

Colebrook School Annual District Meeting
March 3, 2020

The annual meeting of the Colebrook School District was held on March 3, 2020 at the Colebrook Academy and Elementary School. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by School Moderator Jonathan Frizzell. Present were School Board members Brian Laperle, Chairman, John Falconer, Deborah Greene, David Gates, Michael Pearson, Nathan Lebel, and Craig Hamlin, Superintendent Bruce Beasley, Business Administrator Cheryl Covill, and approximately 85 members of the public. Flag salute was observed. Moderator Frizzell opened the meeting by reading the Special Warrant. He then read the regular Warrant:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Colebrook Academy and Elementary School Cafeteria in said District on Tuesday, the 3rd day of March 2020 at 6:00 o'clock in the evening to act upon the following subjects:

ARTICLE 1

Craig Hamlin moved to accept the salaries of the School Board and fix the compensation of any other officers and agents of the District. David Gates seconded the motion.

There was no discussion and the motion passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 2

Deborah Greene moved to accept the reports of Agents, Auditors, Committees or Officers chosen as printed in the school report and pass any vote relating thereto. Brian Laperle seconded the motion.

There was no discussion and the motion passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 3

Craig Hamlin moved to authorize the Colebrook School Board to convey the former Colebrook Academy building and establish conditions on its use and determine such terms and conditions as the school board deems are in the best interest of the District. John Falconer seconded the motion.

Craig spoke to the motion stating there had been discussions about the building with UCVH and AHEAD, but AHEAD pulled out. There was consideration of moving the SAU offices into the building but that was determined to not be

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feasible. There are no certain ideas at this time, but the Board wants to be able to act on any offers to convey or sell the building. The estimated cost of maintaining the building is \$47,278. Concern was expressed about the building being used for any purpose that would have to be supported by taxes or for the building being conveyed to a nonprofit organization and not be taxed. It was suggested that a Public Meeting could be held when an offer is being considered. It was noted that whatever happens to the building, we still need to be able to use the Technical Education Building. The property is combined with the academy and too small to sub divide, so a lease agreement would have to be included if the property is conveyed.

There was no further discussion and a voice vote was inclusive. The motion was passed by a standing vote with 48 yes and 34 no votes.

ARTICLE 4

Nathan Lebel moved to amend and update the existing Authorized Regional Enrollment Plan Agreement with the Columbia School District to comply with current education laws, and further renew the amended Agreement for five (5) additional years, until June 30, 2026 and in accordance with the proposed Plan Agreement on the file with the School District Clerk as outlined in the school report. The motion was seconded by Craig Hamlin.

Nathan spoke to the motion. Columbia and Colebrook School Boards met to work through and approve the changes, which are minor. There was a question about how many preschool spots there are and how they are awarded. There are up to ten and they are given on a needs basis and then by lottery. It was noted that the program could be expanded if the need arises. There was a question about space in the building and it was noted that all space is being used and that more space could be made if needed through scheduling.

There was no further discussion and the motion passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 5

Craig Hamelin moved for the Colebrook School District to raise and appropriate the sum of FIFTY-NINE THOUSAND, SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY FOUR DOLLARS (\$59,754.00) to purchase a new school bus and authorize the withdrawal of

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FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$40,000.00) from the expendable trust fund created for that purpose. The balance of NINETEEN THOUSAND, SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY FOUR DOLLARS (\$19,754.00) is to come from general taxation. The motion was seconded by Nathan Lebel.

Craig spoke to the motion stating describing the use of the bus. Three bids were received and the one accepted is for a 14 passenger Chevrolet G 3500 bus with 2 wheelchair connections.

There was no discussion and the motion passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 6

David Gates moved for the Colebrook School District to raise and appropriate the sum of EIGHTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$85,000.00) to be added to the Building Expendable Trust Fund previously established (March 1990). The motion was seconded by Deborah Greene.

There was no discussion and the motion passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 7

John Falconer moved for the Colebrook School District to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Colebrook School District and the Colebrook 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:

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increases
2020-2021	\$77,472.00
2021-2022	\$82,183.00
2022-2023	\$79,428.00

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of SEVENTY SEVEN THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED SEVENTY TWO DOLLARS (\$77,472.00) for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in the salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. The motion was seconded by Craig Hamelin.

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John Falconer spoke to the motion stating a three-year contract was negotiated with a 2.5% increase the first year, 3.5% the second year, and 3.0% the third year. There was no further discussion and the motion passed by voice vote.

John Falconer made a motion to restrict reconsideration of Article 7. The motion was seconded by Brian Laperle and passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 8

Article 8 was contingent on the passage of Article 7 and was passed over.

ARTICLE 9

Brian Laperle moved to amend Article 9 to decrease the amount of money by \$42,000 to \$6,687,599.00. The motion was seconded by John Falconer.

The budget is to be reduced by \$42,000.00 (Withdrawal from the severance fund to pay retiring teachers). This will be handled through a public hearing at a future School Board meeting.

There was no discussion and the motion passed by voice vote.

Brian Laperle moved for the Colebrook School District to raise and appropriate the sum of SIX MILLION, SIX HUNDRED, EIGHTY SEVEN THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED NINETY NINE DOLLARS (\$6,687,599.00) for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for the School District officials and agents, and for the payment of the statutory obligations of the District. The motion was seconded by John Falconer.

Brian spoke to the motion and outlined the changes in expenditures and revenue. He noted revenues were up and appropriations were down. There were questions about the teacher's share of health insurance premiums and how much money was saved by closing the Academy building. It was noted that closing the Academy building was a onetime saving. The projected effect on the tax rate is \$1.31 decrease.

There was no further discussion and the motion passed by voice vote.

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ARTICLE 10

To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Kyle Daley was given permission by those present to give an update on the Regionalization Committee. They are working on establishing one high school, one middle school, and keeping the elementary schools intact. They have hired an architectural firm to evaluate the Canaan building and Canaan approved a million-dollar bond to address some issues. The Committee is looking into funding sources and has received funds from the NH Charitable Foundation for the studies. They hope to have a proposal for the towns to consider this fall.

The following staff were recognized for their service to the District:

RETIRING

Kay Moren – 26 years teaching in Colebrook

Bill Stebbins – 23 years teaching in Colebrook

Michele Johnson – 15 years as Art Teacher and 11 years as Support Staff in Colebrook.

Donna Laughton – 20 years as Reception/Secretary in Colebrook

LEAVING THE DISTRICT

George Jarrell

Alex Stewart

Jacob Topliffe

SAU OFFICE

Bruce Beasley

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle Hyde, School Clerk