

MINUTES  
HOPKINTON SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING  
HOPKINTON HIGH SCHOOL, CONTOOCCOOK, N.H.  
**March 5, 2016**

James Newsom, School District Moderator called the annual meeting of the Hopkinton School District to order at 9:09 a.m.

The Moderator introduced the Flag Bearers.

The Flags were presented by Cub Scout Pack 77 and Boy Scout Troop 77, represented by: Seamus Quinn, Patrick Quinn, Jonah Nepveu, Steven Jutton, Cameron Burgess, Teppy Ehrmantraut, Owen Bamford, Alex Swanson, Danny Rinden, Cooper Otis, and Nick Simpkins.

The Moderator recognized Fran Burdette and Christine Dinan, who are leaving the school district at the end of the year, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Burdette and Mrs. Dinan have served the district for a total of 39 combined years.

The Moderator introduced Hopkinton Middle School 9<sup>th</sup> grader - Cassidy Donohoe to sing the National Anthem.

The Moderator introduced Elaine Loft, the School District Clerk; Carol McCann, Jean Lightfoot, Ginni Haines, Supervisors of the Checklist, with Bonnie Cressy assisting; Attorney Thomas Barry of Nixon, Riche, Vogelman, Barry, Slawsky and Simoneau, representing the School District.

The Moderator noted childcare services were provided by Hopkinton High School National Honor Society Members.

The Moderator gave his appreciation to the members of the Hopkinton Middle and High School custodial staff for the arrangements and set up for this School District meeting and thanked Steve Lux for his assistance with the sound system.

The Moderator then introduced the Chairman of the Hopkinton School Board, Mr. David Luneau, for the purpose of introducing school administrators and members of the School Board.

David Luneau thanked everyone for coming then introduced the school administration and Board members: Steven Chamberlin, Superintendent; Michelle Clark, Business Administrator; Christopher Kelley, Principal, Hopkinton Middle High School; Rebecca Gagnon, Assistant Principal, Hopkinton Middle High School; Michael Bessette Principal, Maple Street School; William Carozza, Principal, Harold Martin School; Meghan Bamford, Director of Student Services; Matthew Stone, Director of Technology.

David Luneau then introduced members of the School Board: Liz Durant, Vice Chairman; Matthew Cairns, William Chapin, Jr. and Bill Jones.

Also recognized were the Student Representatives to the Board, seniors Lily Scammon and Felicia Gordon. Chairman Luneau thanked them for coming to meetings to share their perspectives and to keep their classmates up to date.

David Luneau thanked Superintendent Steve Chamberlin, the administration, and the teaching faculty and staff for making Hopkinton's schools among the best in the country. He thanked David Barnard and the dedicated custodial staff for preparing the school facilities every day, as well as for the Annual Meeting.

David Luneau also thanked the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator Neal Cass, Police Chief Pecora, Fire Chief Mumford and the many town employees whom the town relies upon for everything from helping the superintendent call a snow day and maintaining fields, to helping the kids of Hopkinton to make good choices.

Board Chair Luneau thanked his colleagues in the State Legislature, Senator Dan Feltes and Representatives Mel Myler and Mary Jane Wallner for keeping the Board and administration advised of developments at the state level and for their efforts (our efforts) to ensure the State lives up to its financial responsibility and stops downshifting costs onto local municipalities and school districts.

Finally, David Luneau thanked the members of the community for supporting the schools not only with their tax dollars but with the commitment made by hundreds of community volunteers dedicating large amounts of their time, whether to chaperone a field trip, build a new playground, help in a classroom, or excite youngsters through after-school enrichment programs.

### **Opening Remarks: David Luneau**

“Our community has always placed a priority on high performance schools. It's the reason many people move to Hopkinton, and live in Hopkinton. Our schools are central to the vibrancy and vitality of the community as witnessed during this year's musical *Oklahoma!*, the candlelight walk before Thanksgiving to Shed a Light on Bullying, and athletic events all year long.

There's science behind the fact that an active lifestyle improves academic performance. Our students are engaged in a variety of co-curricular activities from an early age, including robotics and youth sports. And their test scores are well above state averages.

During February break two weeks ago, a number of our high school students traveled to Nicaragua along with members from Hopkinton Rotary to help build schools and forge new friendships.

Our robotics club is consistently recognized for its effort during international competition. Each member takes a hands-on role in the project, whether that means designing a gearbox, writing code, or improving safety.

And a graduate from last year was recognized as one of the most skilled automotive technicians in the state, skills he developed through our partnership with Concord High School's Regional Technology Center. Spencer was invited to Detroit last summer to challenge his skills along with

peers from around the country. He's now working on his degree at White Mountain Community College.

These are just a few examples of how hands-on education is working for our students and making an impact locally, nationally and around the world.

Connecting schools to community leverages our collective resources and the tremendous interest our community has to enrich the educational experience for all of us.

And here are some things we've accomplished together. Frankly, I'm more about the effort than the award when last year *U.S. News* named Hopkinton as the best high school in the State of New Hampshire. I guess that's news but it's also just a data point. And we're fortunate to live in a state with many high performance schools. But this year, US News did it again, and Hopkinton takes the top spot for two years in a row.

And nearly every one of our students continues with their education after graduation in some form – what the Superintendent calls “high school plus”—that could mean to serve as a mentor with City Year, or to earn a trade certificate in a high-value area, or to enroll in a degree program at one of our fine community colleges like NHTI or four-year institutions such as UNH or MIT.

Despite that, we do have needs to improve energy and operational efficiencies, address security concerns, improve accessibility, and provide appropriate classroom and work spaces throughout the district. And there are community needs to consider as well. So we formed a steering committee led by community members to advise the Board.

So I'd like to introduce to you Jay Burgess who will lead this effort. Jay lives in Hopkinton, has served as the director of facilities for New England College, and presently serves as the director of facilities for the City of Concord. Jay's going to take a few moments to talk with us about the effort and how all of us can get involved.

Jay Burgess started by stating that the school district was currently on “warning” with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEAS&C) due to deficiencies in the schools, specifically in the areas of energy and accessibility.

After holding listening sessions (“Facility Fridays”) in 2012-2013, the School Board formed a Facility Committee, and charged it with the responsibility to advise the School Board regarding the design, development and implementation of a two-building (P-5 and 6-12) school configuration. Mr. Burgess spoke about some of the things this change in configuration might bring to the schools, including World Languages and Unified Arts to the middle school students and more enhanced community access to the middle-high school gym and auditorium. The Facility Committee is composed of 45 community members, broken into six subcommittees. Referring to the brochure (“HSD Facility Project”) that had been distributed at the meeting, Mr. Burgess reviewed the timeline of the project to date.

At the 2017 School District Meeting, the Facility Committee will present a detailed set of plans and will propose how the project might move forward. The Committee is being assisted by Harriman & Associates, an architectural firm. Mr. Burgess urged anyone who had questions about the process to contact him or other members of the Facility Steering Committee.

After thanking Jay Burgess, Chairman Luneau continued with his opening remarks:

Our budget process begins in September and October, nearly 20 months before some dollars in the budget will ever be used.

In early December, the Superintendent presented his budget to the School Board. In a series of School Board meetings, we discussed what was necessary to meet district goals and the objectives in each of our schools. Working together, we made targeted cuts to reduce the Superintendent's proposed budget by \$155K while maintaining educational priorities.

In January, the administration, Board and budget committee worked collaboratively to reduce the budget by another \$49K and contain the tax impact with use of \$420K in anticipated surplus from this school year and \$125K from rate stabilization and capital reserve funds.

In the end however, the budget committee recommended nearly everything in the School Board's budget, minus \$7K to pay for transportation, coaches and officials for a cooperative varsity football program with Hillsboro-Deering High School.

Most districts throughout the state have experienced declines in enrollment, and Hopkinton has seen this too. We've reduced the number of teachers, we're consolidating elementary administration, and our per pupil cost is well within the average of that of all districts across the state.

Today, our enrollment is actually 24 students higher than it was a year ago. There could be a number of reasons for this... the turnaround in the economy, the state's low unemployment rate, being named the best high school in New Hampshire, our hands-on approach to education, and the variety of programs we offer, including football. These 24 students are a value to the community in terms of their individual experience and diversity they bring, and germane to a budget discussion, the state sends us nearly \$90K more in financial support.

So here's what's coming up:

The operating budget is largely driven by salaries, health insurance and retirement system costs. It also factors in staffing responsive to lower enrollment in grade four.

There are collective bargaining agreements with the support staff and custodians.

And there are appropriations to the building maintenance and vehicle capital reserve accounts from this year's surplus.

The balance of the surplus along with money from capital reserve and stabilization funds comes forward to reduce the tax burden.

All in, we're looking at a tax rate impact of \$0.26. The budget committee recommends approval of each article.

We feel the School Board's budget provides the right balance to meet the needs of our students, the priority our community places on education, and our ability to support education with local tax dollars.

And we understand that next week the Town will propose a budget with significant new costs for road and bridge repairs, on top of recent construction projects. Roads and bridges are important to us too. We are in this together and we developed these budgets together.

So as we discuss and deliberate and vote today please remember that we're delivering an excellent education for an average cost. The proposals coming forward today let us continue to do that.

We hope you will agree and look forward to answering your questions during the meeting. Thank you for your continued support.

The Moderator, James Newsom, returned to the podium. Mr. Newsom explained the parliamentary procedures for the meeting. In the interest of time, the School Board members read the Articles from their seats rather than coming to the podium.

The Moderator then recognized David Luneau for the purpose of moving Article I, seconded by Liz Durant, as follows:

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

Seeing no comment, the Moderator called for the vote.

**Article I passed on a voice vote.**

The Moderator recognized Bill Chapin for the purpose of moving Article II, seconded by Liz Durant, as follows:

**ARTICLE II:** To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, the Budget Committee's recommended amount of Eighteen million, five hundred eighty thousand, one hundred and nine dollars (\$18, 580, 109) for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for the school district officials and agents, and for the payment of statutory obligations of the district, or to take any other action in relation thereto. The Hopkinton School Board recommends eighteen million five hundred eighty thousand, one hundred nine (\$18,587,109). This article does not include appropriations voted in other warrant articles.

After moving the Article, Bill Chapin spoke briefly about the budget process, noting that taxes were a big concern this year, especially the much needed upgrade of the roads. The School Board, under direction of the Budget Committee, worked to formulate a fair budget. Bill thanked members of the Budget Committee for their support, and stated that the Budget Committee and School Board worked closely together to form this budget.

Referring to his slide presentation, Bill said that the proposed budget of \$18,580, 109 represented a decrease of \$19,522 (-0.11%) from the previous year. He discussed the costs for programs, services and facility maintenance. The proposed budget did not include the \$7,000 request for support of the Hopkinton-Hillsboro football team. Some of the unplanned costs the Board had to

deal with this year included the following: \$129,000 for special education services; \$24,000 for transportation; \$11,000 for health insurance; \$14,000 for books and information access; \$185,000 for salaries/benefit reductions. Other non-negotiable parts of the budget included: teacher salaries; non-union salary adjustment; increase of two FTE student-specific support staff; decrease of 3.45 FTE positions and changes in the delivery of service models.

In summary, the proposed budget was \$19,522 less than the previous year, with a tax impact of \$0.12/1000. Bill noted that at the 2015 School District Meeting, the Board was estimating a tax increase of \$0.26 per thousand. In the end, the Board was able to keep the increase to only \$0.03 per thousand.

After Mr. Chapin's remarks, Mr. Luneau briefly spoke, noting that the budget number on the slide presentation was incorrect, and gave the correct amount to the audience: \$18,580,109. The correction was acknowledged by the Moderator.

The Moderator then recognized Janet Krzyzaniak, Chair, who spoke on behalf of the Budget Committee.

Janet started by briefly describing how the School Budget and the Town budget were developed, and what role the Budget Committee has in the process. She noted that two major new items in the proposed municipal budget were the funding of road construction and the proposed track and turf field. Janet talked about how the School District had significantly lowered its budget during the previous two years, which allowed the municipal budget to increase to pay for the replacement of the Public Works garage (which burned) and for the modernization of the Contoocook Fire Station. In 2016, additional funds would be needed to pay for long overdue repairs of roads and culverts. Janet said it was the job of the Budget Committee to work within a manageable tax load. She noted that Hopkinton was not as well off as some might think, and its tax base is not large enough to offset its expenses. She concluded by saying the Budget Committee had been trying to stall the rising total tax rate, but the proposed school consolidation study was likely to have a major impact on the 2019 budget.

The Moderator announced that Article II was open for discussion.

Kurt Schuster (33 White Tail Run) made a motion to amend the budget by \$7000, adding the money the School Board had subtracted for support of the Red Hawks football team. Steve Yianakopolos (36 Old Henniker Road) seconded the motion.

Steve Yianakopolos (Old Henniker Road) stated there at been a lot of discussion about the Red Hawks football program at the Budget Committee and School Board meetings. He thanked the School Board for its careful budget and he concluded by enumerating why he felt Hopkinton had been voted the number one school in the state. Finally, he disagreed with the Chair of the Budget Committee: he said did not feel there was an adversarial relationship between the Budget Committee and the citizens of the town.

Kurt Schuster again spoke in favor of the amendment to Article II. He started by giving the history of the Red Hawk football team, noting all the hard work of both the players and the

parents. He said that the football team was only asking for the same things as other teams—money for transportation and referee fees. Mr. Schuster stated that football offered another sports option to kids, and he knew of at least three families who had moved to town so their kids could participate in a football program.

Arnold Coda (400 Gould Hill Road) asked for clarification of the tax impact (shown on the slide). The slide showed the tax impact to be \$0.01. He also asked if the tax impact was going down. David Luneau said that the slide was incorrect: the correct amount was \$0.11. Arnold again stated he believed he heard Chairman Luneau state that the tax rate was going down. Mr. Luneau clarified that there was also a decrease in revenue, so the tax impact was still \$0.11.

Arnold then asked for clarification on another point—was the funding for the football program part of the proposed budget? David Luneau replied that the football program was not in the proposed budget—Mr. Schuster’s amendment added the \$7,000 to the operating budget to support the football program. Responding to a point made by Mr. Schuster, Mr. Coda said that although the district receives (state) money for each new student who comes to Hopkinton, he did not think that attracting students via a football program was a valid reason to vote for the amendment—the district should strive to attract students because of academics, not athletics.

Peter Yunich (Gould Hill Road) asked what would happen if the \$7,000 wasn’t approved. Would the school still support the football program? David Luneau said the School Board had discussed this issue at its meeting the previous week. He reminded the audience that any budget monies approved by the voters were allocated at the discretion of the Board, but the Board certainly noted the will of the voters, and would follow the sentiments of the town regarding funding for the football team.

Mr. Yunich stated that it appeared the School Board had not made a decision about how the football program would be funded. Mr. Luneau said that was correct, the Board would weigh the input they received at the meeting before deciding how to spend the money budgeted. However, the Board would put significant weight upon the results of the vote on the amendment.

Allyson Krzyzaniak Geary (Krzyzaniak Lane) asked how many Hopkinton students currently participate in the football program?

David Luneau said that someone from team reported that 17 Hopkinton students participated in the team.

Mike Byrne (Hopkinton Road) referred to an earlier slide that stated Hopkinton is number one in state because of academics, but in his opinion, high school is really a combination of academics and other activities, all allowing students to grow and mature. For that reason, he said he would like to see football a part of the offering: he supported the addition of \$7,000 in budget.

Janet Krzyzaniak asked to make further comments about the football program. She said she wrote an article in the paper (*Concord Monitor*) and she believed Kurt Shuster responded to her article. She is not concerned about liabilities, but concussions are a major concern. She

reiterated that she had been concerned about future costs of supporting the football team since it first came to the School Board to discuss the program.

Janet then read a prepared statement addressing the debate and split vote by the Budget Committee regarding the \$7000 request for the Red Hawks football program, stating it had more to do with potential costs down the road than the present proposed funding. She cited the example of how the lacrosse program had evolved from a junior varsity sport to a full-fledged program. Janet then gave the history of the genesis of the football program, including information about Hillsboro's proposed contributions. She concluded her statement by stating that "long range planning needs to be a part of adding new programs." Janet recommended that the football program continue as a completely volunteer funded program, similar to the Star Hawks hockey program.

Dick Drescher (Maple Street) characterized the discussion about the football program as "tip of the iceberg," saying that football is a very expensive sport. He further noted there is a lot of controversy about injuries. He concluded by stating the high school already provides plenty of choices of sports.

Larry Donohue (Gould Hill Road) said he wanted to correct a few statements made by the Board. First, although David Luneau stated the Board would take into consideration what people at the meeting felt about supporting the football team, Mr. Donohue felt the Board should not tie itself to that premise. Second, Mr. Donohue cited statistics that showed that Hopkinton had absolutely the highest school tax rate in the state. Regarding the discussion about concussions, football has a bad reputation, most of the concussions happen at the professional level. Mr. Donohue asked the Board to confirm how many concussions had occurred in the past year in football versus other sports. Mr. Chamberlin said he did not keep track of the figures. Mr. Donohue replied that there had been three concussions in basketball and one in football. He went on to describe his own sports experience with football. He concluded by talking about the per pupil costs—Hopkinton comes in about average in the cost per student, yet we are ranked number one in the state, so we really are getting good value for our money. Mr. Donohue encouraged the School Board to reinstate the \$7,000 for football, but he also asked the School Board and Budget Committee to continue to look critically at expenses.

Amy Bogart (146 Deer Path), a member of the Budget Committee, said she was one of the dissenting votes. She said she understood the idea that kids might want to play a different sport. The difference in the budget (to support the football program) was only \$0.01. Even if the \$7000 was implemented, the Board could say no to future requests, so she supported the amendment to Article II.

Ian Tewksbury (Irish Hill Road) noted the discussion wasn't really isn't about the \$7,000, because that amount had such a small tax impact, it sounded like the discussion was about what was coming down the road. Mr. Tewksbury asked Superintendent Chamberlin to explain the difference between the previous year and the current year in terms of oversight.

Steve Chamberlin replied that the Board had been presented with the football program two years earlier. At that point it was considered a pilot program, at the J.V. level. But the question at that

time was would the program be sustainable? If the football program was eventually approved, it would commit the District to salaries, transportation and refs.

Ian Tewksbury asked a follow-up question: If the coach is being paid by the School District, they are an employee? Mr. Chamberlin said that yes, the coach would be accountable to the School District, but Hillsboro-Deering is the lead school in the program, so the coach is paid by Hillsboro-Deering. Mr. Tewksbury concluded with his observations about the rate of concussions, based on his son's seven years' of experience playing tackle football.

Jayne Schoch (Pine Street) asked the Board if they could ascertain what percentage of the entire school budget was attributable to the sports programs. The Board said they would need to look into the budget numbers and answer her later in the meeting.

Lance Klingler (South Road) said that Janet Krzyzaniak brought up an outstanding point about expenses down the road. Also, why should Hopkinton make decisions that affect Hillsboro-Deering kids? If Hillsboro is unwilling to commit to upgrading their field, where will the team play? If the Board supports the football program now, but can't support the program in the future, it would be a terrible disappointment. He concluded by asking if anyone could comment on the issues with the playing field.

The Moderator then called the question. Arnold Coda disagreed, so the Moderator asked how many favored calling the question, after the last person in line for the microphone had spoken.

The majority of voters, by voice vote, were in favor of calling the question.

Kirk Shuster clarified that Hillsboro-Deering had already approved their portion--\$7,000.00—to participate in the program. The practice fields are in Hillsboro, the playing field is in Hopkinton. The team plays on a field that is already maintained. Mr. Schuster concluded by again asking for support for the football program.

In response to Jayne Schoch's earlier questions, Steve Chamberlin stated that less than 2% of the budget went to sports activities.

The Moderator announced there would be a written ballot, per petitioned request, on the amendment to Article II.

**The Motion to Amend Article II by \$7,000 failed.**

Yes: 163      No: 193

After the amendment to Article II failed, the Moderator again opened Article II to discussion.

Jeanne Prewitt (Peaked Hill Drive) made a motion to decrease the budget by \$153,157, which would bring the total to \$18,426,952. She stated she was at the meeting representing many of the condo owners in town. Some of them saw their taxes go up as much as \$2,000 in a year and a

half. Ms. Prewitt said she felt Hopkinton was not a wealthy town, and the town could not afford everything that everyone wanted. David Dufault seconded the motion to amend Article II.

The motion to amend the proposed budget (Article II) by \$153,157 was put to a ballot vote, by petitioned request.

**The motion to amend Article II by \$153,157.00 failed.**

Yes: 158      No: 200

A motion was made to call the question. The motion to call the question was approved by voice vote.

Article II, as presented in the Warrant, was put to a ballot vote.

**Article II passed on a ballot vote.**

Yes: 254      No: 95

Matt Cairns made a motion to restrict consideration of Article II. The motion to restrict consideration passed on a voice vote.

The Moderator recognized Bill Jones for the purpose of moving Article III, second by Bill Chapin, as follows:

**ARTICLE III:** To see if the school district will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hopkinton School Board and the Hopkinton Educational Support Staff which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

| Fiscal Year | Estimated Increase |
|-------------|--------------------|
| 2016-2017   | \$72,458           |
| 2017-2018   | \$39,103           |
| 2018-2019   | \$42,854           |

and further to raise and appropriate Seventy-two thousand, four hundred fifty-eight dollars (\$72,458) for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. The School Board recommends this article. The Budget Committee recommends this article (Majority vote required)

Bill Jones started by thanking Kathy Thesing and Nancy Skarmear for their work with the School Board on the staff contract. He then explained the support staff contract included the following staff: office support, food service, library-media assistants and instructional assistants. The contract represented an increase of 2% each year for three years. The pay scale was tied to

education and training. The health plan was limited to an HMO. The details of the contract were as follows:

Three-year term (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2019)

Year 1: \$72,458      Year 2: \$39,103 additional      Year 3: \$42,854 additional

The tax impact would be \$0.12/1000

Seeing no further comment, the Moderator brought Article III to a vote.

**Article III passed on a voice vote.**

Matt Cairns made a motion to restrict reconsideration; his motion was seconded by Bill Chapin and passed on a voice vote.

**ARTICLE IV:** Shall the town, if Warrant Article III is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Warrant Article III cost items only?

**ARTICLE IV WAS MOOT, AS ARTICLE III PASSED.**

The Moderator recognized Matt Cairns for the purpose of moving Article V, seconded by Bill Jones, as follows:

**Article V:** To see if the school district will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hopkinton School Board and the Teamsters Local No. 633 of New Hampshire which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

| Fiscal Year | Estimated Increase |
|-------------|--------------------|
| 2016-2017   | \$14,175           |
| 2017-2018   | \$11,284           |

and further to raise and appropriate Fourteen thousand one hundred seventy-five (\$14,175) for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. The School Board recommends this article. The Budget Committee recommends this article. (Majority vote required)

Matt Cairns first thanked the members of the negotiating team who had worked on the contract. He then discussed the specifics of the contract.

The custodial contract would cover a two-year term (July 1, 2016-June 30, 2018). There would be increases of 2.5% each year. A new maintenance position was included. This contract would create a new entry level wage progression, which meant that new hires would be coming in at a

lower pay scale. Mr. Cairns noted that the District was currently pricing itself out of the market. The first year cost would be \$14,174.

Arnold Coda (Gould Hill Road) said he was puzzled by the comment: “pricing ourselves out of the market.” He asked for clarification.

Matt Cairns replied that the Hopkinton School District had the highest paying custodial unit in the state, so the starting salary had been lowered. Arnold Coda further asked if this change would affect current employees. Matt Cairns replied that the salary change would not affect current employees. Mr. Coda asked if the tax impact was only for year one; Mr. Cairns answered in the affirmative.

Seeing no further comments, the Moderator brought Article V to a vote.

**Article V passed on a voice vote.**

Matt Cairns made a motion to restrict reconsideration on Article IV; his motion was seconded by Bill Jones and passed on a voice vote.

**ARTICLE VI:** Shall the town, if Warrant Article V is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Warrant Article V cost items only? (Majority vote)

**ARTICLE VI WAS MOOT, AS ARTICLE V PASSED.**

The Moderator recognized Liz Durant for the purpose of moving Article VII, seconded by Bill Chapin, as follows:

**ARTICLE VII:** To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate up to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to be added to the School Building Repair and Maintenance Trust Fund, established March 6, 1993, and authorize the School Board to transfer up to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) from the year end undesignated fund balance (surplus) available on June 30, 2016, or to take any other action in relation thereto. (The Hopkinton School Board recommends this article.) (The Hopkinton Budget Committee recommends this article.)

Liz Durant spoke about the trust fund. There were three projects in this school year: replacement of a fire tank at Harold Martin School (completed); roof safety equipment (estimated cost of \$30,000); replacement of door at Harold Martin School and Hopkinton Middle High School (estimated cost of \$30,000). The tax impact of this Article was \$0.008/\$1,000.

Seeing no comments, the Moderator brought Article VII to a vote.

**Article VII passed on a voice vote.**

Matt Cairns made a motion to restrict reconsideration on Article VII; his motion passed on a voice vote.

The Moderator recognized Liz Durant for the purpose of moving Article VIII, seconded by Bill Chapin, as follows:

**ARTICLE VIII:** To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be added to the Replacing School District Vehicles Capital Reserve Fund, established March 6, 2010, and authorize the School Board to transfer up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) from the year end undesignated fund balance (surplus) available on June 30, 2016, or to take any other action in relation thereto. (The Hopkinton School Board recommends this article.) (The Hopkinton Budget Committee recommends this article.)

Liz Durant outlined the Vehicles Capital Reserve Fund: the point of the fund was to replace the vehicles on a timely basis. The current fund balance was approximately \$46,000, with an expected \$10,000 to be added from a year-end surplus. The tax impact would be \$0.02/1000.

Seeing no further comments, the Moderator brought Article VIII to a vote.

**Article VIII passed on a voice vote.**

Matt Cairns made a motion to restrict reconsideration on Article VIII; his motion passed on a voice vote.

The Moderator recognized David Luneau for the purpose of moving Article IX, seconded by Matt Cairns, as follows:

**ARTICLE IX:** To transact any other Business that may legally come before said meeting.

Rich Houston (Main Street), a member of the Budget Committee, came forward to talk about the school consolidation project that would be coming before the voters next year. He noted there is a great amount of concern about what will become of Maple Street School, stating that the school is in good shape, it is paid for and it should not be discarded.

Steve Adams (Kearsarge Avenue) asked where one could find information about the upcoming town election. Steve Chamberlain replied that there was full information in the Town Report, or at the Town Clerk's office, there had also been a candidate's forum the previous week. Mr. Adams said he felt that there should be another way, other than on-line, regarding who is running for what offices.

David Luneau, Chair, thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. The Board recognized Elaine Loft for her many years of service as School District Clerk.

Arnold Coda (Gould Hill Road) asked Superintendent Chamberlin the current status of the NEAS&C evaluation. Mr. Chamberlin said that the evaluation occurs every ten years and the team of reviewers was coming the following week to visit the school, and would be interviewing

Board members and staff members about the school. There would soon be new report about the school.

Dennie Yianakopolis (Old Henniker Road) thanked everyone who voted to support the Red Hawks football team. As Chair of the Booster Club, she will continue to support the team. She encouraged everyone to come to watch the games, noting that it was heartening to see the two towns come together as one team. She hoped that others in town would support the team with their own contributions.

The Moderator asked if there was any further discussion on Article IX. Seeing no discussion the Moderator called for a motion to adjourn, the motion was made and seconded; the meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine P. Loft, School District Clerk