

**GILMANTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
FIRST SESSION OF SPECIAL ANNUAL MEETING (DELIBERATIVE SESSION)
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2014
10:00 A.M. – GILMANTON SCHOOL MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM**

Moderator Sisti called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

Members of the Gilmanton School Board present were, Michael Hatch, Renee Kordas, Adam Mini and Malcolm MacLeod.

Also present were SAU #79 Superintendent of Schools John Fauci, Business Administrator Donna Clairmont, Principal Carol Locke, Director of Student Services Emily Reese, Assistant Principal Debra Bergeron, School District Attorney Barbara Loughman and School District Clerk, Rachel Hatch.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was led by resident, Duncan Geddes.

School Board Chairman Michael Hatch recognized Vice Chairperson Renee Kordas. On behalf of the Board, administration and residents, Chairman Hatch thanked Renee for her six years of service to the district and spoke of her dedication to the staff and students

Moderator Sisti explained the rules and procedures for the district meeting.

(It was noted by the School District Clerk that 78 registered voters were in attendance.)

ARTICLE I. Election of Officers (March 11th only)

Election of the School District Moderator.

Election of the School District Clerk.

Election of the School District Treasurer.

Election of two members of the School Board (three year positions)

ARTICLE II. District Officers Salaries

That the salaries of District Officers be set for the coming year as follows:

Moderator	\$ 75.00
District Clerk	\$ 500.00
Chairperson of School Board	\$ 950.00
School Board Members (4) each	\$ 825.00
District Treasurer	\$1,200.00

Recommended: School Board
Recommended: Budget Committee

Renee Kordas made the motion to move Article II. The motion was seconded by Malcolm MacLeod and unanimously voted in the affirmative to have this article on the ballot.

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ARTICLE III. Gilmanton School Leach Field Pump Station Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fourteen Thousand Three Hundred Eighty-Eight Dollars (\$14,388) to be placed in the Capital Reserve Fund entitled, "Gilmanton School Septic System Repair and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund" as previously established.

Recommended: School Board
Recommended: Budget Committee

Brian Forst made the motion to move Article III. The motion was seconded by Frank Gianni and unanimously voted in the affirmative to have this article on the ballot.

ARTICLE IV. Special Education Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Expendable Trust Fund entitled "Special Education Expendable Trust Fund" as previously established.

Recommended: School Board
Not Recommended: Budget Committee

Brian Forst made the motion to move Article IV. The motion was seconded by Frank Gianni.

Joanne Gianni asked why the funds that were approved last March were not sent to the Trustees of Trust Funds yet? Donna Clairmont stated that the approved funds would be sent in the next payable cycle. Ms. Gianni stated that there was only a twenty day window to transfer funds to the capital reserve accounts. Ms. Clairmont explained that the district's budget year is from July 1st to June 30th and that the funds would be transferred. She indicated that she did not want to make it difficult for the town to work with the agreed upon payment schedule and asking for all of the funds at once would have placed the town in a difficult situation with a cash flow problem.

Ms. Gianni asked why the Budget Committee had not recommended funding this fund? Chairman Forst stated that there was currently \$109,222.00 in this account and that this account was funded last year. The interest that this account will make is close to the \$200,000.00 target amount.

Joanne Gianni made the motion to amend the amount of \$0.00 dollars. The motion was seconded by David Strang.

Mr. Strang stated that the school district has a budget surplus every year and that the money had not been put in the account in a timely fashion. The funds that were put aside have not been used.

Donna Clairmont stated that this article has nothing to do with any of the students moving in to this district. This article is for just special education costs that would be unanticipated. Not placing the funds in this account is not an oversight, but is a good faith attempt to work with the

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town on a reasonable payment schedule so as not to place the town with a cash flow problem

Deb Chase asked if the \$0.00 funding amendment changes the intent of this article? School District Attorney Barbara Loughman stated that the intent or subject matter of the warrant article cannot be changed, but that the amount to fund the warrant article can be changed.

Hearing no further discussion, Moderator Sisti moved the amendment to a vote. The voice vote was too close to call. He called for a hand vote. The vote was twenty (20) in the affirmative and forty (40) in the negative. The amendment failed.

Moderator Sisti indicated that this warrant article will be on the ballot.

ARTICLE V. Roof Replacement Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-one Thousand Three Hundred Nineteen Dollars (\$21,319) to be placed in the “Roof Replacement Expendable Trust Fund” as previously established.

Recommended: School Board
Recommended: Budget Committee

Brian Forst made the motion to move Article V. The motion was seconded by Frank Gianni and unanimously voted in the affirmative to have this article on the ballot.

ARTICLE VI. Water Storage Tanks Capital Reserve

To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Ninety-One Dollars (\$2,091) to be placed in the “Water Storage Tanks Capital Reserve Fund” as previously established.

Recommended: School Board
Recommended: Budget Committee

Brian Forst made the motion to move Article VI. The motion was seconded by Frank Gianni and unanimously voted in the affirmative to have this article on the ballot.

ARTICLE VII. Paving Capital Reserve

To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to be placed in the “Paving Capital Reserve Fund” as previously established.

Recommended: School Board
Recommended: Budget Committee

Brian Forst made the motion to move Article VII. The motion was seconded by Frank Gianni and unanimously voted in the affirmative to have this article on the ballot.

ARTICLE VIII. Boiler Replacement Expendable Trust

To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Nine Hundred Eight Dollars (\$2,908) to be placed in the “Boiler Replacement Expendable Trust Fund” as previously established.

Recommended: School Board
Recommended: Budget Committee

Brian Forst made the motion to move Article VIII. The motion was seconded by Frank Gianni and unanimously voted in the affirmative to have this article on the ballot.

ARTICLE IX. Tractor Replacement Expendable Trust

To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty-Six Dollars (\$2,736) to be placed in the “Tractor Replacement Expendable Trust Fund” as previously established.

Recommended: School Board
Recommended: Budget Committee

Brian Forst made the motion to move Article IX. The motion was seconded by Frank Gianni and unanimously voted in the affirmative to have this article on the ballot.

ARTICLE X. Asbestos Tile Replacement Expendable Trust

To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) to be placed in the “Asbestos Tile Replacement Expendable Trust” as previously established.

Recommended: School Board
Recommended: Budget Committee

Brian Forst made the motion to move Article X. The motion was seconded by Frank Gianni and unanimously voted in the affirmative to have this article on the ballot.

ARTICLE XI. Fuel Storage Tank Replacement

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate Eighty Nine Thousand Dollars (\$89,000) for the purpose of replacing the fuel storage tank and to authorize the withdrawal of Twenty-two Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Dollars (\$22,370) from the Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The balance of Sixty-six Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$66,630) to come from general taxation.

Recommended: School Board
Recommended: Budget Committee

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Brian Forst made the motion to move Article XI. The motion was seconded by Frank Gianni.

Lori Sanborn asked what the deadline date is? Michael Hatch stated that the deadline date for replacement is this year.

Kristyn Fischev asked if \$42,000.00 was in the capital reserve fund at the present time? Donna Clairmont stated that \$66,000.00 would be taxed and \$22,000.00 currently exists for a total of \$89,000.00. Michael Hatch stated that the DES had moved the time frame for replacement of the oil tank piping and that the existing tank is 20+ years old. He stated that the board was looking at not just digging up the lines and replacing them, but also replacing the fuel tank at the same time.

Moderator Sisti called for the vote. The vote was unanimous to place this warrant article on the ballot.

ARTICLE XII. Multiple Year Collective Bargaining Agreement

To see if the School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Gilmanton School Board and the Gilmanton Education Association which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staff level:

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase
2014-15	\$26,777
2015-16	\$55,562
2016-17	\$72,825

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Six Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy-Seven Dollars (\$26,777) 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.

Recommended: School Board
Recommended: Budget Committee

Brian Forst made the motion to move Article X. The motion was seconded by Frank Gianni.

Joanne Gianni asked that the tax impact would be if this article is voted in? Renee Kordas stated that the tax impact would be .06 cents per thousand.

David Strang asked if the board was asking for \$26,777.00 in the article and then raising and appropriating another \$26,777.00? Attorney Barbara Loughman stated that the first part of the article asks to approve the agreement and the second part of the article is asking to raise and appropriate the funds in the first year only. This article is not asking for the \$26,777.00 times two. Mr. Strang asked how many positions would this fund? Donna Clairmont stated that there are 38 teaching positions. Mr. Strang asked what the percentage increase would be? Malcolm

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MacLeod stated that the percentage increase is six percent (6.00%) over the period of three (3) years.

Lori Sanborn asked if the total of the \$155,164.00 increase is over a three year period in the agreement? It was stated that, yes, the agreement total is for over a three year period. Mr. MacLeod also noted that the teachers' one dollar prescription plan would be given up and that the opportunity to elect a 3-tier plan had been reduced to a 2-tier plan.

Tom Howe asked that, if this article was approved, would it come before the voters next year to approve the second year payment? Mr. MacLeod stated that, if the voters approved this warrant article, that the agreement and the funds would be approved for three years and that the budget would fund the other two future years of the agreement. Mr. Howe asked what will happen if this article is not approved on voting day? Mr. MacLeod stated that the next article would address this issue. Mr. MacLeod stated that this agreement is not based on a merit increase, but a cost of living and step increase.

Mr. Sisti stated that this article cannot be amended and that it will be placed on the ballot.

ARTICLE XIII. Authorization for Special Meeting on Defeated Collective Bargaining Article

Shall the School District, if Article XII is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article XII cost items only? (Majority vote)

Recommended: School Board

Renee Kordas made the motion to move Article XIII. The motion was seconded by Malcolm MacLeod and unanimously voted in the affirmative to have this article on the ballot.

ARTICLE XIV. Modular Classrooms

To see if the School District will vote to authorize the school board to enter into a five year lease purchase agreement for \$133,661.70 to acquire a 2-Classroom Modular, and raise and appropriate the sum of Ninety-Five Thousand Four Hundred Forty-Eight Dollars to cover the cost of the first year's payment on the lease of \$26,732.34 and the cost of installing and furnishing the 2-Classroom Modular. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. (Majority vote)

**Recommended: School Board
Not Recommended: Budget Committee**

Brian Forst motion to move Article XIV. The motion was seconded by Frank Gianni.

Kristyn Fischev asked why the budget committee did not recommend this article? Brian Forst stated that there was much discussion about this warrant article by the budget committee members. In the end, the committee felt that, with the space needs committee being formed, it

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would be better to see what recommendations would come from this committee.

Lori Sanborn asked what the purpose of the modular would be? Renee Kordas stated that it would house two classrooms, which would alleviate the teachers teaching on a cart. She said that the space needs committee is moving forward, but there is an immediate need for more space. Lori Sanborn stated that she would support an addition to the school, but not the purchase of a modular.

Erin Hollingsworth stated that she has been a resident for eight years and a teacher at the Gilman School for the past two years. She stated that there are teachers instructing the students from a cart and that teachers are sharing classrooms. There has been a need for a modular for, at least, the past two years.

Joanne Gianni asked for clarification of the cost. Adam Mini stated that the \$113,000 also includes installation fees and the cost of furnishings, adding security, etc.

David Strang stated that this a lot of money for a temporary fix to a space needs problem. He would support a time line for a permanent fix. He recommended an amendment to stipulate six months to bring a plan forward. Attorney Barbara Loughman suggested that Mr. Strang attend a board meeting to bring up this recommendation as a school board meeting is the place for this issue of a time frame recommendation.

John Funk inquired how many modulares does the school currently have? It was answered that the school does not have any modulares at the present time. He asked if the board had looked into a lease/purchase? Donna Clairmont stated that the budget committee had looked at the option of a lease, a purchase and a lease to purchase. They felt that the amount of money to pay for just a lease was not feasible. The school board was of the opinion that a lease-to-purchase was the best option as they could recoup some of the cost when it is sold. Mr. Funk asked how old the modular was. It was answered that the modular is five years old. Michael Hatch stated that the modular would be completely renovated on the inside. Donna Clairmont stated that part of the installation cost is that the modular would be placed on a foundation. The total cost would be \$201,000 over the course of five years. Superintendent Fauci stated that the modular would have some value at the end of the five year period. He was told by the company that the district could recoup approximately two-thirds of the cost to sell the modular.

Terry Burlingame stated that it took the district twenty years to get the 1997 addition.

Duncan Geddes asked if other options had been pursued that would be less expensive like constructing a separate building? David Sykie stated that a stick built building would not be less expensive. A sprinkler system would have to be installed and a septic system could cost the district more than a modular.

Cathie Austin stated that, although she appreciates a long term solution, there is a need now for more space.

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Kristyn Fischev asked how long board had been studying this issue? Renee Kordas stated that the board has talked about the need for additional space for years. The modular would house two classrooms. Ms. Fischev asked what grades would be in the modular? Renee Kordas stated that this has not been decided yet, but that the lower grades would not be in the modular. Ms. Fischev asked how many people would be on the space needs committee? Superintendent Fauci stated that a member of the budget committee and planning board would be on this committee as well as two teachers, two paraeducators, a school board member and member of the administration and a person to represent the community at large. Ms. Fischev asked if it had been advertised because there are many knowledgeable people in this community that know about buildings. Mr. Fauci indicated that an ad had not been placed. Mr. Fauci explained about the rooms that had been separated to increase classrooms and that the teachers room is now located on the multi-purpose room stage. The district is also experiencing high numbers in the lower grades. They are even using the locker rooms for classroom space.

Discussion continued regarding student numbers and the cost of a modular with all of the set up costs. Donna Clairmont stated that they had met with the fire chief and the building inspector and the leasing company to discuss a fire alarm system. Also, an intercom system and security system would have to be installed as well as expanding the technology system. The modular would have to be ADA compliant. All of these items would be included in the cost of setting up the modular.

Lynne Paige asked if other modular vendors had been considered? Ms. Clairmont stated that no other company had been looked at.

Stan Bean stated that a few years back an architect came in and assessed the building. The board wanted to set up a capital reserve fund for this project and it voted down by the people. The warrant article failed because the residents did not want to set up a capital reserve fund for this.

Superintendent Fauci stated that the district had a population study completed by NEASC and that study is on line. It shows how the population of students will steadily increase.

Brian Forst stated that the district has ten years left on the AREA Agreement with the Gilford School District and that there is a need to complete a study and start thinking about what this town is going to do and where it is going to be at in ten years. He stated that he is on the space needs committee and that residents are needed to volunteer their time to serve on committees.

Hearing no further discussion, Moderator Sisti stated that this warrant article will appear on the ballot.

ARTICLE XV.

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriation voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling the sum of **Nine Million Six Hundred Ninety-One Thousand Five Hundred Fifty-Five Dollars (\$9,691,555)**? Should this article be

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defeated, the default budget shall be **Nine Million Five Hundred Seventy-Seven Thousand Four Hundred Sixty-Eight Dollars (\$9,577,468)**, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Gilmanton School District, or by law, or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Not Recommended: School Board
Recommended: Budget Committee

Brian Forst made the motion to move Article XV forward. The motion was seconded by Frank Gianni.

John Funk asked why the school board vote was against this warrant article. Michael Hatch stated that they were not opposed to this figure even if the budget committee reduced their recommended budget. He stated that the board wanted the residents to know that the board's original recommendation had been reduced by the budget committee. He stated that the board was okay with the amended amount.

Moderator Sisti stated that this warrant article will be on the ballot.

ARTICLE XVI. Petitioned Warrant Article

Shall we adopt the provision of RSA 32:5-b, and implement a tax cap whereby the Gilmanton School District budget committee shall not submit a recommended budget that increases the amount to be raised by local taxes, based on the prior fiscal year's actual amount of local taxes raised, by more than zero (\$0) for the period of three (3) years from the date this is voted upon?

Not Recommended: School Board
Not Recommended: Budget Committee

There was no motion or second to this motion as this is a petition warrant article.

Vinnie Baiocchetti made the motion to amend the zero figure to \$500,000.00. The motion was seconded by Betty Ann Abbott for discussion.

He stated that the tax cap would impact the cost to fund additional special education students, contracts with Gilford, etc.

Walter Mitchell indicated that he shared Mr. Baiocchetti's concern. He stated that he applauds all of the work that the budget committee does and this petition warrant article, in essence, sends the message to the budget committee that the residents do not trust them and that they are not needed. He stated that he is at a loss to know that three members of the budget committee signed this petition warrant article. He stated that he has worked with tax caps in cities. Gilmanton has a town government and the residents have the last say on the budget. The petition warrant article does not take into consideration inflation and that capital bonds are kept separately. A tax cap would not fund bonds and that the payment of any bond taken out would have to come out of the

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operating costs. This petition warrant article would cripple the ability to adequately fund an adequate education. This statute does not take into consideration unanticipated expenses it would have to come out of the operating cost. Mr. Mitchell asked Attorney Barbara Loughman if this petition warrant article is even legal. The statute does not allow to tack on additional years. If the three years verbiage is taken off, then the intent changes. She also questioned whether or not the petition warrant article is even legal to bring forward.

Walter Mitchell asked budget committee board chairman, Brian Forst, if he would be okay with the budget committee's inability to work on the budget? Brian Forst stated that he was not okay with having this responsibility taken away from the budget committee.

David Strang stated that the petition warrant article addresses the operational cost only. Attorney Loughman stated that this petition warrant article affects the total budget inclusive of all of the warrant articles.

Donna Clairmont stated that if there is a decrease in adequacy aid and revenues, as there have been in the past, then this petition warrant article will mandate very serious reductions in the operating budget.

Anne Kirby encouraged the body to educate the voters that are not here today about the ramifications of this petition warrant article.

John Funk stated that this petition warrant article needs a two-thirds vote to pass. He stated that the \$500,000.00 amendment would be for a period of three years, limiting each year to not more than \$167,000.00 per year. Attorney Loughman stated that each year would be restricted to not more than an increase of \$500,000.00 per year.

Janet Breton asked if the amount can be changed? Attorney Loughman stated that the amount can be changed, but not the intent of the petition warrant article.

Walter Mitchell asked Vinnie Baiocchetti to withdraw his amendment to deal with the language. Attorney Loughman stated that the intent cannot be changed. Moderator Sisti stated that amendments are messy on a warrant article that may already be illegal.

Vinnie Baiocchetti withdrew his amendment.

Betty Ann Abbott made the motion to amend the amount to \$10,000,000.00 in an attempt to get rid of this petition warrant article. She stated that proposing a high amount will cause everyone to vote no on the article. The motion was seconded by Vinnie Baiocchetti.

Debra Cornett stated that she was one of the signers on this petition warrant article because she believes in every person's right to be heard. She had called the Secretary of State's office and spoke with Deputy David Scanlan and was told that statutory articles cannot have the verbiage changed and the petitioner of this article added "for the period of three (3) years from the date this is voted upon" and that is not by the state statute and would most likely not be a legal article no matter what we amend the amount to.

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Moderator Sisti asked for a vote on the amendment of \$10,000,000.00 as amended. The vote was in favor of the amendment by a majority vote.

Tom Howe stated that the problem that the body is dealing with is as a result of SB2.

ARTICLE XVII. Petitioned Warrant Article.

To revoke the School District High School Expendable Trust Fund established under the provision of RSA 198:30-c V and to pay any unanticipated tuition costs by complying with the provisions of the Authorized Regional Enrollment Area Plan between the districts of Gilford and Gilmanton established on April 14, 2003.

**Not Recommended: School Board
Not Recommended: Budget Committee**

Vinnie Baiocchetti made the motion to bring this article forward for discussion. The motion was seconded by Kristyn Fischev.

Janet Breton stated that Gilford has a warrant article that states that they can keep the unexpended funds. Would the passing of their warrant article impact Gilmanton with regard to Gilford not having to return unused tuition monies? Donna Clairmont stated that it would not impact Gilmanton. She stated that the Board does not “estimate” the cost of Gilford tuition. The district budgets for tuition from the student enrollment numbers that Gilford presents at the time of budgeting. What we budget for is dictated to us by Gilford. For example, we were given a cost by Gilford and at the eleventh hour, they cut their recommended budget, which reduced our budget by \$170,000.00 from what we owed, thereby increasing the district’s fund balance. The district returned a million dollars back to the town and the fact is that more than 70% of the fund balance was as a result of Gilford tuition.

Adam Mini stated that he attends the Gilford School Board meetings and stated that Gilford has to return excess funds back to Gilmanton.

Superintendent Fauci stated that the district budgets for the exact numbers that we know about. He explained that the district gets a bill in November/December with the October 1st enrollment number. All students attending Gilford High School from Gilmanton are verified that they are Gilmanton students. Another bill is sent at the end of June. Both bills show the students that have left or have entered the high school and those students’ residencies are verified.

Joanne Gianni stated that Gilford should abide by the AREA Agreement. Did the DRA approve this expendable trust fund? Attorney Loughman stated that the trust fund is okay and that the DRA and Gilford School District do not care where the money comes from.

John Funk asked what the impact would be if this petition warrant article is adopted? Renee Kordas stated that this trust fund is to address the possibility of unanticipated special education students coming in to the district that would have additional costs associated.

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Walter Mitchell stated that the AREA Agreement states that, at the end of the school year, an accurate tally of the students is completed. If there have been any additional kids that we did not get billed for, they would get billed in the next year's budget if it is after deliberative session. The adjustment can be made if it happens after deliberative session.

Michelle Heyman stated that we have to pay for the students when they move into the district.

Kristyn Fischev asked what year this expendable trust was created? Michael Hatch stated that it was adopted two years ago because this had become an issue in the past. That was why the expendable trust fund was created in the first place.

Donna Clairmont stated that we budget for what we currently know for 8th grade enrollment plus the current enrollment numbers of the Gilmanton attending Gilford High School. The October 1st Gilford enrollment is billed in December. The second billing occurs in at the end of June and adjustments are made for students who have entered or left town.

Carol Locke stated that there have been instances in the past where field trips have been put on hold, supplies could not be purchased, etc. because of this problem.

Cathie Austin recommended keeping the capital reserve fund in place.

Brian Forst stated that this account has \$33,000.00 and the school board has not asked to put additional monies in this capital reserve account. He stated that he felt that this petition warrant article was premature in nature.

Joanne Gianni stated that this fund was created without looking at the AREA Agreement. She stated that the district could always have a special town meeting if they needed more money.

Moderator Sisti stated that there was no vote needed and that this petition warrant article would be placed on the ballot.

Adam Mini made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:28 p.m. The motion was seconded by Michael Hatch and unanimously approved by the body.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel M. Frechette Hatch,
School District Clerk