

WARRANT ARTICLES

HUDSON SCHOOL DISTRICT State of New Hampshire

HUDSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

This is an annotated version of the warrant articles that will be presented at the Deliberative Session on Saturday, February 5, 2022 at 9am at the Hudson Community Center.

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

FIRST SESSION OF ANNUAL MEETING (DELIBERATIVE SESSION)

You are hereby notified to meet in the Hudson Community Center in said district on Saturday, February 5, 2022 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.

The deliberative session is considered part one of voting. Registered voters may propose increases or decreases to each article, except for when prohibited by law. The voters in attendance will vote on each amendment and then place each warrant on the ballot.

The final language of each article will appear on the ballot on March 8, 2022.

SECOND SESSION OF ANNUAL MEETING (OFFICIAL BALLOT VOTING)

You are hereby notified to meet again at the **Hudson Community Center or the Alvirne High School Cafeteria** in said district on **Tuesday, March 8, 2022 between the hours of 7:00 am and 8:00 pm** for the second session of the annual school district meeting to vote by official ballot upon the following subjects:

This year's election will have two voting locations, District 1 and District 2 (as voted upon at the March 2021 election).

Details are available on the Town of Hudson website [here](#).

WARRANT ARTICLES

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Separate Ballot Vote)

- To choose two (2) members of the School Board for the ensuing three (3) years

WARRANT ARTICLES 2022-2023

Warrant Article 1 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 \$61,595,033? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget will be \$62,023,797 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: \$.15

Default tax rate impact: \$.25

Estimated tax rate: \$14.10

Default estimated tax rate: \$14.20

Not Recommended by the Hudson School Board 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-5

The proposed budget in Warrant Article 1 reflects a \$650,000 reduction made by the Budget Committee at the Budget Public Hearing on January 13, 2022.

The district asked school principals for reductions from the budget that was approved by the Hudson School Board on November 1, 2021. The list of cuts is primarily in proposed teachers and support staff (some of the new and vacant positions in the budget), totaling around \$410,000 of that \$650,000. Other reductions include the furniture replacements for the elementary schools, professional development funding, supplies, technology & software for the SAU, an A/C unit for the Hills Garrison Music room, and a reduction to the health insurance line.

The budget includes \$5,342,927 in Federal funds, revolving funds, food service funds and other non-general fund sources to support specific programs. These funds do not impact the tax rate.

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Warrant Article 2

Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Hudson School Board and PSRPs

Shall the Hudson School District vote to approve the cost items in the collective bargaining agreement between the PSRP AFT Local #6245, AFT-NH, AFL-CIO (Hudson School District full- and part-time cafeteria personnel, part-time para-educators and part-time licensed practical nurses) 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:

2022-23	\$138,994
2023-24	\$96,231

and to further raise and appropriate \$138,994 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 under current staffing levels.

Estimated tax rate impact: \$.05

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

Agreement length: 2 years

Employees: 125

Total cost: \$235,225

Positions: Part-time paraprofessionals and full-time and part-time cafeteria workers.

Changes include:

- Wage increase of approximately 3.67%
- A new stipend for paraprofessionals who work in specific programs
- A new longevity section for staff with 15+ years of service
- A revised wage-scale for cafeteria workers to include 2 levels of food service worker, and two levels of manager (elementary and middle/high)
- A decrease to the district's health insurance contribution for full-time food service staff (from 92% down to 91% in year 2)

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Warrant Article 3

Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Hudson School Board and AFSCME

Shall the Hudson School District vote to approve the cost items in the collective bargaining agreement between the AFSCME Local 1906 (Hudson School District building administration, department heads, psychologists and school counselors) 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:

2022-23	\$181,631
2023-24	\$231,020

and to further raise and appropriate \$181,631 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 under current staffing levels.

Estimated tax rate impact: \$.06

Recommended by the Hudson School Board 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 11-0

Agreement length: 2 years

Employees: 53

Total cost: \$412,651

Positions: Building administration, department heads, psychologists, and school counselors

Changes include:

- An increase in wages of 3.5% in year 1 and 4.25% in year 2
- Elimination of the step schedule for staff
- Establishment of a "hiring rate" for new employees
- A decrease in the district's health insurance contribution by 1% in each year of the agreement (from 92% down to 91% in year 1 and to 90% in year 2)

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Warrant Article 4

Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Hudson School Board and the Secretaries

Shall the Hudson School District vote to approve the cost items in the collective bargaining agreement between the Secretaries AFT Local #6260, AFT-NH, AFL-CIO (Hudson School District Secretaries) 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:

2022-23	\$50,427
2023-24	\$33,566
2024-25	\$34,506

and to further raise and appropriate \$50,427 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 under current staffing levels.

Estimated tax rate impact: \$.02

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

Agreement length: 3 years

Employees: 28

Total cost: \$118,499

Positions: Full-time and part-time administrative assistants, receptionists and office assistants

Changes include:

- An increase in wages of 3% in each year of the contract
- A new longevity section for staff with 15+ years of service
- An increase to the maximum payment at separation (from \$7,500 to \$10,000)
- A decrease in the district's health insurance contribution by 1% each year (from 93% down to 92% in year 1, 91% in year 2 and 90% in year 3)

WARRANT ARTICLES

Warrant Article 5

Partial Roof Replacement at Nottingham West Elementary School

Shall the Hudson School District vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$550,000 to replace a section of the roof at Nottingham West Elementary School?

Estimated tax rate impact: \$.17

Recommended by the Hudson School Board 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-5

The district has had a roof replacement cycle over the last several years. Nottingham's roof has multiple leaks which have been patched several times.

- Entire flat roof replacement (the metal portions of the roof will not be replaced)
- The current membrane roof warranty expired in October 2019
- New white fully-adhered membrane roof with a 20-year labor/materials warranty to be installed

Warrant Article 6

Increasing Funds in the Capital Reserve School Renovation Fund

Shall the Hudson School District vote to raise and appropriate a sum of up to \$150,000 to be added to the Capital Reserve School Renovation Fund established in September 1999? 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

Recommended by the Hudson School Board 5-0
Not recommended by the Budget Committee 7-3-1

The Capital Reserve School Renovation Fund acts as a savings account for larger capital improvement items.

- The fund currently has \$432,253 as of December 2021
- Any spending from this fund must be approved by the voters
- This fund is intended for renovations in the schools – it has been used to replace an elevator, as an example

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Warrant Article 7

Transfer of Property to the Hudson Lions Club

Shall the Hudson School District authorize the School Board to convey an approximately .511 acre portion of the District's property at the HO Smith Elementary School, Tax Map 182 Lot 109, to the School District's abutter, the Hudson Lions Club, Inc., which is presently using the property for the bleachers and dugout for a ball field on their property, all on such terms and conditions as the School Board shall determine are in the best interest of the District?

Estimated tax rate impact: \$.00

Recommended by the Hudson School Board 4-0-1

The Hudson Lions Club hosts baseball games at Lions Field, directly abutting Dr. HO Smith Elementary School.

The bleachers and dugout used by players and spectators are on the school district's property.

The district currently has a memorandum of understanding with the Hudson Lions club to use the property.

This warrant article proposes to transfer the property with the bleachers and dugout to the Hudson Lions Club, which will remove any confusion about liability.

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Warrant Article 8

Add Playground to Dr. H.O. Smith Elementary School

Shall the Hudson School District vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$75,000 to build a playground at the Dr. H.O. Smith Elementary School? This is a special warrant article.

Estimated tax rate impact: \$.02

Recommended by the Hudson School Board 5-0
Not recommended by the Budget Committee 5-6

Dr. H.O. Smith (first grade) and Library Street (kindergarten) share a playground.

Prior to full-day kindergarten, Library Street didn't use the playground for recess. Now that students attend school for a full day, recess is an important part of the school day.

The size of the playground limits using it for both grades at the same time. Kindergarten and first grade alternate days on the playground, with students using the schools' pavement courtyards on alternating days.

If approved, a playground will be built for first grade students.

Warrant Article 9

Face Masks

Shall the Hudson, NH school district require a 'face mask optional' policy pertaining to wearing COVID-19 face mask? The personal choice for wearing face masks will rest with the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student. Additionally, face masks will be a personal choice of the faculty, staff, volunteers, and visitors of the Hudson schools. This requirement will apply to the schools' classrooms, hallways, bathrooms, and common areas (e.g. gymnasium, cafeterias, theaters, libraries, music & art rooms, etc.), school events, and outdoors on school property. Additionally, this policy would apply to all other educational related buildings. Exceptions for the policy would be for limited mask mandatory specific rooms. This warrant article would take effect immediately upon passage.

Submitted by petition

Not Recommended by the Hudson School Board 5-0

This article was submitted by citizen's petition.

The School Board does not recommend this article.

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Warrant Article 10

State of the Hudson Schools Town Meeting

Shall the Hudson, NH school board hold an annual 'State of the Hudson Schools' town meeting and presentation that shall be open to the public? This event would include the attendance and participation of the school board, superintendent and select staff. This event would present all school curriculums, school spending, budget and costs, overall student academic standings and expectations, conduct a public comment/questions & answers session, and make available all presentation material for public review on the SAU81 website no later than 14 calendar days prior to the event. Results and findings from the meeting shall be posted for public review on the SAU81 website no later than 60 calendar days after the event. Funding would be taken from the existing school budgets. This warrant article would take effect immediately upon passage.

Submitted by petition

Not Recommended by the Hudson School Board 1-4

This article was submitted by citizen's petition.

The School Board does not recommend this article.

The board supports the spirit of this article but has concerns about some of the details of the petition and being able to implement them with fidelity.

On January 24, 2022, the Hudson School Board voted to hold a "state of the district" meeting in the future, with details to be decided upon by the next board.