

NEWFOUND AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
First Deliberative Session
Approved Minutes
January 31, 2015

To the inhabitants of the Newfound Area School District of Alexandria, Bridgewater, Bristol, Danbury, Groton, Hebron, and New Hampton qualified to vote upon District affairs.

You are hereby notified to meet for the “First Session” (Deliberative Session) of the annual meeting at the Newfound Regional High School Auditorium in Bristol, New Hampshire on Saturday, January 31, 2015 at 10:00 am to hear, discuss, debate, and/or amend warrant articles.

School Board Present: Chair, Ruby Hill, (Danbury), Vice Chair, Vincent Paul Migliore (Bridgewater), Suzanne Cheney (Alexandria), Benjamin LaRoche (Bristol), Jeffrey Levesque (Groton), Donald Franklin (Hebron), Christine Davol (New Hampton).

School Budget Committee Present: Chair, Simon Barnett (Danbury), Christen Dolloff, (Bristol), Jeff Bird (Bridgewater), Sharon Nelson (Groton), Stan Newton (Hebron), John Jenness II (New Hampton).

School District Moderator: Edward Gordon.

SAU Staff Present: Superintendent Stacy Buckley, Business Administrator Michael Limanni.

The “Second Session” of the annual meeting, to elect officers, to vote on questions required by law to be inserted on said official ballot, and to vote on all warrant articles from the “First Session” by official ballot will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 (Election Day) at each polling place in the towns of Alexandria, Bridgewater, Bristol, Danbury, Groton, Hebron, and New Hampton at these locations and during the following times:

Alexandria:	Town Hall, 45 Washburn Road	11 am to 7pm
Bridgewater:	Town Hall, Route 3A	12 pm to 6pm
Bristol:	Marian Center, 17 West Shore Road	8am to 7pm
Danbury:	Town Hall, 23 High Street	11 am to 7pm
Groton:	Groton Town Hall, 754 North Groton Road	11 am to 7pm
Hebron:	Public Safety Building, 37 Groton Road	11 am to 7pm
New Hampton:	Town House, 86 Town House Road	11 am to 7pm

ARTICLE 1: To choose all necessary School District Officials for the year ensuing. Signup ended 1/30/15

(Second Session, March 10, 2015 - Election Day)

ARTICLE 2: TEACHER CONTRACT AGREEMENT: To see if the Newfound Area School District will vote to approve the cost items included in a two (2) year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Newfound Area School Board and the Newfound Area Teachers Association, which calls for the following increase in salaries and benefits:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
2015-2016	\$305,620
2016-2017	\$319,543

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Five Thousand, Six Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$305,620) for the 2016 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels?

(This article is not included in Article 7 – Operating Budget.)

(The School Board voted to recommend this article by a vote of 7-0-0.)

(The Budget Committee voted to recommend this article by a vote of 8-0-0.)

Discussion: Ruby Hill, School Board Chair presented this article. She stated the cost falls within the current tax cap.

Ben Learned (Bristol) spoke in favor of the article. He said we should give the same reciprocity back to the teachers. He said it is embarrassing how little we pay teachers.

Motion to close discussion on the Article by Barbara Greenwood; Seconded by Sean Legeux.

Motion approved by voice vote.

ARTICLE 3: EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND: BUILDING MAINTENANCE: To see if the Newfound Area School District will vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) to be added to the Expendable Trust Fund: Building Maintenance, and to authorize the use/transfer in that amount from the undesignated fund balance available July 1, 2015 for this purpose?

(This article is not included in Article 7 – Operating Budget.)

(The School Board voted to recommend this article by a vote of 7-0-0.)

(The Budget Committee voted to recommend this article by a vote of 8-0-0.)

Discussion: School Board representative Jeff Levesque addressed the article. He noted if we obtain unexpended revenue, those funds are used to fund this article, since this article is not funded by additional tax dollars.

Motion to close discussion on the Article by Archie Auger; Seconded by Ms. Duncan.

Motion approved by voice vote.

ARTICLE 4: HILL TUITION AGREEMENT: To see if the Newfound Area School District will vote to authorize the school board to enter into a 10 year tuition agreement with the Hill School District for the education of Hill students grades 7-12 beginning on July 1, 2015 on such terms and conditions as the school board shall determine are in the best interest of the Newfound Area School District.

(The School Board voted to recommend this article by a vote of 6-1-0.) (Minority Vote: Bridgewater)

Discussion: School Board representative Benjamin LaRoche addressed this article. He noted the board has been authorization to move forward. He feels it is a great benefit to the District; as a revenue source and to bring sixty children to the district. It is an excellent opportunity for both Newfound and Hill.

Paul Simard (Bristol) Asked if we have access to any numbers. Do we know what the dollar amounts are? Benjamin replied the tuition calculators are available on the web. The base tuition rate is the rate. They are paying for their own transportation, individual services, One on One aides and SAU costs. For the first couple of years we will not see full enrollment. Hill will offset with their own adequacy aid.

Susan Duncan (Bristol) Noted with the number of discussions had over closing the Middle School, she question how would that affect the possibility of closing the school? She also questioned a student with and IEP, are those costs carried by Hill? What happens in 10 years? Are we committed? What has been done to look beyond 10 years?

Benjamin replied it is a long way out. We look how to best use our current infrastructure the best we can. We will start to look at the continuation, or discontinuation, and look forward; that is the best projection. IEP costs issues, those are born by Hill.

Archie Auger (Bristol) Questioned student enrollment, if additional staff were required. Superintendent Buckley replied we can easily add those student without adding staff.

Julie Hayward (Bristol) Commented that the economics of New Hampshire are stagnant; It is a 'no growth state. Enrollment is going down in many districts. She stated if Hill is willing to come to our District it is good growth for our area. Hill kids interact through the community center. She questioned why they did the analysis of the 7th and 8th grade. Ruby Hill replied because they have a K-6 elementary school.

Motion to close discussion on the Article by Sean Legeux; Seconded by Frank Dollof
Motion approved by voice vote.

ARTICLE 5: (BY PETITION) To see if the surrounding towns of the Newfound School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 (fifteen thousand) per school year in supporting the Newfound Memorial Middle School to assume the responsibility and operation of the Newfound Football Junior Bears program at the request of the Friends of Newfound Football organization. Without the feeder system the football program that the Jr Bears provides, Newfound Regional High school could not be a competitive program versus other surrounding schools.

(The School Board voted to recommend this article by a vote of 7-0-0.)

(The Budget Committee voted to recommend this article by a vote of 7-1-0.)

(Minority Vote: New Hampton.)

Discussion: School Board representative Vincent Paul Migliore spoke on this article. He noted he participated on the Football Field Oversight Committee since it was formed. He has always admired the efforts of the volunteers of Friends of Newfound Football. He thinks this is a continuation to improve student outcome. He feels it will help sustain a program in the High School; it is a good feeder program.

Lynn Comeau (Hebron) President, Friends of Newfound Football Program. Said we owe it to our students to provide an opportunity who don't fit into the mold. All students are given impact concussion tests; if concussion is detected, results are sent, since football, is not a school sponsored tests are not taken. Football has become safer. It could help keep students in our districts, this results in a more competitive team at the High School level. We need to try to make this all one team.

Ken Braley (Alexandria) He said he understands we have the varsity program; as we start to see a feeder program, it will eventually be a fully grown program. Our students are coming in at B level in sports. When this program was first brought in, the district was not going to pay; now the district is paying.

Ray Courchaine (Alexandria) Stated it is important to do this. It is money well invested. It gives kids self-worth, to be part of something. It will help academically, they will have to pass their grades to play, it brings self-discipline and it brings pride to the community. It is pennies on a tax bill.

Motion to strike the word ‘surrounding’ on first line, change to read ‘to see if the towns of the Newfound District’, by Bruce Wheeler (Bristol) Seconded by Fred Robinson

Discussion on amendment: None.

Motion to close discussion Moved by Vincent Paul Migliore; Seconded by Archie Auger.
Motion approved by voice vote.

Bryan Richardson (Alexandria) Said he is on the Football Oversight Committee and is asking for support. He said we can do a lot of things with the facility we have. So many things we could do if we could free up some funds. Friends of Football is supporting the football program. There are so many things it could be used for if we could fund the changes. We want all of our kids included. We have 30 kids playing on the Jr. Bears. We are asking for them to be included.

Autumn Doan (Alexandria) Asked what does the football request compare to other sports? Mike Limanni replied that all athletics combined at the Middle School costs were approximately sixty five thousand (\$65,000.00) to give a general idea, included referees and coaches.

Bryan Richards replied you cannot answer that specifically. A good majority of funds are to pay coaches trained by the state; the rest is for bussing.

Autumn Doan replied; they have confirmed there are 18 teams. At a cost of sixty five thousand for all sports, that is a 45% cost for one sport

Sharon Nelson (Groton) Said she had never been a fan of football until fellow Budget Committee member Jeff Bird said how important it was for him; they would have to keep up their academics, their head injured, they would be checked. She agrees, it is worth the cost of the projector of sixteen thousand (\$16,000.00), which is doing fine. She asked how she can make a motion to change.

Moved to amend the budget \$16,000.00 for the cost of football program. – **No Second.**

Moderator Ned Gordon said you cannot designate funds for a specific purpose, by virtue of that amendment.

Motion not accepted.

Lynn Comeau (Hebron) Stated, the \$15,000.00 we are asking for is not every year. This is a startup cost. We just purchased new helmets. We are trying to propose this amount so we can cover anything that is needed for the safety of the kids.

Annie Learned (Bristol) questioned the language of the article. She noted it states \$15,000.00 per year. She would not support it as is.

Motion to change wording from \$15,000.00 ‘per year’ to ‘for start-up costs’ made by Jason North (Bristol) Seconded by Steve Spofford.

Ben LaRoche (Bristol) Said he does not understand the wording. If the intent is to change it for this budget year, his concern is the language as it exists. It is a function of the school board. We will provide \$15,000.00. We still assume the responsibility for the program.

Bruce Wheeler (Bristol) Stated, 'start up' costs are one thing; there can be a lot of contention, we either need to strike words, or we need to vote for \$15,000 with other language included.

Bryan, Richardson, (Alexandria) Questioned are we voting to approve to bring the program into the Middle School; he is not sure 'start up' is necessary to be in there.

Vincent Paul Migliore said he is concerned about the amendment philosophically. When the program gets into place it will grow, it will improve student outcome.

Pamela Hamelton (Groton) Questioned if we can amend a petition warrant article?
Ned Gordon replied in the affirmative.

Jeff Bird (Bridgewater) A graduate from Newfound. Said he was not a good athlete. There are a lot of kids that don't fit in the current sports; they would have done well on a football field. It would have given him a reason to have good grades. He knew what he wanted to do. There is a group in every class that could have benefited. It is good for the community, and the school.

The Moderator summarized the proposed changes to the amendment;

To delete, 'per school year' and add wording for 'startup costs.'

If 'Yes' vote – the warrant will be amended.

If 'No' vote – the warrant will have the original wording.

Amendment proposed by Sean Legeux (Bristol) to delete words 'per school year'.

Article approved as amended by voice vote

Motion to close discussion on the Article by Mike Capsalis; Seconded by Jennifer Barnett

Motion approved by voice vote.

ARTICLE 6: (BY PETITION) To see if the Newfound Area School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$250,000 to implement a full time kindergarten program in all 4 elementary schools in said district, as a minimum, commencing in September of 2015.

Meghan Magrauth (New Hampton) Said she is in support of an all-day kindergarten; In support of a solid education. Five year olds are ready. Most teachers prefer this. Please vote for this article.

David Hill (Bristol) Plans to vote against this article. Said he never went to kindergarten. The difference is made up. He opposes it.

Jeffrey Levesque, said the School Board is in favor of a full day kindergarten but now is not the time. We have had insufficient time to prepare. We have buildings that need adjustments. We need to do this effectively

Susan Peterson, (Bridgewater) from a perspective of a kindergarten teacher we are currently teaching a full day curriculum in a half day. Now is the time. It is a hardship for parents to transport children for a half day program. We are losing because of this. If we offer a full day program we can offer bussing.

Sean Legeux (New Hampton) Inquired about the tax implication; he understands it is different by community.

Fred Robinson (Danbury) Stated that he was at the board meeting when they were looking at how to get the budget under the tax cap. Two weeks prior the Board had asked the Superintendent to come up with an estimate of what an all-day kindergarten would cost. The board, in support of the program, had asked her, if it costs were more than \$250,000.00. This is the scenario as he remembered it.

Christine Davol (New Hampton) as a parent, she is concerned with the phrase ‘as a minimum’

Vincent Paul Migliore (Bridgewater) Noted this is a petition warrant article. He noted the number one signature on the petition was the Commissioner of Education. He noted that carries some weight. There are templates available that would tell our administrators how to implement this. The reason to do this is because it improves student outcome.

Ruby Hill noted that if this article passes it would exceed the tax cap; only the voters can recommend this article. It would be a waiver of the tax cap she explained since it is not recommend by the Board.

Bruce Wheeler (Bristol), Spoke in support of the article.

Chet Devarney (Bristol) said it might be better to wait a year

Ken, Braley (Alexandria) Said he agreed with Jeffrey Levesque’s comment. He said Stacy was put in a position to come up with a number for the kindergarten program. At first it was \$500,000.00 then it was \$250,000.00. Now we have a warrant article putting the superintendent and the children in a terrible situation. The reason we are watching people leave is because there is no stability with what is going on here. Think about this. Let’s go about this the right way. He recommends waiting until 2016.

Archie Auger (Bristol) Said he would want this issue to be decided by all the voters in the district.

Would like all the voters to vote in March to express their opinion,

Bob Brooks (Hebron) Said he would like to amend the article to the date to 2016, Seconded, Steve Spofford.

Point of Order from the Moderator: Cannot commit for the following year.

Ned Gordon said the article is acceptable as it is written.

Bob brooks said there should be more discussion, put it in for next September.

Sue Cheney (Alexandria) Said when we were discussing numbers, a number was forced upon the superintendent to come up with an estimate. She does not think there is enough time to do this by September 2015. The requirements for kindergarten classrooms are larger; it really requires more study; more time. Should be one option of a half day. She thinks we have to be careful with an amendment to change the intent of a petition article; it may change the whole intent of the article.

Sean Legeux urged people to vote against the article; stating it is a burden on the tax payers.

Megan Magrauth urged people to let the voters decide.

Motion on amendment proposed by Bob Brooks, Seconded by Steve Spofford to amend Article 6, to change from school year 2015 to 2016

Motion failed by voice vote.

Susan Duncan (Bristol) disagreed with Mr. Hill. Said she grew up in N. Carolina, where people could not afford kindergarten. New Hampshire was the last state in the nation to vote for mandatory kindergarten. We should not be debating this. The School Board and everyone should have decided this a long time ago. She concluded, it is in the best interest of this district.

Motion to close discussion on the Article by Archie Auger; Seconded by Mike Capsalis;

Motion approved by voice vote.

ARTICLE 7: OPERATING BUDGET: To see if the Newfound Area School District will raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the "First Session", for the purposes set forth therein, totaling Twenty-One Million, Nine Hundred Forty-Eight Thousand, Two Hundred and Four Dollars (\$21,948,204)? Should this article be defeated, the Default Budget shall be Twenty Two Million, One Hundred Thirty Nine Thousand, Nine Hundred and Thirty Six Dollars (\$22,139,936) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Newfound Area School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

(The School Board voted to recommend this article by a vote of 7-0-0.)

(The Budget Committee voted to recommend this article by a vote of 8-0-0.)

Discussion: School Board Representative *Donald Franklin*, Hebron, spoke to this Article. He noted it is very lean, zero based budget. This figure is lower than the current year budget. If the voters do not approve, the default budget will take effect which is higher, because of state requirements. Presentation of Historical Budget Information.

Motion to amend Article 7 to reduce the bottom line by removing \$16,000 from the projection system line item made by Sharon Nelson; Seconded by Steven Spofford.

Meghan Magrauth (New Hampton) questioned if the money does not go to the football program. Ned Gordon clarified it is taking \$16,000.00 out of the budget.

Motion fail by voice vote.

Motion to amend the operational budget to add \$250,000.00 to support the full time kindergarten program made by Meghan Magrauth, for a total of \$22,198,204 for the 2015-2016 school year.
No Second. *Motion Failed – No voice vote.*

Article approved as Proposed

Motion to close discussion on the Article by Archie Auger; Seconded by Mike Capsalis;
Motion approved by voice vote.

Motion for *Adjournment: 12:38* made by Archie Auger, Seconded by Mike Capsalis.

Respectfully Submitted:
Leah McDevitt