, Mr. Moderator. This is a three-year agreement negotiated by the School Board in good faith [Slide presentation initiated]. of a total cost increase of \$257,511 over three years. Tax rate impact for the first year is estimated to be two cents [slide presentation]. That covers 37 total employees, combination of full and part time...In the first year of this agreement there is a 4% wage increase, a 3% wage increase in years two and three. Beals went on to note changes like to earned vacation time, health insurance contribution increased by 1%, from 9 to 10%, in the first year, sick day buyout, reimbursement of safety wear. Thank you.

**Moderator:** Thank you. **We will now open up Warrant Article 4 for questions, comments, amendments.** Does anyone wish to discuss an amendment for Article #4. Seeing none. **I'll close the discussion on Warrant Article 4 and it goes to the ballot.**

**Moderator's reading of Warrant Article 5 [SLIDE]**

**WARRANT ARTICLE 5 - Roof Replacement at Library Street Elementary School**

Shall the Hudson School District vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$400,000 to replace the roof at Library Street Elementary School?

Estimated tax impact: \$.08

Recommended by the Hudson School Board 5-0  
Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-2

**Moderator:** (continuing) **I'll recognize Chairman Gasdia to present Warrant Article #5.**

**Gasdia:** [accompanying pictorial slides] Thanks, Mr. Moderator. So the portion of the roof to be replaced is shaded in red, the entire roof. It is a membrane roof that runs over the entire roof costing \$7,029,00. There are two levels of the roof to be replaced over the classrooms and the hallways, area over the gym and cafeteria. The current roof shows extensive signs of wear and is beyond its serviceable life. It frequently leaks and requires extensive maintenance with

temporary patches. The warranty for the membrane roof expired in 2016. This warrant article is for a fully white membrane roof with 20 years labor and warranty. Roof drains and insulation will be repaired or replaced as needed.

Moderator: Thank you. **We will now open Warrant Article #5 to replace the roof at Library Street School.** Questions, comments, amendments. Yes, Mr. Martin.

Martin: Mr. Moderator, thank you. I rise to make an amendment to this warrant article. After the question, I move to add "this sum is to come from the June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1 with no amount to be raised by additional taxation".

Moderator: Okay. Mr. Martin makes a motion, seconded by Mr. Murray.

**MOTION: TO ADD " THIS SUM IS TO COME FROM THE JUNE 30 FUND BALANCE AVAILABLE FOR TRANSFER ON JULY 1 WITH NO AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY ADDITIONAL TAXATION"**

**MADE BY: NORMAN MARTIN; SECONDED BY: SHAWN MURRAY**

Murray: Can we say this is a special warrant article

Moderator: We have our District's attorney here and she says not necessary... Miss Gorrow our School District's Attorney.

Attorney Gorrow: Special warrant articles by definition and law are special warrant articles because they come from certain funds or they are petition warrant articles. Other separate warrant articles that don't come within the statutory definition, it's the School Board that determines whether they are going to become special warrant articles, not the Budget Committee.

Moderator: Thank you. We have an Amendment to add the words, and if you look at the other articles down the line, we are going to add these words to it "the sum to come from the June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1 with no amount to be raised by additional taxation". We ready, We are going to take that amendment. Anyone want to address that amendment. Mr. Martin, no. Mr. Murray, to address your amendment. No. Okay. Does anyone wish to address the amendment #1 to add the words "from fund balance". Yes, Miss Lamothe.

Lamothe: I speak in opposition to the amendment. These warrant articles to replace roofs over various schools have been on the ballot for several years now. It's been the process of the School District's consistently followed. And they are reaching the end of roof replacement warrant articles, I believe maybe two more years for two more schools that need roof repairs. And it will go away for awhile where roofs take time before they deteriorate again and then we'll see more warrant articles in the future. For the sake of consistency with prior warrant articles in the plan for the future I oppose the amendment.

Moderator: Thank you. Mr. Murray. Then Mrs. Huard.

Murray: I was actually getting up to make the same amendment. We the taxpayers have heard a lot about the unexpended fund balance. Those are money that we the taxpayer has already paid, We are looking at a projected 3+ million this year in unexpended funds. I see no reason why we should not take this 400,000 from that. And as little as eight cents tax impact, something, we can grab something. So I ask support on this.

Moderator: Mrs. Huard

Huard: I was wondering if the attorney here today could actually my confusion. But these warrant articles are in addition to the operating budget. So by passing to the fund balance would and showing that we are expecting a fund balance. It's a precedence to over budget and have money set aside for wether you're doing it this way or in the budget. So if the attorney can explain how that they can actually knowingly overstate their operating budget when ... these expenditures should be for one fiscal year...pushing it over to another year. You probably don't see it because you are paid by the school.

Moderator: Is there anything the District's attorney would particular response to that. She doesn't have to yield. Further discussion. Mr. Gasdia will yield...to address the amendment.

Gary Gasdia, 4 McCann Road: (as a citizen)Im in support of this.I think that we know that we will have a fund balance at the end of the year for all the reasons we talked about. We have 54 positions open. Everyday that goes ups the fund balance. The thing is that's not bad budgeting, It's not all the words that have been thrown around today, it's just reality, I am in favor of that. The thing I want to make sure that everybody understands. The way the fund balance is going to be allocated at the end of the year will be based upon the order in which the warrant articles are there. So I think it's fair to say that you know we were projecting three million. Are we going to have the money for the roof. That's probably 99% clear that we will. However, if the fund balance were to come in what would start not to get paid are the ones at the very bottom. Again based on where we are unfortunately people are not knocking on our door to fill all these positions, I'm fairly confident we will have a fund balance that will cover everything, Just the risk to this is if we don't have the money what would drop would then be warrant article 10 or maybe 9 or maybe 8 or maybe 7. But I am fully in support of this and I appreciate the amendment.

Moderator: Further discussion on the amendment. Mrs. Lamothe for a second time.

Lamothe: I agree with the previous speaker. To his point it is important to highlight if the fund balance is not sufficient some of these warrant articles will not be funded. I also wanted t pint out and it's hard to explain without having a visual for everyone. The net result on the tax rate is zero whether you have it coming from the end of the year fund balance or you raise and appropriate money. It's the same impact. I don't know if I can clarify that in this regard but hopefully it makes sense.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion. Mr. Clegg.

Clegg: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. I agree with the School Board Chair but I'd like to say that if for some reason we didn't have that amount of money and it's an emergency there's a provision in there for Maintenance. We would have money for that roof....In doing this we start to take back some of the tax dollars that end of floating around. And we do it to protect the buildings and we do it in a way that actually doesn't cost us anything as she [Lamothe] said. But remember I'm one of those people that says if you have money left over send it back and let us start from zero. We've got money coming back, let's stat with this roof. Thank you.

Moderator: Further discussion, Mrs, Huard for a second time.

Huard: I just want to clarify the terminology tax impact. While that is a legal terminology allowed to be put into this warrant, that simply means no tax impact for the year voting on... in the prior year your taxes were overstated so you could have a fund balance. Thank you.



Moderator: yes, Sir, Mr. Trost.

Trost: So I've added up the total of these warrant articles coming from the June 30 fund balance if they all pass. As they are currently stated. \$863,550. That's less than one-third of the Administration's expectation of the projected dollars roughly at the end of the year. I personally am confident that that money will be there and cover all of these warrant articles if they pass as they are now.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion on the amendment to add the words "sum to come from the June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1 with no amount to be raised by additional taxation" You ready for that amendment. If you are in favor of the amendment, please raise your voter card. Thank you. Those opposed to the amendment, please raise your card.

**THE "AYES" HAVE IT. THE AMENDMENT PASSES.**

[Warrant Article 5 as amended]

**WARRANT ARTICLE 5 -Roof Replacement at Library Street Elementary School**

Shall the Hudson School District vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$400,000 to replace the roof at Library Street Elementary School? The sum to come from the June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1 with no amount to be raised by additional taxation.

[Estimated tax rate impact: \$.00]

**We are now on Article 5 as amended.** Anyone else wish to address Article 5 as amended. Seeing none. **We will close discussion on Article 5 as amended and it will go to the ballot.**

**Moderator's reading of Warrant Article 6** [SLIDE]

**WARRANT ARTICLE 6 - SCIENCE LABS AT HUDSON MEMORIAL SCHOOL**

Shall the Hudson School District vote to raise and appropriate a sum of up to \$200,000 to upgrade two Science Classrooms/Labs at Hudson Memorial School? This sum is to come from the June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July1 with no amount to be raised by additional taxation. This is a special warrant article.

Estimated tax rate impact: \$.00

Recommended by the Hudson School District 5-0  
Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-1

Moderator: (continuing) **I'll now recognize School Board Member Dionne to present Warrant Article 6.**

Dionne: Thank you. [accompanying slides] There are eight total science labs at Hudson Memorial School. Some of these labs date back to the original building from the 1960's while others are part of an update of the 1980's. The long term goal is to update all eight of those labs at two per year over a period of four years. The reason for updating two per year is for cost considerations and to be sure the work can be completed during the summer. This warrant article addresses the first two of those labs. There will be a number of updates as part of this renovation. Dionne listed these updates as presented on slide. Dionne referenced slides which were photos of the current state of the two classrooms/labs located in rooms 106 and 201 at

Hudson Memorial School. Dionne closed her presentation by listing the updates that will be made to rooms 106 and 201, which included ADA compliance features. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. **Let's open Warrant Article 6 the science labs at Memorial School to questions, comments, amendments. Mrs. Huard.**

Huard: I'd like to once again talk about the estimated tax impact and expand on that. As I said about the previous warrant article, there will be no tax impact in the current year. But this is taken from the 2023 fund balance. Let me remind you all that we have not actually been billed yet as taxpayers for that year...If these warrant articles did not come out of the fund balance that money would actually come back to the taxpayer and offset the tax rate in a future year. So while it is again a legal wording, it is deceptive to the taxpayer. Because it is undoubtedly a tax effect...So again this is deceptive wording to deceive the taxpayer into believing that they will pay nothing if they vote for this. Thank you.

Moderator: Additional discussion. Yes, Miss Lamothe.

Lamothe: I'd like to comment on the previous speaker's comment. The way the warrant articles are worded and the tax rate impact that is presented in the warrant article is what is mandated by law.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion. Mr. Weissgarber.

Weissgarber: So having toured the high[middle] school I went through the science labs. I support this warrant article. Saw the condition of the labs. They're very dated. I think they need to be updated. To me the science aspect of academics is very important. I do think that they need to be renovated. So I'm for the warrant article.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion Warrant Article 6. Mrs. Huard for a second time.

Huard: With all due respect to the previous speaker while it is a legal requirement you have left that out in your explanation. No where has anyone explained to the public the other uses of that general fund balance. So you have left it out there. I don't care if it's legal wording or not. You left that out there to make the taxpayers believe there is a zero impact to our taxes. It does impact our taxes in the ways that I described. Thank you.

Moderator: Further discussion. Yes, Ma'am.

Suellen Seabury, 50 Pelham Road: Good morning, Mr. Moderator. I would just like to just, one of the members of the Budget Committee voted in opposition of this and I don't know if they would like to speak and kind of explain why they did that.

Moderator: Question of the Budget Committee if you wish to yield. Seeing no one. Yes, Sir.

Waish: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. I just have first of all a question regarding the two science labs. My understanding is that these labs are original to the building. They were not renovated when the school was renovated 2001, 2002. Is that correct.

Moderator: Question of the Board. Do you wish to yield to that. Dr. Moulis will yield.

Superintendent, Dr. Moulis: In answering your question, Mr. Walsh. These would be the labs

not from the 2002 addition renovation that was done. This would go back to the science labs that were built initially in either the 1960's or the 1980's. And as was mentioned we are going about two science labs er year, so it would be either the initial section of the building from the 1960's or the 1980's. And going through that process would take a four year time.

Walsh: And I have a question regarding unassigned fund balance. The fund balance is estimated to be three million dollars. Does the School Board also vote to retain some of that as we the legislative body allow them to retain up to 2 1/2%. Is that going to be part of this or is that already been set aside in a special fund. Or is that part of this discussion that you will have at the end of the year.

Moderator: Question for the School Board. If the Chairman will yield.

School Board Chairman Gasdia: So up to the past couple of years we have put money into that fund. What can go into that fund is as a percentage. So as inflation moves that number could move. And if that's the case we could have that discussion at the end of the year. But primarily for a fully funded standpoint we are fully funded with that unless there's a change there's no discussion this year. We have already put money into that fund as allowed by the voters a couple years ago.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion. Mr. Walsh.

Walsh: Sorry, Mr. Moderator. One last question. The RSA that authorized the School Board to retain a percentage changed. My understanding is now that could go to 5%. Does that have to come before the voters as a new warrant article at some point to change that authorization.

Moderator: The Chairman will yield.

Gasdia: Yes. It would have to come as a warrant article. In fact at one of our initial School Board meetings that was one of the ones we could have considered. For this year we just felt this wasn't the year to do it. It may be done, but this year was no the year to bring that forward.

Walsh: Thank you.

Moderator: Further discussion on Warrant Article 6. Science labs at Memorial. Seeing none. **I'll close the discussion on Warrant Article 6 and it moves to the ballot.**

**Moderator's reading of Warrant Article 7** [SLIDE]

**WARRANT ARTICLE 7 - Band Uniforms for Alvirne High School Marching Band**

Shall the Hudson School District vote to raise and appropriate a sum of up to \$56,200 to replace 125 Band Uniforms for the Alvirne High School Marching Band? This sum is to come from the June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1 with no amount to be raised by additional taxation. This is a special warrant article.

Estimated tax rate impact: \$.00

Recommended by the Hudson School Board 5-0  
Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-1

**Moderator:** (continuing) **I'll recognize School Board Member Whiting to present Warrant Article 7.**

**Whiting:** (accompanying slides) Good Afternoon. So the initial request from the high school was part of the Superintendent's budget as presented to the School Board on October 20 of 2022 had a line item for \$44,960 to purchase 100 marching band uniforms. The plan over the next five years of the budgeting process would have been to purchase an additional five uniforms per year until they have a total of 125 uniforms available for students. The School Board removed this line item from the budget planning to bring it forward to the voters as a separate warrant article to purchase all 125 uniforms at the same time. The advantage...all uniforms will match in style and in color and not risk any changes to the dye lot and other issues that could arise from purchasing these separately over a total of six years. Whiting displayed slide picturing images of the current uniform purchased in 1998, 25 years old, along with the new uniform with updated style and color changes. Thank you.

**Moderator:** **We will now open Warrant Article 7 band uniforms for Alvirne High School Marching Band to questions, comments, amendments.** Yes. Sir, Mr. Martin.

**Norman Martin, 3 Edgar Court:** Thank you, Mr. Moderator. This is imperative. These students go out there and march in parades. I've been there in back as a parent. I've seen students pass out in these uniforms. These uniforms are really really really old they could probably vote. So I think it's time for a change in new uniforms. Let us fund this...It's an extra-curricular activity that they do. They do a good job at the football games, they do the parades. It's enjoyable for the students that participate in it. And I fully support it. Thank you.

**Moderator:** Further discussion. Mrs. Huard.

**Huard:** Thank you to Mr. Martin for that description of the new uniforms. I didn't realize it would allow them to stay cooler. Again I'm not going to say whether I support the article one way or the other. I did want to make sure that the taxpayers that are watching understand that the estimated tax impact of zero is again a deceptive wording, legal but deceptive. Because once again there are two ways that this warrant article does in fact affect your tax rate. It affects your 2023 tax rate which we have not yet been billed because they're obviously over billed you in order to have this fund balance left they. And it also affects your 2024 tax rate because if this money was not spent on this warrant article then it would be available to offset your 2024 tax rate. So out of fairness I want the taxpayers to fully understand there is actually a tax rate impact. I know the wording says no additional raised by additional taxation. But there is a tax impact on both sides this year. Thank you.

**Moderator:** Thank you. Yes, Sir.

**Xavier Santana, 227 Fox Hollow Drive:** I do rise to speak in favor of this warrant article. As a former member of the Alvirne Marching Band for four years I did march in those 25 year old uniforms. They are hot. They are old. They are decaying. In many case I had to go through a few different uniforms because they were just falling apart. It is time for new uniforms. These marching uniforms were given in 1996 when Mr. Bastian first brought in the Marching Band program. It's time for new ones...There're cooler, quite frankly better looking...than the old 1990's ones.

**Moderator:** Thank you. Further discussion. Mr. Murray moves the questions, moves to cut off debate. Seconded by Mr. Clegg. Motion made and seconded to cut off debate on Warrant

Article #7.

**MOTION: TO CUT OFF DEBATE ON WARRANT ARTICLE 7  
MADE BY: SHAWN MURRAY; SECONDED BY: ROBERT CLEGG**

If you are in favor of cutting off debate and not debating this anymore please raise your voter cards. Thank you. Those opposed. Thank you.

**THE "AYES" HAVE IT.**

**Warrant Article 7 is moved and it will go to the ballot.** Thank you.

**Moderator's reading of Warrant Article 8 [SLIDE]**

**WARRANT ARTICLE 8 - Music Instruments at Alvirne High School**

Shall the Hudson School District vote to raise and appropriate a sum of up to \$27,350 to purchase musical instruments for Alvirne High School? The sum is to come from the June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1 with no amount to be raised by additional taxation. This is a special warrant article.

Estimated tax rate impact: \$.00

Recommended by the Hudson School Board 5-0  
Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-1

Moderator: (continuing) **I'll recognize School Board member Whiting to present Warrant Article 8.**

Whiting: (accompanying slides) Good Afternoon. The initial request from the high school and the Superintendent budget presented to the School Board was on October 20, 2022. It was for a five-year lease purchase of musical instruments. First year payment for this would have been \$7,131. The School Board decided to remove this line item from the budget and instead present this to the voters as a warrant article to purchase these instruments directly. The total cost over the fives for the lease purchases would have been over \$35,000. But a direct one-time purchase would be \$27,350 saving us approximately \$8,000. Purchase coming from the year end balance available on July1. Whiting continued with two more slides of images of musical instruments to be purchased. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. **We will now open Warrant Article 8 musical Instruments for Alvirne High School to questions, comments, amendments.** Mrs. Huard.

Huard: First I have a question. Are these instruments given to the students or rented to the students.

Moderator: Question. Miss Whiting will yield.

Whiting: They will be under the ownership of Alvirne High School Music Department. They will be used by the students. They are not rented. They are used through the Music Department.

Huard: I again want to clarify for the taxpayers the estimated tax rate impact is zero and this is legal wording but deceptive wording....

Moderator: Further discussion on Warrant Article #8. Yes, Sir.

Peter Lanzillo, 12 Blackstone Street: Mr. Moderator, for the viewing audience on Hudson Community TV as well as those here, could you please explain why this is considered a special warrant article....

Moderator: The question is on the definition of a special warrant article. Will our attorney....

Attorney Gorrow: This is not one of the articles that by law is defined as a special warrant article. The School Board has the authority to designate it as such. The legal impact of designating it as a special warrant article is use can not use the money for anything else. It has to be used for this particular appropriation.

Moderator: Thank you very much. That clears that up. Yes, Sir.

Robert Cooper, 16 Meadow Drive: I just want to comment on the ways the money is described. Yes, it is going to cost more money over time as opposed to buying it. But there is also a concept that time means money. So where is that money going to be most effective and have the greater impact. I certainly played band when I was in high school the jazz band, the show band, the concert band. Love bands and I certainly support this. I just wanted to let everyone know that that it is not simply the raw numbers that you have to consider when you are making your decisions whether or not you are going to support it. You have to determine if this is the right way to spend that money at that time. Thank you very much.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion. Mr. Guessferd.

Guessferd: A question came up just a few minutes ago about the leasing, revenue from students. I'm a musician and my kids were in the band when they were here. These instruments are very expensive instruments and to ask a family to fund those sorts of very unique instruments that help the instrumentation of the entire band. I just want to make sure if there was any question about That's why you're not getting money from the student's family. These instruments are incredibly, especially these up on the screen, these are very expensive instruments. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you very much. Further discussion. Warrant Article #8 musical instruments for Alvirne High School. Ms. Huard for a second time.

Huard: I have a question. Is Band a credit. A course that's taken for credit. Thank you.

Moderator: Question was asked and answered. [Yes.] Yes, Ma'am

Lamothe: I'm going to try and attempt to explain estimated tax rate impact of zero. When you take money from year end fund balance that's going to reduce the amount and that offsets the taxes in the next year. So basically we use it for revenue in the next year. If you raise and appropriate funds for an expenditure the amount that will be to offsetting the tax in the next year rate will be increased, because you're not taking that amount out of year end fund balance. However you do it...the final impact on the tax rate from that warrant article is zero.

Moderator: Thank you very much. Any further discussion on Warrant Article 8.

Huard: I think we are going to have an argument about estimated tax rate impact

Voter: Point of order

Moderator: Do you have a statement on Article 8

Huard: I disagree with the previous speaker because well it comes out of revenue it offsets the tax burden, the taxpayer's piece of revenue. So if you had money left over. if this fails this purchase isn't going to be made. So you won't see the expenditure anywhere. So then that money would go to the general fund balance and it would offset not taxation because of the appropriations, it will offset the tax burden part of your revenue. So your tax burden will be lower. Does that make anymore sense. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Mr. Martin moves the question. Mr. Guessferd seconds. To cut off discussion on Warrant Article 8 and it will move it to the ballot.

**MOTION: TO CUT OFF DEBATE ON WARRANT ARTICLE 8  
MADE BY: NORMAN MARTIN; SECONDED BY: ROBERT GUESSFERD**

If you are in favor of cutting off debate on Warrant Article 8 please raise your voter cards. Thank you. Those who oppose.

**THE "AYES" HAVE IT.**

The Article is moved. **Warrant Article 8 will go to the ballot.**

Moderator: Mr. Giuffreda wants to restrict reconsideration of Articles 3 through 8. Is there a second. Mr. Peterson.

**MOTION: TO RESTRICT RECONSIDERATION OF ARTICLES 3 THROUGH 8  
MADE BY: ALFRED GIUFFREDDA; SECONDED BY: JEFF PETERSON**

The motion has been made and seconded to restrict reconsideration of Articles 3 through 8 which means they would not be able to be brought up again at this meeting. If you are in favor of restricting Articles 3 through 8 please raise your voter cards. Thank you. Those opposed.

**THE "AYES" HAVE IT. ARTICLES 3 THROUGH 8 ARE RESTRICTED.**

Moderator: (continuing) Mr. Trost, what purpose do you rise.

Trost: Would it be in order to restrict any further discussion regarding the estimated tax impact on the articles. Is it, I believe dilatory. This body has no control over what is prescribed in state law.

Moderator: I don't think we can restrict someone from speaking ahead of time. Thank you.

Trost: We do it all the time.

Moderator: Yes, we limit debate, but we haven't even oped another article.

**Moderator's reading of Warrant Article 9 [SLIDE]**

**WARRANT ARTICLE 9 - Expand playground at Dr. H.O. Smith Elementary School.**

Shall the Hudson School District vote to raise and appropriate a sum of up to \$30,000 to expand the playground at Dr. H.O. Smith Elementary School? The sum is to come from the June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1 with no amount to be raised by additional taxation. This is a special warrant.

Estimated tax rate impact: \$.00

Recommended by the Hudson School Board 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-4

**Moderator:** (continuing) **I'll recognized School Board member Campbell to present Warrant Article 9.**

Campbell: (accompanying slides) Hello, again. Just in case you don't know Dr. H.O. Smith Elementary School, the first grade, and the Library Street School kindergarten share the same playground. So last year the voters approved a \$75,000 warrant article to add a playground behind Dr. H.O. Smith Elementary School. This project is expected to be in completion with the installation of the equipment in May 2023. Check your email. We will be looking for volunteers. The School Board reviewed the details of the bid in Spring of 2022 and requested some modifications to the plan to provide more accessibility for students both in the equipment being purchased along with the surfacing materials being used to insure the access for students who may use a wheel chair. And just so you know it was planned to be installed in November of last year. But due to supply chain issues the weather changing we didn't get the supplies in time and we couldn't place the surface material to set within the right time frame. But we do have the equipment now so it will be installed later. The Hudson School District is looking for some additional equipment to expand on that playground, Campbell displayed pictorial slides of the playground equipment and a mapping of the placement of equipment and surface materials. Diagrams included Phase 1 and the expansion which was labelled Phase 2. Campbell completed his presentation with a slide of a detailed timeline for this project. Thank you very much for your time.

Moderator: Thank you. **We will now open Article 9 expanded playground at Dr. H.O. Smith School to questions, comments, amendments.** Mrs.Huard

Huard: Im not going to go into my details about estimated tax rate. But I do have another comment on it. The School District is sharing a playground by choice. Because I'm very familiar with Dr. H.O. Smith's beautiful, wide open field. My son played on it as a There was a playground on it and it was removed. There's nothing more healthy than a wide open space of grass. We took that playground down and now we want a state of the art trendy current playground. Last year they asked for a certain sum obviously without a proper plan on place because now they're coming back to the taxpayer to increase it by \$30,000. And if you heard the speaker they are going to ask the community to volunteer free of charge to put that playground together. I'm sure the liberals in this community don't mind charity...that's a very large core value .. to take their free time and not get paid to help put together this playground. Thank you.

Moderator: Further discussion. Mr. Campbell.

Mike Campbell, Baltursol Drive: The previous speaker mentioned that we the District is asking the community to come out and help. If you were at last year's Deliberative Session which the



previous speaker was, multiple people commented that why are you using so much money to have professional people come in and build our playground when you have an amazing community around you to build it. So we used that money which I believe was close to \$30,000 to include the "liberal" ADA compliance and make it accessible for us "liberal" believers for all children to be able to use the playground.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion on Warrant Article #9. Yes, Ma'am.

Mary Joy Gasdia: There's nothing trendy about being ADA compliant and I think you can ask any one that has an issue that needs accessibility doesn't call themselves trendy. I'm in a wheel chair now and I'm loving that trend. For the prior speaker to say that it's absolutely a slam against anyone that has a disability that needs a service. I don't love the idea of paying for the expansion considering we don't even have a playground in yet. But I understand we are probably doing it all at the same time. That's where they're getting this \$30,000 cost, not higher. I was in attendance at the prior meetings where people did express how community involvement putting this playground together would save on the cost. I absolutely applaud and respect the School District for looking into ways to for this to be cost effective. I also appreciate that fact that you are considering accessibility. ADA is not something we can't just play around with. It is a requirement. You have to be compliant with things. So to have a playground with children many who have disabilities not being able to use that playground is absolutely horrible. To Have kids and not being able to get into a swing because they have issues whatever it is there medical issue as to why they can't get on..... we can clap back and say we didn't want it ADA accessible to call it trendy,...the importance of ADA compliance is not something that should be joked about or made I'll invite anyone who comes up in front of this body.

Moderator: Ms. Leary.

Leary: Just had a question. I think it's great we have community members to get involved and help to construct the playground. I'm assuming they're covered by the School Board's insurance if anybody gets hurt.

Moderator: Question of the Board about coverage if we have volunteers. Mr. Beals will yield.

Beals: I'm going to answer a couple of quick questions. One the School Board made a deliberate decision once we got our first price for the project -

Moderator: Answer the question first. Is there coverage for volunteers.

Beals: Yes. The company that supplies all the material risk oversees the volunteer build. And it will still be insured. Oversees all the build parts to be sure it is done properly.

Leary: If they are overseeing it. Does their insurance cover their injuries or the School District.

Moderator: Do you have that information at all. We have Mr. Pratte our head of maintenance. He will yield.

John Pratte, School Facilities Director: In a typical community playground build the company that's going to be coming in oversees the build itself. They actually gave us a waiver that volunteers would sign. As the people come in to assess their skill levels they would sign the

waiver say that they are not held accountable. I think that's it. We touched on the insurance after the fact.

Moderator: Thank you very much. On Warrant Article #9. Mr. Crowley.

James Crowley, 4 Fairway Drive: I'm for this article. I like the volunteer aspect of it. I always like to hear both sides of the argument. I'm kind of interested in the Budget Committee's vote 6-4. Why were they against it. I think I sort of heard it should have been caught the first time around. But maybe they're making the best better.

Moderator: Question to the Budget Committee members. If any of them wish to yield. Seeing none. Thank you., Mr. Crowley. Mr. Weissgarber.

Weissgarber: I guess my concern here is I'm assuming that the \$30,000 includes ADA addition. What if this fails. What's the contingency to complete the whole project now that it's \$105,000. Is this something that you use the retained fund balance for the ADA portion or from the unexpended fund balance. Thank you.

Moderator: Does anyone wish to address that question about the fund use if it fails. Mr. Beals will yield.

Beals: The proposed previous project is ADA compliant. That was one of the reasons for the modifications to the previously approved project. It's not that this project makes the whole thing ADA accessible. It's that this project creates additional ADA components to an existing ADA accessible playground.

Moderator: Thank you. Mrs. Huard.

Huard: With all due respect I meant no disparity towards ADA or Special Ed. I'm criticizing the School Board and the School District for planning and only that. Because I'm hearing the School Board member say that the previous plan included ADA compliant measures. Am being told this is for addition ADA compliant issues. I'm not attacking that population, please. Don't believe that I am. I'm questioning the planning, the numbers, the disparity in what we are being told and the timing of it. Thank you,

Moderator: Further discussion. Yes, Ma'am.

Allan: Will the people be notified of the insurance waiver before they show up to volunteer.

Moderator: I'm sure there will be meeting to do that before any kind of stuff goes on if anyone wants to volunteer. Yes, Ma'am.

Smalley: I'd like to make a motion to move the question.

Moderator: Mrs. Smalley moves the question. Is there a second. Mr. Wherry.

**MOTION: TO CUT OFF DEBATE ON WARRANT ARTICLE #9  
MADE BY: HEATHER SMALLEY; SECONDED BY: WHERRY**

Motion has been made and seconded to cut off debate on Warrant Article #9. If you are in favor of cutting off debate please raise your voter cards. Thank you. Those opposed raise your

cards. Thank you.

**THE "AYES" HAVE IT. Article 9 will go to the ballot as is.**

**Moderator's reading of Warrant Article 10 [SLIDE]**

**WARRANT ARTICLE 10 - Paving at the SAU Office**

Shall the Hudson School District vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$150,000 to repave the driveway and parking lot at the SAU Office?

Estimated tax rate impact: \$03

Recommended by the Hudson School Board 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-1

**Moderator:** (continuing): **I recognize School Board member Beals to present Warrant Article 10.**

Beals: The SAU parking lot is currently in poor condition with significant pavement failures including cracking, potholes, general settling and poor drainage. We have a number of pictures that we can just flip through as I speak. The poor drainage creates additional pavement failures as the parking lot experiences freeze-thaw cycles here in our New England winters. The existing driveway and parking lot have been patched several times through the years but really pavement patches are a temporary fix that break down over the winter especially plowing, lot clearing over months. The driveway and parking lot will be regraded and repaved to both improve the condition of the pavement and improve drainage to the existing town facility. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. **We will now open Article 10 paving at the SAU office to questions, comments, amendments.** Mr. Weissgarber.

Weissgarber: Mr. Moderator I'd like to make a motion to amend Warrant Article 10 to add "this sum is to come from the June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1 with no amount to be raised by additional taxation. This is a special warrant article".

**MOTION: TO ADD "THIS SUM IS TO COME FROM THE JUNE 30 FUND BALANCE AVAILABLE FOR TRANSFER JULY 1 WITH NO AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY ADDITIONAL TAXATION".**

**MADE BY: RICHARD WEISSGARBER; SECONDED BY: SHAWN MURRAY**

Moderator: Motion to amend by Mr. Weissgarber. Seconded by Mr. Murray. Motion is to add the words as we did before to the other article. "This sum is to come from the June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1 with no amount to be raised by additional taxation." We are going to deal with that warrant. Anyone wishes to speak to that Amendment adding those words. Any discussion. Yes, Sir. Mr. Walsh.

Walsh: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. I rise in support of the motion. One of the things the Budget Committee is empowered to do is to enable us to understand what's going on and make the appropriate decisions around prudent appropriations. The question I have and I will defer that to whomever. The parking lot is very dangerous but there is also a slope there. My understanding is there's a drainage in the driveway there but it doesn't go anywhere. It's like a dry well. My question is if we do any paving of the driveway I assume it's the entire parking lot.

There's a fairly high slope on each side of that where most people park. My concern is if it gets repaved and take that drain out what's going to mitigate the water runoff. Thank you.

Moderator: Question of the Board. Mr. Beals will yield.

Beals: I was initially concerned about the same thing Mr. Walsh. I did have the opportunity to meet with Jess Forrence and Jay Twardusky from the town DPW. There are actually two drainage structures in the existing parking lot. One is a leaching drywall structure that they mentioned has clearly failed and that is why we get a lot of ponding, The other one does provide a formal connection to the town drainage facilities. So in essence the existing failed structure will be removed the whole parking lot will be regraded to pitch towards the existing catch basin which will tie into town drainage facilities.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion Warrant Article 10. Im sorry the amendment to Warrant Article 10.

Huard: I rise in opposition to attaching this to the June 30 fund balance. I'd like to explain exactly what June 30 fund balance is and how it evolved. This is the June 30, 2023 fund balance. At this very body last year a similar group that sits here today voted to add money back in to the operating budget. The operating budget with narratives given to us by the Town, I mean the School District. Narratives by the public claiming we absolutely had to have that money for operations of a School District. This is how many warrant article attaching to June 30, 2023 fund balance. Demonstrating now, demonstrating in November that they knew there was going to be a fund balance but they knew that money was not going to be used for operating expenditures that they were asking for in the operating budget. That is deceptive wording. All of these warrant articles that are coming from the general fund balance is an admission of guilt by the School District that they intentionally overstated knowingly overstated their June 30, 2023 fund budget. [interrupted by Moderator's banding of gavel] Thank you.

Moderator: Mr. Morin. On the amendment.

Budget Committee Member David Morin: I just have a question. When we discussed this in the Budget Committee meeting it was asked if they was any disruption to the parking lot area other than paving. Am I correct that you are replacing a drain.

Moderator: This is on the amendment to add the words. You can't talk on the main article. Right now we are dealing with the amendment to add these words "this sum is to come from the June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1 with no amount to be raised by additional taxation". Are you ready for the vote on the amendment. If you are in favor of the amendment in adding those words please raise your voter cards. Thank you. Those opposed.

**THE "AYES" HAVE IT. THE AMENDMENT PASSES.**

**We are now on Article 10 as amended.**

Moderator: (continuing) Mr. Morin.

Morin: I don't understand why I couldn't ask my question because you brought it up under the amendment. But whatever. Are you guys going to be adding a drain to that.

Moderator: Mr. Beals will yield.

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Beals: No we are not adding a drain. Effectively one leaching catch basin structure will be removed. Existing catch basin to the facilities will stay.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion on Warrant Article #10 as amended. Mr. Campbell.

Campbell: I stand in favor of this warrant article. It mentions the SAU Office but anyone that's had a student at Library Street then you know that's where pickup is. And it's been an interesting experience when it's been raining or in the snow. So I very much support this warrant article.

Moderator: Thank you. Any further discussion on Article 10. Seeing none, Oh Mr. Guessferd.

Guessferd: A couple points. When it was amended I thought I heard the words they wanted to add "this is a special warrant article". I noticed that they did change [on the slide] the tax impact to a zero. I was wondering if that is part of the language or not.

Moderator: I don't believe. [maker of motion commenting to moderator] I'm sorry I didn't pick that up. That was part of the original. We can check that on the tape. But I am willing to say that was added in as "a special warrant article" .

Guessferd: The other question I had. So that parking lot we're talking about here is behind both the SAU Office and the Hills Library. Is that entire parking lot we are talking about here. Thank you.

Moderator: Mr. Beals will yield.

Beals: Yes that is correct.

Moderator: School Board member Whiting will answer that first question.

Whiting: The first question was in regards to it being a special warrant article. I believe it was answered before where the School Board has that authority to make a warrant article a special warrant article. That is not something that the Budget Committee or the public can make as a special warrant article. That's my understanding.

Moderator: However, it was part of the original amendment that I missed. I didn't get that when I repeated the original amendment. So the amended article will say: this is a special warrant article. It was part of the original. So as long as everyone understands that. Thank you. Yes, Ma'am.

Phyllis Appler, 62 Glen Drive: When this parking lot was first paved the reason it was paved was that John Manville did it because our kids were using little pieces of asbestos for their hopscotch pieces. And they paved it then. I wondered if asbestos mitigation was factored into the cost of this project. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Question to the Board. Mr. Beals.

Beals: The District and the Town are both along with the DPW are well aware of the asbestos is in the area. I think fortunately the specific paved area there is not a lot of asbestos fill ,material. It's more in the hill and on some of the adjacent properties is where the higher levels of asbestos fill based on research.

Moderator: Thank You. Yes, Sir. Mr. Giuffreda.

Giuffreda: I rise to propose an amendment to remove the words "this is a special warrant article" from the amended warrant article because who knows what that legally that's going to do because this body does not have the power to do that.

Moderator: Mr. Giuffreda moves to remove the words "this is a special warrant article". Mr. Wherry seconds.

**MOTION: TO REMOVE THE WORDS "THIS IS A SPECIAL WARRANT ARTICLE" FROM THE AMENDMENT.**

**MADE BY: ALFRED GIUFFREDDA; SECONDED BY: ROBERT WHERRY**

Moderator: Motion has been made and seconded to remove the words "this is a special warrant article". Request clarification to the attorney about is that something this body can do,

School Attorney Gorrow: As I said I think this amendment is appropriate because it shouldn't have been a part of the original motion to amend. And as I said I didn't see that in my notes that it was part of the original so it would clarify whatever has occurred to make it legally appropriate..

Moderator: If the Amendment fails the wording stays in. If it passes that wording comes out. Just the wording "this is a special warrant article. On the Amendment. Mr. Trost.

Trost: What did you [attorney] mean by the statement it shouldn't have been there. Was it improper. That it was a bad idea to have that wording in there.

Attorney Gorrow: As I said previously if it's not a special warrant article by operation of law of which this one is not only the School Board has the ability to designate it as a special warrant article.

Moderator: Everybody understand that. Does anyone else want to speak on the Amendment to take out the words "this is a special warrant article". Are you ready to vote. If you are in favor of taking out the words "this is a special warrant article" please raise your voter cards. Those opposed. Thank you,

**["AYES" HAVE IT] THE AMENDMENT PASSES**

**[Warrant Article 10 as amended]**

**WARRANT ARTICLE 10 - Paving at SAU Office**

Shall the Hudson School District vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$150,000 to repave the driveway and parking lot at the SAU Office? This sum is to come from the June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1 with no amount to be raised by additional taxation. [Estimated tax rate impact: \$.00]

Moderator: We are on Article 10 as it was amended twice. Let me read it again. Shall the Hudson School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$150,000 to repave the driveway and parking lot at the SAU Office. This sum to come from the June 30 fund balance available for transfer July 1 with no amount to be raised by additional taxation. Period. Any further discussion on Warrant Article #10. Seeing none. Oh Miss Leary.

Leary: I just had a followup question with regarding the asbestos. Is there or is there not asbestos in any of that lot that's going to be disturbed.

Moderator: Is there any asbestos. Mr. Beals.

Beals: There is asbestos on the property. But specifically within the limits of the area to be paved that was not the area of the property where there were high levels found of asbestos fill. Sorry that might have been a little bit more confusing.

Leary: So just to clarify that how adjacent is these other areas of asbestos. Obviously you are going to have heavy equipment in there. I wouldn't want anything accidentally disturbed with regards to asbestos considering the location.

Moderator: Thank you. Mr. Beals.

Beals: Absolutely I'm of the same opinion. It is directly adjacent to it with the exception of that one leaching structure which is will be removed. Really he paving operation is not a fully digging out the parking lot. Not mass excavation. So in theory at least the areas that had demonstrated and researched had high levels of asbestos fill should not be disturbed as part of this project.

Moderator: Does anyone else wish to discuss Warrant Article #10. Seeing none. **We will close the discussion on Warrant Article #10 and it goes to the ballot.**

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

Moderator: (announcing) Ladies and Gentlemen, couple of final notes. The Hudson GFWC Women's Club is going to host a Candidates Night on Thursday, February 23, here at the Community Center at 6:30pm. A great opportunity to get to know the candidates for Town and School offices and to hear from them and ask some questions. And remember please to vote on March 14. Ward 1 will be here at the Community Center Ward 2 will be at Alvirne High School Cafeteria.

Moderator: (continuing) At this point I'll ask for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bernard. This is the only one I take a voice for. Seconded by Mr. Martin.

### **MOTION: TO ADJOURN**

**MADE BY: LEO BERNARD; SECONDED BY: NORMAN MARTIN**

All those in favor of adjournment please say "yes" . Those opposed. We are adjourned at 12:34pm.

**Transcribed by:**

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Diane Cannava, School District Clerk







