

BROOKLINE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Annual Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2009
CSDA Gymnasium

Brookline School Board: Dave Partridge, Chair; Beth Lukovits, Vice Chair; Marcia Farwell, Secretary; Wanda Meagher; Jim Murphy

Moderator: Peter Webb

Brookline Finance Committee: Ben Cargill, Ernie Pistor, and Larry Rodman

School Administration: Susan Hodgdon, Superintendent of Schools; Dawna Duhamel, Business Administrator; Carol Mace, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Robert Kelly, Director of Special Education; Patti Montague, Special Education Coordinator; Lidia Desrochers, Principal, RMMS; Lorraine Wenger, Principal, CSDA; Kristina Henry, Assistant Principal

School District Clerk: Annabelle Harris

The Moderator called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. and led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Moderator explained the procedures governing the meeting.

Article 1. To elect all necessary school district officers for the ensuing years by official ballot on March 10, 2009.

Election of one (1) Member of the School Board for the ensuing two years.

Election of (2) Members of the School Board for the ensuing three years.

Election of a School District Treasurer for the ensuing year.

Election of a School District Clerk for the ensuing year.

Election of a School District Moderator for the ensuing year.

Wanda Meagher made a motion to amend the Article numbering as posted so that Article 2 becomes Article 4, Article 3 becomes Article 2, and Article 4 becomes Article 3 to read as the Town Report states. An audience member seconded the motion.

The Moderator called the motion to amend the Article numbering to a vote. The motion carried by majority card vote.

The Moderator read Article 2.

Article 2. To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate \$8,938,340 for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries of school district officers and agents and for the payment of statutory obligations of the district. This appropriation does not include any of the other warrant articles. The school board recommends this appropriation.

Beth Lukovits made motion to amend Article 2 from \$8,938,340 to \$8,680,519. An audience member seconded the motion.

The school board had made budget cuts in the amount of \$257,821 after the Warrant Articles had been published.

Wanda Meagher gave the presentation on Article 2.

Brookline School District Main Operating Budget with Warrant Articles

	Adopted FY '09	Proposed FY '10	Variance	% Increase
Article #2	\$8,461,712	\$8,680,519	\$218,807	2.59%
Transfer to Food Service	(\$195,000)	(\$195,000)		
Transfer to Special Revenue Funds	(\$198,000)	(\$198,000)		
One-Time Expense	(\$116,000)	\$0		
Operating Budget	\$7,952,712	\$8,287,519	\$334,807	4.21%
Warrant Article #3 Negotiated Support Contract		\$60,645		
Warrant Article #4 Fuel Expendable Trust		\$0		
Warrant Article #5 Maintenance Expendable Trust		\$10,000		
Warrant Article #6 Pre-School		\$9,000		
Warrant Article #7 Alert Now Phone System		\$1,700		
TOTALS	\$7,952,712	\$8,368,864	\$416,152	5.23%

Summary of Budget Increases

	Dollar Increase	% of Total Increase
Professional Salary Contract	\$187,841	56.10%
Special Ed	\$132,282	39.51%
Cost of Benefits NH Retirement \$41,305 (20%)	\$121,395	36.26%
Regular Ed Classroom Materials (\$17,892) Special Programs (\$ 7,521) Computer Instruction (\$ 4,976)	(\$58,241)	-17.40%

		Dollar Increase	% of Total Increase
Kindergarten Staff	(\$24,207)		
Administrative			
Non-Union Salaries	\$10,062		
Fuel	(\$39,820)		
Maintenance	(\$39,078)	(\$48,471)	-14.48%
Office Supplies	(\$25,137)		
Liability Insurance	\$ 3,973		
District Assessment	\$11,497		
Transportation & Gas	\$16,678		
TOTAL		\$334,807	100 %

Ben Cargill of the Finance Committee discussed the tax impact. The Brookline tax rate last year was \$24.24 per thousand. The new tax rate would be \$24.77 per thousand, assuming the town, co-op, and county stay flat. If all warrant articles pass, the proposed budget of \$8,680,519 represents a tax rate increase of \$0.53 per thousand.

Discussion Ensued.

Jerry Farwell made a motion to amend Article 2 from \$8,680,519 to \$8,300,000. Ben Cargill seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued.

Lisa Aulbach made a motion to Move the Question. An audience member seconded the motion. The Moderator called the motion to Move the Question to a vote. The motion passed by 2/3 majority card vote.

The Moderator called the motion to amend Article 2 from \$8,680,519 to \$8,300,000 to a vote. The motion was defeated by majority card vote.

Discussion ensued.

Dave Toupin made a motion to amend Article 2 from \$8,680,519 to \$8,443,548. An audience member seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued.

Ann Webb made a motion to Move the Question. An audience member seconded the motion. The Moderator called the motion to Move the Question to a vote. The motion passed by 2/3 majority card vote.

The Moderator called the motion to amend Article 2 from \$8,680,519 to \$8,443,548 to a vote. The motion passed by majority card vote.

Discussion ensued.

Susan Santoski made a motion to amend Article 2 from \$8,443,548 to \$8,680,518. An audience member seconded the motion.

There was no discussion.

The Moderator called the motion to amend Article 2 from \$8,443,548 to \$8,680,518 to a vote. The motion was defeated by majority card vote.

Discussion ensued.

John Liska made a motion to Move the Question. An audience member seconded the motion. The Moderator called the motion to Move the Question to a vote. The motion was defeated by majority card vote.

David Partridge made a motion to amend Article 2 from \$8,443,548 to \$8,572,240. An audience member seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued.

Jerry Farwell made a motion to Move the Question. An audience member seconded the motion. The Moderator called the motion to Move the Question to a vote. The motion passed by 2/3 majority card vote.

The Moderator called the motion to amend Article 2 from \$8,443,548 to \$8,572,240 to a vote. The motion carried with 136 in favor, 127 opposed.

Discussion ensued.

Forrest Milkowski made a motion to amend Article 2 from \$8,572,240 to \$8,456,240. An audience member seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued.

Mike Meagher made a motion to Move the Question. An audience member seconded the motion. The Moderator called the motion to Move the Question to a vote. The motion passed by 2/3 majority card vote.

The Moderator called the motion to amend Article 2 from \$8,572,240 to \$8,456,240 to a vote. The motion passed with 140 in favor, 121 opposed.

Ms. Hall made a motion to bring Article 2 to the floor, with an amended amount of \$8,456,240. An audience member seconded the motion.

The Moderator called the motion to bring Article 2 to the floor with an amended amount of \$8,456,240 to a vote. The motion carried by majority card vote.

The Moderator called Article 2, as written but with an amended budget amount of \$8,456,240, to a vote. The motion passed by majority card vote.

Jim Murphy made a motion to Restrict Reconsideration of Article 2. Marcia Farwell seconded the motion.

The Moderator called the motion to Restrict Reconsideration of Article 2 to a vote. The motion passed by majority card vote.

The Moderator read Article 3.

Article 3. To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$60,645 to fund the increase in cost items relative to support staff salaries and fringe benefits for the 2009-2010 school year which resulted from good faith negotiations with the support staff, and which represents the negotiated increase over last year's salaries and fringe benefits. This is the second year of a three-year contract. Cost item increases in subsequent years will require approval of specific warrant articles at future district meetings.

Article 3 is recommended by the Brookline School Board and the Brookline Finance Committee.

Beth Lukovits made a motion to bring Article 3 to the floor, as written. An audience member seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued.

The Moderator called Article 3 to a vote. The motion carried by majority card vote.

The Moderator read Article 4.

Article 4. To see if the school district will vote to create an expendable trust fund under the provisions of RSA 198:20c, to be known as the Fuel Contingency Fund, for the purpose of funding unanticipated increases in the cost of heating oil and diesel fuel and to raise and appropriate a sum of \$40,000 for this fund. If this article passes, Article 3 can be reduced \$40,000. The school board recommends this appropriation.

Marsha Farwell made a motion to Pass Over Article 4. An audience member seconded the motion.

The school board was able to negotiate a better price for heating oil and diesel fuel for the upcoming year and will not need a fuel contingency fund.

The Moderator called the motion to Pass Over Article 4 to a vote. The motion carried by 2/3 majority card vote.

The Moderator read Article 5.

Article 5. To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$10,000 to be added to the previously established School Facilities Maintenance Fund for the purpose of repairing and maintaining the school facilities.

Article 5 is recommended by the Brookline School Board.

Article 5 is not recommended by the Brookline Finance Committee.

Beth Lukovits made a motion to bring Article 5 to the floor, as written. Dave Partridge seconded the motion.

Wanda Meagher gave a presentation on Article 5.

The expendable trust is to be used for unanticipated repairs. It would be funded by appropriation. A public hearing would be required to expend funds.

The Moderator called Article 5, as written, to a vote. The motion passed with a majority card vote.

The Moderator read Article 6.

Article 6. To see if the school district will vote to initiate a preschool program and to raise and appropriate a sum of \$9,000 for one-time start-up costs. The total cost of the preschool program, excluding one-time start-up costs, is \$172,915 and is being funded by existing resources in the operating budget.

Article 6 is recommended by the Brookline School Board and the Brookline Finance Committee.

Jim Murphy made a motion to bring Article 6 to the floor, as written. An audience member seconded the motion.

Wanda Meagher gave a presentation on Article 6.

The State of NH requires school districts to educate students with disabilities from ages 3-21 with no state funding. Brookline currently places preschool students out of district, incurring costs for tuition, services and transportation.

Cost benefits: Reduction in out-of-district placements, reduction in transportation costs (students and staff), and generate revenues from tuition.

Discussion ensued.

Buddy Dougherty made a motion to Move the Question. An audience member seconded the motion. The Moderator called the motion to Move the Question to a vote. The motion passed by 2/3 majority card vote.

The Moderator called Article 6 to a vote. The motion carried by majority card vote.

The Moderator read Article 7.

Article 7. To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$1,700 for the AlertNow rapid communication service. The service allows the school district to send important information quickly via phone and/or e-mail, to parents and guardians of students, about emergency situations, school delays or cancellations due to inclement weather.

Article 7 is recommended by the Brookline School Board
Article 7 is not recommended by the Brookline Finance Committee.

Marcia Farwell made a motion to bring Article 7 to the floor, as written. An audience member seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued.

John Liska made a motion a Motion to Move the Question. An audience member seconded the motion. The Moderator called the motion to Move the Question to a vote. The motion passed by 2/3 majority card vote.

The Moderator called Article 7 to a vote. The motion carried by majority card vote.

The Moderator read Article 8.

Article 8. To see if the school district will vote to authorize the Brookline School District to access future year state and federal catastrophic aid funds for any unanticipated special education costs that exceed budget limitations established at the District Meeting.

Article 8 is recommended by the Brookline School Board and the Brookline Finance Committee.

Dave Partridge made a motion to bring Article 8 to the floor, as written. An audience member seconded the motion.

The Moderator called Article 8 to a vote. The motion carried by majority card vote.

The Moderator read Article 9.

Article 9. To transact any other business which may legally come before said meeting.

Buddy Dougherty made a motion to adjourn at 10:25 pm. An audience member seconded the motion. The Moderator called the motion to adjourn to a vote. The motion passed by majority card vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Annabelle P. Harris

**Annabelle P. Harris
Brookline School District Clerk**