

**LISBON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANNUAL MEETING  
June 10, 2020**

Polls were opened at 7:00 PM by Moderator, John Northrop, III. He called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and reviewed Robert's Rules of Order. In addition to registered voters, John said Superintendent Couture, Business Administrator Kristin Franklin, and the District's attorney would be recognized to speak. He asked everyone to following social distancing guidelines and wear a mask. Polls will be open until all have voted or until the end of the meeting.

**ARTICLE 01: To choose all necessary officers for the School District for the ensuing year.**  
*Article addressed by ballot vote.*

**ARTICLE 02: To hear the reports of agents, auditors, committees, or officers heretofore chosen, and to pass any vote relating thereto.**  
*Reports are listed in the Annual Report.*

**ARTICLE 03: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Million, One Hundred Thirty-Four Thousand, Two Hundred Forty-Five Dollars (\$7,134,245.00) for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for school District Officials and Agents, and the payment of statutory obligations of the District. This article does not include appropriations voted in other Warrant Articles.**

***Motion by Owen Clark, seconded by Nina Brown***

*Principal Jackie Daniels went over each line of the proposed budget and pointed out differences in costs from last year. She said the operation/maintenance of the plant increased significantly due to the need to replace 10 circulator pumps @ \$3300.00 each. The pumps are 28 years old. There is also a need to replace carpet in six classrooms. The carpets are fraying and are a safety hazard. Wendy Ho Sing Lo asked what Littleton is charging for vocational students. Jackie said there are 32 to 34 students in the program this year. There is a potential for 45 voc ed students next year. The vocational rate is \$2803.28/student and Lisbon gets reimbursed for most of the cost. Barry Lucas asked if the cost of Article 4 is included in Article 3. Owen Clark said it is not. Steve Walker asked if they would have the same number of students in summer school this year. Jackie said many more students will attend summer school this year due to the difficulty they had with remote learning. Dave Combs asked if there was money left in the current budget due to school closure from COVID 19 that can be carried over to next year. Business Administrator Kristin Franklin explained prior to tonight's meeting, they projected a \$72,000.00 deficit appropriation but the School Board voted to take \$75,000.00 from the capital reserve fund to cover the cost of the deficit. Dave Lefleche asked for an explanation of the large increase in Special Education salaries and benefits. Jackie said a new staff member has more years of experience and is higher on the salary schedule. This employee also has more benefits than the previous employee. Neil Vanalstyne questioned if students would be in the building or remote learning in September. Pierre said they anticipate opening the building at the start of the new school year. Neil also asked if any provisions have been made for an alternate budget. Pierre said the budget was set before the virus hit in March. The SAU received a \$120,000.00 grant from the Federal Government that must be used by 2021. They want to hold the money for a while to see what expenses may pop up in the fall. Wendy Ho Sing Lo asked what expenditures they incurred above and beyond the regular budget while they were in remote learning. Jackie said they had to purchase more computers for some of the*

younger students, deep clean the building, and purchase PPE. Special Education out of district placement costs decreased because those programs were closed. Jim Trudell said he was curious why the School Board didn't get together after the virus hit and relook at the budget. Owen said they looked at the budget as hard as they could but couldn't make any more cuts.

**Motion by Jim Trudell, seconded by Bruce Beane to reduce the dollar amount of Article 3 by \$250,000.00 to a total of \$6,884,245.00 and to vote on this Article by secret ballot.** The motion was given to the Moderator in writing.

Jim said he is a 20 year Selectman from Lyman and a former School Board Member. He said his town can't sustain the increase in this budget. He challenged the School Board to find ways to save money. He said once the virus hit, their town pulled back all of their spending so people can pay their taxes. Owen said if the budget is cut by \$250,000.00, they would have to cut athletics, vocational education, and all co-curricular activities. This would save \$180,000.00. After that they would have to cut some combination of Physical Education, Music, Tech Ed, Consumer Science, and Library. He said tuition students will not come to Lisbon if this were to happen and the District would lose \$750,000.00 in tuition money.

Wendy Ho Sing Lo stated that Lyman pays between \$21,000.00 & \$22,000.00/year/student. She realizes this is the way it works in NH but it is not sustainable. She said consolidation is the only way we are going to get through this.

Jan Carver said she didn't understand why they hired a Special Education teacher with so much experience. This cost the District another \$80,000.00. The Board said the \$80,000.00 included salary and benefit increases for the new hire and other department members.

Jim Trudell said people are losing their homes because taxes keep rising each year.

John Fitzgerald said he thought the Board was throwing scare tactics. He said \$250,000.00 is a lot to cut but with due diligence, it could be done. He said some positions may be lost.

Diane LaFond agreed that scare tactics were not going to work. She said like with any household budget, you can't spend more than you make. She asked why they couldn't make small decreases across the board.

Owen Clark said that Special Education is 45 – 50% of the total budget and this can't be cut due to Federal mandates.

Bruce Bean said that on 4/2, NH Municipal Association completed a publication as a result of a survey of 154 towns and they predict a shortfall in revenue of 25-40% this year. He said everyone is running on the ragged edge of not having enough money to run their towns. Lyman Selectman sat down with the HW Dept. Superintendent to see where they are and where they could cut costs.

Hannah Carignan thought the school could do a lot more with what we have and explained the way one of the schools she worked at in Africa was run.

Barry Lucas asked if sports would be cancelled in the fall. Pierre said they were waiting for guidance from the state before a decision is made.

A discussion was had on whether volunteers could be used to cut down on the number of paraprofessionals the district employs.

**Motion by John Fitzgerald, seconded by Donna Knighton to move the question.**

A ballot vote was done on the amendment to reduce the budget by \$250,000.00.

The results were 43 yes. 67 no. The motion was defeated.

**Motion by Tucker Clark, seconded by Donald Clark to move to vote on Article 3 as written**

The Article passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 04: To see if the District will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Lisbon School Board and the Lisbon Education Association which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:**

<b>FISCAL YEAR</b>	<b>ESTIMATED INCREASES</b>
<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>\$143,210.00</b>
<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>\$97,073.00</b>
<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>\$146,587.00</b>
<b>2023-2024</b>	<b>\$149,168.00</b>
<b>2024-2025</b>	<b>\$146,436.00</b>

**And further to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Forty-Three Thousand, Two hundred and Ten Dollars (\$143,210.00) for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increases in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels.**

***Motion by Nina Brown, seconded by Scott Peterson***

*Owen Clark explained they typically negotiate a one or two year contract and the Board decided to try for a longer contract this time.*

*John Fitzgerald asked for an explanation of the negotiated contract. Owen said the base increased 2% a year, there is a \$500.00 increase in the retirement stipend for the duration, there are no longevity increases and no additional steps on the salary scale. Health insurance is still at 80% (district pays)/20% (employee pays).*

*Jan Carver asked about salary increases already in the budget. Owen Clark said step increases are in the budget. Mo Chandler said negotiating is a long and difficult process and they should put trust in the Board that they have done a good job.*

*Wendy Ho Sing Lo asked how many schools negotiate a 5 year contract. Superintendent Couture said Lafayette is in a 4 year contract and the other schools are in 3 year contracts.*

*Tom White thought that in this time of economic uncertainty, we should only ratify a one year contract. Pierre explained the motion can't be amended and we can't add money to the budget for salary increases because this is a negotiated agreement. The motion will either fail or pass.*

***Motion by Donald Clark, seconded by Tucker Clark to move the question.***

*The Article passed after the Ballot Clerks did a head count. 49 Yes, 46 No*

***Motion by Owen Clark, seconded by Bob Adams to restrict reconsideration of Articles 3 & 4.***

**ARTICLE 05: To see if the District will vote to discontinue the Technology Fund established on March 11,1992, with said funds plus accumulated interest to be placed in the district's general fund. (Majority vote required)**

***Motion by Arthur Boutin, seconded by Steve Sherry***

*Owen said this is a bookkeeping article. They haven't added money to the account for a long time and \$56.00 has been sitting there for three years.*

***Motion by Donald Clark, seconded by Tucker Clark to move the question.***

*The Article passed by voice vote.*

**ARTICLE 06: To see if the District will vote to discuss possible future building projects at the annual meeting.**

***Motion by Steve Sherry, seconded by Arthur Boutin***

*Principal Daniels went over a proposal to replace the building where the Annex is located. She said that Lisbon has 78 Special Education students and that represents 24% of the school population. Most schools in NH have a Special Education population of 18%. She broke down Lisbon's statistics: 2 in residential placement, 5 in off campus day placement, 2 on campus resource room, 6 at Landaff Blue School preschool, 65 at Lisbon Regional School. She feels we need the proposed building because of the increased number of students needing special services. Jackie went over the cost to tuition students out of the district. The Board looked at both new construction and renovation. The cost of new construction is about \$330,000.00 less than renovating. If the school is able to obtain state building aid, the cost of the project would be reduced by 57% or \$912,000.00. Handouts were available showing tax impacts, potential savings, and cost of staffing.*

*Superintendent Couture said 46% of Lisbon students are eligible for free and reduced lunch which puts the District ahead of other schools for building aid.*

*A question was raised about the current congestion during drop off and pick up of students and if the new building comes to be, the traffic will be even more difficult. Pierre said he had a conversation with Chief Penson before his retirement and will pick up the conversation again with the new Chief.*

*The Moderator reminded everyone, the vote tonight is only to continue researching the possibility of a new building for Special Education classes.*

*The Article passed by voice vote.*

*Pierre said if they Board decides to move forward, they will form a Building Committee. Hearings will be held and they will have hard numbers by March of 2021.*

**ARTICLE 07: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Ninety-Three Thousand Dollars (\$393,000.00) to be added to the Building Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund established March 10, 2004. This sum to come from the one-time adequacy appropriation available to the district as part of the 2021 state adequacy funding. No amount to be raised from taxation.**

***Motion by Owen Clark, seconded by Nina Brown***

*Owen Clark said Adequacy Aid was decreased the past four years. The State made a one-time payback to the districts for lost aid. The amount Lisbon received is \$393,000.00. He said over the past few years, we depleted most of the capital reserve fund for repairs. The Board would like to put this money in the Building Maintenance Trust Fund to pay for future repairs so they don't have to ask the taxpayers to fund repairs through the budget. Owen said the windows in the elementary wing are original (1959) and the cost to replace them is \$100,000.00. Wendy Ho Sing Loy asked if the money could be used for the proposed Ammonoosuc Valley Academy at LRS. Pierre said the money could be used for the architectural costs or to offset the cost of the new building. Jan Carver asked if the money was given to the schools to offset the cost of taxes. Dave Combs said taxes would be reduced if they voted no to Article 7.*

***Motion by Donald Clark, seconded by Tucker Clark to call for the question.***

*The Article passed by voice vote*

**ARTICLE: 08: In the event that warrant article 07 is defeated, to see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) and place it in the Building Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund established March 10, 2004. This sum to come from the one-time adequacy appropriation available to the district as part of the 2021 state adequacy funding. No amount to be raised from taxation. This article to be void and of no effect, in the event that warrant article 07 is approved**

***Motion by Owen Clark, seconded by Nina Brown to table Article 8***

*The motion passed by voice vote*

**ARTICLE 09: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty-Six Thousand, Seven Hundred Dollars (\$46,700.00) to pay for the cost of a School Resource Officer.**

***Motion by Nina Brown, seconded by Arthur Boutin***

*Nina said the Board was approached by community members after last year's meeting about the need for a Resource Officer. She said we all have kids here and they know that drug deals and vapping are going on in school. She said Bethlehem just approved a Resource Officer. The officer would be here to teach our kids, police are their friends. She said some of the things her daughter tells her goes on here shocks her.*

*Wendy Ho Sing Lo said the Profile Resource Officer is paid by the Bethlehem Police Department. She asked if the local police could spend more time at the school. Craig Simpson asked how many times the Lisbon Police Department was called to the school in the last year. Principal Daniels said they have called the police 5-10 times in the last year. Beth Carignan asked if the DARE program was still running. Jackie said they haven't had it for a long time. Jane King said research shows DARE doesn't work. Karen White asked Jackie if she felt the school was safe. Jackie said it would help to have an officer in the building when a student has explosive behavior. Diane Lafond said she has been a FT police officer and a DARE instructor. She said 5-10 calls to the police per year doesn't warrant a FT officer. Michael Ho Sing Lo asked who the Resource Officer would work for. Pierre said the officer would work for the police department.*

***Motion by John Fitzgerald, seconded by Donald Clark to move the question.***

*The Article was defeated by voice vote*

**ARTICLE 10: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.**

The Polls were closed at 10:15 PM.

***Motion by Tucker Clark, seconded by Donald Clark to adjourn at 10:15 PM.***

*The motion passed by voice vote.*

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Derosia  
School District Clerk

John Northrop III was elected Moderator  
Owen Clark and Nina Brown were elected for a three year term (Lisbon)  
Stephen Sherry and Mo Chandler were elected for a three year term (Lyman)