

Hopkinton School District

Annual School District Meeting

March 11, 2023, 9:00am

Hopkinton Middle and High Schools' Gymnasium

Hopkinton School Board
Andrea Folsom, Chairman
Rob Nadeau, Vice Chairman
James O'Brien
Norm Goupil
Dulcie Madden Lipoma

James Newsom, Moderator

Student Representatives:
Flo Dapice
Noah Aframe

Thank you all who volunteered to help as ballot counters should there be a need for a vote.

Ballot Counters -2023

	Ken Traum
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Sabrina Dunlap	
Debbie Norris	Mel Myler
Andrea Kane	Ian Tewksbury
Catherine Matteo	<u>Sara Persechino</u>
Anna Wells	
Dianne Myler	
Elizabeth Sides	

The 2022 Annual Meeting of the Hopkinton District is hereby opened at **9:03 am on Saturday, March 11, 2023**

Good Morning. My name is James Newsom, your School District Moderator.

I want to welcome you all here this morning and thank you for giving up your Saturday morning to participate in this process.

As a first order of business, I remind you that the exits are located to the left and side of the gym. The restrooms are located along the side of the gymnasium back entrance.

I suggest that our agenda this morning will be as follows:

Presentation of the Flags

Pledge of Allegiance

Singing of the National Anthem

Opening comments by the Chair of the Hopkinton School Board

I will have some administrative comments, and we will

Move right into the Articles on the Warrant

Please stand for the Presentation of the Flags
Please remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance

The Flags will be presented by Boy Scout Troop 77.

The Pledge of Allegiance: Boy Scout Troop 77.

National Anthem:

I would now like to introduce Harriett Pearce, a Senior from Hopkinton High School, who will sing the National Anthem.

I want to thank all those who helped to make this meeting possible – and I suggest that in the interests of time that you hold your applause until the introductions have been made:

The organizers who arranged for and participated in the budget hearings, the informational hearings, and developed all the data and statistics that are before you today.

The School Clerk – Laura Beaudoin

The Supervisors of the Checklist:

Lynn Clark

Candice Garvin

Jean Lightfoot

Virginia Haines

The Attorney for the Hopkinton School District:

Attorney: Matt Upton of DrummondWoodsum Law Firm

Thank you to the National Honor Society, who have volunteered to provide Child Care Services this morning.

Members of the Hopkinton Middle and High School Custodial Staff for the arrangements and set up for this School District meeting.

I suggest a round of applause is in order.

I would now like to introduce to you the Chair of the Hopkinton School Board,
Ms. Andrea Folsom

INTRODUCTION/REMARKS BY ANDREA FOLSOM

A good morning to everyone here in attendance –

It is my privilege to introduce our school administration:

- Michael Flynn, Superintendent of Schools
- Michelle Clark, Business Administrator
- Mandie Hibbard, Director of Student Services
- Rebecca Gagnon, Director of Curriculum, Assessment and Professional Development
- Jim Rozycki, Director of Facilities
- Matt Stone, Director of Technology
- Chris Kelley, Principal, Hopkinton Middle and High Schools
- Jake Morril, Assistant Principal, Hopkinton Middle and High Schools
- Patrice Brown, Principal, Harold Martin School
- Carrie Sindoni, Principal, Maple Street School

School Board members in attendance this morning are Vice Chair, Rob Nadeau, members Jim O'Brien, Norm Goupil and Dulcie Madden Lipoma.

Thank you to our Student Representatives, Flo Dapice and Noah Aframe. Their outstanding representation on the board has been greatly appreciated. Both have generously served despite their demanding schedules and we are grateful for their commitment to helping the Board stay informed.

A thank you to our School District Treasurer, Dave MacKenzie and School District Clerk, Laura Beaudoin.

These individuals work tirelessly to keep our entire community running smoothly and safely.

There are several other key people we would like to recognize and thank:

New Hampshire State Representatives Mel Myler and Dave Luneau, and Senator Becky Whitley. Public education funding remains contentious as schools are forced to do more and more with less, and property poor communities such as ours struggle under the burden of shifted costs from the state to local taxpayers. I applaud the work of our representatives in continuing to advocate for our students, families, and taxpayers in the House and Senate.

In June 2022, the Hopkinton School Board adopted a 5-year 2023-2028 Strategic Plan created through the work of a Steering Committee made up of stakeholder representatives with unique perspectives, including parents, district staff, town leadership, and school representatives. The Strategic Plan is not intended to provide all the answers, but rather, to create the roadmap for continued educational success. Looking forward, the primary task of the Board is to implement the goals of the Plan in a financially responsible manner. We

are confident that by working together - school district, budget committee, and Hopkinton voters - we can use the Strategic Plan to build greater understanding of the needs of the district, establish clear priorities, and fund them appropriately.

In your School District Report, you will find the Report of the Hopkinton School Board where we expand on our 2022-2023 school year goals. I'd like to highlight a few of those now.

The School Board was proud to affirm the implementation of the Multiple Pathways to Graduation in the fall of 2022, for immediate adoption into the newly revamped 2023-2024 Program of Studies. These options offer all Hopkinton Students a pathway that best aligns with their interests, learning strengths, and post-high school goals, be that a trade, a 4-year college, a technical school, a career in the military, going straight into the workforce, or something else entirely. We remain committed to the success of all students.

The School Board, through the Safety and Security Taskforce, is working to complete a Safety Action Plan informed by our most recent 2022 Homeland Safety Review. This review and the resulting recommendations are standard for all public schools in New Hampshire and help districts implement proactive measures. There were no required changes noted, meaning we will continue to strengthen our already-safe schools. In addition, the taskforce is working to identify additional grants, planned updates, and other funding avenues for recommended safety updates. Thanks to the work of Facilities Director, Jim Rozycki, the school has already received six safety-related grants within the 2022/23 school year.

Finally, In light of the increasing cost and decreasing supply of conventional energy resources, the School Board formed the Energy Steering Committee (ESC) to assess current energy and utility usage, as well as our district's building systems. Data analysis of these usages, and additional research of sustainable resources and best practices, will uncover opportunities for energy savings in our schools and enable the committee to provide recommendations for optimized energy management in the future.

In closing, the Hopkinton School Board is grateful for the continued support given to our students and schools every day by our Hopkinton community. The families, caregivers, volunteers, district staff, longtime residents, and new community members have been exceptionally generous and have made education a top priority by providing our school district with the resources needed to make Hopkinton an educational leader in New Hampshire. We all benefit greatly from this investment.

(Mr. Newsom) Administrative Comments

We will follow generally accepted rules of procedures, but will not follow Roberts Rules.

I intend to focus comments, questions and motions strictly on the warrant article that is on the table at the time. In the interest of allowing us to thoroughly address each article, I will not allow a discussion of issues that go beyond that article.

However, if, at any time, any of you believe that my decisions are improper then you may challenge them. You would do that by calling out “Point of Order,” at which time I will put that challenge to a voice vote on whether or not to support my decision.

I encourage you to speak out on any issue that concerns you. In order to do so, I ask that you use the microphone and not speak from the audience.

Step up to the microphone – either one [point]

State your name and address

Limit comments to substantive input, not simply support or opposition. If you absolutely feel the need to repeat comments by a prior speaker, simply say you agree with the speaker.

Limit your comments to three minutes

I will give priority to first-time speakers, then allow additional comments from previous speakers.

If you have changes to suggest, they should be in the form of a motion, and unless those changes are very basic and simple, I will ask that they be provided to us in writing.

I will take amendments to motions one at a time, and we will vote on them one at a time.

I will not accept negative motions. Negative motions are those that require a no vote for the affirmative action, such as “I move we do not adopt the budget.”

Non-voters may not speak without permission of the voters, except for current students and non-resident school officials, consultants and experts to provide information on an article.

After a vote is taken, it is acceptable for anyone to Move to Restrict Reconsideration of that article. That would prevent that Article from being brought up again before this meeting ends.

Any motion to Move the Question is non-debatable and will require a simple majority vote. I will not entertain such a motion until I feel that the debate has had a reasonable time to continue and I will allow all those standing in line at the time of the motion to speak. **NOR WILL I ACCEPT A MOTION TO CALL THE QUESTION FROM ANY MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD.**

Finally, if there is a request for a written ballot, it must be in writing by 5 voters present and be made prior to the vote.

If such a request is made: Ballot boxes are located in FIVE locations.

Your name tag will be checked when you vote.

Different color ballots will be used for each vote.

Put your selected "yes" or "no" ballot in the box, and put the other half in the wastebasket.

Now, with all that said, it's time for the first article. The School Board has pre-assigned the member who will offer the motion and the second, and the motioner will read the article and be prepared to speak to the article. I'll then open it up for discussion and vote.

ARTICLE I: To hear reports of agents, auditors, committees, and officers chosen or to take any other action in relation thereto.

MOVED BY: Andrea Folsom

SECOND: Rob Nadeau

NOTES:

No comments- article closed

Article I:

<u>In Favor</u> _____	<u>Against</u> _____	<u>Result</u> _____
Vote Total	Vote Total	

Andrea Folsom makes a motion to restrict reconsideration

Rob Nadeau seconded the motion

ARTICLE II: OPERATING BUDGET -Presented By Rob Nadeau

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's recommended amount of Twenty-four million, eight hundred ninety-

two thousand, nine hundred and twenty-four dollars (\$24,892,924.00) for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for the school district officials and agents, and for the payment for the statutory obligations of the district, or to take any other action in relation thereto. This article does not include appropriations voted in other warrant articles. Majority vote required.

(The School Board recommends this article 4 to 1)

(The Budget Committee recommends this article 8 to 2)

MOVED BY: Andrea Folsom

SECOND: Norm Goupil

NOTES:

- Budget timeline shared (work sessions)
- Reductions discussed and budget committee voted to restore reduced amount
- Tax impact chart (available to voters as a handout)
- GMR 9.7% in healthcare
- Proper budgeting vs. using fund balance
- State contribution to retirement is 0%
- \$2.09 total tax increase
- Budget drivers (salaries, benefits, electricity/fuel/propane, tuition)
- Revenue: state property tax, fund balance, Medicaid, athletic fees)
- Decreases: state adequacy aid, other state aid
- Use of trusts/fund balance
- Long-term planning (CIP, energy audit, hiring practices, strategic plans, and state funding)
- Tax impact by assessed home value chart
- 20 credit pathway (alternate pathways for students)

Public comment (9:38am)- Discussion now open

Candie Garvin (515 Bound Tree Round)-

Noted why some voters might not attend; budget committee put the funds back in after school district made some cuts; noted cost per student and costs for town

meeting; said we need to support kids and community and thanked the school board; some people may not be able to stay in town; reps need to get more control in the state; allocated funds must be used for the purpose brought;

Mary Goddard (757 Penacook Rd)

Cumulative effect of small increases; commented on projected enrollment decreasing; commented on her monthly student loan payments cost compared to mortgage; consider fixed income and those who have been here for a long-time; does not understand how people of a certain age move here; great schools for who? Sustainability of school if new kids and families don't come in?

Janet Ward (Watchtower Road)

Attended the budget meeting and all understand the pressure on families; commended boards work on budget and believes the budget before us takes into account all residents of the town; thinks that if the state of New Hampshire was as sensitive to the concerns of all taxpayers, they would change the way the state approaches support for public schools

Dave Luneau (211 Putney Hill Rd)

Mel Myler and Dave serve as state reps; Found many inequities in state funding with and without additional funding; some proposed changes for how much state uses to fund schools- short term, but then falls off; put forward legislation to state revenue for municipalities that struggle to meet needs of students HB 529; public hearing next week for school funding; you don't have to go too far up the road to find a school district that has higher property taxes than Hopkinton and still can't put a budget in place that that does right by its by its students

Louise Carr (Hill Rd)

Make motion to amend the budget \$23,069,768 (current budget); would like to see more cut

Second: Mary Goddard

Sarah Mattson Dustin (517 Dustin Rd)

Asked clarifying question; The previous speaker mentioned that the school board said that they could operate within 23 million sixty 9768. I don't recall the school board. Ever considering a budget with no increase, which is what is just proposed?

Rob Nadeau- reduction is in positions; that is correct—school board did not say they could operate on the current budget of 23,069,768

Cheryl Morse (396 Park Ave)

School has also dealt with inflation costs that we have dealt with; contractual agreements will stand but other stuff will be cut (optionals will take hit); enjoyed being a substitute; board and committees are not in agreement; believes this will hurt students just recovering from Covid-19; does not support the amendment

Michael Foley (53 Willoughby Rd)

How much of the budget has been spent and will be spent this year? How much of current budget will not be spent and carryover to be used in the future? And the only reason I brought it up is because every year I come to these and I hear about the surplus and I just want to make sure that was really considered when you developed the proposed budget that did go up, that you were considering that surplus. And I'm hearing that you have. So thank you for your answers.

Rob Nadeau- projection \$150,000 revenue . Revenue that offsets the cost of the \$24,892,924

Historically we had a high fund balance and froze budgets to keep fund balance; Mr. Flynn focusing on removing large operating surplus; we don't know until June 30th what that amount is

Fund balance/operating surplus; working to transition to proper budgeting

Christa Scura (1300 Clement Hill Rd)

Member of the budget committee, but personal perspective vs. budget committee perspective; asked school board to reduce (\$175k); discussion at next meeting meant interventionist and 4th grade teacher decrease; father on fixed income so

understands the situation but wants to highlight that a minimal reduction would be in staff; his amendment is going to mean like it a holistic change to the quality and nature of our schools. That can't be really, you know, overstated.

Rob Nadeau- this type of budget change would be potentially 18 positions; understands frustration but feels this would change the schools and be able to meet the needs of the students

Louise Carr

What is the average class size in elementary? Ratio? Asked if this would increase to 25? Said that larger class size would not impact students.

Rob N. 15-16 to low 20s; if students move in district class sizes shift; mentioned special education differences; Class size discussion will be on the horizon with stakeholders; think about the district we want and how we will manage that

Andrea F.- class size discussions are policy decisions and those must go through policy committee on board with public input

Loren Clement (86 Maple Street)

Asked about the funding for two proposed positions (ESSR) and there are other options for consideration

On the current budget we had surplus of 800K, is that correct? September minutes from budget committee; wants the number of the surplus?

Rob asked if he was implying this would happen again? Not clear on what he is asking?

Follow up: The General Fund balance returned to the town was \$551,036. If you're ever curious about how surpluses are created, where the money comes from, personnel and benefits \$80,000 personnel salaries, 296 supplies 2000, transportation 159 and then. There were some overspent areas, \$26,000 in reimbursements and professional development overspent in equipment revenue received above anticipated 603,000 overspent in repair and maintenance, 41,000 using fees. \$59,000 savings contracted services, \$141,000 savings transfers to Article 10, transfer to Capital Reserve Fund and then increase in prepaid expense.

So the overall amount via our audit general fund balance return to town 551,036.

Andrea Kane (331 Briar Hill Rd)

Teacher in Concord; has larger class sizes; many benefits to teaching in Hopkinton; can't just cut a job and save money

Richard Salle (565 Penacook Rd)

Marine Corps retiree; NH schools highly ranked and supports schools; everyone under financial pressure; respects hard work of the school board and thinks it is the wrong time to ask for increase and hurts people at a time when people are already hurting; community and not just the money make the community;

Yes Vote would decrease and No to reject amendment

Secret ballot vote at 10:21am

Motion to amend budget fails (get numbers from James)

Claire Bely (152 West Ridge Circle)

Current senior student at Hopkinton. Wants her siblings to experience the same positive learning experience that she had during her time at Hopkinton; benefits of a small school/community

Jeff Donohoe (74 Granite Valley)

Point of order, Mr. Moderator, can you provide the names of the people who requested the ballot votes so we can confirm that they're? Still in the room.- Yes

Loren Clement (86 Maple Street)

Motion to amend article 2 to \$24,692,924 (proposing to reduce by \$200k)

This motion was made by a school board member at January meeting; bringing this amendment to the floor; also 2 budget committee members who support the 200K reduction

Cheryl Morse (396 Park Rd)- seconded motion

Feels this is a fair compromise, but school board must find the best decision for

the cuts; 16-20 elementary and go up in upper elementary and middle/high schools; test scores better this year; 4.8 million dollars in increase in past 4 years; this is a pinch vs. a wound so supports amendment

Mark Zankel (Crowell Road)

Chair of the budget committee, speaking on behalf of himself and voted against the proposed budget even though he is a strong advocate of the schools; was in favor of the reduced budget proposed by school board in January; 5th highest tax rate in NH; impact felt disproportionately by fixed income and lower income community members; significant budget impacts coming from the town as well with bond; school needs to negotiate new contracts in the next few years; how can we operate school with lower personnel costs (less staff)

Steven Reddy (260 Kearsarge Rd)

Pointed out 8-2 budget committee and 4-1 school board votes on the proposed budget; students impacted by lack of teachers in specialties; cuts would be 4th grade teacher and math interventionist; heard from parents with kids impacted by pandemic; voted to restore the original school board budget as proposed; 2 positions does have a dramatic impact in the schools; supports voting against the amendment to decrease

Mike Rollo (1998 Hopkinton Rd)

How much does 200K mean to the actual tax rate? 26 cents per school board

Tim Stokes (Maple Street)

Research and evidence on class size is clear and it impacts learning directly; lower class size matters

Devon Chaffe (483 Briar Hill Rd)

Minimal impact on tax rate, but significant learning impact; the only thing that can be cut is staff; has two fourth grade children; challenges for this group of students who had learning loss during Covid-19; urged vote against proposed amendment

Louise Carr (Burnt Hill Rd)

Never discuss the high school for cuts (only elementary schools and teachers); thinks they can cut specialty areas to cut; not much off this one with town voting coming up; going to have to make cuts somewhere

Cheryl Morse (396 Park Ave)

Asking clarifying point about ESSR funds (temporary positions); the positions being proposed were a need and now can be cut; we are heavy in personnel in Hopkinton. If we lose these teachers, they're going to be very hard to replace, taking away two more will add to their strain. As evidence of the strain, I would like to point out that there are teachers in this room who have been working while we have been having this meeting. That is what their strain is.

Steve Barudi (371 Maple Street)

Brought up teachers leaving workforce; If we lose these teachers, they're going to be very hard to replace, taking away two more will add to their strain. As evidence of the strain, I would like to point out that there are teachers in this room who have been working while we have been having this meeting. That is what their strain is.

Rich Houston (790 Main Street)

Speaking on his own behalf; last page of school annual report (2018-2019 peak of students); 2023-2025 projection is going down; difference of 80 students; 200K deduction is responsible as it aligns with numbers of students; numbers being added have been administrative staff; would like to see reduction in administration rather than teachers

Paul Hebert (710 Penacook Rd)

Feels budget and school board did a great job getting to this budget. Every single person is impacted; single parent coming out of Covid benefitting from interventionist; brought up paying for a barn (glorified storage unit) and not

cutting from children

Bob Mateo (108 Park Ave)

Pushing back on the unsustainable amount of the budget not being against teachers or things that the board is proposing; children will be impacted as well; worried about economy moving forward

Rob Nadeau- followed up to Mr. Houston's comment; hired on contractors to full time positions which was cost savings; keeping 4 teachers at elementary school; art/music teachers; adding instructional assistants (context)

Dave Feller (881 Clement Hill Rd)

Asked about making the decisions between hiring a teacher vs. an instructional assistant? Can you add an instructional assistant vs. a full time teacher?

Andrea F.- look at number of students in each grade and staffing available; no policy on class sizes, but has been following Bow guidelines, but they will be drafting a policy in upcoming year; student need (IEP that require additional support); require training and support in order to provide best experiences for students; have some student teachers this year and that is a way to give more support

Dennis Goddard (755 Penacook Rd)

The motion in front of us is about the dollar amount (1%) reduction and not the actual cuts; it isn't an emotional decision

Becky Eckstrom (718 Bound Tree Rd)

Encourages the board to look at creative options offered through department of education; low-cost credit opportunities; Governor's grant (2 free STEM courses at community colleges)

Ian Hart (1264 Hatfield Rd)

Child impacted by Covid-19, entering 4th grade next year, less than 1% cut and since school proposed 4th grade so that is a relevant topic to consider; voting against amendment to cut budget

Jonathan Cohen (88 School Street)

On the budget committee but speaking in personal capacity; supports the proposed budget and not the amended budget; considered what the cuts would look like and board said cost was just too high; not a lot of wiggle room in this budget; public education has to do with all the children in our community; mother is on a fixed budget and lives in town; taking resources away impacts a vulnerable students; parents with resources can hire tutor or send to private school; state does not properly fund education-revenue problem; we cannot cut this budget enough to solve this problem

Loren Clement (86 Maple Street)

Also has a second grader; has attended all the school board and budget committee meetings; encourages more people to come to the meetings; asked what other options were available besides cutting the two teachers; it's only small amounts and those add up; shared context for the 200K cut and thinks it is a respectful number that can pass

Allan Sheehy (1722 Hopkinton Rd)

Money for schools is an investment in our town and community; went to Hopkinton and credits much of success to this; local spending; may be pinching our own return in the future; sees lots of Hopkinton graduates in the audience

Ken Wasson (27 Clarke Lane)

Has anyone every proposed a budget ceiling?

Andrea F. – at this time we have not added a ceiling; without knowing what is coming to districts from state funding

Vote on the amendment Yes- decrease No- no decrease

Motion Fails

Call to Question- Aye

Now vote on proposed Yes- proposed No- against proposed vote

Becky Whitley (Turnberry Rd)

Point of Order- still do secret ballot?

Yes still here and requesting secret ballot

Amendment 1: \$23,069,768; Aye: 61; Nays: 182- Failed

Amendment 2: \$24,692,924; Aye: 90; Nays: 157- Failed

Secret ballot requested:

Loren Clement, Cheryl Morse, Catherine Ledoux, Tricia Lambert, David Lambert

Article II:

<u>In Favor</u> <u>186</u>	<u>Against</u> <u>51</u>	<u>Result</u> <u>Passes</u>
Vote Total		Vote Total

Andrea Folsom makes a motion to restrict reconsideration

Rob Nadeau seconded the motion

Article restricted from reconsideration

Article III: Building Repair and Maintenance Trust-Dulcie Madden Lipoma

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate Two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00) to be added to the School District Building Repair and Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund, established in 1993 and renamed at the March 9, 2019, School District meeting for that purpose. Majority vote required.

(The School Board recommends this article 4 to 1)

(The Budget Committee recommends this article 8 to 2)

MOVED BY: Andrea Folsom

SECOND: Rob Nadeau

Notes:

Dulcie Madden Lipoma; Nay votes were in favor of adding in more to the building repair fund

CIP overview

Shared key stats (square footage, replacement costs, recommended capital renewal ratio)

CIP Process (new Facilities Director- Jim Rozycki)

2023/2024 Request breakdowns to stay ahead of work for buildings

Public Comment-

Sarah Mattson Dustin (517 Dustin Rd)

Asked everyone to vote on this so that we avoid deferring maintenance trust/interest on the bond; bare minimum to do at this time

Article III:

<u>In Favor</u> _____	<u>Aye</u> _____	<u>Against</u> _____	<u>Result</u> _____	<u>Passed</u> _____
	Vote Total		Vote Total	

Voice vote

Andrea Folsom makes a motion to restrict reconsideration

Rob Nadea seconded the motion

Article III restricted for reconsideration

ARTICLE IV: To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Norm Goupil- thanked custodians for setting up the gym for the meeting; Steve Lux for setting up the audio; Greg Sagris for the donut/coffee donation; Girl Scouts are selling cookies

Steve Lux (413 Little Tooky Rd)
4,613 registered voters and 274 in attendance (5.9% of voters represented)

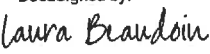
Ken Traum (402 Maple Street)
Voting on Tuesday; snow storm, but can vote absentee at town hall

Mary Goddard (Penacook Rd)
Do we have the numbers for when we did voting previously? – Yes numbers available online/library

James Newsom- thanked ballot counters

12:17 meeting dissolved

Respectfully submitted by Laura Beaudoin, School Clerk

DocuSigned by:

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3/16/2023