



Raymond School District Community Newsletter

The Green Gazette

February 2022 Special Edition Green Gazette

From the Superintendent

Now more than ever it is important to take an active role as members of the Raymond community to help secure the future of Raymond School District. Throughout the last few years we have demonstrated the power of collaboration as we worked through a landscape drastically changed by the pandemic. As a community we have worked together to move our schools from a remote instructional platform to full in person classes this fall. This was no easy task for the district and the community but we can look back with pride on our accomplishment.

Our work is not over, we still need the support and collaboration of all stakeholders in Raymond to move our school district forward. I am looking for our community to take an active role in the process of making decisions to ensure our Raymond schools will continue to advance our ability to support our students and staff in the years to come. As stakeholders we need your input to guide the work of our committed Raymond School District staff.

In order for a school district to meet the needs of the community it needs to hear from the community it represents. Each year the citizens of Raymond have the opportunity to provide input to the district on what the community values and will support. On February 12, 2022 the School District will hold its Deliberative Session, and Voting Day is March 8, 2022. I recommended that community members take full advantage of these two days to make their voices heard. Your perspective and your voice is needed as we map our future moving forward.

This Special Edition of the Green Gazette will highlight and provide information on the warrant articles our district is moving forward. These warrant articles will be deliberated and on February 12th. We hope this edition of the Green Gazette will provide you with the information you need to participate in the process. You can also refer to our [Voter Information web page](#), as well as Raymond Community Television's [website](#), as RCTV often streams information in video format.

To view the School District's Strategic Plan, please click [here](#).

I would like to thank you in advance for your participation in the process of collaboration that will guide our work moving forward.

Dr. David DeRuosi, Jr.,
Interim Superintendent of Schools

Raymond School District First Deliberative Session

Saturday, February 12th, 2022, 10:00 AM at Raymond High School

All citizens are invited to attend the **School District Deliberative Session on Saturday the 12th of February** at 10:00 AM at Raymond High School.

This session will consist of explanations, discussions and deliberations of the school district warrant articles numbered 2 through 8. At this session, the wording of some warrant articles may be amended (as permitted by law). All citizens are urged to attend this important meeting to debate these articles. Please join us and participate in this important process on February 12th at Raymond High School. Visit our [Voter Information Page](#) to see the School District warrant articles and other information.

The articles as amended (or not) at the Deliberative Session will be placed on the official ballot and voted on at the Second (Voting) Session. **Be sure to mark your calendar and come to vote in our Town Election on March 8th from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM at Iber Holmes Gove Middle School.**

Below you will find the current wording of each article and some brief comments or explanations in *italics*. We hope all citizens will find this newsletter to be helpful as they deliberate and vote regarding these important issues.

Article 1 - Election of Officers

ELECTION

To choose the following School District Officers:

a.) To choose two School Board Members for the ensuing three years.

Article 2 - Operating Budget

Shall the School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations 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 \$26,798,318 (twenty six million, seven hundred ninety eight thousand, three hundred eighteen dollars). Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$26,780,772 (twenty six million, seven hundred eighty thousand, seven hundred seventy two dollars), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Raymond 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?



(This article does not include appropriations proposed under any other warrant article.)

(This article will be reduced by \$51,658 if Article 5 is adopted)

(Recommended by the School Board: Yes - 5; No - 0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes - 6; No - 1)

(The estimated tax impact of passing this article is an increase of \$0.36 per \$1000 assessment.

The estimated tax impact of not passing this article is an increase of \$0.34 per \$1000 assessment.)

The operating budget (Article 2) for fiscal year 2022-2023 of \$26,798,318 reflects a 2.14% or \$560,561 increase over last year. To mitigate the rising cost associated with contractual student service, transportation and student out of district tuition reductions were made to lessen the impact on the operating budget. If the proposed budget passes, the estimated tax increase is 0.36 per thousand. If it does not pass, the default budget of \$26,780,772 will be in place; an increase of 0.34 per thousand. The budget was developed to support our district goals while looking for opportunities to create efficiencies. This budget, while fiscally conservative, was developed in a manner not to adversely affect our ability to perform and move our programs forward next year.

Article 3 - REA Collective Bargaining Agreement

Shall the School District vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Raymond School Board and the Raymond Education Association, which calls for the following changes in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels from those paid in the prior fiscal year:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2022-23	\$409,659
2023-24	\$437,208
2024-25	\$458,804

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$409,659 (four hundred nine thousand, six hundred fifty nine dollars) for the upcoming 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 by the School Board: Yes – 3; No - 2)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes - 7; No - 0)

(The estimated tax impact of this article is an increase of \$0.31 per \$1000 assessment.)

A new agreement reached between the District and the Raymond Education Association will be on the ballot. This agreement reflects a change in health care providers which produced significant savings to the district. Year 1 of this three-year agreement will provide a 5% salary increase with a tax impact of 0.31 per thousand. Year 2 and Year 3 of this contract will allow for salary increases of 1.5% and 3.0% Both parties entered into negotiations recognizing the importance of reaching a fair and equitable contract. This agreement will assist the Town of Raymond to be more competitive, which will support the recruiting and retaining teachers.



Article 4 - Special Meeting

Shall the School District, if article 3 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address article 3 cost items only?

This warrant article allows the District the option to call a special meeting if needed to revisit cost items related to the REA collective bargaining agreement article (article 3).

Article 5 - RESS Collective Bargaining Agreement

Shall the School District vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Raymond School Board and the Raymond Educational Support Staff, which calls for the following changes in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels from those paid in the prior fiscal year:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase/Decrease</u>
2022-23	-----\$ (51,658 decrease)
2023-24	-----\$171,930
2024-25	-----\$127,535
2025-26	-----\$162,371

and further to reduce the amount appropriated in Article 2, the operating budget, by the sum of \$51,658 (fifty one thousand six hundred fifty eight dollars) for the upcoming fiscal year, such sum representing the savings attributable to the decrease in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels?

(Recommended by the School Board: Yes – 5; No - 0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes - 7; No - 0)

(The estimated tax impact of this article is a decrease of \$0.04 per \$1000 assessment.)



A new agreement was reached between the District and the Raymond Educational Support Staff. This agreement also reflects a change in health care providers which produced significant savings for the district. Year 1 of this four-year agreement will provide a \$1.75 hourly increase and a tax reduction of 0.04 per thousand. Years 2, 3, and 4 of this agreement will allow for salary increases of \$1.25, \$1.00 and \$1.30. In this agreement changes will be made to insurance contributions moving from 9% employee 91% employer to 12% employee 88% employer at the end of four years. This agreement will help close a significant gap between our support staff and surrounding towns. It will create a solid base to build on for future negotiations.

Article 6 - Special Meeting

Shall the School District, if article 5 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address article 5 cost items only?

This warrant article allows the District the option to call a special meeting if needed to revisit cost items related to the RESS collective bargaining agreement article (article 5).

Article 7 - Capital Reserve Funds

Shall the School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$412,500 (in total) so that the following amounts can be added to the following previously established Capital Reserve Funds in order to implement the School District's 2022-2023 Capital Improvement Program?

Raymond School District Equipment, Facilities Maintenance
and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2006) _____ \$160,305

Technology Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2001) _____ \$150,000

Food Service Equipment Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2006) __ \$102,195

Total \$412,500

(Recommended by the School Board: Yes - 4; No - 0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes - 6; No - 1)

(The estimated tax impact of passing this article is an increase of \$.03 per \$1000 assessment.)

The School District wishes to appropriate the sum of \$412,500 for Capital Reserve Funds. These funds will be used to support facility maintenance, technology, and food service equipment. The LRES will be replacing 14 windows, 8 exterior doors, and a convection oven. IHGMS will replace bathroom flooring, a chain link fence, and kitchen steamer. Our technology department will continue to make upgrades to ensure Raymond students have access to proper technology. There is a .03 per thousand tax impact as the result of this warrant article.



Article 8 - Surplus Funds to Maintenance CRF

Shall the School District vote to raise and appropriate up to \$400,000 (four hundred thousand dollars) to be placed in the existing Equipment, Facilities Maintenance and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2006), this sum to come from June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1? No amount to be raised by additional taxation.

(Recommended by the School Board: Yes - 4; No - 0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes - 7; No - 0)

(No additional tax impact.)



The School District wishes to appropriate up to \$400,000 out of the 2021-2022 year-end fund balance into the Equipment, Facilities Maintenance, and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund to be placed in the existing Equipment, Facilities Maintenance and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund. No amount to be raised by additional taxation.

Thank you for reading this Special Edition of the Green Gazette! Please share this newsletter with others, and mark your calendars for February 12th and March 8th. **Every perspective and every vote matters!**



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