

Minutes of the School District Deliberative Session of February 5, 2022
Community Center, Lyons Avenue
Hudson, New Hampshire 03051

1. OPENING

The Honorable Paul Inderbitzen, Town Moderator, called the meeting to order at 9:02am.
Presentation of the flags by Alvirne High School JrROTC Honor Guard
Pledge of Allegiance by School Board Member LaMothe
National Anthem sung by Alvirne High School's B-Naturals

2. REMARKS BY THE MODERATOR

Ladies and Gentlemen, this is the Deliberative Session of the Hudson School District. You will be acting as a legislative body and it will determine the final form of the Warrant Articles that will be voted on at the March 8th. Election. All the Articles that you see here today, by law, MUST be placed on the Ballot. The rules we will follow are the Moderator's Rules. They are in your booklet when you came in. If we run out of booklet I think there's a box with more back there. If you have questions about the rules, please feel free to ask for a clarification or ask for a "Point of Order". This body may also vote to establish its own rules that you deem necessary. And you can overrule my rules by a majority vote of this body. If you are new to the Deliberative Session, I suggest you look at those rules now and as we go through the session. I will go through some of them. For safety reasons I am asking everyone to remain seated for the meeting and to remain masked. There's an unmasked section in the back. I am asking anyone who does not wear a mask to be in that section. And I'll ask our officer to enforce that. This is a safety issue and everyone has their own rights but the people who are masked also have a right not to be exposed to people who do not have a mask. Everyone is to be considered. All people are to be considered. Any disruption people will be removed from the room. As the legislature we will be discussing the Warrant Articles before us. I'm asking everyone to be respectful of everyone else. We are going to keep personalities out of this debate. I'm going to ask you to use terms "the previous speaker", "the School Board member, or "the Budget member". Any questions and comments are to be directed to the moderator. If you ask a question there is no requirement that somebody has to answer. Depending on the question most of the time people do yield. If you are a registered voter of Hudson you have been issued a yellow voter card. If we need to take any votes today this is how we will vote. Please keep this card. You won't get another one. I'm asking everyone to please find a seat and sit down. We really do need to have people seated. And to move around the room as little as possible. You were also given a sheet of numbers, yes no ballots. If there are any secret ballots requested today we will use these for the secret ballot. There's a box at the back of the room when you leave will can recycle your voter card and the slips and the ballot sheets and we will reuse them at a suitable time of decontamination as they say. There are some staff members from the District who will be allowed to speak if there are questions to be answered here at the meeting. The school's attorney is here if there are questions of the law. We'll take a break or two if we need to. Unfortunately we felt it unsafe to have food available. Sorry for that but we really feel that we're still in a tenuous time with the pandemic. **This meeting is being televised and streamed live on Hudson Cable and HCTV website.** I think also on the Facebook. But it will be available for viewing later this week and actually until voting. They'll have this up in multiple times for transmission and you can call it up many times as streamed. And we appreciate the HCTV staff and all the work they do to set this up and take it down and set it up for next week for the Town Deliberative. Also the Recreation staff and Town staff to help us set this up. There's a lot of work to do when you're involved in this. At the end of our meeting when we adjourn there will be a meeting of the Budget Committee and they posted. They will decide whether or not to change their recommendations based on the actions of this body here today.

Same with the School Board. Depending on how this body moves the Warrant forward they will also have a meeting for the purpose of reviewing their discussions, their recommendations, I'm sorry. A little note while people are still coming in. As you remember last year the Town voted for our elections in March to have two locations. We have divided the Town into two wards of equal numbers of voters, pretty equal anyway. There is a map in the back that shows the two wards. Ward 1 is everything south of Ferry, Burham Road and Central Street from Burham Road out to the town line will be Ward 1. Everyone north of From Ferry Street, Burham Road and the rest of Central Street out to the town line will be in Ward 2. Ward 2 will vote at Alvirne High School, Ward 1 will still vote here at the Community Center. You will all get, every voter will get a mailing sometime in the next few weeks. A card with your voting location. Please watch for that. Try to remember that. We will do as much publicity as we can. This is new for the town. We would like to, there's a lot of work involved in that too. But you will get one notice. Keep looking for it and remember where you're suppose to go to in March. If you go to the wrong location you we have a check in book for you. We must divide the check-in books. So you can use the map if you wan to take a look on your way out. Use the map in the back of the room. But you will get a notice. If you go on the Town website there is a listing of all the streets in Ward 1 and all the streets in Ward 2. You'll be able to look up your street and fid out where you're suppose to vote. I'm doing this now in case we don't have as many people at the end. I usually do this at the end. Please remember that you need to vote. I have also been notified that there is a Candidates' Night February 24th. Here at the Community Center by the Hudson Women's Club, sponsoring it. So you'll be able to see and hear from who are your candidates running for office.

3. NONVOTERS

Nonvoter staff will be allowed to speak to assist with the meeting.

Lawrence Russell, Superintendent
Kimberly Organck, Assistant Superintendent
Rachel Borge, Director of Special Services
Jennifer Burk, Business Administrator
Gordon Graham, Attorney for the District

4. INTRODUCTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL BOARD BY CHAIRMAN GARY GASDIA [refer to page 4]

Diana LaMothe, Vice-Chairman
Ethan Beals, member
Gretchen Whiting, member
Michael Campbell, member

5. INTRODUCTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE BY CHAIRMAN RICH WEISSGARBER [refer to page 4]

Bill Cole, Vice-Chairman
Shawn Murray, member
Norman Martin, member
Kathy Leary, member
Grace Hopkins, member
Ted Trost, member
Alejandro Urrutia, Clerk
Bob Guessferd, Selectman Liaison Alternate
Robert Clegg, member

6. RETURN OF THE WARRANT TO THE DISTRICT CLERK [refer to page 5]

Moderator Inderbitzen confirming that the School District Clerk, Diane Cannava, was in possession of the Warrant,

7. READING OF THE WARRANT ARTICLES AND ACTIONS OF THE MEETING

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

FIRST SESSION OF THE 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.

SECOND SESSION OF THE 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:

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Separate Ballot Vote)

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

Moderator: (continuing) And to vote on these Articles. [**Moderator reading Warrant Article 1.**]

WARRANT ARTICLE 1 Operating Budget Amount: \$61,595,033

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.

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| Estimated tax rate impact: \$.15 | Not recommended by the Hudson School Board 5-0 |
| Default tax rate impact: \$.25 | Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-5 |
| Estimated tax rate: \$14.10 | |
| Default estimated tax rate: \$14.20 | |

Moderator: (continuing) **And I will recognize Budget Committee Chair Weissgarber to present Warrant Article #1.**

Chairman Weissgarber: Before I get started I would like to introduce the members of the Budget Committee - Vice-Chair Bill Cole, Mr. Shawn Murray, Mr. Norman Martin, Miss Kathy Leary, Miss Grace Hopkins, Mr. Ted Trost, Mr. Alejandro Urrutia, Selectman Bob Guessferd and Mr. Bob Clegg. One of the things I wanted to say before I start speaking on the warrant article is that everyone on the Budget Committee understands that the school is much more than reading, writing and arithmetic. We get that. We understand that there are many factors that go into the school system outside of those typical things. And many of us have been around in the Budget Committee for awhile. We have had discussions about that throughout the fiscal years as it relate to the Alvirne School renovation project. Secondary tertiary things that go along with that. We care about the school. We want the best for the students. So I just wanted to say that because we're residents, we're neighbors, we're taxpayers, we're parents. Some have had kids go through the school system. So we're not just sitting back here as that Budget Committee that's not putting thoughts into those factors as well because we know they are important. I just wanted to say that.

Chairman Weissgarber: (continuing) So school Warrant Article 1. The school district administrative team worked with the staff throughout the district to develop a budget for fiscal year 2023. This proposed FY 23 budget was reviewed with the School Board in October and November of 2021. The School Board made some adjustments to the proposed budget updating it to \$62, 246,534 which was delivered to the Budget Committee November 10th. After reviewing the proposed FY23 Budget details with the administration and School Board Liaison throughout November, reviewing historical end-of-the-year fund balances, student enrollment statistics, year-end fund transfer data over several fiscal years, other fund balances, for example the retained fund balance, resident feedback and following the Public-Input portion at the Public Hearing on January 13th. [referring to Budget Committee-prepared slide: *Warrant Article 1 Operating Budget*] the Budget Committee reduced the operating budget by \$650,000 recommending an operating budget of \$61,595,033. The default budget is set at \$62,023,797. And the projected tax rate for the operating budget is \$14.10 per thousand. Which is a \$.15 increase form FY22. And again it was not recommended by the School Board 5-0 and it was recommended by the Budget Committee 6-5. Again as a taxpayer, I think there was a lot of critical thought that went into the historical end of year fund balances and looking at the way the way the school was budgeting, trying to tighten the belt around how the budget was developed so that we weren't having large end of year fund balance. So originally there was a line item which was a motion to increase line items which was 668,000, that failed, so there was a motion to reduce it by a bottomline reduction of the budget. Either way the school can go back during the fiscal year to make changes against that 650,000 within the operational budget. That's basically all I have. I'm going to hand it over to Vice-Chairman Lamothe.

Moderator: Thank you. I did not follow my own rules. Thank you for introducing your members. I should have also asked the School Board Chair to introduce their members. I'm not even following my own schedule here with so many things going on. So thank you Mr. Weissgarber. If the school board would introduce their members and the people that are here and then we will recognize Mrs. Lamothe on Article Number 1.

Chairman Gasdia: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. So, for those who don't know me, my name is Gary Gasdia and I'm the Chairman of the Hudson School Board. With us today is Vice-Chair Diana Lamothe, right next to her, not on the Board, Superintendent Russell, school board member Ethan Beals, school board member Gretchen Whiting, school board member Michael Campbell, and as the Moderator indicated earlier for any legal questions, we also have Gordon Graham who is our legal attorney

Moderator: Thank you. Also the other item I missed on the thing is that I ask the Clerk, our School District Clerk, Diane Cannava, has the Warrant been returned to you.

District Clerk Cannava: Yes it has.

Moderator: Yes it has; thank you very much. Mrs. Lamothe to speak on Warrant Article #1, the Operating Budget.

Vice-Chair Lamothe: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. Thank you to everyone in attendance, those viewing from home and to HCTV. As Chairman Weissgarber indicated, the budget process begins with the SAU administrative team working with staff. It is a concerted effort with much consideration by all levels of personnel including teachers, department heads, directors, principals, SAU administration and the superintendent. Staff members contact vendors to obtain updated information on pricing for the next year. They also look at the availability of funding at the federal and state level and take into account all legal requirements around services for students which need to be factored into the budget. The School District and the School Board presented a budget to ensure that the needs of students are met through a fiscally responsibility budget. We are very mindful of the taxpayers. Primary focus for board decisions is student achievement. Our mission is to ensure that all students achieve personal, academic excellence in a safe and dynamic environment. The 2020-2021 school year brought significant challenges for the staff, for students and families. The middle school and high school attended school in a hybrid mode for most of the year, while elementary students were at full in-person. Remote learning academy was also an option that was selected by some. The district was able to get everyone back fully in-person for this current 2021-2022 school year. However there were significant challenges with recruiting for open positions and finding sufficient substitutes to cover regular absences such as sick and personal days. The staff has been working exceptionally hard to meet the needs of students this year and we appreciate the efforts from everyone in the district. As we look ahead to the 22-23 year, the district will continue to move forward with Strategic Plan initiatives and with additional support needed to address students' mental health needs and learning losses. Staffing levels for the new Palmer CTE Center were also considered as we looked at expanding course offerings not only to meet the needs of our Alvirne students but also to attract additional outside students. This would increase the CTE tuition revenue, which was \$6,000 per student.

Vice-Chair Lamothe: (speaking in conjunction with School Board prepared slides.) Slide: *Budget Overview (All Funds)* - So the overall proposed budget including all funds reflects an increase of \$2,046,229, a 3.44%. The top line in this summary is the *General Fund*. This reflects an increase of 246,728 or 0.44%. The increase to the General Fund is primarily what drives the tax rate. As all expenditures under the categories of *Federal Funds, Food Service and the Alvirne CTE* are entirely offset by revenue and increases in those categories do not impact the tax rate. Slide: *Tax Impact & Default Budget* - So the Town appropriation which is the amount to be raised by local taxes which is proposed to increase by 496,231. This is due to the increase in the operating budget, which I will address on my next slide, as well as the decrease in anticipated revenue. Some changes to revenue include the building aid that we have been receiving for the past twenty years ended in 2022. So that reduces revenue from the state by around 278,000. In addition the adequacy aid and the statewide property tax which are tied to our student enrollment is decreasing by just over \$100,000. And as I mentioned, we looked at increasing CTE tuition if we are able to increase our outside student enrollment in those programs. Factoring in those changes we are looking at a tax rate increase of \$0.15 per \$1,000 of property value. On a \$300,000 home that is an additional \$45 for the year. The total

anticipated tax rate for the operating budget for 2023 will be \$14.10 which is up from the \$13.95 tax rate currently in effect. The default budget as noted previously is 428,764 higher than the proposed budget. The default budget was calculated on the previous year operating budget plus any contractual obligations we have such as the increase for the second year of the teachers' contract and increases related to transportation, special education tuition costs, minus any one time expenditures. Slide: *General Fund Summary* - So again the General Fund is primarily what drives the tax rate. Budget increases within the General Fund include certain contractual obligations. So *Salaries* and *Benefits* which represent 79% of the total, we see a combined increase of \$511,964. All other expenditure areas are decreasing by 265,236 which nets out to an overall increase of 246,728 which is 0.44 %. Slide: *Budget Proposals for FY23* - So again the budget development begins with district administration requests from staff go to the superintendent and then a budget is recommended to the School Board. This year the School Board with recommendations from the administration decreased the proposed budget by 300,588. The main reduction was in *Salaries & Benefits*. We reduced several vacant paraprofessional positions to \$1.00. These positions are still very much needed but we recognize are very difficult to fill and may remain vacant. We also added a mental health counselor position, The School Board a budget and turned it to the Budget Committee for consideration. The Budget Committee made two reductions to the budget, \$1,500 line for a drill kit in the *Facilities* department, which the Board agrees with, and then a bottomline reduction of \$650,000. Based on that reduction the administrative team came up with a list of areas to reduce the budget as noted on this slide. The primary area impacted by this reduction was in *Salaries & Benefits*. Among the reductions were in new or vacant positions, such as the new part time Administrative Assistant at Library Street where we now have full day kindergarten, a new part time culinary teacher for the CTE center, a new English teacher at Alvirne, a new part time computer science teacher for the CTE, new part time health and science teacher for the CTE, three new part time paraprofessionals for the CTE, a new Strategies for Success teacher at Alvirne, a vacant math teacher at Alvirne and a vacant part time special education teacher at Alvirne. These positions reductions totaled almost 210,000. In addition to these reductions a number of other areas were reduced, furniture replacement at all elementary schools, professional development, transportation, supplies, technology and software lines in the SAU budget, an air conditioning unit for the music room at Hills Garrison which was a scheduled replacement, and a decrease to the health insurance line. This rate is updated every year but the final number isn't known until after the budget is developed, in the winter time. So the total of these reductions was \$650,000, approved by the Budget Committee at the Public Hearing. These reductions will have an impact on the ability of the district to make changes to the course offerings for students. Slide: *Community School Tax Rates 2022* - So this slide shows the education related tax rates for Hudson and other area districts. Hudson's tax rate for 2022, number four on the list, at \$13.95 per thousand. The tax rate in Hudson was \$14.08. So it did decrease this year primarily driven by the fund balance, as I will explain. Slide: *Fund Balance History* - So this slide shows recent years of the fund balance in the district. The past two years are more notable and are a direct result of the impact COVID has had on our schools. Traditionally the end year fund balance is made up of *Salaries* and *Benefits* savings due to staff turnover. As long time staff retire or more on in their careers in some cases the district may be able to hire a less experienced teacher. In cases where a staff member with a family level health insurance plan may leave and a new staff member may only choose a single level plan and this is a savings. There may also be a savings as a result of a warmer winter, lower energy costs, or we may get additional discounts for *Supplies* and *Services*. It is healthy for a school district to have a 1-2% of a budget remaining as a fund balance at the end of the year. Any fund balance that is unexpended, 100% is used to offset the

tax rate for the next fiscal year. A positive fund balance demonstrates prudent fiscal management. What does this mean. The general fund budget for the current school year is approximately \$56,000,000. We want to have a fund balance of 560,000 to 1.1 million dollars to mitigate a financial risk that could arise from unforeseen circumstances. Anything below \$560,000 would be very concerning. A fund balance also contributes to an excellent credit rating when applying for bonds and financing and it means the district didn't end up with a deficit appropriations, spending more money than approved by the voters. We never want to do that. In the last two fiscal years we had more of a fund balance than usual because of COVID. Going remote in March of 2020 we saw a sharp decrease in student transportation costs. We also had fewer staff absent for medical leave as plans reduced our substitute needs. With students learning remotely we also had a significant reduction in expenses for classroom supplies and materials. And some events and activities and any related travel were cancelled. This big decrease carried forward into the 20-21 school year. Students didn't have the usual field trips or athletics, music, drama, club events and national competitions. This reduced our expenses. The return to school for that year was challenging. Remote learning academy was an option for all students. The middle school and high school had to operate on a hybrid schedule based on social distancing, Half the students came on one day alternating in-person and remote. There were also staffing challenges that impacted the salaries and benefits account. As a result of the pandemic the district had a significant fund balance at the end of fiscal year 21, closer to 4% rather than the preferred 1-2%. This was a common occurrence for school districts throughout the state. While there were a lot of challenges presented by the pandemic, there was a silver lining. The 2.4 million dollar fund balance offset the amount to be raised by taxes. So the benefit for taxpayers was a reduction in the education tax rate for the fall 2021 tax bills from \$14.08 per thousand to \$13.95. So the education tax rate decreased by \$0.13 per thousand. Slide: *Cost Per Pupil FY21 Latest Figures Available* - The state average cost per pupil is \$18,434 for fiscal year 2021. The cost per pupil in Hudson is \$15,977. This is significantly under the state average and compared to other communities. For the fiscal year 20 the cost is \$15,432. It is truly amazing what the Hudson faculty and staff accomplish for the resources they have. Thank you for listening.

Moderator: Thank you. Let me describe what we are going to do in this debate in case you are knew to this. I am going to be opening up the Article #1 the Operating Budget to questions, comments, and amendments. You can do one of three things when you come to the mic. You can ask a question, you can get an answer, maybe, you can make a comment about what you feel about Article #1, or you can make an amendment. You can't do all three at the same time, or two at the same time. We are only going to do one thing at a time at a trip to the microphone. That's to keep things in order. **So now I will open Warrant Article #1 the Operating Budget, to comments, questions, and amendments.** Yes, Ma'am, and there will be one in the back after this one right here.

Patty Langlais, 22 Stonewood Lane: I rise to amend this article to add \$650,000 to this budget.

**MOTION: AMENDMENT#1 TO ADD \$650,000 TO THE OPERATING BUDGET
MADE BY: PATTY LANGLAIS; SECONDED BY: ALFRED GIUFFRIDA**

Moderator: Who seconded that. Mr. Giuffrida. We have an amendment proposed on Article #1. Amendment #1 is moved by Miss Langlais. Seconded by Mr. Giuffrida. The motion is to add \$650,000 to the budget, operating budget. We are now going to deal with just the amendment. The only thing we are going to talk about at this time is whether or not to add, to amend, to add \$650,000, and then we go back to the budget and we can talk about the rest of the

budget. This amendment is to add 650; that is the only think we are going to discuss right now. Miss Langlais, do you wish to speak to your amendment. We have some people speaking. I'll give you first chance. Then, Mr. Giuffrida if you wish on the second and then we'll

Langlais: I'm not going to take up everybody's time but I think it is pretty obvious to everybody here why to add it back. I trust our school district. I've been on this side. I know hard everybody works. Please, take a look at why we are so short staffed.

Moderator: Thank you. Mr. Giuffrida, the seconder.

Alfred Giuffrida, 14 Pinewood Road: Thank you. So I did this job for five years straight on Budget Committee. You guys go through every single line of the budget. Line by line in painstaking detail. You have every opportunity to remove from specific line items. What you did was say you know what we are not going to do that. We are going to take out \$650,000 from the bottomline and leave it up to the School Board to figure it out. That wasn't the job really. That's why I seconded to put the \$650,000 back in. And next year if you want to take it out, do it through the line item.

Moderator: (to voter approaching mic) Yes, Ma'am.

Voter: (interrupting from within non-masked area) Point of Order. I've been waiting to speak. You put two people, three people before me.

Moderator: We are now on the amendment.

Voter: It's on the amendment. I've been standing here with my hand up.

Moderator: Oh, you wanted to speak on the amendment. I had asked to speak on Article One. You had wanted to speak on the amendment.

Voter: Yes

Moderator: I will recognize you to speak on the amendment. Name and address, please.

Peggy Huard, 13 David Drive: Good Morning, Mr. Moderator, good morning, Hudson. I'm Peggy Huard of David Drive. I rise in opposition to this amendment. Once again many false and exaggerated statements have been used to coerce and induce this body, the voting taxpayers of Hudson, into believing that the Budget Committee reduction is inappropriate and somehow harmful to the district and children. This could be no farther from the truth. I'd like to ask HCTV to put up my slide to show the allocations that the school district made to reflect the Budget Committee's reduction. The School Board and School District have not made sufficient effort to bring forward a prudent and otherwise ethical budget. This is a warrant article, people, for an operating budget for a municipal public school district with over 1,000 line items. I'd like to ask HCTV to put up my slide, a single slide, do you have that now

Voter: Point of Order. Is this allowed

Moderator: Somebody submitted some. So we take them as long as there's not too lengthy.

Voter: Is this common practice

Moderator: It's not common practice, but people have done it in the past. We are speaking to the amendment to adding of the \$650,000.

Huard: (speaking in conjunction with her slide) Slide: *School District Allocation of Budget Committee's \$650,000 Bottom Line Reduction* - So, this supports my reason for not supporting the amendment.... This shows the allocations that the school district chose to make to reflect the Budget Committee reduction.... RSA 37 supports that the operating budget covers expenses for one fiscal year, however when I look at the line items budgeted I see numerous

areas that one may not consider to be operating budget for normal operation for a public school district for only one year. I'm not exaggerating. Take a look for yourself. I'd walk you through line item by line item so they can see the truth....The Budget Committee left the district to show areas and they chose to focus on these new and vacant positions. They had many other choices which I am going to demonstrate to you....I'd like to ask HCTV to advance to my second slide in my larger powerpoint: *Estimated 1000 + line items to Operating Budget 1000 line items X overstated need, add up quickly.*

Voter: (shouting out) Point of Order. Has any of this information been vetted, are any of these numbers accurate

Moderator: We have no idea. This is the speaker's information. That would have to be a question of the School Board or the Budget Committee.

Voter: I also believe there is a three minute time limit or does that not apply

Moderator: We don't have a time limit set yet. This Body can set one. But we want to allow Mrs. Huard to finish. I think she only has one more slide.

Huard: With all due respect to the previous speaker, why would your comments have any greater value than mine. Thank you

Moderator: (hearing clapping) Please, be in order

Huard: So to backtrack, these areas add up to millions very quickly and all the Budget Committee did was to give them a bottom line reduction of \$650,000. To begin with, the school system received a sizable ESSER Grant that could be managed more effectively.... The budget could be better scrutinized for errors. There were actually carried forward errors in the original operating budget that were missed by at least three different administrators.... Many vendor contracts could be lowered if the bud process was used . These are areas that remain for the school district to move around....Capital improvements should be their own warrant article...and shouldn't be hidden inside an operating budget. Some disagreement as to these improvement being paid with ESSER funding grant, not taxation. A sizable reduction could have been made to historically overstated health and dental insurance....There is a \$200,000 transfer budgeted to be made from the *General Fund* to *Food Service*.

Moderator: Please stick to the amendment, please.

Huard: So, but it was not. This area alone could have covered about one-third of the Budget Committee's reduction, but the school district chose to ignore that....So the last area with this slide [*Small Line Items Consistently ZERO Expended*] shall represent an area where the school district could have easily reduced or removed numerous, numerous line items either never been used or have been consistently under utilized for purposes requested. Amounts in these line items remain consistently available....and are used for large end of year requests or are transferred to other areas often appear as wants and not needs....I'd like to have HCTV run the slide show real quickly....in a reasonable amount of time.

Moderator: We have a lot of people who wish to speak, Mrs. Huard.

Huard: This is my time to speak. Sorry. So this slideshow
[*Small Line Items Budgeted Annually Consistently ZERO Expended (Additional)*]
0241100610-School Wide Consumable/Staples/Headphones
0351100610-School Wide Consumable Supplies/Adult Education/Agenda Books
10351100430-Repairs/Maintenance-Instructional Equipment
10002213320-Professional Development

10812520610-Supplies-Finance/HR
10812520635-Publications/Conferences-Finance/HR
0001200569-Tuition Historical Transfers
10002722519-Transportation Historical Transfers
10001200331-Medicaid Billing]

shows these areas that have never been used but are consistently budgeted....transfers of items over five years....they re-budget the same amount or they ask for an increase....you can see *Consumable Supplies*, consistent transfers being made....you can see decent size available balance....take a look at the similar pattern....I know people are aghast when they see this, but I just want to point out this. I know *Tuition* and *Transportation* are a difficult thing to predict, but if you look at the pattern, you have large transfers and available balances at the end of the year....could something have possibly been taken from here....This just seems to me as highly overinflated line item....some of these historical transfers seem unethical cause you are transferring operational to capital improvements. In my line of work we call that embezzlement.

Moderator: Mrs. Huard, please. You are not going to be allowed, permitted, if you don't finish this up. That was inappropriate and uncalled for.

Huard: If you look up the formal definition

Moderator: Not at this meeting, Ma'am. Not at this meeting.

Huard: So *Transportation* is the same thing....year end unplanned capital improvements....

Voter: Point of Order

Moderator: Can you please finish this out. A lot of people want to speak. You can't take up the whole time.

Huard: I'm almost finish. So just go ahead. Fine, then just go to the end. [Slide:10352225430-Repairs/Maintenance-Computers/1:1s] because nobody actually wants to hear the truth....So, in closing, these are just some of the major areas that could have been and still be removed, reduced....to relieve the taxpayer from the continued unethical burden....There are plenty, plenty, people, places to move money from without harming the district or children. Please consider carefully the implications of adding this reduction back. Please vote "no" on this amendment. A vote to support this amendment may upturn the chance of obtaining a "yes" vote of your other warrant articles including the many labor contracts before you this year. Thank you.

Moderator: Further discussion on the amendment. (hearing clapping) Please be in order people. Everyone should be in order. We are respecting everyone's opinion but we are not making charges here. Yes, Ma'am, state you name and address, please

Darcy Orellana, 12 Robin Drive: At this time I'd like to make a motion to limit the time a speaker

Moderator: At this time we are only dealing with the amendment and after that if we want to set a time limit we can, I am not going to do that in the middle of an amendment. So we're talking about the amendment to add \$650,000.

Orellana: So let me table that. I stand in support of this amendment. I appreciate the people on the committee, known as the Budget Committee, but our student body needs to have a full

and complete educational experience. We know that things are more expensive. We know that there are more needs for our students, for our faculty and staff, and administrators. And to lock off \$650,000 in this economic situation is not prudent, to use that word that was used previously. So I stand in support of this amendment.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion on the amendment. Yes, Ma'am.

Fabiana Fickett, 13 Tamrack Street: I also stand in support of the amendment to increase the operational budget. First I would like to say that I'm appalled at the lack of prioritizing from the the Budget Committee here in town for the School Board. To make motions to take money away from children as well as the playgrounds is repulsive at best. The school district asked for is 1.4% increase from last year. While other districts similar to ours are asking for 3% in access. Hudson's per pupil expenditure is about \$2,000 less than the state of New Hampshire average. Our children are being treated below average of what other districts choose to use in favor of their education. It was previously stated that money doesn't solve everything, and although this is true, New Hampshire ranks last in the nation for public education funding. The federal government only gives us \$3,800 per pupil. We are responsible for the rest. Don't our students deserve at least the average that other students are receiving in budget items. The technology in our district is lacking. We had to buy pre-own computers from other districts, that were three years old just so that our students could be educated properly. Building roofs are exceeding their life expectancies and there are significant structural issues that need to be addressed. Salaries are some of the lowest in the state. We have Masters level teachers earning \$39,000 a year. The cost of living this year was a 5% increase. Yet again our financial impact for the salaries was about 2%. We all get raises. Why doesn't everyone else deserve it too. Utilities in this district amount to over 1.1 million dollars per year. Out of district placements alone can cost over \$310,000 for one placement. The fund balance, as we heard today, a healthy fund balance is between one and two percent, that's 1.1 million This is the first year they ever achieved the 1.1 million and look at what has happened. COVID has struck us so that we have staff shortages that dare I say probably resulted in 70 or more vacancies. There's no field trips, there's minimum athletics. Transportation costs continue to skyrocket cause we have limited choices. There are few if any enrichments, no clubs, no national events the kids can go to because of COVID . This money was given back to the taxpayers as is legally required by law. If the money's not used, it will go back to the taxpayers. Do we just give up and count this money out, Do we just assume we can continue to function with less and less staff with our students not attending athletic events, clubs, enrichments. Are we giving up on our youth. Educate yourselves, please. Know what the school budget does. What it goes to. Attend a meeting once in a while; be informed. Get into the school to see what they accomplish with what little they have. See the things that actually need to be fixed before you pass judgment. There is no malicious intent on the part of the School Board or anyone that works in the district. They are hard working educators who stay here in Hudson for \$39,000 a year because of the love of the district and the students. Please, understand we are at the bottom 10% for pupil expenditures in this state. We are spending 21 to 38 million dollars less than nearest districts. Salem has an 83 million dollar budget and 3500 students. Derry, New Hampshire, has a 94 million dollar budget and 3300 students. We have approximately 3200 students. We has approximately 3200 students and we're fighting for 62 million for our students. Our student deserve at least the state average. We're not asking to increase by 6.4 million which could meet the average. There're asking for just about enough. And for me, it's worth the \$4 per month in my taxes to make sure that our students get what they need. Budget Committee please hear us today . You did not hear us on January 13. There were many in favor

of leaving the budget as it is and you continued with personal agendas and did not listen. You were voted in by us and you're not

Moderator: Please address all your comments through me, please. Not direct them directly.

Fickett: In closing it's time that this district takes our students education seriously, and I vote in favor of keeping the budget as is.

Moderator: Thank you. I have two people in this line and then that gentleman stood up; so the next two and then that gentleman. Yes, sir. Your name and address please.

Andrew Worcester, 7 Telonian Drive: I'd like to request that my son, Andrew, also of 7 Telonian Drive, be allowed to make a statement. He is not a voter but he attends Nottingham West School.

Moderator: If not seeing any objection, let the young Andrew make a statement.

Drew Worcester, 7 Telonia Drive: Hello, my name is Drew and I am a fifth grader at Nottingham. I was at the last meeting and was very upset that they would be deducting of over \$600,000 from the budget when we are one of the worst paying districts in all of New Hampshire. We are 109th place out of 143 districts, meaning we are really low paying. So even though I can't make a vote, please agree with me that we should add that money back in. My school has a falling apart roof. All the buildings are very old and we need to get Alvirne back on the ballot because they don't have an auditorium. None of the schools in this district have a true auditorium. Also this is something important for the well-being of all kids in this district. We need to spend more money on counselors, not just the teachers. I've a friend who felt like everyone was against her and physically hurt herself because of it. If this town can't put money to help someone like that, I am amazed and ashamed that we can't do it. So let's come together to help our children, teachers and counselors. Please, that is all I have to say. Thanks.

Moderator: Thank you very much. Next, Yes, sir, your name please.

Craig Powers, 31 Cedar Street: I'll try to take some of the emotion out of it. We see, again regarding the amendment to add 650K back in, based on my experience 30 years in industry, whenever we have budget discussions, you talk about risk and opportunity. We have a proposal done, and in my last job in industry there was a three-billion proposal, so I understand line item creating proposal. And I also understand, shall we say program management, that as soon as that budget or as soon as that number is identified, the challenge to performing areas that are going to take that cut. I don't see the 650K on the 652 as completely out of the norm. And some of you may feel it's not fine enough. Some of you may find it may not be gross enough, or wide enough but what would help me understand, Miss Vice-Chairman, or Mr. Moderator, if I could ask a question, is given that 650K cut out what is the resulting risk position to the School Board budget, meaning what wont we have money for. Similarly, whenever we talk budget we talk about opportunities. I'm sure there's a register that says although we budgeted, I'll make up a number, 10K for this number, we think that number is going to come in zero, and this number is going to come in 5K, if we invest a thousand to go achieve that. It's surprising to me that were having a budget discussion and we're not having risk and opportunity charts put up on the board. Cause that's what matters. I don't know, filtering out all the emotions from this, I don't know if we are cutting skin, we are cutting muscle, or we're cutting bone. It's not clear to voters and I think voters as part of the process. we need to put in front of voters this is the risk and opportunity to accepting the budget as

recommended 6-5 by the Budget Committee. So I would ask Mr. Moderator, if we could get some answers to those questions. I yield my time. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Would the School Board yield, yes, Mrs. Lamothe, yields.

Lamothe: Thank you. The primary opportunity that we won't be able to pursue with this budget cut relates to the new Palmer Career Technical and Education Center. I think as everyone is aware we added a new renovated and expanded CTE Center. There was an effort to increase the amount that we would get from CTE tuition, which I have mentioned \$6,000 per student from a sending school. To do that our new CTE Director planned to add a new part time computer science teacher, new part time health science teacher, new part time paraprofessionals. Those were primarily related to safety; we have mechanics, various programs that it helps to have extra staff to watch the students as they're holding sharp tools and everything. We recognized that there are some positions that are very difficult to fill. Throughout the country every employer is dealing with this. It's hard to fill positions. So, to have a math teacher at Alvirne and another English teacher at Alvirne, because we implemented, there's a Capstone Project which is budgeted for seniors which is phenomenal for students, and also the sign language program at Alvirne, occupied some of the English teachers. So there's a need to add an English teacher to Alvirne; we had to cut that out. So those are the opportunities that we are giving up to come up with most of this \$650,000 budget. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Yes, Sir. The gentleman in the back, your name and address please.

Patrick Quinlan, 10 Hurley St: I'd like to first set out with thanking the elected representative of this Town for creating this booth of segregation so that you guys can scream at the top of your lungs. Your lack of knowledge of the aerosol and its function. Thank you guys for that and for using this police force to put me in here

Moderator: Please, you need to speak on the amendment, sir

Quinlan: Just one more second

Moderator: No, you will speak to the amendment or you will sit down.

Quinlan: We'll get back to it I suppose. You do have police there to enforce your will I suppose. So, cost per pupil, I would like to point out in reference is how irrelevant, inappropriate the cost per pupil. It should not be used to support and increase an operating budget. The average cost per pupil is nether a goal nor a requirement. Cost per pupil is just that, a calculation school districts spent divided by the number of pupils. And direct costs are still divided by each pupil while in other school districts have spent the same amount of money on direct educational costs of a differing quality. It's constantly being said that Hudson is at the bottom and we should be compared to places like Windham. Well it may interest you to know that the cost per pupil for Windham was lower, actually lower than Hudson in 20-21.

Moderator: Thank you. Yes.

Jeffrey Peterson, 32 Quail Run Drive: Mr. Moderator, I make a motion to call the question.

MOTION: TO CALL THE QUESTION

MADE BY: JEFFREY PETERSON. SECONDED BY: PATTY LANGLAIS

Moderator: Okay, we had who seconded the Motion, Mrs. Langlais. We has two other people who were to speak. I'm going to let them speak and then I'm going to vote on wether or not to cut off debate. This gentleman here and then the one in the back. Yes, sir. Oh, you're not going to speak . Then you were after, sir, then a gentleman in the back.

Mike MacDonald, 11 Henry Drive: I won't waste a lot of people's time but I just anted to speak in favor of not voting for the amendment. As been mentioned of a lengthy presentation a few minutes ago, there are a lot of areas that could have been cut from certain areas and that's respect the School Board's decision to focus on the areas they did but there are large reserve funds, large monies in other places within the budget. The money could have been taken to and if budgeting wants to be done more prudently I am all in favor of that. So I do not support

Moderator: There were two people, one person did not want to speak, so we now have a Motion to move the question, seconded by Mrs. Langlais. The purpose of this is to cut off debate. Meaning if. No, you weren't on line when they made that Motion. You were not.

Voter: (yelling out)Ive been in line for quite awhile now

Moderator: I have the two people that were in line to talk before the motion was made to cutting off debate. I let them speak and one did not speak.

Moderator:(continuing) The purpose of this is we are going to cut off debate. That means we will no longer have discussion and go to vote on the amendment. If you want to continue to talk about the amendment to add the 650,000 you vote "no"; if you want to cut off debate, you vote "yes". We will use our voter cards. I'll ask you to hold them up so I can see them. If you are in favor of cutting off debate, raise your voter cards. Thank you. Those opposed to cutting off debate.

THE AYES HAVE IT.

The request (by Budget Committee Member Martin) was to have a standing count. I will do that. Mr. Walsh, I will ask for a couple of counters. Mrs. Appler, if I could have you do the count for us. When people hold them up. Mr. Walsh if you would do this side. Mrs. Langlais if you would do those in the back. Mrs Appler this side plus the Boards. So were are going to hold up our cards. Those in favor of cutting off debate please hold up your cards. If you are not in favor of cutting off debate, please raise your cards up. If you are opposed to cutting off debate, please put your cards up. They're both the same. Okay.

THERE BE 43 "YES" VOTES AND 36 "NO" VOTES; THE QUESTION IS CALLED.

We now will take a vote on the amendment, and I will ask to have the same counters when we do this again. It is important because I want to get the numbers correct. If you are in favor - Point of Order, we are now on the amendment -

Huard: Can you give those numbers again

Moderator: 43 to cut off debate, 36 to not cut off debate

Moderator: (continuing) If you are in favor of the Amendment to add \$650,000, please raise your cards. Same counters. If you are opposed to the Amendment of adding in the 650,000, please put your cards up. Okay.

WE HAVE 50 "YES" VOTES FOR THE AMENDMENT AND 33 "NO" VOTES FOR THE AMENDMENT. THE AMENDMENT PASSES.

We are now on Warrant Article #1 as amended. I'll give you the number if the finance director will just confirm. The new number will be 62, 245,033. Is that correct.

Business Director Jenn Burk: 62,245,033. You are correct.

Moderator: We are now on the amendment. You next. Mrs. Huard was first.

Huard: Yes, Mr. Moderator, I'd like to make a motion for consideration and discussion. I'd like to reduce the operating budget by \$200,000.

Moderator: Okay, hold on. This is Amendment #2 to reduce the operating budget by 200,000. Is there a second? Mr. MacDonald, thank you. Mr. MacDonald seconds. Mrs. Huard to speak to your amendment.

**MOTION: AMENDMENT#2 TO REDUCE THE BUDGET BY \$200,000
MADE BY: PEGGY HUARD. SECONDED BY: MICHAEL MACDONALD**

Huard: This \$200,000 reduction represents one single line item that could have been a third of what the Budget Committee wanted to reduce. It represents a proposed transfer from the operating budget to the food service budget. The food service budget is its own fund. This is an inappropriate and in my opinion unethical use of taxation. I was wondering if the School Board could explain to me, to us, why you feel the right to use taxation to fund food service instead of managing it properly. COVID's over, there should be no reason for a \$200,000 transfer from the General Fund. There should be no reason to use taxation for food service. Thank you.

Moderator: A question for the school board. Mrs. Lamothe will respond.

Lamothe: I would like to yield to our Business Administrator, Jenn Burk

Moderator: Okay, Mrs. Burk will speak.

Jenn Burk: Yes, so the purpose of the \$200,000 line item in the budget for transfer to the food service program is because the district participates in the nationally school lunch program. That is a federally government supported program for our students to be able to have access to free or reduced priced meals. One of the requirements of this program is that the program can't actually carry debt. So if the program doesn't have enough revenue that comes from the money that we get from the federal government or from the sale of meals to those students who aren't, don't qualify for free or reduced priced meals or the a la carte sales that we might have with second meals or any of the additional drinks or chips or other snack items that the students might be purchased. Then what we need to do is make a transfer from non-federal fund sources to offset the loss of the program since that program can not operate with a debt. So that line item would be used at the end of the year if we had a situation where the program just didn't have enough revenue to offset the cost of the program. And we did have to do this this past school year because we had a significant drop in the amount of revenue with our students being in hybrid for the majority of the school year at the middle and high school level which is where we usually see the most incoming sales from a la carte items. So the school did

have to make a transfer to offset the debt of the program at the end of last year. It's not common that we have to do this but it is money that we budget for specifically for that purpose just in case our program does not have enough revenue for the operations of the year.

Moderator: Thank you. Yes, sir. Speak on the amendment, reducing, the reduction of \$200,000

Shawn Murray, 55 Canon Road: I have some slides I'd like to go over.

Moderator: Do they relate to the \$200,000

Murray: Sure.

Moderator: They do, okay.

Murray: It's all money

Moderator: This is a specific line item to reduce by 200,000.

Murray: I'm just disappointed I don't have as many slides as some of the previous speakers. So, real quickly with this \$200,000 reduction basically I just wanted to show real quickly that overall throughout the budget itself there's there is room in there for savings. One of it being the \$200,000. This [referring to slide: *ENROLLMENT*] just quickly shows the enrollment over the years and how it continues to decline in enrollment since 2016. So when you have a decline in enrollment certainly there's going to be some fund savings supposedly and this would be a great example of it. Next slide [*Sau 81 school district salaries and benefits increase fy16-fy23 Salaries- 14.2% Benefits- 35.92%*]. It also plays into

Langlais: Point of Order

Moderator: I would suggest this is on the full budget, not the \$200,000

Murray: Yes, but it's coming out of the full budget, 200,000, and that 200,000 could help to reduce the increase in salaries and benefits

Moderator: Okay, go ahead

Murray: Alright, so because as you can see since fiscal year 2016 there's a continual increase in the budget yearly. Then, that's another area. Next slide [*FUND BALANCE HISTORY*]. Again fund balance history, the \$200,000 would go towards that left over fund balance and it's you know it all plays into that unexpended fund balance. Next [*Pre-Y/E Transfer Fund Balance*]. Again playing into the year end transfers and fund balances that 200,000 would go back into that. This slide here just quickly shows that you were told there was a consistent fund balance at the end of the year but what you weren't told is there is additional money from the fund balance that's left that is spent before there are transfers made. So your final number on your fund balance pre transfers is actually higher than what you've seen before.

Moderator: Thank you; are you finished, Mr. Murray

Murray: No, not yet, almost

Moderator: Okay, remember now the amendment was to reduce by \$200,000 and it was specifically tallied toward a transfer.

Murray: Okay, let's try this next one [*ESSER=Elementary and secondary school emergency relief fund*] please. So this represents the revenue that is available in the school district itself. If you take a look at some of the grants and all the other grant funding that the school district gets they could use student meals money from ESSER to offset that 200,000. And then the last one [*FY23 Proposed Budget - SAU81*]. So a reduction in 200,000 isn't going to overall impact the teachers, the paraprofessionals of the school district, and really the main point here is the

School Board has the ability to move money around as they see fit, okay. And once again the Budget Committee's work is to make sure that there is a prudent budget for the taxpayers for them to be able to vote on. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. To speak on the amendment, the reduction of 200,000. Yes, Ma'am.

Kara Roy, 46 Marsh Road: So to speak directly to what the business administrator said. I don't believe it is actually legal to deficit spend into federally funded programs. So you know you have to fund that if you agree to participate. My other question actually, if I could ask a question, is what are the parameters for the ESSER fund. What can they and can't they be used for

Moderator: Question of the Board. Do you wish to yield. They (Lamothe) would like the finance director Miss Burk.

Burk: So the ESSER grants were specifically created by the federal government to help us address the student learning losses from the, as a result of COVID. So they are also used for helping with social-emotional learning, mental health counseling. We did see a significant impact of remote learning on our students. So we've been looking at ways to help our students recover from COVID, the remote learning that we had in the spring of 2020 and with the hybrid learning that we had for our middle school and high school particularly for the prior school year. And one of the programs we created as a result was Summer Scholars which was a summer program that we had for our most struggling learners who were identified by administration and it helped them in areas of reading and math to address some of those learning losses. So that's the intent of the bulk of the ESSER funding is really to help our students with learning loss. It is considered a federal fund source of funds which is why it wouldn't be able to be fused for offsetting the food service loss. But that is what it is primarily for to address student learning loss, for our students to recover from the effects of COVID.

Moderator: Thank you. Yes, Ma'am.

Grace Hopkins, 22 Pasture Drive: I'm a member of the Budget Committee. Can somebody help me out with the math on the difference between the operating budget that is being proposed and the default budget. Because I propose that those are getting closer and closer and if it goes to the ballot with an operating budget and a default budget that are very, very close, you're not giving the voters a choice. You are making this decision here with a very small subset of people. Thank you.

Moderator: That really didn't add the 200,000 but I understand what your comments are, Miss Hopkins. Let's deal with this first. Right now you have spoken a first time, Mrs. Huard. Let's see if anyone else wants to speak. Just remember we are on the amendment to reduce the budget by 200,000. There was a suggestion made before where that could come from but now we are dealing with a bottom line line reduction. Mrs. Huard for a second time.

Huard: While I understand the legal requirement to cover but what I don't understand is the jump from 20,000 pre-COVID to 300,000 while we were shut down going to hybrid and remote all of that 2020 pre-COVID. COVID is going to be gone people. Wake up. Masks are going to be gone. COVID is going to be gone. They're going to be no in the fall.

Voter: (calling out) Point of Order

Moderator: The amendment, Ladies and Gentlemen, are you ready to vote on the amendment to reduce the 200,000. If you are, I'm going to do a hand count. I was correct the first time, I think I can do it again unless there is a request for a standing count. If you are in favor of the amendment to reduce the budget by \$200,000 please raise your cards. Thank you. If you are opposed to reducing the budget, please raise your cards.

I'M SAYING THE AYES HAVE IT VERY EASILY; THE MOTION FAILS.

Moderator: (continuing) We are now on the operating budget. Let me read this first. Budget of 62,245,033. Any discussion on the budget. Mrs. Orellana.

Orellana: I wanted to go back to my original motion which was to suggest that we propose that we limit individuals to three minutes. That may expedite this.

Moderator: I don't think we have had too many. We have only had one speaker go over. Unless the body wants to make a three minute limit but that's going to mean everybody. Okay, Mrs. Orellana makes a motion to limit speakers to three minutes. Seconded by Mrs. Roy. Okay, there's an amendment to do that. Mr. Martin to speak on the motion to limit debate. Keep it to the time limited for each speaker.

**MOTION: TO LIMIT SPEAKERS TO THREE MINUTES
MADE BY: DARCY ORELLANA. SECONDED BY: KARA ROY**

Norman Martin, 3 Edgar Court: Take our right away to speak on something. Everybody in here has a right to speak on something. You just want to take our right away. This isn't a selectmen's meeting where you have three minutes. I get it. This isn't a school board meeting when you can only speak on items only on the agenda. I get it. This is Town deliberative session. Who wants to talk our voices away. I can't stand here and raise my yellow card in support of this because you (pointing at maker of motion) want to take our voices away.

Moderator: Motion to limit speakers to three minutes. Do you want to take that vote now. Mrs. Huard, go ahead.

Huard: and the individuals here in a school district that educated our children in the Constitution are so willing to constantly violate constitutional rights starting with segregation are now limiting our right to free speech.

Moderator: This body does have the right as a legislature body to set limits on . Make their own rules, but like I said only one person has gone over three minutes. You haven't had a lot of lengthy speeches, even though it feels like it. No offense meant. The presentations have to be to inform on each warrant article a lot of information there. If you are in favor of limiting the speakers to three minutes, for the rest of this meeting, please raise your voter card. Thank you. Those opposed. Thank you.

THE "NAYS" HAVE IT. THE MOTION FAILS.

Moderator; continues, We are now on the budget as amended. The number is 62, 245,033. Is there anymore discussion on the budget.

Martin: to restrict reconsideration

Moderator: I haven't closed the article out. Point of Order, Mr. Martin, you are out of order. The operating budget as amended. Does anyone else want to discuss

Huard: Point of Order

Moderator: What's your point of order, Mrs. Huard

Huard: I've been standing, if not for this microphone, I would have been up there.

Moderator: Go ahead, Mrs. Huard. We are on the budget.

Huard: Yes. I'd like to speak on something that the board, school board members mentioned about losing out on CTE cause of the reduction. That's why they added back. I'd like to point out the CTE have revolving fund revenue but when it comes forward it is given some to the taxpayers, some to the their own private revenue. Because of spending, if I'm not mistaken taxation first So there's plenty of in a revolving fund to cover some of these cuts that the school district chose to reduce. I guess it's a mute point cause they added back. I was encourage any fiscally conservative taxpayer to vote "no" on this warrant article.

Moderator: Thank you, We are not voting on warrant article. Once we finish discussion it goes to the ballot as amended. Once I do that then Mr. Then the motion would be in-order. Further discussion on the operating budget as amended. Yes, Mrs. Gasdia.

Mary Joy Gasdia: I have been listening to some of the discussion as a participant and I would just like to ask that if it is possible for the people represented in front of us warned at least when they approach the people around here I know people. The audience's voices get raised and they are getting emotional I would expect board members, Budget Committee and School Board, everybody that's here to be respectfully sitting in audience, Never having standing at that podium pointing fingers at us is not, it's just so wrong. And I don't think it should be allowed. You are in charge of the session

Moderator: This is on Warrant Article 1.

Gasdia: That everybody here. And I would also like you to clarify the decision to have the segregation was made by you not the School Board. Could you just clarify that.

Moderator: Mrs. Gasdia, please. Speak on Warrant Article #1.

Gasdia: Can we vote to

Moderator: We are not discussing anything. Once we vote, it moves to the Ballot.

Gasdia: Request no reconsideration, ca we do that yet.

Moderator: That happens after I declare the article closed.

Gasdia: At least I got my point across. I would hope you would require a bit of respect from the rest of the Budget Committee. That's wrong

Moderator: Speak on the warrant article, the article as amended. Yes, Sir, your name please.

Randy Brownrigg, 2 Little Hales Lane: I've live in this town going on 33 years. It's kind of interesting to see how this preceding from year to year. My question is to the Board early in the year you voted on a grant for \$5,000,000. Is that grant added into the budget.

Moderator: Question for the School Board. Wanting to know if grant was added to the budget

Brownrigg: Im just asking was that added to the budget or is it separate cause earlier in the school year you guys voted on a grant for \$5,000.000 and I don't know if it's part of the warrant article. I've never seen anything on it. I know you have had discussions but anything further than that.

Chairman Gasdia: One of the ways that we budget is that all of the monies are shown in that budget. So anything that comes in, federal funds, grants, that's on the revenue side. Then you have the expenditures. So I'll let Miss Burk, yield to Mrs. Burk, to explain about specific grants.

Moderator: Mrs. Burk

Business Administrator Burk: Thank you. We did receive about \$6,000,000 from the federal government in various forms of the grant that are called ESSER. So what we did was because there're multi-year grants, we have portion that we use in the prior school year, the current school year, and the school year in the next fiscal year. And we budget accordingly for what the expectations on spending and the revenue opps of the spending are.

Brownrigg: Can I continue my followup

Moderator: Further question, sure

Brownrigg: My followup is that earlier in the year this was a \$5,000,000 new grant that you got voted on. I think it was in November. I don't know the exact date. Are all grants added into the budget

Burk: Yes

Brownrigg: On this particular that you guys spoke about and had asked, how come the Town didn't hear about those grants at Deliberation. Shouldn't the Town say hey we have a new grant coming in at \$5,000,000 of this is what this grant does. And so we're notified cause that's part of the budget. So that's a decrease of \$5,000,000. So isn't there a regulation.

Moderator: Mr. Brownrigg, under the regulations I understand it is that the School Board has control of those funds. They are the ones who have to accept them, not the Town, the District.

Brownrigg: You're right about the fund, I'm talking about grants, the grants added in.

Moderator: I think the Board is to approve grants. Am I not right.

Burk: Yes. We also had a Public Hearing in the spring when we then the Board authorized us to expend that that we were receiving.

Brownrigg: I'll agree with your discussion but the Town.

Moderator: Please direct that to me.

Brownrigg: So my understanding is that

Moderator: Direct your questions to me, if you need someone, they will yield.

Brownrigg: My understanding to this is this \$5,000,000 grant is going to be more than what it is because there's going to be more expenditures coming out of it. So there's going to be an increase in next year's budget. So this \$5,000,000 grant that you voted on no one knew about it and what it does. Correct.

Moderator: Mr. Brownrigg, please direct your

Brownrigg: So you're looking at me like I'm crazy. The grant was passed this year \$5,000,000 and not a single person in this room knows about it. That's my concern.

Moderator: There was a Public Hearing and a Board meeting.

Brownrigg: But we should be talking about that \$5,000,000 grant. I'd like to hear about that.

Moderator: Mr. Gasdia will yield.

Chairman Gasdia: So, Mr. Brownrigg I just want to say that I do agree with what you are saying and I want to clear what was done. So when the ASSER funds came in there were surveys that went out, mentioned it at one School Board meeting, we were going to talk about it, it was on the agenda. We held a Public Hearing and the purpose was of a Public hearing is for all of that. Is for anyone who wants to come and ask a question and find out what it is. We had a survey online asking people what would you like to do with this money. So we did have that transparency. And the other piece of it is that various accounting methods account for different things. And so anytime you get money in to spend it, if it's a grant it's going to go up on the expense side. That's debits and credits, basic Accounting 101. And so when we look at that, we did ask for public input. All I'm saying up here is, I apologize to Mr. Brownrigg because I know this is not on this particular thing, but in the future when there are Public Hearings on the Town side or the School side please come because it's very important for us to hear it at the Public Hearing not here a year later at the Deliberative.

Moderator: Let's stick to. Back to Warrant Article #1 the operating budget as amended. Does someone else wish to speak on the operating budget as a whole.

Brownrigg: Thank you

Moderator: Thank you, Mr. Brownrigg

Moderator: Seeing none. Sir, you in line. Seeing none, **I will close Article #1 and it goes to the Ballot.** Now, Mr. Martin

Martin: I make a motion to restrict reconsideration

Moderator: Mr. Martin's motion is to restrict reconsideration. I will explain in a minute. Is there a second. Mr. Wilkins (112 Belnap Road) seconds. Thank you.

**MOTION: TO RESTRICT RECONSIDERATION
MADE BY: NORMAN MARTIN. SECONDED BY: MR. WILKINS**

Moderator: (continuing)Mr. Martin made a motion to restrict reconsideration. When we finish an article, and we don't need to do it to each one, but what it does is that that article will never, can not be brought up to later in the meeting. To reconstruct for reconsideration means no one can bring Article #1 back in later in the meeting. It's restricted. It goes to the ballot as amended. Everyone clear on that. Mr. Walsh, you have a question. The amendment to reduce by 200,000 failed To add in 650,000 passed. We are now on the operating budget, that I closed, to restrict reconsideration. All in favor to restricting reconsideration raise your card. Thank you, Those opposed to restriction.

THE AYES HAVE IT. THE MOTION PASSES.

Moderator: Article 2. Mr. Giuffrida.

Giuffrida: Mr. Moderator, would you entertain a motion to change the order of the day.

Moderator: You can. This body can decide to do that if they wish to vote for it. Mr. Giuffrida what was it you wanted to change.

Giuffrida: I would like to take up Articles 9 and 10.

Moderator: Mr. Giuffrida makes a motion to take up Articles 9 and 10 as the next ones, out of order. And Mr. Martin seconds that. Wait a minute. Let me get this down. The motion is made and seconded to take Articles 9 and 10 out of order. And we will do 9 and 10 and then go back to Warrant Article #2.

**MOTION: TO TAKE ARTICLES 9 AND 10 OUT OF ORDER
MADE BY: ALFRED GIUFFRIDA; SECONDED BY: NORMAN MARTIN**

Moderator: (continuing) If you do you will vote "yes". If you don't want to take them out of order then you would vote "no". Those in favor, any discussion on that, does anyone want to discuss it. Mr. Giuffrida.

Giuffrida: I was just going to say my mother always told me if you have to rip the bandaid just get it over with.

Moderator: Yes, Sir, do you have a question

Voter: (calling out) Could you repeat what you just said. I couldn't hear.

Moderator: Okay. The motion was made to take Articles 9 and 10 out of order. If we want to do that we would take them up now and then go back to the order which is the Article 2 through 8. Okay, if you are in favor of taking Articles 9 and 10 next, please raise your voter card. Thank you. Those opposed to taking Articles 9 and 10 out of order, please raise your cards

THE AYES HAVE IT. WE WILL TAKE ARTICLES 9 and 10 NEXT.

Moderator: So if you are using your books, we are going to Article 9 first. Thank you.

[Moderator reading Warrant Article 9.]

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 students. 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 and 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

Moderator: (continuing) **And I will recognizes Patrick Quinlan to present Warrant Article #9.**

Patrick Quinlan, 10 Hurley Drive: My name is Patrick Quinlan, 10 Hurley Street, Hudson. I've been here for fifteen years. I have two children in the school system. I'm here to speak to say to make masks optional. Let each parent decide what is best for their child. I do not believe that five people School Board should be making the decision for every child. It's a parent's right to do whatever they believe is best for their child. When masks have been optional this year 90% of kids were not wearing them. Parents and kids don't want this. It is being forced on them. We are years into COVID now and it's a thing we will most likely always live with masked kids forever. On January 11th. In the peak of this COVID surge Seabrook, New Hampshire, School Board voted to make masks optional. The School Board Chairman said he voted to allow masks to become voluntary in the area again because of what he believes is a psychological and educational damage issue that it is causing the children. We have talked to parents in this district that have complained that their children are getting nose bleeds, rashes, increased anxiety and not to mention words as well as facial expressions which help to convey emotion while speaking. We believe if the parent wants their child masked they should have the right to make that decision. The parents that don't want their children masked should have their rights respected as well. There was a recent news article that some Boston area doctors are urging to make masks optional in school. It says the new guidance from the CDC stating that respirators such as N-95 masks protect against COVID better than surgical and cloth masks. They said respirators and other high quality masks that are effective at protecting the wearer regardless of what people around them are doing. That makes the old mantra my mask protects you and your mask protects me obsolete. As a result schools can finally safely make masks optional for both students and staff. Tufts leading medical epidemiologist Sharon Geron said we need to shift toward a mode that you protect yourself while still acknowledging that the virus is never going away and that there will always be people at higher risk. She said people are at the end of their rope with children with sensory disorders, children with hearing disorders, children with language learning disorders, they are feeling this is impairing their education and growth. Doctor Geron said at the end of the omicron wave is not the time to educate the public about how to protect themselves so we can move forward into a mask optional phase when is. Again Warrant Article 9 is not looking to band masks, just make them optional. I hope the people of this town will show up in support of the right and I also if the town voted in favor of this article that the School Board does not decide that the vote was just advisory. People's vote should matter and the School Board should not decide to just advisory if they don't like the outcome. The School Board was elected to represent the people and this vote is where they will be heard. Thank you for your time.

Moderator: Thank you very much. **I will now open Article 9 to questions, comments and amendments.** Yes, Ma'am.

Huard: I rise in support of this warrant article. I think it is always important for parents to make the choice of our own children. Just listening to some of the comments that come out of this body; the School District, you obviously have no idea of how to raise our children. So I ask that you support this warrant article.

Moderator: Yes, Sir, for what purpose do you rise.

Mike Tranfaglia, 24 Woodcrest Drive: I rise in support of this. It appears that all the United States as New Hampshire of lately A lot of school districts are removing the mask mandate and making masks optional. So there is no reason Hudson should not fall in line. Everything

even the data is pointing to can remove the masks for children, Folks who know better than themselves. Thank you very much.

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

Mike MacDonald, 11 Henry Drive: I just want to rise in support of this warrant article. As is been said I really hope that of this is voted by the people of the town that that vote is respected and that it is not taken advisory only. The Board is there to represent the people. The people speak and say that masks should be optional then it be given the parents the rights back the decision for their own child . You know safety has always been touted as the reason why the masks are to protect our children but the evidence that comes out quite obvious that the cloth mask that most of the children wear do little to no effect on them and protecting their safety. We're doing it to make ourselves feel and to protect ourselves from our own and it's at the judgement of our children and we continue to do this and So I support this warrant article.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion Warrant Article #9.

Langlais: Surprisingly enough I'm going to get up to support this warrant article. I respect everyone's so I wear my mask here today. You all know that Im an in education and that I own several child cares. I do not wear my mask nor do my kids nor do I have my kids wear their masks because my facial expressions are what they need to see all day long to make sure they have a healthy education. It breaks my heart everyday to see these on buses with their masks It breaks my heart to se my before and after school kids get off and continue to have to wear a mask. I think it's a parent's choice and you need to be comfortable with your own choices that we not given anybody their own choices. So I totally support this article.

Moderator: Thank you. Yes Sir

Powers: I've had the pleasure to speak in front of this School Board on this matter. Since October when I had my first discussion with the Chairman and some others I've done some fact finding' as a volunteer in a kindergarten in Hudson, but in a local community. To better understand so I could see for myself. So I've been taking an unpaid you know full time job with kindergarteners. I right now, again I don't have twenty years in the business but it doesn't take twenty years to figure out you can not teach a kindergarten and I would argue a second grader, what they need to know to build a foundation, wirer themselves correctly, with a mask on. So when I work with them in small groups the first thing out of my mouth is take the mask off. Through my mouth I need to see yours. Kids with speech impediments. Masks off they be able to visualize it. Is very critical. Mr. Moderator if you are in possession of any evidence in Hudson SAU81 kindergarten teachers that say testimony that says we can get job done wearing masks, I don't know if that exists. If so I think it would help discussion. I don't think any kindergarten teacher would honestly say they can do the job without detriment without long term foundational issues with a child complying to a mask mandate. And again to echo the previous speaker, seeing them by two in the afternoon with stains across their disgusting mask it truly is heart breaking because they have no advocates. Teachers have the Union. The children only have us. I recommend that the Board and Superintendent that maybe we not even put it on the warrant just make a decision tonight. Just we have the power to make mask optional from this forward. I encourage to the warrant article that the Board use its authority right now or on Monday night and make this decision. It's the right decision. Thank you very much.

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

Mary Joy Gasdia: So I actually agree with what the previous speaker just said. I would really hope that this doesn't have to be something that has to be a warrant article. And I just want to say perspective on why what I feel about the warrant. Based on somebody who early on in COVID followed every protocol. I what was comfortable for my family I'm masked today to be respectful of It's more comfortable for me to have a mask on but I'm not afraid to sit in the unmasked section. So I feel as a parent that I am very lucky that I have the choice I have the ability to send my child to school with a mask. That my kids have been offered vaccinations, to have or not have provided by the school system. A year ago when we didn't have any of those things there was no protection for kids in middle school, high school, then no body could get a vaccination, The mask requirement at that time was for kids with asthma, compromised health situations. We didn't know as much. We are at a point today where I really feel like somebody who is, Im not ant-mask, but I can feel that I have the choice on a daily basis. Choice as a parent to get my kids masked up. I have a kid who I have a choice to get him boosted. Whether there's a mask mandate or not I can a make my kid go to school with a mask on if that's my choice as a parent. I actually sat and listened to some of the School Board meetings and I listened to Mr. Russell my feelings on the Town. And I thought what would really suck is if I didn't have a say in it. So as a mother my heart goes out to the parents who don't have that choice. For whatever reason they don't want their child to wear a mask. Maybe their child isn't comfortable without a mask. I know sometimes the staffing comes into it. This isn't just a We're all talking as parents with kids, but the School Board has to consider what the staff feels. If the staff wants to stay safe. I would really want to based on everything that's happened, I would love it if you know you guys wouldn't even have to bring it to a warrant article. That come Monday night your decision is going to be let's go like Litchfield like these other towns. And not do it the approach would not help anything. Let's just go back. There was no approach for jumping for it. The numbers went up, jumped right. Everybody, actually the District has done everything they can do to offer people who want vaccinations to have it. At this point the people who don't want it aren't getting anything. So I just wanted to speak in support because Im not against them. I want to support because I feel like every parent has to have a voice. I would love it if there was a way that it didn't even have to come to a warrant. That the School Board would help the Superintendent to make the right decision and it doesn't have to get to this point anymore. At this point let very parent in Hudson have the opportunity to make the best decision for their child. Cause right now I'm in the minority gets to you. That's not right.

Moderator: Thank you. The gentleman in the back, Yes (clapping). Please, be in order, people. Sir, your name.

State Representative Bob Green, 11 Campbello Street: I concur with the past several speakers. You know all the reasons already. I move in this direction. I think this is the way to go.

Moderator: Thank you. Sir, speak on Warrant Article #9.

Victor Oates, 77 Sousa Boulevard: I'm against this warrant article, not because I don't think parents should have an optional choice but the bigger picture. The bigger picture is it's not just about their child. The School Board, the Superintendent then the staff of their education system are trying to do what's right by everybody by the teacher by the kids. Not just one individual silo of a household which is what the parents are looking at it as. don't think to put this on the ballot because I believe that the Superintendent and the staff are doing a phonemail job along with the School Board. They have executed this last year perfectly. And my top fear, my top fear is if we remove masks and the next thing we know and it could happen we have an outbreak and we start losing teachers and then we end up in remote learning. Then we're back

to square one where we are listening to these people from the back complain about remote. I don't want to get to the point

Moderator: (hearing booing) Let's be in order

Quinlan: where they're complaining about remote learning. I like having my child in school. I like what teachers are doing what the Superintendent is doing what the school system is doing and I think if we rip the bandaid off right now this close to the end of the school year we risk going backwards. And I don't think anyone wants to go backwards. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. I now recognize School Board member Lamothe and then Mr. Quinlan.

Lamothe: Thank you. I just want to read the facts based on RSA 189-1A and 189-15 which expressly gives the School Board the authority to establish regulations for attendance, management and discipline of the schools subject only to the regulations of the State Board of Education and other New Hampshire statues. As legal counsel has advised us the authority to adopt a COVID mitigation plan including the District's requirements for masks rests with the School Board. There is no federal or state law or order regarding masks at the present time, except for the CDC's order requiring masks on school buses. Thank you

Moderator: Thank you. Mr. Quinlan.

Quinlan: I just wanted to point out that Litchfield, Londonderry and Windham have are all gone mask optional. I'd also like to implore the people to do some of their own research on what the efficacy of the masks are. As I spoke earlier the N-95 protects you from everybody else. So if Mr. Oates who doesn't seem to care what everybody else thinks in his opinion

Moderator: Please

Quinlan: the ruler he can put himself and his child in an N-95 mask and whether me my child or anybody else is wearing one becomes irrelevant. As I have spoken to earlier the data all the data points to due to the lack of efficacy of a mask cloth. You can go back wearing one in a forest fire because it doesn't filter all of the particles. I just don't want to believe putting a tee shirt over your face protecting you from something that on you but it is not on me. So again I'd like to speak in favor of warrant article nine and to bring back the rights of our parents to raise our children the way we see fit. You me when I go to the doctor and they say I think your child should do xyz the final decision on that is mine. You guys to think you have some authority to take that away from me is mind boggling. So I again in favor of warrant article nine. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion on Warrant Article #9. Mrs. Huard.

Huard - Where is the balance. You're willing to sacrifice our children's mental heath and spend millions of ESSER grant funding hire mental health because you have acknowledged acknowledged that the COVID protocols are hurting them in the mental health area. All you have to do is take off the masks, take down the signs, stop bringing your fearful anxiety ridden narrative to our children and restore the school district as to we wouldn't have to spend all the money on mental health costs. You are willing to do that instead of taking the masks off. Again I ask people to make that decision to give the rights back to the parents. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion. Yes, Mr. MacDonald

Macdonald: As was just mentioned their RSA says that puts the School Board in charge of a mitigation plan. I would ask I'm curious I guess is there a mitigation plan required to mask because if it doesn't then you can have a mitigation plan that doesn't require masks. And as it's been mentioned many a times today and over several months where you look the cloth masks do very little. Most kids that I have seen wearing masks are wearing the cloth masks. So you're mitigating what by requiring the masks. That would be my only question. We're saying that the RSA allows us and gives us the right to put together a mitigation plan but what are we actually mitigating with the cloth masks because in my estimation we're mitigating nothing but resolving ourselves from our own fears of COVID.

Moderator: Thank you. Yes. Discussion. Warrant Article #9.

Charlene Peterson, Quail Run Drive: I just wanted to say that I appreciate the school board members and what a very difficult time and to navigate this issue in Hudson schools. There's no rule book there's no past experience before COVID on how to navigate this and it's been very difficult. And I as a parent in Hudson and a citizen appreciate the time, effort that you guys have put into it. And also I appreciate the laid out policy that's on evidence and cases and that sort of things. I firmly believe that school board members acknowledge that it's best to have a kindergarten teacher without a mask in a classroom. Obviously if we weren't in a pandemic that wouldn't even be a conversation. But the School Board is trying to navigate both the health and well-being of our students, best educational practices and sometimes those things are at odds with each other and they have to make the best decision possible. And I think we as residents need to make sure that we all have different opinions and they are all important and valid. The School Board are hope will consider all of the points of and possibly make different decisions. That we would take out the judgement toward our School Board but I just appreciate all that you do. And so thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion, Warrant Article #9. Mr. Oates for a second time.

Oates: I'd like to make a motion to amend Article 9.

Moderator: Yes you can. These articles are all amendable. There's no. Even though it is a petition.

Oates: I'd like the article to read *the personal choice for wearing a face mask will be with the school superintendent and the leadership team*

Brownrigg: (interrupting) Point of Order

Oates: *first then the parents and guardians - additionally face masks*

Brownrigg: (loudly interrupting) Point of Order

Oates: *will be a personal choice only of the superintendent and the leadership team determine*

Brownrigg: (and other voters yelling) Point of Order

Oates: (loudly) *volunteers and visitors in the Hudson schools will be required to wear masks*

Moderator: (banging gavel)

Oates:(continuing over more voters yelling) *until notified otherwise the superintendent and leadership team - this requirement*

Moderator: (banging gavel) Everyone will be in-order or I'll clear the room

Oates: Can I read

Moderator: Mr. Oates, you will not read right now. Every article that comes before this body is amendable for those things determined by RSA's. Petition articles, regular articles, it doesn't make any difference. Wording is amendable, are amendable. That's not a problem. If you have a long

Brownrigg: (interrupting) You can not change the name

Moderator: You can not change the subject matter

Oates: (looking towards Brownrigg) You can't change the words

Moderator: (banging gavel) Order. You can not change the subject matter

Oates: (interrupting) I am not changing the subject matter

Moderator: The subject matter is Face Masks, as an option.

Oates: (interrupting) Correct

Moderator: That is the only thing that we have

Brownrigg: (yelling out - inaudible words)

Oates: I am not changing the subject matter

Moderator: (banging gavel loudly) The wording can be amended by law. The law says wording can be amended. The subject matter may not.

Oates: (looking towards Brownrigg) You just got lawyered

Moderator: (banging gavel) Mr. Oates, please be in-order. If you have a lengthy amendment, I want to see it in writing. We are not going to do this on the cuff.

Oates: I'm not. I'm reading right here. (Pointing to slide: Warrant Article #9 Face Masks) That's the amendment.

Moderator: What are you inserting, words you want to insert. After what.

Oates: Right at the beginning *the personal choice for wearing masks will be*

Moderator: Wait. Where are you talking

Oates: Right at the beginning (referring to said slide) it says the personal choice for wearing face masks will rests with, I'm inserting *for the superintendent and leadership team first*

Moderator: Okay - *the superintendent and the leadership*

Oates: *team first*

Moderator: Okay

Oates: Then it goes down to the next line face masks will be the personal choice only if, at that point, *the superintendent and leadership team find it appropriate*

Moderator: Okay. We are going to have to write this out.

Oates: I have it right here if you want it

Moderator: Would you please give to the HCTV. Ladies and Gentlemen, we are not changing the subject matter of the article

Peters: (calling out) Point of Order

Moderator: No, if you wish. This body, yes, this body can change that if they wish. While they are putting together I ask our School District Attorney to advise us, if you could. Mr. Graham, the School District's attorney.

Attorney Graham: Thank you. The Moderator is spot on. It is perfectly to amend a warrant article and it's fine to amend if the article's subject matter doesn't change. And it's the moderator's decision about the parameters and the he's still looking at the language of the amendment (pointing to slide with amended words). But it deals with whether or not there is going to be a voluntary mask policy in the district, we'll implement that policy. It's, you know, emotional to amend and it would be open to debate by the body to determine whether or not it's a. So it's perfectly to create an amendment and I agree with the Moderator. Thank you.

Moderator: We are going to get the wording up there. Mr. Elery.

Jordan Elery, 2 Baker Street: I have a question of the Chair.

Moderator: Yes.

Elery: About two weeks ago at Planning Board we received a regarding the Town Meeting coming up for Town Articles. At that time it was state that the Petition Warrant Articles could not be changed. What has changed in the interim

Moderator: Mr. Elery, that was never stated.

Elery: Thank you.

Moderator: That was never stated. Any warrant article required by law can be amended by the legislature body to you today. The only wording that can't change is Bond wording and certain requirements by law, as written in the law. Every other you can not change the subject matter, can not remove a warrant article from the Warrant. Mr. Giuffrida, another question, I'm still dealing with.

Giuffrida: Not a question just a clarification. Some of the confusion is in the past we have, there have been attempts to zero out the amounts of warrant articles. Only Petition Warrant Articles zero out and, I'm guilty of that, and initially we have discussions to that. It still wasn't perfectly balance due but we traditionally. Had that but this is a different case a wording change but I think what people are remembering is the efforts to allow

Moderator: Yes, in Petitions money articles can be zeroed out. Go on the ballot as if the Town is willing to appropriate zero for a purpose. We are not changing the subject matter of this

article. Let me see. The gentleman in the back. Can you highlight the part that is changing. I want to know what we're doing. Was there a second part of that. No, that was it. I thought there was a second part. Once we see what it is then we will. I think there's a second. You have a question.

Cynthia Dubois, 25 St. Anthony: Yes, I have a question. The gentleman suggesting to make a change here . It's basically what's happening. We go to the School Board meeting, each month we go to the School Board meeting. Board listens to what the Superintendent would like to suggest and they go forward with that. The purpose of the warrant article is put up to be written how it is in the book that we are all looking at, not to be changed like this. I would like to remind you this is the same gentleman that at a round table said he would do anything that the Superintendent would agree with whether he or not he would trust him one-hundred percent. Said the gentleman

Moderator: Let's not. It isn't pertinent

Dubois: Yes it is. It is the concern that it's like that gentleman said it almost zeroes out the warrant article. It basically go back to what we are in right now which is the Board listens to us and suggest and then they make a decision. It zeros it out and this is a gentleman you're allowing to change a warrant article that we spent time with knowledgeable people. To basically says okay how high can I jump and I'll jump cause it's the Superintendent that Now I'm not discriminating against the Superintendent. I wish that many things that he we can differ on in that topic but to change this warrant article kinda makes it zero out. It's puzzling me.

Moderator: If we can just wait. I'm waiting to see what everything is before I am going to accept anything. (Responding to Voters calling out inquiries) No. Let's hold off on any discussion. We've got a proposal for an amendment and we're going to put that amendment out there first. I'd like to point out to people that the warrant article that we are on now. This meeting does not have the authority to tell the School Board or the Administration how to handle Policy, that is an RSA given to them. So people vote in favor of this that certainly is something that they have to consider in their discussion, in all their determinations. wait and see what the amendment is and we'll discuss the amendment. We'll get pro and con's and then we'll vote on it. We are not changing the subject matter of the warrant article...You will decide what the subject matter is...by your vote of the amendment. It is the amendment that will rule. You either vote it up or vote it down...I do have the citing. It says in one sentence what the Supreme Court ruled. But I want to get it up there so everyone knows what we are talking about here. Let me get the amendment on. (referring to slide with proposed amended language in red) Is that the amendment, the red part, the part in red. Mr. Oates made the amendment to add those words. Let me read it.

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 school's superintendent and and leadership team first then parent(s)/guardian(s) of the students. Additionally, face masks will be a personal choice only if superintendent and leadership team determine it appropriate . Volunteers, and visitors of the Hudson schools will be required to wear face masks until notified otherwise by the superintendent and leadership team. This requirement will apply to the schools' classrooms, hallways, bathrooms

and all the wording I read before. So for that amendment number one did we have a second.

Somebody said second. Mr. Giuffrida is going to second. So we can get on with the amendment.

**MOTION: TO ADD THE WORDS IN RED TO THE WARRANT ARTICLE
MADE BY: VICTOR OATES. SECONDED BY: ALFRED GIUFFRIDA**

Okay we have a motion and a second. Motion by Mr. Oates. Seconded by Mr. Giuffrida. To add in the red printing. To add that to the warrant article. So we are going to discuss just whether to add those words or not. It is the only thing we are talking about. Add those words or don't you. Let me read you. Let me read you. Everybody's concerned about this. Let me read you from the Supreme Court - *For these reasons we conclude that RSA 40-13- 4c prohibits only amendments that will eliminate a warrant article textual subject matter, not amendments that may change the intent or purpose sought to be achieved by the article drafters.* That's a Supreme Court ruling. They say that they conclude that it only prohibits amendments that will eliminate warrant article's textual subject matter but not amendments that change the intent or purpose. So the Supreme Court says use can change the intent, you can change the purpose. Subject matter is where it is. (voter requesting year of citing) January 18, 2017. *Caddy vs Town of Deerfield*. So this has been litigated, so we do are in the right place where we are suppose to be. Motion is made and seconded. The amendment is to add the words in red to the warrant article. We are going to deal with that only. Mr. Oates, would you like to speak on your amendment.

Oates: Thank you. My goal here wasn't to eliminate the warrant article. My goal was compromise. I see a lot of

Moderator: (voters yelling out, bangs gavel) We will be in-order

Oates: I see a lot of extremes on both sides. I understand. At the same part it shouldn't have it their way or our way. There's got to be compromise and I don't see a lot of compromise going on these days. I see people voting things up and voting things down without ever taking the time to be creative. And that's what By putting this out it lets the Superintendent and his staff who run the corporation and have more data and insight around the corporation than anybody else in this room. They know more about what's going on day to day. And you know if they want to say WE're going to let the parents decide. It's their decision. It gives them the right o basically say we are going to sidestep everything else and you know what we think the parents should have the right and move it down. It's giving them the first decision. They're the company. They're running the business. They have all the information. They're not spewing out whatever it is they're talking about. They have all the data that comes in day in and day out. They know teachers coming in sick. They know how many teachers are fine. Where they need staff. They're doing everything in their power that parents don't see. And they should have the right to make that decision first before kicking it down to the parents. That's all this does. It basically says Superintendent, leadership staff if you want to kick it down to the parents there's your right. I think that's fair.

Moderator: Thank you. On the discussion. Mr. Tranfaglia

Tranfaglia: Yes, so there was an overwhelming majority of speakers today who were in favor of In its original form. Over the summer there was an RSA that was submitted and an overwhelming number of people signed that RSA to put it to a vote and the School Board decided that they would not. And that's fine and we brought it here today. As the author of this

particular warrant article I passed this through two lawyers and asked those very specific questions can they change this intent and they said no. I said can this be edited in such a way that, as the previous speaker had done, and they said no, two lawyers. Their lawyer there is pretty much bending to the will of the School Board and the superintendent might be leaning in their opinion of this. As far as I'm concerned everybody who signed this warrant article and there were a lot of people who did sign this warrant article. They did not sign for a permission slip by the School Board and the superintendent, They signed this to say we are in charge of our own children and this has been done over and over and it's brought to the School Board and I have not even seen one person go to the School Board to support masking these children. Now for God's sake this thing can not be amended to change the meaning and the subject. That's exactly what's going on. The subject is parents choice for face masks not face masks period. Choices to wear face masks. Individual choices so that they may have their children as they see fit wear or not wear a mask. And the previous speaker spoke of compromise. This is compromise. We did not say in that warrant to remove masks and if you don't like it, tough. It says you have the choice. Now I'm sorry if that speaker does not like choice. If he does not like the majority of the people here have to say. The majority of the town, all over town, and we seen it everywhere including there was a, some kind of a form, I think, I don't know the exact number, was close to, somewhere between 60 and 70 percent either wanted masks optional or they had no opinion. I don't understand why this is being done now when it's pretty obvious that this is, it's changing the intent of the warrant article, the intent and the meaning. Nobody would have signed that warrant article had we approached this language. That's all.

Moderator: Thank you. (Hearing clapping) Please be in-order. Yes, sir, to speak. Yes, ma'am.

Alicia Lekas, 30 Barretts Hill Road: I just wanted to point out that I found it interesting that the School Board said well to a particular RSA that they had the ability to make this decision regardless of what the people in the town wanted. When at the same time they voted unanimously earlier to disobey the law 197-2 which said when the last time it came up and the School Board and the people in the town it to be a Special Election. The town to be able to vote on this. The School Board unanimously to go against the law 197-2 and not hold the meeting even though the law says shall and it's not optional. So now we're have to trust that they're going to make the best decision possible based on a law when they have shown already that they will disobey the law with no problems. And since they're going to do whatever they want anyway might as well vote on this now. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. On the amendment. (pointing to the slide) Put in the words. Mr. MacDonald.

MacDonald: I just want to say I'm opposed to the amendment. As it's been stated previously this changes the entire intent behind the warrant article. The warrant article as it is written here with the amendment essentially is the situation we are in today. What would we be voting on, to keep status quo. I don't understand why we need a vote to keep things as they already are. The vote was meant to change things and give the right back to the parents. That was the intent and this is being changed. And this is compromise making it optional and allowing people to make the best choice for their own children. That's optional. This is putting it back in the hands of the people making the decisions for everyone else. That's ridiculous.

Moderator: Thank you. Mr. Quinlan then Mr. Knowles.

Quinlan: I just wanted to reiterate and back the previous speakers. This does back to status

quo. This absolutely does change the intent of this warrant article, Where you guys came up with the authority to decide what the intent of this warrant article is with no consequence to the author of the warrant article is beyond me. I mean some of the things that are going on in this room today are astounding to me astonishing. I feel like I can't shrink my brain to be small enough to understand what you guys are doing. Did you test people before they. The segregation room is to keep people safe as I stay here with in front of me. Whose unwrapping this microphone.

Moderator: Please stay on

Quinlan: So the people here today to say this is advisory is mind boggling to me. You're an elected representative not a ruler. We don't have kings. We don't have queens. We don't have dukes and duchesses. Right. To change the intent on this is staggering to me. It's literally mind boggling staggering to me that you give a consideration you've actually done.

Moderator: Thank You. Mr. Knowles. Then Mr. Clegg. And then the gentleman there.

John Knowles, 51 Quail Run Drive: I have first of all, I have a quick question cause my memory is not always that accurate in many cases. My recollection is that warrant articles auto automatically go to the Warrant regardless of what we do here. Whether they be amended or not. Is that correct.

Moderator: It will go to the Ballot.

Knowles: Warrant Article 9 will go on the Ballot

Moderator: Yes. It's up to this Body what form that goes in.

Knowles: Okay, So the other thing. It's an observation. Over many years petition warrant articles are always done by somebody who feels very strongly about something. And when we get here and they run into opposition it's very passionate. But there are laws that talk about these things. And back and forth and back and forth we have been having this discussion. You're changing the intent to the article and That's true. These people who did the warrant article don't have masks for their kids, Fine, That's the position to take and that's the intent. That's what they want to do. But that's not the subject matter and the law talks about subject matter and the amendment doesn't change that. This is the same thing as Mr. Giuffrida brought up. You have a warrant article that has money in it. If you zero it out that clearly changes the intent but it's legal. That's what this session is for, to determine those things. So I hope maybe we can just move on basically. point. I mean if you like it or not we have heard what the law is. What we can and can not do. You don't like the amendment, vote against it.

Moderator: Thank you. Mr. Clegg

Robert Clegg, Trigate Road: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. I rise to first to object to the fact that since the School Board voted 5-0 to not recommend this, we shouldn't be taking advise, legal advise or otherwise, from a lawyer that is paid to represent their point of view. (hearing clapping) Let's not do that. A case in 2017, and I'd be surprise if when I go home tonight I couldn't find more, that something the opposite. I've heard other laws being addressed here

and I'm sure if they were purposely cited I looked it up. I showed it to my colleague what they said. I think petition warrant articles are things that all of us to some time or other because we want to be part of the government. And to sit here and change it cause you don't like what it says. You have the ability when you get to the voting booth to vote against. At least give the people who actually went out there, here is something I feel strongly about. Let them put it on the Warrant. Don't change it cause you don't like it. There's no many of us here. I remember the days when 300 of us would show up on a Saturday. And for a few of us to decide that who actually went out and did the work to get a warrant article put on, shouldn't have the opportunity for everybody to vote I think is wrong. Vote against this and I'll stay with the fact that article nine was done by people who deserve to be part of the government. Deserve to have a say. And deserve to have your opinion on the day that we vote. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Thank you. (shouting voter) Please, be in-order, Mr. Oates. Be quiet. (shouting continues) You were not given the floor, Yes, sir. Your name, please.

Powers: This is an atrocious amendment. And I just recommend if you feel you want to vote against the original article signed as written because you feel real strong fully about masks. You feel confident in your School Board in making a decision. I'm going to ask you vote to reject this for the reason's Mr. Clegg so succinctly put forward. This is an abomination. This is very bad. Regardless of your feelings about article nine as written I highly recommend that you reject this amendment and let's move forward to putting the right to protect your child back with the parents. We've heard article RSA 189 as the authority to for school boards to into masks. I challenge that because I don't see limits. I don't see that language that limits the School Board or Superintendent from putting children into helmets, to wear knee pads or moth guards or walking around with umbrellas. I think that's a very dubious authority that has taken on a life of its own. This we have tried to address that through the normal channels deliberatively through the School Board only to be voted down. And this we see as our last resource. This article would take away that last recourse and really reflect badly against Hudson. I highly recommend we vote "no" on this amendment.

Moderator: Thank you. Yes

PeterLanzillo, 12 Blackstone Street: As we have heard many of the speakers talk about the negative impact these foolish masks have on the education system. There are many reports in the Press of things changing of the attitude of these masks and how they really don't do much. But if you want to wear them we have the freedom to wear them if you so choose. I highly recommend you vote "no" to this change cause it is the same old same old. Stick with parent choice. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Yes, sir. Then I have a motion to move the question. We'll take that in a minute. Mr. Brownrigg.

Brownrigg: My question is directed to you this time I guess. Last year I stood up here against two issues and you had specifically and you can go back to the video that I could not change, it wasn't a warrant article, it was a petition by the people. For everyone is talking about is warrant articles. This is not a warrant article, brought by the people. It's a petition. You even told me last year authority to change petition or anything in the warrant article. So which is it cause last year I would have changed the warrant article which was actually a petition. I'm not allowed to do that because of what you said to me.

Moderator: That was the one on the Planning Board because those words were prescribed by law you didn't have the right to change them.

Brownrigg: So we can change which warrant articles

Moderator: Ones not written in RSA

Brownrigg: So we can change it at anytime then so it's not up to the people who brought in the petition and then come here and change it. Last year I couldn't change a petition.

Moderator: Right because last year that was an article that RSA specified how the wording. the article had to be written, whether it was from the School or from the Town. The RSA you have to write it that's the way you write it. You don't have a place to it. I believe that was the one not absolutely positive.

Brownrigg: The last thing is so even though it's not an RSA Mr. Tranfalgia went out and got two lawyers to agree with him instead you just go and change it. Thank you.

Moderator: No, the advise we get from our legal attorney from the Town or the School is legal. It isn't tainted. It is not twisted. It is what their job is as what the law says and that's what the law says. We got a Supreme Court decision. Thank you.

Brownrigg: Thank you.

Moderator: Mr. Murray had a motion to move the question. It was for a second. Mr. Martin. I take a motion to cut off debate of the amendment. And then we will vote on the amendment.

**MOTION: TO CUT OFF DEBATE ON THE AMENDMENT
MADE BY: SHAWN MURRAY. SECONDED BY: NORMAN MARTIN**

If you are in favor of the amendment, please raise your voter cards. Thank you. Those opposed to cutting off debate. Thank you.

THE "AYES" HAVE IT. MOTION PASSES.

We are now taking a vote on Amendment #1 to insert in the Warrant Article 9 the red-lettered sections. If you are in favor of the amendment of putting those words in, please raise your voter cards. Thank you. Those opposed.

THE "NAYS" HAVE IT. THE AMENDMENT FAILS.

We are now on Warrant Article #9 as it originally was. Is there any further discussion on Warrant Article 9. If not. Mr. Walsh.

Kevin Walsh, 5 Stoney Lane: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. On the wording of the article, if the School District requires the face mask optional policy. The School Board by its powers can adopt any policy and the Superintendent can those policies. So using the word "require" would still mean that this would tie the hands of the School Board and say we must adopt a policy that makes face masks optional. So my question is change the word "require" to "adopt". What would that do

Moderator: it would change, it's still an advisory document whether it had the word adopt or require. It means the School Board will have to make a decision after the public election on March 8th. Whether or not they were going to follow that or whether they have other that they wouldn't have to. It's in their authority to establish these issues by law. So whether it says require or adopt would really not make any difference. At least in my opinion.

Walsh: Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Any further discussion Warrant Article #9. **If not, I will close the discussion on Warrant Article #9 and it moves to the Ballot as written.** Is there a motion to restrict. I'm going to call for a break. Mr. Martin makes a motion to restrict reconsideration of Article 9. Seconded by Mr. Murray.

**MOTION: TO RESTRICT RECONSIDERATION OF ARTICLE 9
MADE BY: NORMAN MARTIN. SECONDED BY: SHAWN MURRAY**

The motion to reconstruct reconsideration of Warrant Article 9 would mean it would not be brought up again at this meeting. And it will go directly to the Ballot. If you are in favor of restricting reconsideration of Warrant Article #9 please raise your card. Thank you, Those opposed.

THE "AYES" HAVE IT. WARRANT ARTICLE 9 IS RESTRICTED.

[Moderator: *Ladies and Gentlemen, let's take a 15 minute break.*]

Moderator: (speaking to the Body) We should not demograte others. We shouldn't be pointing fingers. We shouldn't be yelling at everyone. This is a Deliberative Body. It's suppose to hear everyone's opinion to express and if necessary to vote to accept or not accept an amendment or finish discussion and it goes to the Ballot. This is not something we should be being done. Even though you have strong feelings. Everybody here's opinion is worthwhile. I think everyone is willing to hear the opinions whether you agree or not. I'm asking you to please consider. These are your neighbors, your friends, people in your neighborhood and the Town's people. And that's where we really should be focussing. Mr. Quinlan, did you have a question.

Quinlan: I believe there's a motion I would like to make to your ruling of keeping us segregated.

Moderator: We are back in order. Go ahead, Mr. Quinlan.

Quinlan: To change your rule on the segregation of the unmasked. I believe we should be able to sit with our neighbors, participate with our neighbors, stand at the same microphone as everybody else, not be separated. Which I don't think is too much to ask. There are several people sitting at the maroon table with no masks on after you said I had to come back here or you wouldn't start the meeting.

Moderator: Yes, that was my decision based on the Town's rule that we have to have masks in Town buildings and last year that was the only rule we ever had. Everyone who wanted to come to the Deliberative Session had to wear a mask. This year because the Orders are not in place The Secretary of State's Office said I had to provide an area for, just like we did for voting. If you didn't have a mask last March and you wanted to vote, we took an Absentee Ballot out to your car. The same thing we're doing this . Doing it under safety reasons from the

Health Department, from our Fire Chief, in order to mitigate safety issues. And until he tells me differently that is what I'm going to do.

Quinlan: So the gentleman sitting at the table, the rules do not apply for him. And when you were telling me that I had to come back here and used a police officer, paid by taxpayer money who sworn an Oath to uphold Law not your will or your opinion, to force us back here or you were not going to start the meeting until we did come back. We have multiple people sitting right next to you that are not wearing masks now. I'm speaking apparently that's irrelevant to you. So again I would like to have a motion, whatever it is, to your rule of segregation. The reason for segregation is kind of irrelevant. I said to the police officer if he got on the bus when Rosa Parks would he have asked her to move to the back of the bus if the bus driver wanted her to and didn't want to have any disturbances. So again you're segregating many of us. I don't know if we should have some type of yellow star or something. I've had COVID twice

Moderator: Mr. Quinlan, that is totally inappropriate.

Quinlan: You have no cause to the efficacy of the masks, people wearing them is apparently irrelevant. So if I suppose if I put my sleeve over my face, we're good. And one thing the gentleman sitting to your right, apparently the rules don't apply to them. I would like to know why the rules don't apply to them. Where we do live in a free Country to be equals. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Your comments have been taken. It's not a rule that I have. It's if the Body wants to make a rule they can do so. You made a motion. What was your motion.

Quinlan: The motion to end segregation, Thank you.

Moderator: I'm sorry, That's not an appropriate motion for this meeting, Sir. Let us continue.

Quinlan: Okay. It should be for the unmasked to joint their neighbors in the equal participation of this Body.

Moderator: I can put that to a vote. Is there a second. Mr. Martin seconds.

**MOTION: FOR THOSE WITHOUT MASKS TO JOIN THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS
MADE BY: PATRICK QUINLAN. SECONDED BY: NORMAN MARTIN**

Mr. Quinlan: I can put that to a vote. Let me see how the people out here feel cause everybody if you're wearing a mask you may feel you want to be protected. Those without masks may feel it is not important. Let's, the motion was to make a Rule to allow those who are without masks to come out, not to be in a separate area. And it was seconded by Mr. Martin. Mr. Knowles, would you like to speak n the motion.

Knowles: I have a question. The previous speaker, how come there are people in the front of the room not wearing masks. I mean, it seems, I'm actually kind of appalled. I didn't notice it until you brought it up.

Moderator: Well, there are some who disrespect what we are trying to do.

Knowles: That's exactly what, besides from being dangerous

Moderator: Let me ask the Body to have everyone come out and be in the same audience.

Knowles: But my question was is there a rule that says they don't have to do it. The decision

Moderator: There is not. I have asked them, because they are ten feet away from, wear mask until they get here. If they are moving around the room, they should be wearing a face mask, deference for the health and safety and concern of others. That's basically what we are trying to do. The health and safety and concern of others, and whether you agree or disagree people have those opinions. So I'm not going to spend on this because we have business to do and we're already at afternoon.

Knowles: Yes. I'm sorry. That was just a question. Very strange.

Moderator: It was a question. Let me ask people if we want to do away with the a, well it could be a Rule. If you want to set a Rule, you can do that. The motion was to allow the without masks to join their fellow citizens in the room and not be separated. I'll put that to a vote. If you are in favor of allowing unmasked to come and sit with everyone else, please raise your voter cards. Keep them up. Okay, those opposed. Okay.

THE "AYES" HAVE IT. THE BODY HAS SPOKEN.

Be in order everyone, please. Please be in order. We have a lot of work to get done and go through today. We have lots of seats. While they are doing that, **I am going to read Warrant Article #10**

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/question & answer session, and make available all presentation material for public review on the SAU81 website no later than 14 calendar days prior to 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 existing school budgets, This warrant article would take effect immediately upon passage.

Submitted by petition

Not recommended by the Hudson School Board 5-0

Moderator: **I'll reconize Mr. Tranfaglia to present Warrant Article #10.**

Michael Tranfaglia., 24 Woodcrest Drive Thank you, Mr. Moderator. It's nice to be out of the back. Warrant Article 10 came form lat year's State of the Town that was held jointly by the School Board and many Town departments. The time was divided between the School Board and Fire, Police, etc. I attended this event. I found it to be an informative session and having it evolve into something similar as Hudson this event. It seemed to make more sense for the School to have this School Board in this format so they may dug deeper into the goings of

and the overall direction of the schools. At the same time, giving the public a chance to engage with input and questions. I attended many School Board meetings where there were residents speaking. There were some questions that couldn't be due to the limited time and the structure. The Public Comment section allows each speaker three minutes and is not suited for a Question-Answer session. Approximately 68% of state and local property tax goes to it's fair to give parents and residents a couple of hours a year to see how funds are directed and give in-put and ask questions to see how other procedures work. The proposed event would capture a lot of information that you can't get attending a few School Board meetings where the public can not be engage, understandably, not more than their three minutes comment section. Then be allowed to sit and observe. The state of the School event can be three hours, all day, or whatever works based on the presentation material by the School Board. The requirements of the warrant article were left open ended purposely to allow the School Board to approach the event as it sees fit to capture all the pertinent subject matter. The article would require information to be on the SAU81, require the presentations to be on the SAU81 website two weeks prior to the event so people can see the agenda, prepare their questions and comments. Or contact the School Board in advance to allow for the School Board time to prepare. Once the state of the schools is completed a 60 day would be allowed so the School board could write and post that report for action report on the SAU81 website for the public to read, findings and results. A great amount of energy to be captured from such an event. We shouldn't let this opportunity to slip past. The reality is the Town and the School would follow two separate by parallel. There are two Ballots one for the Town, one for the School. The School has its own Budget, Board, resources, report, and even its own Deliberative Session. Here we all are. All separate from the Town. This would make more sense to have a state of the school event. Thank you very much.

Moderator: (continuing) Thank you. **I will now open Article 10 to questions, comments, amendments.** Yes, Ma'am.

Alicia Lekas, 30 Barrett's Hill Road: And I have a question for the School Board cause to me this seems like a perfectly reasonable request so I'm wondering why it is not recommend by the Hudson School Board.

Moderator: Somebody on the School Board. Thank you, Mr. Beals.

School Board Member Ethan Beals: So when this article, petition article, was presented to the School Board, we were at our last meeting I believe. The Board is in favor of the the intent, I think, of the warrant article. There were some concerns expressed at that meeting on how the warrant article would be enforced. We thought that it lacks specific examples of pieces that would be needed. However, following that 1-4 vote not to recommend the School Board did make a motion to, that passes 5-0, that the State of the Schools event will become an annual event and the School Board is fully in favor of that.

Lekas: Thank you very much.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion on Warrant Article 10. **Seeing none, we will close the discussion on Warrant Article 10. It goes to the Ballot.** We are back in order with Warrant Article #2. Yes, Mrs, Leary, yes.

Budget Committee Member Kathy Leary: I will be recusing myself.

Moderator: Mrs. Leary is recusing herself on Warrant Article 2. Although they're not taking a vote. That's fine. It's quite understandable. Warrant Article 2 Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Hudson School Board and PSRP's. **[Moderator reads slide: Warrant Article #2.]**

WARRANT ARTICLE 2

Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Hudson School Board and PSRP's

Shall the Hudson School District vote to approve the cost items in the collective bargaining agreement between 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

Moderator: (continuing) **And I will recognize Mr. Cambell to present Warrant Article #2.**

School Board Member Michael Campbell: Thank you Mr. Moderator and I want to thank everyone for coming out today. This is a two year agreement negotiated by the School Board in good faith that will have a total cost increase of \$235,125 over two years. Tax impact for the first year is estimated at \$.05. Each year of the Contract represents approximately 3.6% increase in wages for staff. The contract covers approximately 125 part-time paraprofessionals plus the part-time and full-time food service workers. The changes to the Contract include a wage increase each year plus a new stipend for paraprofessionals who work in certain special

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education programs and a new stipend for longevity starting at fifteen years of service in the District. There is also an adjustment to the wage scale for cafeteria workers changing from having a one level of food service worker to include two levels. A food service worker one and a food service worker two and we will be splitting the category to a category for elementary managers and a category for middle and high school managers. This is a decrease in the Health Insurance for the full time cafeteria workers who are the only staff eligible for Health Insurance. In this Contract the District's contribution will be dropping from 92% down to 91% in the second year of the Contract.

Moderator: Thank you. This is one of those articles, before I open it up, that really has some requirement if this Body should vote to change any of this. The only thing it accomplishes is the rejection of the Contract. The School Board would have to go back to negotiations. But you can do it, but I just want to make everyone aware. So I've just been informed that that has

been amended. I didn't see that that the cost items of the Contract can not be amended. You can't change any of those numbers. And the rest is just the appropriations. So I just wanted to Bring that up that some of those things are governed by RSA's. **I will open Warrant Article #2 Collective Bargaining Agreement with the PSRP's.** Questions, comments, amendments. Anyone wish to discuss Warrant Article #2. **If not I will close Warrant Article #2 and it goes to the Ballot. [Moderator reading Warrant Article #3.]**

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 the current staffing levels.

Estimated tax rate impact: \$.06

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

Moderator: (continuing) **And I will recognize School Board Member Whiting to present Warrant Article 3.**

School Board Member Gretchen Whiting: Good afternoon. Thank you Mr. Moderator. Citizens of Hudson. This Warrant Article is a two year agreement negotiated by the School Board in good faith which has a total cost increase of \$412,651 over the two years. The estimated tax impact in the first year of the Contract is \$.06. The Contract includes 53 employees including principals, assistant principals, school directors, physical education coordinators, department psychologists and school counselors. The Contract does not cover employees in the SAU office. The cost of the Contract includes a 3.5% increase in year one and a 4.25% in year two. One change in the Contract is that the Step Schedule has been eliminated. Which means employees will just be eligible for a base wage increase in each year. In addition a hiring rate was established to this new which provides a salary range for new staff, with a new staff when they start their training and experience. The increases in salaries are partial offset by the Union Due to an increase in the employee's portion of the Health Insurance premiums for the years of this Contract. The District's contribution towards Health Insurance decreasing from the 92% down to 91% in year one and down to 90% in year two. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. We will now open Warrant Article 3 Collective Bargaining Agreement with the AFSCME to questions, comments. Do you have any questions about the Contract with directors, building heads, administrators, psychologists, counselors. Seeing none. **We will close Warrant Article 3. It goes to the Ballot. [Moderator reading Warrant Article 4.]**

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 District 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 10-0

Moderator: (continues) **I will now recognize School Board Member Whiting to present Warrant Article #4.**

School Board Member Whiting: Thank you. This is a two year agreement negotiated by the School Board in good faith that will have a total cost increase of \$118,499 over three years. The tax impact for the first of the three years is estimated to be at \$.02. This Contract covers administrative assistants across the District including assistant principals, directors and department receptionists, a temporary secretaries and office assistants. There are 28 employees covered by this Contract. In each year of the agreement there is 3% wage increase for employees. There is a new section being added for longevity stipends for fifteen or more years of experience. This Contract does include an increase to the separation payment which is a buy out of unused sick time. That maximum payment is increasing from 7,500 to 10,000. Employees are eligible for this payment after they have completed at least fifteen years of service. The cost increase in this Contract are partially offset by agreeing to the portion of the health insurance in each year of this Contract. This District's contribution to the Health insurance will be decreasing from the current 92% to 92% in year one, 90% in year two, and then down to 90% in year three. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. I will now open Warrant Article #4 Collective Bargaining with the Secretaries. Questions, comments, and amendments. Mr. Murray.

Murray: Thank you. I just want to get up and speak quickly about the three warrant articles that are the labor contracts. Previous speakers are concerned about the pay rates for the teachers. It's obvious why the votes of the committee and the Hudson School Board are that they do support the teachers, hard working teachers. And it's a win-win for both you know for the Town, School District and for the teachers themselves. If you look at some of the funds that

have come out of it and more importantly, and I said this when we were looking at the Warrant Articles to the School Board. Is that they are working to try to contain cost. okay. And always one of the highest cost is health insurance contributions. And certainly in this particular Contract to bring it down and try to find an even balance while at the same time, you know, recognizing the talents and the work that the teachers do. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion Warrant Article #4. Does anyone wish to speak on Warrant Article #4. **If not, we will close the discussion on Warrant Article #4 and it goes to the Ballot. [Moderator reads Article #5.]**

WARRANT ARTICLE 5 Partial Roof Replacement at Nottingham West Elementary School

Shall the Hudson School District vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$500,000 to replace a session 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

Moderator: (continuing) **And I'll recognize School Board Member Gasdia to present Warrant Article #5.**

School Board Chairman Gary Gasdia: Thank you, Mr. Moderator and thank you everybody for staying. I know some of these articles don't have the same passion but are still very important. So this is part of our ongoing replacement of roofs. So you've seen very similar warrant articles in the past and this year it is Nottingham West and it's , as the Moderator said, \$17 on the tax impact. And it says there's it's for roof at Nottingham but if we go to the next slide [*Warrant Article 5 Nottingham Membrane Roof Replacement*] what you'll see if that everything shaded is in red is what is being replaced. There are a couple of small little roofs that go where some of the entrances, those are not included. But the rest of the roof is being replaced with this. So that represents a significant amount of squared footage, the only exception being the metal roof. If we could go to the next slide [*Warrant Article 5 Nottingham West Roof Replacement*]. As I mentioned about the previous image, the warranty on the current roof expired five years back, so this is probably why you want to stay ahead of things so you won't have to an emergency. And then the new white membrane roof will have a twenty year labor and materials warranty to be installed. So when we do it this year then hopefully we don't have to do it for a long time. The membranes will be repaired or replaced as needed. And if you have been in Nottingham over the past several years you will have noticed that there are leaks that we have to repair and at some point you say you don't want to repair week after week and so this is where this is. Thank you, Mr. Moderator.

Moderator: Thank you. We will now open Warrant Article #5 to questions, comments, amendments. Yes, Sir, Mr. Trost.

Ted Trost, 63 Rangers Drive: I originally voted to recommend this warrant article as part of my role as in the Budget Committee. Since that time I've come to think about it and realize than impacting the taxpayers I'd rather think that the money should come from grant money, like the ESSER Fund, Grant. I fully support replacing this roof. I believe it is I want everyone to understand that there are many Budget Committee members who don't support this warrant

article as well as warrant article 9 for the playground. It's not that we don't think that a roof is needed. It's not that we don't think a playground is needed, but that the funding should come from other places but not directly from our taxpayers.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion. Ms. Lamothe.

School Board Vice-Chairman Lamothe: As indicated earlier the ESSER Grant is only allowed for certain expenditures. And if I may defer to the Business Administrator to speak about what she said earlier what the ESSER Grant can be used for.

Moderator: Mrs. Burk.

Business Administrator Burk: The primary purpose of the ESSER Grant was to support students during COVID and specifically we have been addressing learning losses and the mental Health needs of the students. So that has been expendable for what the ESSER Grant is used for.

Moderator: Thank you. Any further discussion Warrant Article #5 Roof Replacement for Nottingham West. If not, we will close the discussion on Warrant Article #5 and it moves to the Ballot. Sorry, I didn't see you there. She wants to speak, Mrs. Fickett.

Fickett: So I just wanted to speak on behalf of this. I'm hoping now that it was made clear that the ESSER Grant funds can not be used for this. That it should be reconsidered because our students shouldn't be under a roof that's not stable or structural. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. No more discussion on Warrant Article #5. Mr. Oates, and Mrs. Leary has a question. I guess I'm not finished with I'll let Mr. Oates speak and then Mrs. Leary.

Oates: I'll make it quick. I can't believe we are debating on whether to replace a roof on a school. We wouldn't be debating to replace our own roof. My only feedback would be we keep replacing roofs around this town on different structures. I think we should be looking at this differently looking at the potential of putting on a metal roof could last for seventy years not a twenty year roof at 550. We could spend a little more money, get more longevity. If we are going to spend the money we should do it more wisely.

Moderator: Thank you. Mrs. Leary has a question.

Kathy Leary, 8 Par Lane: I just want to make a comment. I did vote to support this and I think I will we need to do so. I just raise a question and this was discussed in our Budget Committee, I think it was at the Public Hearing, as to why at least not I understand we didn't use the entire Capital Reserve Renovation Fund. I do have a question as to why part of the money didn't come out of our Capital Reserve Fund that could have been put toward roof replacement.

Moderator: Question to the School Board. Anyone wish to yield. Mr. Gasdia will yield.

Chairman Gasdia: Thank you. I can speak to that. That is something that we considered but one of the things is that you know if you start to deplete your Capital Reserve Fund you need to put more money in. And if you look at some of the things it's been used for in the past some of them maybe a roof. But we don't have enough money in there now to replace a roof. Actually we were going to do that. So essentially what we needed was let's say take the money out for the roof and then let's vote to put more money into the Capital Reserve. And so not to

blend warrant articles the reason why the next one is coming up is so that we have enough so that when a roof is take out and still have some money left in case something else happens. But to deplete it is sought of like using all your savings and then having to put it all back. So you know one way or the other we need to pay the 550 and it would be at this time this made the most sense.

Moderator: Thank you. Followup question, Mrs. Leary.

Leary: It's just to clarify that the 550 that is being voted to appropriate in this warrant article, it that the entire cost of the roof replacement. And is any of that coming out of the Capital Reserve Fund.

Gasdia: Yes. No.

Moderator: Okay. Warrant Article 5 Partial Replacement. Are we all done with it now. I thought I did that once, but. Alright. **Now we will close Warrant Article 5 and it moves to the Ballot. [Moderator reading Article #6.]**

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

Moderator: (continuing) **And I'll recognize Mr. Beals to present Warrant Article 6.**

School Board Member Beals: Thank you. [referring to slide: *Warrant Article 6 Increasing Funds in the Capital Reserve School Renovation Fund*] So as was just mention the Capital Reserve Renovation Fund was established in 1999 to cover different financial liabilities for renovations that we need to some of our buildings. And this past December 31st. The current balance in the fund is \$432,253. Since it's inception, as Mr. Gasdia just mentioned, this fund has been used for a variety of projects, some smaller roof renovations, and more recently, you may remember, the elevator addition to Alvirne High School. An important piece of this warrant article is all funds withdrawn, in order for fund to withdraw from this Capital Reserve Fund it would require the approval of the voters in the form of a warrant article. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. **We will now open Warrant Article #6 Increasing Funds in the Capital Reserve School Renovation Fund to questions and comments.** Anyone have any questions or comment on Warrant Article #6. Mr. Brownrigg.

Brownrigg: Yes, I have a question. Just wondering. It won't take long. Can we change the number on this to a different number.

Moderator: You may. This Body can change the number.

Lion's Field. The request would ultimately move, push have a lot line relocation, push the current lot line back 65 feet behind the block wall and bleachers on the property. It would also encompass a small portion of gravel the. And dugout that also fall within the property of H.O. Smith School. Currently there is an agreement between the Hudson School District and the Lion's Club which allows the Lion's Club to make use of that portion of the property. The warrant article at hand, pending the approval of voters, would transfer for this small portion of land over to the Lion's Club. And once done the Lion's Club would assume any liability for that piece of the property.[referring to a second slide: *Transfer of Property to the Lion's Club*] This is a quick reference to the property map. It shows in red the proposed new lot line and the blue line is where the current lot line exists. So as you can clearly see that the bleachers, a portion of the dugout, parking lot and retaining wall really lie on our property. And so the Lion's Club is simply asking for a small lot line location to push that existing lot line back. [referring to third slide: *Transfer of Property to the Lion's Club*] This is an aerial showing again of the proposed new lot line moving it behind the bleachers, retaining wall in yellow and the current lot line in the maroon color. [referring to a fourth slide: *Transfer of Property Line to Lion's Club*] This is the retaining wall as you would run into the dugout. And behind where the picture is taken is a view of a portion of the parking lot. So the existing lot line would, if you're looking at this picture, does run what you would know as the first base side of the retaining wall. They're looking to place it behind the bleachers. [referring to fifth slide: *Transfer of Property to the Lion's Club*] This is another way of looking at the retaining wall and the bleachers. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. We will now open Warrant Article #7 Transfer of Property to the Hudson Lion's Club to questions, comments, amendments. Yes, Sir, Mr. Quinlan.

Quinlan: I have a question. I understand what you're basically doing is trying to back out of the liability, if that's correct. From when they're on if something happens, is HO Smith liable. If that's the case can't we just draw up a contract that while they're on, in use. Seeing you're asking \$75,000 for a new playground, sell the property instead of giving it away for free. Doesn't seem to make a lot of sense to me. Wouldn't you sell the property and if not why throw money away why wouldn't you draw up a contract that says while in use by Lion's Club for baseball or whatever they use it for, that they are liable for anything that happens on that property. You're just giving something away for free and asking \$75,000 for a playground. Money for other things and to take property that adds value you're giving it away cause you don't want to be liable. There are other ways to not be liable without throwing money out the door.

Moderator: Thank you. Anyone from the School Board wishes to yield. Mr. Beals.

Beals: I think to be fair the portion of property that we're talking about doesn't serve the School District, even in future expansions. If you're familiar with the area the HO Smith field sits very up high and then there's a topographical change to the Lion's field down low. So if you're looking at potential future development it would be unrealistic of us to be developing that piece of land. The Hudson Lion's Club has enjoyed a good relationship for the School District and the community as a whole and provides a lot of opportunity. Anybody who plays baseball in the town of Hudson is familiar with Lion's Field. And the intent of this was really to continue the Lion's Club to utilize the field and the property.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion on Warrant Article 7. Yes. Ma'am.

Mary Joy Gasdia: I'm just coming up here to explain this , I just want a lot of parents to know

one of the great reasons this is a great thing, first of all I agree if there was a way to get some money and they could use the land. This is a useless little piece of land as far as it is to the School District. The School District is liable if anything happens on it. Right. Right now there's these bleachers on it that aren't great. And the Lion's Club taking that over, the Lion's Club then Has the responsibility of maintaining that property, maintaining the land, fundraise. They can actually benefit the children and students in Hudson more because they're, the School District is never, I am going to be shocked if the school system came here and said we've love to fix those bleachers at Lion's Field and everyone who say whoa why would we be spending money to fix bleachers, Well, we could have supported this and plus the school system doesn't have to worry about that. So this is another way where it's a zero tax impact. Doesn't cost anybody any money. My kid is not in baseball anymore. I as a parent would have totally appreciated that you all the time. Anyone that would sit on that Board and not support this, I would question you. Anyone running for School Board that's on that School Board to support this. Something that benefits students, children within our District and all across our town and to the parents and it supports that whole program and it takes the liability. So now you're going to an organization that has the money and willingness to keep this property up and safe and assume liability and it just doesn't have that. And where a piece of property they really can't use. It just seems like a no-brained. So I encourage any parents and I am highly in support

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

Oates: I just wanted to reiterate that point and also state that the Hudson Lion's Club, the ballplayers, their families are already currently maintaining that entire area. Every spring we're down there raking leaves, pulling everything out, cleaning it up. It's not something that the Town will ever taken care of. It's something the Hudson Lion's Club, the ballplayers and their families have all ways maintained. And the fact that we're fully giving it to them, I'm in support of that.

Moderator: Thank you. Any discussion on Warrant Article #7. **Seeing none, we'll close Warrant Article #7. It goes to the Ballot. [Moderator reading Warrant Article #8.]**

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

Moderator: (continuing) **And I'll recognize Mrs. Lamothe to present Warrant Article #8.**

School Board Vice-Chairman Lamothe: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. The start of full-day kindergarten at the Library Street School in September of 2020 with approximately 195 students meant that the playground used by THE approximately 225 first grade students at H.O. Smith would need to be shared. [referring to slide: *H.O. Smith Elementary School Playground*] The existing playground can safely accommodate 80 students per recess session. In order to provide equal playground time for students at both schools, they needed to establish a rotating schedule. On the days when when the playground is being used by one

school, the other school has recess on a pavement area, commonly referred to as a courtyard. building a playground in the Parkin lot area of the H.O. Smith School would allow daily access to safe and friendly recess environment for students at both schools. [referring to second slide: *Warrant Article 8 Dr. H.O. Smith Elementary School Playground*] This is a google map image of the property, it shows the indicated area to be used to setup this playground. This space is location in the parking lot behind the building. [referring to third slide: *Warrant Article 8 Dr. H.O. Smith Elementary School Playground*. This slide first shows a ground level view of the space targeted for this playground. The first you're looking towards the school parking lot and the second to the side. {referring to fourth slide: *Warrant Article 8 H.O. Smith Elementary School Playground*] We'll take a look at what we have now. So this is the current playground that is shared by both schools. [referring to fifth slide: *Warrant Article 8 H.O. Smith Elementary School Playground*] We have a few different images. Another image of the current playground. [referring to sixth slide: *Warrant Article 8 H.O. Smith Elementary School Playground*] This is actually the current alternate playground at the H.O. Smith School. The pavement recess area. It is empty. {referring to seventh slide: *Warrant Article 8 H.O. Smith Elementary School Playground*] Full of first grade students playing on pavement. [referring to eighth slide: *Warrant Article 8 H.O. Smith Elementary School Playground*] This is the recess pavement area at Library Street where kindergarten students play. [referring to ninth slide: *Warrant Article 8 H.O. Smith Elementary School Playground*] And there they are. Children are resilient but they deserve much better places to play better than paved courtyards. They are not safe and that is why we are presenting Warrant Article 8. The tax impact was stated at \$.02 per thousand. On a \$300,000 home, that's \$6.00 per year, or \$.50 per month. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. **We'll open up Warrant Article #8 Playground at H.O. Smith School to questions, comments, amendments.** Mr. Murray.

Murray: I'd like to put in an amendment to this. "Shall the Hudson School District vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$75,000 to build a playground at Dr. H.O. Smith Elementary School? [and then add to that, the next line] [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](#) [and then following that] This is a special warrant article."

Moderator: Okay. Let them get it in there. What is that wording, Mr. Murray.

Murray: [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: For Article 6 it's the same language. The last sentence.

Murray: That's correct.

Moderator: Is there a second to the amendment. Mr. Martin seconds. Mr. Murray, to speak on your amendment.

MOTION: TO AMEND ARTICLE 8 BY ADDING THE WORDS "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: SHAWN MURRAY. SECONDED BY: NORMAN MARTIN

Murray: Mr. Moderator, very simply, people are saying it's only two-cents. That would be six dollars on my tax bill but don't forget we have a Town meeting coming up and we're looking for funds. Believe it or not \$6.00 means something to older, elderly people within the town and you saw some of the unexpended fund balance consistently every year. I think that is a good use for this project for \$75,000.

Moderator: Thank you. We're on the amendment to add the words as in Article 6. *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.* Anyone wish to talk, discuss amendment to Article 8. Mr. Brownrigg.

Brownrigg: If that's the case, shall we change .02 to zero. This is going to be a zero impact to

Moderator: Well that will be corrected when they do the actual, print Ballot, the final Warrant. Yes, that would be automatic. Yes, Ma'am.

Karen Emerson, 3 Sousa Boulevard: My question is if this is moved to be funded in that manner, what happens if there are not enough funds,

Moderator: Question for the Board. Is there anyone who wants to yield.

Chairman Gasdia: In the event there are no funds, correct me if I'm wrong, we will not be able to do it and essentially that's what that would mean. The other thing that I believe is true that if we vote down this Warrant Article we are not able to build a playground at all. No means nothing. So those are the two things.

Moderator: Thank you. Mr. Oates, on the amendment.

Oates: I continue to see the Budget Committee vote down the kids. It's two-cents. I think Mr. Clegg said he wouldn't be able to feed himself on two-cents at the last meeting.

Voter: (calling out) Point of Order (directing mumblings at the speaker)

Oates: Those are his words. He stated it at a previous meeting. It's not an insult. And why we continue to go against our kids. This playground will only generate revenue by bringing more families into this community. It's not a negative. It's a positive. I think getting You know I listen to a lot of people talk about the kids and their masks and the concern for their health. But at the same time let's let them play on some hard cement many playgrounds utilize. It just doesn't make sense. There's a contradiction every time they open their mouth.

Voter: (calling out) Point of Order

Oates: It's two-cents, two-cents. Thank you.

Voter: (calling out to speaker)

Moderator: (voter continuing to speak out) Please, be in order. Mr. Quinlan.

Quinlan: I'd like to point out the fact that what was the surplus, somewhere around \$780,000, the surplus. So that means we are over things by \$780,000. We still have that money. We're

talking about \$75,000. I would think that a pretty small drop in the bucket as far as that's concerned. On pavement, I played on pavement my entire life. I'm originally from Lowell. I don't know if I ever saw grass. So that's kind of nether here nor there. I'm not against building a playground obviously. But with a surplus of that I don't understand what the discussion is. It should automatically come out of that instead of taxes when you've already overcharge us by almost a million dollars. I'm sure there are other things we can point to on that fact. I don't know, legalized what ever it seems to me. But again also the 75,000 for a playground. Do we have any specifics on what this playground is. I mean \$75,000 is an awful lot of money. I probably could build that myself for significantly less. I'm willing to bet that the Town has a bunch of equipment use could already use to be paid for. We could do the vast majority of everything. So how many people did you get a quote from. Who are they. Where are they from. Are they local or not. I know you used plow company that's out of not Hudson. You had tree removal from H.O. Smith from a tree company that didn't belong in Hudson. So again who's doing it. Why is it \$75,000 is an awful lot of money. And what exactly are we getting for \$75,000 which it's a playground we need \$75,000 we need to raise taxes because apparently you don't want to use the 780,000 plus in surplus. We're being overcharged for something. Like if I sold you this. It cost me ten bucks and I charged you a hundred that's like \$90,000 a surplus cause I charged you it's only worth a hundred dollars. Thank you.

Moderator: Anybody on the School Board. Mr. Weissgarger. This is on the amendment adding the words.

Chairman Weissgarber: Correct. So adding in the words into the \$75,000. Mr. Trost had said something earlier that how we pay for items that are on warrant article, I'm in support anytime that we can get tax burden on the resident that we should. When you look at historical fund balances, again last year it was 2.4 million, I believe that was after transfers. Jenn correct me if I'm wrong but transfers were 3.3 million and then end of year balance was 2.4 million. Is that correct. Right. So the fund balance was actually 3.7 million and they transferred .4 million

School Business Administrator Jenn Burk: You're combining transfers and some year end expenditures. E had some year end expenditures because of the projects the Board approved plus there was money transferred into the Capital Reserve Fund.

Weissgarber: So the money that was out into the Capital Reserve Fund was that out of the 2.4 or the 4.3.

Burk: There was no Capital Reserve article last year

Weissgarber: No , I mean you put money into your Capital Reserve Fund

Burk:The Reserve Fund Balance 500,000

Weissgarber: Did that come out of the 2.4

Burk: That was prior.

Weissgarber: Prior. Correct. So I guess the point I'm trying to make is that we have money there at the end of the year plenty of money historically if you remove 2018. That it has incrementally enough. 2.4 million dollars, I don't like doing math in public but you're looking at about almost 5% of the \$52,000,000 off budget just for the end of the year balance that was not spent. 5% double of the Capital Reserve Fun. So I mean, just I want residents to take a hard look at what you know what we looked at is transfers during the fiscal year end of the year fund balances because that it a big tout. You know we are not trying to do negative things to the School. We just look at things through the budget. So we see these warrant articles come in to do these projects. You know we put our budget hat on and we want to find other ways to

fund these things. And when we see 2.4 million dollars as the end of the year find balance we automatically keep going back to that. So, Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Yes, Ma'am.

Kara Roy, Marsh Road: I just to say I heard a lot of discuss about the health of our children, mental health, masks compromise the budget but when you have the opportunity to improve the school District as a whole to give the children the opportunity to play outside and have that healthy outside interaction we put for the sack of \$75,000 . We want to have a whole long discussion about. It is about supporting children. Sometimes it is about quality of life and quality of education and those kinds of things. I think that's what that warrant article represents.

Moderator: Thank you. Yes, on the amendment to add the words.

Mike MacDonald, 11 Henry Drive: I am in support of the warrant article. I think it has been said that there are funds available to do this already. I think to use the money they already have. I think it'd disgusting to assume that people who are in support of the playground don't care about the kids or the playground. I haven't heard a single person say they are opposed to the playground or they don't think the playground is a great idea. But there are ways to pay for it. Here's the people that are against a different way to pay to say they are against the children or they don't care about their health is a pretty disgusting thing to do.

Moderator: Thank you, Yes,Sir, on the amendment.

Rob Everett, 220 Derry Road: I too suport the playground and the amendment and this too may get it done quicker as well. Again it's a playground. There's a plan tucked away collecting dust. To an addition to the school. It this going to go where the current one or a different place. To fit the kids to grade in the areas so you can fit the two schools out there at the same time or is it going to go like where the old one was back behind the school. Now, that's a rhetorical question. I don't really care where it goes. At the same time they've had other playground stuff that has come down. The tennis courts are no longer there. They were torn down earlier this year. At the Rec hall you use. The basketball hoops there. I haven't seen them in the past few years. So we're talking about taking things away from the kids and not letting kids play. Who's really taking things away from the kids. I don't remember the last time the hopscotch things were painted.

Moderator: Please stick to the amendment, the words that we are adding about the using the fund balance.

Everett: funds to fund the School. So when we're talking about having a playground with platinum playground stuff but we're taking away other stuff that they had there one time to put up their parking lot which can also be used as a playground which is a generic term and a gallon of paint. It's not that much money either. For the play area to be exactly as it should be, It's like in some ways we're creating our own issues with poor planning and in most cases. Next year we'll expand the playground some more and going to be asking to make tennis courts that have come down. Well they disappeared like. Enough said. I'd rather just get it done sooner than later, One thing that hasn't been brought up with the current one cause I remember donating to it and I spoke to the former principal about one of the other schools in town that was one by fundraising. I did the same thing at Hills Garrison. I think some cute little girl asked me to buy a candy bar. I bought one > I might have bought a couple. No one has

asked me to help fundraise with this one. That's one way to get the funding solved. And it's just the I'm sure everybody the Town would just like to get five bucks out and get it done this month. It's Getting it done. So it's just getting it done sooner with the money that's goin to be There's no way out of a million budget we done have \$75,000 when as people have said a lot of trips have been cancelled this year. That's it.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion on the amendment to add the fund balance. Mrs. Gasdia. Then Mr. Campbell.

Mary Joy Gasdia: I just don't understand. I'm just trying to understand. I don't have a problem doing it this way. My question was the reason the School Board, the negative of doing it this way. I fit doesn't get voted in then you can't build a playground. Is that what you said.

Moderator: Board yield. Ms. Lamothe.

Gasdia: If this, so if we vote on this amendment and somehow it passes and you end up at the end of the year don't have the money to allocate to this that means that the kids can't get any playground because we voted that part.

Moderator: Ms. Lamothe will yield.

School Board Vice-Chairman Lamothe: Thank you. Yes, that does. It means that would not happen.

Gasdia: At the end of the year when you have that big balance everyone is talking about and you decide different things. If this is voted on does that mean this would be the priority. Like that's the first thing that would have to come out of that,

Lamothe: Yes

Gasdia: So if at the end of the year you have 500,000 and this is voted in, the playground would have to happen.

Lamothe: Yes. I'm sorry, the Attorney. I now yield to the Attorney.

School District Attorney Graham: If this is voted in the Board would have the decision to be able to spend the 75. It would not have to spend the 75 on the playground, it couldn't spend it on anything else. This is designated as a special warrant article that means money that is appropriated under it could not be transferred to anything other article. On the other hand if the amendment is voted in the money to fund the article instead of being raised by additional taxation it would come from the surplus which is available at the end of this year. That's the only change that the amendment would bring. If there is no surplus this year there will be approved for an appropriation for \$75,000 and if the District and the Board found that money somewhere else in the budget they could go ahead and spend the \$75,000 on the playground. Is that clear.

Gasdia: Yes

Attorney Graham: So if this is voted in favor of they can spend money for \$75,000 into improve the playground and they can only spend that \$75,000 for that purpose. Can't be spent for other

Gasdia In the balance. It would be the first thing. It's not like we have \$75,000 and we're going to pay for this, tis, and this then you run out of spending our money. I just want to know how that fund balance thing works. I think it's a great idea to say we're going to have cause there's always that balance at the end of the year. Right so this makes sense . The more I listen it makes sense. But then I feel is there a way that if there's \$500,000 is this the first thing that goes because the taxpayers voted for it. Or we did xy and z on other things and we didn't get to the playground. I just want to know truthfully. Like I want to go for this but I don't want to not have a playground. I want to know how it goes. If we have the surplus how do you spend it.

Moderator: Ms. Lamothe.

Lamothe: After voting day there will be possibly a whole new different School Board, School Board seats are open, so that will be a decision for the new School Board when it approaches June 30th. I would like to point out and clarify the reason why this was presented as a separate Warrant article was based on the fact that when tennis courts were built using end of the year fund balance people were not happy about that, So we have a playground to put in. We put in a separate warrant article, There are two ways to fund this. The net impact on the tax rate is the same.If we use the end of the year fund balance to pay for the playground that is going to reduce the amount that reduces the tax rate in the next year. It's a negative is a positive. Separate warrant article is going to increase the amount that we're raising if it passes. It's the same impact. So the main reason for this warrant article put forth that way was to be completely transparent for those who may not be watching the School Board meetings. Let the voters decide and also there was a certain Budget Committee member who doesn't want to encourage the use of the end of the year fund balance for projects like this. So that is how the warrant article came out worded the way ot was initially. But even if it is amended tax impact is going to be the same thing.

Gasdia: So I would be in favor of the amendment as made because as I understand it if you have your money at the end of the year, that \$75,000 comes out of that instead of and I don't know who would be in office. I'm assuming in good faith that the new School Board would It would not go away if for some reason there was no money , no fund balance, you're saying we have no playground At that point if people in the community wanted to do a fundraiser for a playground that's okay. Worst case sinerio I heard Jenn earlier no playground. It just sounded cut and dry. It mage me worry , So this sounds like this is the best way to go. I support that and encourage other people.

Moderator: Mr. Campbell did you want, do you still wish to speak. Okay, not.

Roy: I just have a question. There seems that there are two similar warrant article here. Would \$150,000 required from Warrant Article 6 go first or would the \$75,000 from Warrant Article 8.

Moderator: I think I can answer that. The DRA determines how you spend your money. They'll go Article by Article. Article 6 would go first. If there's no many after that, this one goes away. They do it in order of the Articles as they were approved. That is with the Department of Revenue Administration. Mr. Clegg.

Clegg: Thank you. I have a question if regardless of whether we take this out at the end of the fund balance it's still going to be \$.02, how is it that Article 6 would remain zero. I believe that the money is coming out for both of them the same way. But on one you said zero and on the other one you said it's \$.02 no matter how we do it, it's still will be \$.02. Can somebody explain that to me.

Moderator: Mrs. Lamothe

Lamothe: So the information that is in the Warrant Article is dictated by law, The tax impact is based on the amount that is going to be created. So the \$.02 is the impact for the appropriation. If we are going to fund it with end of the year fund balance, there's no appropriation but we're not returning end of the year fund balance to reduce the amount raised by taxes. I hope that, that's why a zero impact from the Warrant Article.

Moderator: Another question, Mr. Clegg.

Clegg: So if I understand you there really is no effect to the tax rate if we take it out of the fund balance just like we do on #6. There is. Previously you said it would still cost \$.02. If I look at it, I won't disagree with you but what would the effect of taking the 150,000 out and not returning that to the taxpayer. I just want to understand both Articles in the same way.

Moderator: Ms. Lamothe, do you have an answer to that. Does that make Article 6 different.

Lamothe: Warrant Article 6 is up to \$150,000. Double the amount. So in effect the Town would have a \$.04 impact on the tax rate. The wording that's in the Warrant Article and the tax impact you see in the Warrant Article is dictated by law.

Moderator: Thank you. Mr. Trost. Oh, was she first. On the amendment on the fund balance.

Fickett: First I want to say that I'm thrilled everyone is in agreement for this playground. It is necessary. I am in agreement with this form. However, I did have a question. Given the new information that Article 6 would come first and then Article 8, is there a way to reverse that.

Moderator: The Town. The Department of Revenue Administration takes the way the Town, this deliberative Session votes them. Article 6 came first 8 would be next. They're very particular about that.

Fickett: It's just that because

Moderator: If we had taken them out of order, we would have voted on that one, but that's not what we did. So

Fickett: Okay, thank you.

Moderator: Mr. Trost.

Trost: It was mentioned earlier from a School Board member that there's opposition on the Budget Committee about spending money in the unexpended fund balance. I wanted to clear my position on that. I prefer transparency to the voters only using the unexpended fund balance for items either in the budget or in a warrant article. The case for putting into a warrant article would be for transparency and it would be telling the voters we are going to be spending portions of the unexpended fund balance on a project that is different from a tennis court that happened with the Board a few years ago that was neither in the budget nor on a warrant article. And the project came out of nowhere. It was just decided to spend unexpended fund balance on the tennis courts. There are projects like this that happen at the end of every year, not budgeted nor a warrant article and I think that is one of my concerns of how the School Board works its budget.

MOTION: TO ADJORN

MADE BY: PHYLLIS APPLER. SECONDED BY: NORMAN MARTIN

This is the only voice vote I take. All in favor of adjourning, please say "yes". Opposed.
We are adjourned at 1:30 [pm].

Transcribed by:

Diane Cannava, School District Clerk

