

Raymond School District Community News

Special Voter Edition



43 Harriman Hill Road, Raymond NH 03077 603-895-4299 www.sau33.com

February 2024

From the Superintendent

As we approach the Deliberative Session on February 10, 2024 and the Town Meeting Day on March 12, 2024, I am writing to encourage all eligible voters to participate in the democratic process by casting your vote on the school warrant articles.

Our school district has always been committed to providing a high-quality education to our students, and the decisions made at the deliberative session and town meeting significantly impact our ability to maintain and enhance the educational experience we offer. Your involvement in this process is crucial in shaping the future of our schools and by extension the future of our community.

This Special Edition Newsletter 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 (www.sau33.com/voterinfo). You can also visit 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 Deliberative Session
Saturday, February 10, 2024
10:00 AM, Raymond High School Cafeteria

All citizens are invited to attend the **School District Deliberative Session on Saturday the 10th 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 2 through 4. 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 10th. Visit our **[Voter Information Page](#)** to see the school district warrant 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 12th 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.

ELECTION

ARTICLE 1 - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

To choose the following School District Officers:

- a.)To choose two School Board Members for the ensuing three years.
- b.)To choose one School District Moderator for the ensuing three years.
- c.)To choose one School District Clerk for the ensuing three years.
- d.)To choose one School District Treasurer 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 \$30,723,861 (thirty million, seven hundred twenty three thousand, eight hundred sixty one dollars). Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$31,392,336 (thirty one million, three hundred ninety two thousand, three hundred thirty six 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 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 - 6; No - 0)

(The estimated tax impact of passing this article is an increase of \$1.59 per \$1000 assessment.)

The estimated tax impact of not passing this article is an increase of \$2.07 per \$1000 assessment.)

The operating budget (Article 2) for fiscal year 2024-2025 of \$30,723,861 reflects a 7.51% or \$2,066,210 increase over last year. If the proposed budget passes, the estimated tax increase is \$1.59 per thousand. There are three main factors driving this budget increase, a 25% increase in health insurance premiums (\$847,687), student transportation (\$611,329) and student tuition (\$360,311). If it does not pass, the default budget of \$31,392,336 will be in place: an increase of \$2.07 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 - CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS

Shall the School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$499,125 (four hundred ninety-nine thousand, one hundred twenty five dollars) (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 2024-2025 Capital Improvement Program?

Raymond School District Equipment, Facilities Maintenance
and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2006) _____ \$ 403,526

Technology Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2001) _____ \$ 57,832

Food Service Equipment Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2006) _ _ \$ 37,767

Total \$ 499,125

(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 \$.06 per \$1000 assessment.)

*General uses of the funds in this warrant, as outlined in our district's **Capital Improvements Plan**, include:*

- *Replacement of the RHS intercom system*
- *RHS bathroom upgrades*
- *RHS flooring upgrades*
- *District truck*
- *District firewall replacement*
- *LRES dishwasher*
- *IHGMS walk-in refrigerator*
- *Savings toward future projects*



ARTICLE 4 - CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS CONTRIBUTIONS FROM YEAR-END BALANCE

Shall the School District vote to raise and appropriate up to \$400,000 from surplus funds with 25% (up to \$100,000) to be placed in the existing Capital Reserve Fund for the Purpose of Educating Educationally Disabled Children (established in 2005) and 75% of that amount (up to \$300,000) to be placed in the existing Equipment, Facilities Maintenance and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2006) and with such sum to come from June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1 (surplus)? No amount to be raised by additional taxation.

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

(Not Recommended by the Budget Committee: Yes - 3; No - 3)

This article asks the voters' permission for the district to save for future special education needs and capital improvements projects. This type of savings helps the district build up sufficient funds for these needs without additional taxation. Due to the ongoing efforts of the School Board to put surplus funds aside if possible, we are making great strides in preparing for future needs and projects. No additional funds are to be raised by taxation through this warrant article.

