



Raymond School District Community Newsletter

The Green Gazette

February 2023 Special Edition Green Gazette

From the Superintendent

Our schools are one of the bigger focal points in the community. They bring us together to celebrate our children. They prepare our children for the future. The Raymond School District continues to work hard to ensure every student is provided an engaging learning environment.

Every year there are opportunities for the citizens of Raymond to provide input to the district. We have two of those opportunities coming up. The Deliberative Session is on February 4th and Voting Day is March 14th. Please take advantage of these two days to sure your perspective about how we move forward.

This Special Edition of the Green Gazette will provide you information on each warrant article the district is moving forward and will be deliberated and voted on in the upcoming days. You can also find information on the [Voter Information web page](#). You can also watch the [Raymond Community Television website](#) as they provide information as well.

Thank you for your time on these very important articles and your participation in this process. Please feel free to share this newsletter with friends and family.

Sincerely,

Terry Leatherman
Superintendent of Schools

Raymond School District First Deliberative Session Saturday, February 4th, 2023, 10:00 AM at Raymond High School

All citizens are invited to attend the **School District Deliberative Session on Saturday the 4th 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 6. 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 4th 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 14th 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 one School Board Member for the ensuing one year.
 - b.) To choose one School Board Member for the ensuing three years.
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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 \$28,691,058 (twenty eight million, six hundred ninety one thousand, fifty eight dollars)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$28,384,855 (twenty eight million, three hundred eighty four thousand, eight hundred fifty five 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.)



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

(Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes - 4; No - 2)

(The estimated tax impact of passing this article is an increase of \$1.46 per \$1000 assessment.

The estimated tax impact of not passing this article is an increase of \$1.23 per \$1000 assessment.)

The operating budget (Article 2) for fiscal year 2023-2024 of \$28,691,058 reflects a 5.65% or \$1,535,414 increase over last year. If the proposed budget passes, the estimated tax increase is \$1.46 per thousand. If it does not pass, the default budget of \$28,384,855 will be in place: an increase of \$1.23 per thousand. The budget was developed to support our district goals while looking at 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 - Memorandum of Agreement with REA

Shall the School District vote to approve the cost items included in the new amendment to the 2022-2025 collective bargaining agreement reached between the Raymond School District and the Raymond Education Association, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year that are in addition to the increases per the unamended 2022-2025 agreement:



Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase
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2022-2023 \$23,695
 2023-2024 \$5,924
 2024-2025 \$0

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,924 for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new amendment to the 2022-2025 agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels in 2022-2023 per the amended 2022-2025 agreement. The School Board recommends this article.

(Note: No further appropriation is necessary to fund the estimated increase for 2022-2023 because the appropriations approved at the 2022 annual meeting are sufficient to fund the estimated increase for 2022-2023.)

(Recommended by the School Board: Yes - 3; No - 0; 1 - Abstain)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes - 6; No - 0)

(The estimated tax impact of passing this article is an increase of \$0.004 per \$1000 assessment.)

This article is an amendment to the current collective bargaining agreement with the REA. Teachers are being asked more frequently to cover additional classes. The agreement would increase the current amount teachers are paid to cover a class period from \$26.25 to \$45.00 (an increase of \$18.75). The tax impact for this article is \$0.004 per thousand.

Article 4 - Capital Reserve Funds



Shall the School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$453,750 (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 2023-2024 Capital Improvement Program?

Raymond School District Equipment, Facilities Maintenance and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2006) _____	\$ 223,989
Technology Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2001) _____	\$ 191,290
Food Service Equipment Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2006) _____	\$ 38,471
Total	\$ 453,750

(Recommended by the School Board: Yes - 3; No - 0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes - 5; No - 1)

(The estimated tax impact of passing this article is an increase of \$0.03 per \$1000 assessment.)

The Raymond School District wishes to appropriate the sum of \$435,750 for Capital Reserve Funds. . These funds will be used to support facilities maintenance, technology and food service equipment. The IHGMS intercom system would be replaced, a district wide maintenance van would be purchased and upgrades to the IHGMS media center are in the current plan. The district is looking to replace the security camera system at IHGMS and LRES. Our food service program will be replacing the convection oven and meat slicer at RHS. In addition money will be put aside for future projects. There is a \$0.03 per thousand tax impact as the result of this warrant article.

Article 5 - Surplus Funds to Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund

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 - 3; No - 0)

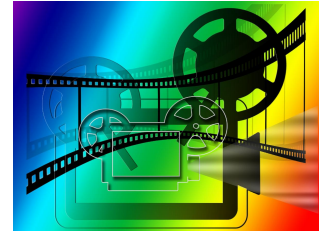
(Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes - 6; No - 0)
(No additional tax impact.)

The Raymond School District wishes to appropriate up to \$400,00 out of the 2022-2023 year-end fund balance into the Equipment, Facilities Maintenance, and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund. No amount to be raised by additional taxation.

Article 6 - RCTV Lease

Shall the School District vote to authorize the School Board to lease a portion of the Raymond High School to the Town of Raymond for a ten year period for location of Raymond Community Television the public education and government access cable service for Town of Raymond and the School District?

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



The current lease for RCTV has expired. Currently RCTV leases a small room off the library at the high school. They house their equipment in that room. We are required to put the lease forward to the voters for approval.

Thank you for reading this Special Edition of the Green Gazette! Please share this newsletter with others, and mark your calendars for February 4th and March 14th. **Every perspective and every vote matters!**



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