

Minutes of the **School District Deliberative Session** of February 3, 2018  
Community Center, Lions Avenue  
Hudson, New Hampshire 03051

1. **CALL TO ORDER BY THE MODERATOR**, the Honorable Paul Inderbitzen called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m.
2. **POSTING OF THE COLORS** by the Alvirne Airforce Jr. ROTC Cadets
3. **THE NATIONAL ANTHEM** sung by the Memorial School Swing Choir
4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** recited by Darcy Orellana
5. **REMARKS BY THE MODERATOR**

Moderator Inderbitzen

Our attendance today is an indication of the importance that the voters have placed on this Deliberative Session and the issues that come before it. Ladies and Gentlemen, this is the Deliberative Session of the Hudson School District meeting. You will act as a legislative body to determine the final form of the warrant that will be voted on March 13<sup>th</sup>. All the articles on this warrant, by law, must appear on the ballot. This meeting will determine their final form, or if there's to be any changes.

The rules will follow with the Moderators Rules in your handout that you received when you checked in. If you have any questions about the rules, please feel free to ask for clarification. During the meeting you can rise for a point of order to get information if there's something about this process we're using is not clear to you. This body may vote to establish any rules that it wishes. It can also vote to overrule the Moderator. I don't take offense. So if you're new to this session please review those rules while you have a chance.

Please put up my first slide. As a legislature we will be discussing warrant articles before us. These discussions will be respectful of everyone's opinion. This may be a hall where basketball was played but this meeting is not a basketball game. We do not cheer or applaud when someone scores a point you agree with, and we also do not boo or groan when someone on the other side makes their point. Please be respectful of all comments and opinions, as you would want yours to be respected. To keep the personalities out of it when you refer to a person or a speaker, use the previous speaker or the School Board member or Budget Committee member. You can ask questions or make comments as we discuss each warrant article. There's no requirement that anyone has to answer a question but you can certainly ask questions. Most times people like to get an answer.

If you are a registered voter of Hudson you were issued a yellow voter card. I will use these for any votes that we have to take here today. Don't lose them, you won't get another

one. If you have to leave the meeting or go outside for a phone call, take it with you and bring it back. I do have a box in the back on the table to recycle at the end of the meeting, or you're leaving, put your voter card in there to recycle them. Only registered voters of Hudson are allowed to participate in the discussion of the warrant. There are some non-voters who are staff members of the School District and others who will help us in understanding and answering questions about the warrant articles that come before us. They would be allowed to speak because they are part of the establishment and the district. Others may be asked to speak who aren't a voter. Unless there's an objection we usually allow other people to speak. I know there are some students who wish to speak and some alumni, it's nice to hear their opinions. We try to be respectful of that but technically only voters are allowed to speak, unless someone turns their time over to someone else. And if someone objects then we take a vote on it.

We'll take a few breaks today after the lengthy articles. There are refreshments for sale. The Hudson Junior Women's and the Hudson Community Club are providing that, we thank them for that. This meeting is being televised live on Hudson Cable and it will be available for viewing and streaming shortly after today on the HCTV website and on Hudson Cable periodically before the March Election. We appreciate the Cable Committee and staff for all they do for keeping the citizens of Hudson informed.

Are we ready to begin? We have almost everyone checked in. There's plenty of seats. We have 250 seats set up. Please either turn off or silence your phones and pagers so as to not interrupt the meeting. If you do need to make a phone or answer one please take it outside. I know it is a little cold outside today but it keeps it from disrupting the meeting.

## **6. DELIBERATIVE SESSION OF TOWN MEETING**

Moderator Paul Inderbitzen

To the inhabitants of the School District of Hudson, New Hampshire, qualified to vote in district affairs. The first session of the Annual Meeting the Deliberative. You are hereby notified to meet in the Community Center of said District on the 3rd day of February at 9 a.m. for the first session of the Annual School District meeting for explanation, discussion and debate on Warrant Articles 1 through 8. Warrant Articles may be amended subject to the following limitations. A warrant article whose wording is prescribed by law shall not be amended and warrant articles that are amended shall be placed on the official ballot for final vote on the main motion as amended. No warrant article shall be amended to eliminate the subject matter of an article.

The second session of the Annual Meeting you are hereby notified to meet at the Community Center in said district on Tuesday, March 13, 2018, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. for the second session of the annual School District meeting to vote by official ballot on the following subjects:

**School District's Articles**

**WARRANT ARTICLE 1**

**Shall the Hudson School District raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,262,500 for the design, construction, and equipping of additions and renovations to the Wilbur H. Palmer Vocational Technical Center, and authorize the School Board to accept a grant or grants of \$17,000,000 from the State of New Hampshire and/or any other federal, state, or other aid which may be available for said project; and further authorize the School Board to issue not more than \$8,262,500 of bonds or notes for the balance of the project costs in accordance with the Municipal Finance Act, (RSA Chapter 33) [no more than this bond may be issued for the project without further authorization of the voters of the Hudson School District] and authorize the School Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and further raise and appropriate the additional sum of \$181,603 for the first year payment on the bond and authorize the School Board to take any other action necessary to carry out this vote or pass any other vote relative thereto? Recommended by the Hudson School Board 5-0. Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-2 (3/5 ballot vote required). I'll recognize School Board member Stacy Milbouer to present Warrant Article 1.**

**School Board Member Stacy Milbouer**

Thank you all for coming, what a great turnout. I also want to say thank you to the ROTC and the fabulous Middle School Swing Choir - that was awesome. The Hudson School Board unanimously approved article one, the Addition and Renovation of the Wilbur Palmer Career & Technical Center. We are pleased to have the support of the Budget Committee with a 9-2 vote. The article language clearly states that its not-to-exceed community cost of the project through municipal bonding will be \$8,262,500. The state has annually supported CTE renovation in the budget up to 75% of the cost associated with recent projects in Dover, Salem, Plymouth and Rochester. We anticipate a state contribution of \$17,000,000.

The current center was built in 1992 with a vision and strong work ethic of our former director, the late great Web Palmer. Web dedicated his life to supporting the agricultural roots of the school with the desire to see more students learn real world skills, whether their future involved college, military or the work force. He would be most proud that the plans for the addition and renovation maintain a long established agricultural roots with modern expansions of programs for our technological and ever changing world. I'd like to add that investing in our career and technical education program is not just investing in Alvirne High School or its students, although that is so important. There is a well-documented shortage of skilled labor and health care workers in our state and in our country, and that's just expected to actually get worse. There is a trend in America now to build career and technical education centers from scratch. We already have one. This is just an improvement to a very worn down facility, so I'd like you to keep that in mind.

What does is mean if you don't have a student in the high school or the CTE program? It means that you will be able to find a trained welder, mechanic, day care facility, tree service, health care

professional, florist, cook, animal trainer and groomer, and so much more right here in Hudson. And it's a way for us to keep our young people here and not export them. An improved CTE program also attracts surrounding communities to our school for our programs, from which we get more revenue. It also means the community at large can benefit from the CTE. You can meet your neighbors there and eat at Checkers. You can have your grandchild or your preschooler go to our Little Broncos program. You can plant tomatoes in our community garden. You can know that your aging mother is right around the corner in safe hands at our adult day program through Gateway Services.

Please let's not miss this opportunity to improve such an important part of our education system in Hudson. A program that other communities around the country are dying to start. We will have a team of school staff members and our architect & construction partners present following this short video.

*(Presentation of Video)*

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. I will now recognize Principal Beals of the Alvirne High School for further discussion and presentation of article 1.

Principal Steve Beals

Thank you Mr. Moderator. Good Morning to everyone. Not only because it's the Deliberative Session, it's a great day to be a Bronco. Today we have 21 students participating in Jazz All-State, the highest number of any high school in New Hampshire. Today we have 46 people on our High School Penguin Plunge team, jumping in at Noon at Hampton Beach, who have raised a state record almost \$20,000. Good luck to all of them. But instead of the pride that gleams over with our ROTC or our future music students from the Middle School, I ask you to put your way back machine on to 1992. Gasoline cost \$1.05/gallon. Technology, big news in the day, Windows 3.1 came out.

As was previously mentioned, the CT Center opened. The visionary Web Palmer, the architect behind it, would still be as proud today as I'm proud to have called him a mentor for me in my own education career. On a personal note, it was my second year of teaching at Alvirne, my third year teaching overall. My wife and I got married. We bought our house in Hudson. And I know what you're all thinking, lucky woman. Correct!

The last piece of information I share with you. One of my favorite films from the year, A Few Good Men. And you'll remember the scene with Tom Cruise and Jack Nicholson going back and forth. Today's about "You Can Handle the Truth". You can handle the truth. The CTE program, the costs associated, the not-to-exceed cost is \$8,262,500. The State contribution, and I will talk more about that in a minute, of up to 75%. That number is not guaranteed. That number has historically always happened however. The State Biennium that would be carrying that \$17,000,000 has not even started yet. That Biennium is a future biennium, but I can tell definitively, the not-to-exceed contribution is \$8.2. If the State gives no money to Hudson the project is over. You cannot build a \$25,262,000 for \$8,000,000. Please don't get confused in the weeds. You can handle the truth. Every

previous center receives up to 75%. Salem High School, Dover High School, Pinkerton Academy, Nashua, Plymouth, the list goes on. Why would Hudson be any different? We have State Legislators who are going to work on our behalf, that's their role. Ask your legislators to work on your behalf. You can handle the truth.

The truth also involves, at the bottom of the screen, all CT areas are part of this renovation and addition. An Alvirne High School sprinkler system is part of this renovation project, mandated by the Hudson Fire Department, and for good reason. You know the history, which we'll talk about in 1974/75. That sprinkler system cost is approximately \$1.5 million dollars. I say that openly to you because we received a \$300,000 grant two weeks ago. That grant was written in November. We didn't know about it. It kept moving through the State process and two weeks ago, the school system was informed that we were recipients of a \$300,000 grant. Added benefit to this overall project. That \$300,000 does not take into addition the \$17 million dollars up to 75% of the funding. It's a very complicated sprinkler system when you have an older building with three stories and a full attic.

That project also includes updates to High School Art and Special Education, the state government does not support those through CT renovation. Those are going to be on the taxpayer of the Hudson community, myself included. What we have done to date, and I'm not going to read all these slides but I ask you to focus through them. We have been working on this project for two years. Anyone who can share with you, whether it's in a column, whether it's in a Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down, that this project has been thrown together, is misinformed. You can handle the truth.

Two years ago we formed a renovation committee comprised of professionals; an architect, school board members, school administrators, community members and teachers. We have done countless presentations. We have reviewed educational specifications. We have worked through at least 30 presentations in the community. Those presentations have involved the Hudson School Board, the Hudson Board of Selectmen, and Recreation Committee. Every school has received presentations. I am aging in dog years up here folks because the presentations are taking their toll. If you need information please ask.

Work to date, we've created many options for this project. Those options continue. We refined those options based on feedback from those community sessions. The biggest one, which you will see in a later slide, dealt with moving parking from across the street to the same side of the street as the school, because that was the community feedback. We have designed a constructible building project. What does that mean? A constructible building project means that no student, no generation of students, misses out on any of the programming that they desire. We may have to move a room during construction. The construction project is approximately 28 months in duration. But if your son or daughter wants heavy duty equipment, they get heavy duty equipment. Will we make some accommodations? Yes. You can handle the truth.

Through all of the work that involved an estimator, engineers and on engineering report, we've had the following findings. The current 1992 technical center has needs. Those

needs start, first and foremost, we need improved secure access for students, staff and visitors. We want visitors to come. We want the community to come to Checkers to have lunch. We want the community to bring their pet to Vet Science to have it groomed. We want to infuse the community but we also want to ensure safe access for everyone. We want to improve. We want to have space for new and expanded programs, and my colleague Karen Worthen will talk about those in a few minutes.

Most importantly, we need modern utility infrastructure. The infrastructure was put in in 1992. Your home and mine gets updated from 1992 to 2018. Some of our current issues: This is our current welding shop. Welding has taken off at Alvirne High School. Our enrollment is wonderful. They are working in a space with a talented teacher, with 14-16 welders with ten welding bays and no place to fabricate. Our new design plans has a significant expansion for that.

This is our current main entrance. You can see so proudly on the wall the Wilbur Palmer Vocational Technical Center. You see an entry area. There's not a secure office area. This is a remote video buzzer system. We push a button after someone pushes a button to say hello, can I come in. In this case the person coming in is coming to our Adult Day program. What an asset to have in our building. We have three generations in our building currently.

Culinary Arts: We need to move the restaurant, not from the middle of the building, but to an anchor of the building. Our community will have such value when they can drive directly up into a parking lot and go into Culinary Arts. This picture of a talented Chef working with students huddled together in an area. When every student starts their practice we use every square inch of that restaurant. Some kids in areas not made for demonstration purposes.

Current Issues: Again, that Adult Day program. Our Adult Day program is located on the second floor of our building. One of the things that makes me most proud of this building, and I enjoy every visit that I have to it. Three generations of Alvirne Broncos. We have a grandmother, whose daughter is a teacher, whose granddaughter is a senior at Alvirne. How often do you get to say that I'm a Principal of a place that I get to see three generations every single day in the space with me? Gateway's Community Service Project. It's our lab area for Health Science. Talk about a booming enrollment program.

Overview of Alvirne High School. Everybody knows route 102. We know that the traditional Alvirne building parallel to that, all of the projections behind it. The area we're talking about for CTE renovations is highlighted in this screen. You will see the area with gray roofs are renovated spaces. The area with the white roof is new addition space. You obviously see the new CTE parking and community access. That is the key to this project.

Security, secure availability, and in this slide, we will highlight the entrance areas. We know the Alvirne barn in the lower right corner. The project entails a brand new greenhouse area. It involves a storage building next to it. We have three main secure areas as we come in the building. Restaurant, right up front, anchor. Park your car, go into a restaurant. You don't have walk through the cafeteria. Senior citizens watching at home

or in the audience, why do you not come to Checkers for lunch? You don't want to walk through the high school cafeteria. I'm the Principal of the high school and I don't like walking through the high school cafeteria.

Adult Day: Renovated, new area. The vast majority of the participants in the program come in vehicles to support their non-ambulatory needs. They come in in wheelchairs, walkers. The vehicle can park right up front and they can exit/enter the building. Both of those entrances are 100% secure. You go into the spaces, you do not have access to the school. You do not walk through a hallway, you do not get buzzed in remotely, you don't go up an elevator, you go directly in.

Finally, you have a secure CT entrance. Anyone who is coming to the CTE for business goes into a CT entrance that is secluded from the rest of the building. Again, my comments are there is no question to me, after the Deliberative Session, we will do more for information sessions. If you want to host an information session at your home for your neighborhood, please tell me when. We want people to make the most informed decision as possible based on our plans.

The CT Director will talk about some of our new and exciting programs.

CT Director Karen Worthen

Thank you Mr. Beals. Good morning everyone. I'm Karen Worthen, the Career and Tech Ed Director. I can tell you that this is a very exciting day for me because I was involved in the original construction of the Career Tech Ed Center back in the early 90's with Web Palmer. I also had an opportunity to intern with Mr. Palmer as I was pursuing my administrative degree. So to be able to be a part of this process for a second time is really exciting and I thank you all for showing up today to give your support.

So to talk about some of the programming. Just so you can understand the process. A couple of years ago we did take quite a bit of time to send some surveys out to the younger students in the Hudson School District, the 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 9<sup>th</sup> graders, and 10<sup>th</sup> graders. We also surveyed area schools to determine where the student interest was. As we started to approach the renovation process and working with the Department of Education, because one of their requirements is that we have to make sure the programming that we're looking at is high demand, high wage, and that the students will be able to leave the program and find a good paying job. As a result of the surveys and a review of local labor market data, what we found is that we had a few programs that did not exist in our region or at Alvirne High School and we wanted to bring those programs to meet student enrollment desires and also labor market demands.

So the first one we looked at is Computer Science. The teacher has aligned that program with a nationally recognized Project Lead the Way program. Our students have an opportunity to leave that program with college credit and a solid foundation to move into post-secondary, or possibly an entry level job in computer science.

The second program is not new to Alvirne. The JROTC Program has a long history, successful program. What we found over the years is that students from area schools have inquired about participating in that program. Unfortunately, because it's not under a CTE umbrella, the parents had to pay the full tuition. So for some students that opportunity came off the table. In working with Colonel Cheetham he understood that this was a win, win situation for the students and for the school. So he embraced going through the process of a new program application, and we are in the final stages of finalizing our JROTC Air Force Program to be available to out of district students. The nice feature for that, for you as a community, is it will bring tuition money in to help support the program. You should also be aware that the Air Force partially funds Colonel Cheetham's salary as well, so the cost to the district for the JROTC program is minimal.

The last new program that we're looking at, and again, we are in the final approval process with the Department of Education, is Welding and Fabrication. As Mr. Beals eluded we have brought that program from a semester elective to a full blown two year program. So students this year have the opportunity, if they are engaged in a double block period, they have time to weld. What we really need to do is to provide them with an appropriate space to do that welding and fabrication. Welders today are in high demand, and so we're seeing the labor market data and the student interest are aligning very nicely for that program.

One program that we really need to expand is our Health Occupations. Our Health Science Program is currently at capacity. The room, the staffing right now, we are accommodating probably about 80% of the student enrollment requests that we have. We have talented young students in Hudson and sending schools that would like to participate in that program. You saw Shannon Irwin comment about how she's leaving school with her LNA, which is a Licensed Nursing Assistant certificate. She's working as she's going to school to further her education in the Health Science field. It breaks my heart to turn away students with a 2.8 GPA because we don't have room to accommodate them. As you are all well aware, that's a field where there's high demand, there's a good wage, and students will be able to be employed right out of high school and continue their education and their potential earning power.

Thank you again and I'm going to turn the floor over to Karen Burnell and she will speak to the financial end of it.

Business Director Karen Burnell

Thanks to all of you for attending. I just want to talk a little bit about our CTE & Renovation bond. Article 1, just to remind you, it is not to exceed \$8,262,500. The Board has looked at a 30 year debt, has a tax impact of about \$0.20 cents per thousand based on the current bond bank quotes. A bond bank bid process will occur after the article is approved by the community. At that point we would lock in an interest rate. The current project, interest and principal cost to the taxpayer would be \$60 per year, \$0.16 cents per day, for a home valued at \$300,000. The final payment of the Hills Garrison bond is 2021. This will have a tax impact reduction of \$0.27 per thousand, resulting in a savings of \$81 per year, or \$0.22 per day per household. When the completion of the Hills Garrison bond payment is taken into consideration, there would still be a reduction of \$21 per year to the



taxpayer. As the bond progresses in subsequent years, similar to your mortgage, the reduction of property taxes will go from \$21 to \$51. If the CTE bond renovation warrant article fails the tax impact would decrease by \$81 per year after the final payment of the Hills Garrison bond. But the CTE project, if we postponed it, would escalate by a cost of approximately 6%. I want to go back and have Steve tells us why to vote. Thank you.

Principal Steve Beals

Let me clarify before we get to the slides. Hudson is currently number one on the list for the next biennium for state funding. Number One. That means that the process is going to go through Hudson. It's going to go through Hudson if the Hudson community voters, on March 13<sup>th</sup>, vote with 60% majority to fund this article. If not, obviously we will try to come back because we have another opportunity for state funding. The opportunity, as the years go on, increase the cost. We're anticipating a 5% construction increase, that's inflation in the construction market. So if the voters in March 2018 do not support this article, and it comes back in a different or similar variation, we can anticipate if the project was identical, instead of being \$25,262,000, 5% increase on that, if that's saying the project stays the same way it is.

Why vote for Article 1? There is no question that our thoughtful plans, working with architects who have designed other CT centers, creates a safer access for students, staff and visitors. There is no question that we have more opportunities for students to gain the skills that board member Milbouer talked about in her opening. There is no question that we are going to maximize and leverage our state funding. As a homeowner I'm looking at this as I get a \$25 million dollar investment to improve my property values and I have to pay a percentage of that at \$8 million. It avoids the further construction costs as I just referenced.

This renovation project, as you could see in that slide that had the gray roof areas. We renovate and reuse as much of the existing structure as possible, because our engineering report said the bones of that structure are solid. The infrastructure is 1992. That's the wiring, that's the plumbing, that's the electrical, that's the I.T. But the bones of that structure, those cement walls, are in good shape.

We create 21<sup>st</sup> century learning areas; that expansion of Welding, that expansion of Health Science. We have all brand new mechanical and electrical upgrades, as well as I.T. And, finally, we create flexible hands-on labs. If you look at the back part of the room through your travels or online, every aspect of our work is posted. It's not only posted on the School District website but I encourage you to visit the Renovations for Generations Facebook page. You will receive more information, and many of you, based on the hits, have seen more information on Facebook than on any other value.

Again, it is our hope that you can handle the truth. I know I can, I hope you will as well. Mr. Moderator that closes our presentation on Article 1.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. At this time we will now open Warrant Article 1 for discussion, questions, comments, or amendments. Is there anyone who wishes to discuss Warrant Article 1? Use the

mic up here in front. If you're new at this, don't worry. People get nervous, that's fine. I stand behind this podium because then you can't see my knees shaking. Yes sir, your name please and address.

Gary Gasdia, 4 MacCann Road

1992 was so long ago that I had black hair. I wasn't addicted to coffee. I still had a big belly but that's a different story. If you told me I was going to stand up here and talk about a CTE, I'd be like, what, woodshop? No I'm not going to ever do that. But here I am because that's what a lot of people think of it. And then you find out, and you hear this nice presentation about culinary and you hear that. And earlier this week I bring my 8<sup>th</sup> grade daughter through and you just see her future light up. She wants education, really with kids. If she wants Veterinary Science, she's working with animals. We've heard about if she wants to go into Nursing she can get her LNA. This is not the woodshop of the past. This is absolutely an amazing program that blows me out of the water. That my old self, I never would have even given a thought, I would be voting this thing down, we're not paying for that. I can't even imagine it now because it's such an amazing program and such an asset. One of my other son that's in high school, I don't think he's ever walked on that side of the building. But we still value it because it's amazing what there is. And the thing that worries me, and I'm going to go off here, is I know how this town's going to react. I know what we're going to say. We're going to look and all I see on Facebook is they're not guaranteeing the \$17 million. And I say what type of loser mentality do we have that we don't think we're going to be the town that doesn't get it? Salem got it, Dover got it, Rochester got it. All these towns get it. But that's our problem right now, we sit here and look for the negative in everything. We look for this. But this is an amazing program. It is the biggest no-brainer. As Mr. Beals said if the money doesn't come then we don't pay for it, but if it does, we get \$25 million for \$8 million. It's absolutely amazing.

I'm up here for two reasons. I'm up here to support that and I want everybody to listen to everything that's said. Everybody's opinion is very important. But I want you to think about it. We need to vote for 1, we need to vote for 2, we need to vote for 3, we need to vote for all the things that push us to the future. We are on a spiral down toward mediocrity. We need to change the trajectory today. This is the start. This is not the end, but this is the start. Look where we are. We are a great town on the border of Massachusetts that should be a destination for everybody, where our kids someday say I grew up in the great town of Hudson, NH, as opposed to, ya I grew up in Hudson. That needs to stop today and starts with this. What I want everybody to listen to. There's going to be a lot of great stuff coming up here, a lot of people are going to support it. There's a lot of people that are going to come up and say they don't support it, and yes, they have their reasons and their reasons are legitimate but it's based on a loser mentality and it's not their fault. We bred that loser mentality.

We say things like declining enrollment, we can't do this because of declining enrollment. No, we do this because we have declining enrollment and that's what's going to attract people here. And by the way, we're not going from 700 to 50. We're going from 200 and something to 200 and something. So, turn to those 200 kids and say you're not worth it, but if you can find me ten more people, suddenly I'm going to pay for this money? No.

It's all a ruse. It has nothing to do with declining enrollment. That's the reason for voting no. People are going to tell you it's too much money. Well, if we take this out. No. If it's 47, 25, 35, if it's \$50, we're still going to have people voting no. They're just using it as a reason because that's what we think. And you know, you can go right down the list and every single reason is based on the mentality that we've created a system in this town that makes us think that we're not good enough. We're not going to get that \$17 million because we're not in Salem, we're not anywhere else. But we are. We've got to change it to a winning mentality. Think of all the greatness that's going to come out of here. Not only the education but the greatness for this entire town. If we can change the trajectory from a downward spiral into an upward spiral.

I'm going to quote Selectman Coutu because he really said something that I believe in 100%. He said there is a civil war in this town and I agree with him. He thinks it's seniors versus families, I disagree. It's the people who want this town to progress, who look towards the future and see greatness, and the people that want to hold us back. The reality is, whether we like or not, in the next five years half of this town is going to be forced to leave. That is a fact. It's either going to be the people that want greatness that are going to be forced to flee and leave nothing but despair in this community because they have to go somewhere else, or it's going to be the people who want to hold us back that no longer want to live here. I know what side I'm on and I'm going to quote you my great mentor, one of my mentors when I was younger. Lee Iacocca said "we are at a crossroads". We need to change the trajectory and it's time we need certain types of people. We need people that are going to lead, we need people that are going to follow, and we need people that are going to get the hell out of the way. Let's change the trajectory today, vote this in, vote in for the future and not look out five years and see this place is a place of despair that you used to live and make it a place that is great. Our kids deserve it and everyone who ever called Hudson a home deserves it. Thank you.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Further discussion on Warrant Article #1

Margaret Huard, 13 David Drive

This is definitely an outstanding opportunity for this town, this school district, my son and all of the other students. I grew up in Massachusetts, when the vocational school was a separate school from the high school. We didn't have the opportunity to even consider vocational training. I have to question whether I would have gone through vocational school or not. My son started in the vocational program. He started in Little Broncos with Miss Croft and Miss Boilard. What a wonderful, wonderful program. We have visited Checkers, eaten there as well.

I do have a couple of questions left. I talked to Mr. Beals. I've watched the Renovations for Generations. I have two questions. If you knew for two years that you were going to do this, why wasn't a Capital Reserve Fund set up? And why weren't the taxpayers given any more of a warning than they did. And then the other question involves the state funding. My question is, I talked to my State Rep Lynn Ober. She sits on the Finance Committee. She told me there is no funding for Hudson. So I don't want to be a downer

but I want to know the truth. Don't interrupt me, I'm not done. I want to know the truth. I think it's a great opportunity but I want to understand this, so I don't want to hear from Mr. Beals. I want to know if there's another or any State Rep here that can clarify this. Because I've talked to Mr. Beals, I've heard you talk a million times. I want to hear something from a State Rep if there's one here that answer this question. Thank you.

Moderator Inderbitzen

A question to a State Representative. Are any of our State Representatives present, if they wish to yield to that question? I don't see any of our State Representatives here today. Interesting. The other question, there was another question in there about why two years and we didn't know about it ahead of time.

Principal Steve Beals

Each of the past two operating budgets for the School District have had line item accounts for professional services. At every one of those presentations, both to the School Board, to the Budget Committee, we were given ample opportunity for feedback to say we are going to be approaching a renovation project in the future. The reason we were putting money in the Operating Budget was so that we could do our due diligence, to have plans, to do engineering studies. So I am of a strong belief that there was no aspect of us trying not to give the community all the information in as timely a manner as possible. I do not believe that any aspect of this project should be coming as a surprise to any community member. I said in my opening and again, because we can handle the truth, there is no state funding for Hudson in a future biennium. You don't need a State Rep to tell you that, I just told you. That biennium has not started yet, so how could a legislator that may not even be elected at this point put money into a biennium that doesn't exist yet. The current biennium, and this you can look up, does have money in it. The current biennium has money in it for Rochester and Plymouth. The previous biennium had money in it for Salem and Dover. The previous biennium before that had money in it for other schools, Laconia, when I worked there. There is no question in my mind a future biennium will have future dollars for Hudson. What that dollar value happens to be? Work with your legislators to make sure that it's 75%, the same way I would. Thank you.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Further discussion, Warrant Article 1. Yes ma'am.

Patty Langlais, 22 Stonewood Lane

I'm rising to tell you how wonderful the CTE is. I'm rising as a business owner. I want to let you know that I own two childcares in Hudson and if it wasn't for the CTE and the Little Broncos program, neither one of those programs at this point would exist. Over half of my employees are graduates from Alvirne and the Little Broncos program. They went further on to get their degrees in Early Childhood and now currently run with me, Stonewood School and Stonewood Childcare. I have to say they've made it one of the best childcares we have in Hudson. So this program is vital to businesses in our town. Thank you.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Further discussion, questions or comments on Warrant Article 1. Yes sir.

Thomas Barrett, 37 Winnhaven Drive

One of the bigger things people talk about is the declining enrollment in the school. When the school was built 25 years ago the population of the town has grown almost 30% in that time. I think we need to make the infrastructure in the facilities equal in size to what the population that's needed. If the \$17 million doesn't come through, it goes back to the voters and we have a decision of what to do. We're not going to be responsible for the full \$25 million dollars. Thank you.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Further discussion. Yes ma'am.

Laurie Jasper, 83 Old Derry Road

For everyone who's already asked and are wondering where my husband is, he is at the Farm & Forest Expo today in Manchester, where I believe some of our FFA students and other CTE students are probably today. I rise in support of this and I just wanted to speak in favor of it publicly. I think my husband probably would have been up here if he had been here. Web Palmers vision and the Town's work on this 25 years ago, it's a model for the state. I see nothing but positive for voting for this. I am not in agreement with a previous speaker who says we're spiraling to mediocrity. I believe Hudson, the biggest thing about Hudson is its heart. It's fiscally conservative but compassionately conservative. And there's nothing but positive from the CTE. I have worked with the FFA and I have been a proud participant in the FFA State Convention for years. The caliber of students and their passion for what they learn and what they want to do in the future is amazing. I'm always very pleased and proud of all students who want to be in this. So I have nothing but fine things to say. I think it's a win, win for the Town. I don't want to be bullied into voting yes, I just want to encourage people to vote yes, because it is the right thing to do. Going into the future of the different ways that students can learn, I think this is bringing us further into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Thank you.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Further discussion. Yes ma'am.

Arlene Campbell, 3 Jeremy Lane

I have two sons that have graduated from Alvirne. One is a taxpaying citizen now working his real life job, which is what all of us want for all of our children, to be tax paying citizens. My second son is currently a full ride to the University of Wisconsin, thanks to the JROTC. He is going to be serving in our military when he finishes, and we also want that for our sons. And anybody in the surrounding community who may be drawn to that program, we want them to not only pay money into our schools, but become the kind of citizens that... Some of the naysayers of these articles say that we shouldn't support students because we don't have any in the school anymore. Yet what is our tax burden going to be if we have to support them because they can't support themselves. I want all of our children coming up from this generation to be taxpaying sustaining citizens, and I would think all of you

do. I remember 25 years ago when we moved to Hudson we were shopping for a home. We were told not to look in a particular town, which I won't name which is on our border, because they did not have good school systems in that town at that time. I don't want people saying that about Hudson when I go to sell my house. I want them to say wow, we want to be in Hudson, and I want that house to go like that. Those of you who want your property values to stay up, even if you don't have children in the school system, should give that a thought. Thank you.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Further discussion. Yes sir.

Carl Carson, 33 Kiena Road

I am talking today to give my support for Warrant Article 1, the CTE Renovations and to ask for your support for it as well. As a graduate of Alvirne High School in 2016, I have lived the four years of attending high school while being heavily involved in the CTE programs. My passion throughout high school was marketing and business, from which I was enrolled in two years of marketing courses, personal finance and business management. Coming from a student's perspective, renovations for the CTE department will enable Alvirne graduates to far exceed past college aspirations and prepare us for the real business world. Students will benefit by being able to have access to updated technology and improved classes. The CTE department can really make a difference for students at Alvirne. Take myself for example. Luckily for me I was hired even before I graduated high school as a sales representative for a local company known as Reeds Ferry Small Buildings, Inc., also known as Reeds Ferry Sheds. This brings me into my second point.

Not only will the CTE renovations help students it will also help local companies find workers and interns, which will give students experience in the real world. Reeds Ferry Sheds has been a huge partner with the Alvirne CTE department for many years. Not only has Reeds Ferry hired me, it has also hired my sister as an Accountant Assistant in 2013 after she graduated, given internships to students in the Academy of Finance and many graduates from the Building Trades program also work there as well. Many local restaurants can benefit from the CTE renovations from Alvirne's culinary program which, if passed, will receive an up to date restaurant which is open to the whole town of Hudson. With all this said passing the CTE Renovation is a step in the right direction for Hudson's future. An updated CTE department will attract new families to move to Hudson, along with giving current students a better education. Benjamin Franklin once said "An investment into knowledge pays the best interest", and the Town of Hudson will prosper for years to come with the investment into our future's education. Thank you.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Further discussion, Warrant Article #1. Yes ma'am.

Lisa Fitzgerald, 100 Webster Street

I am in favor of the CTE program. I am a 35 year resident and taxpayer here. Three of my children went through the Alvirne programs at school. Two of the three are still living here

in Hudson and they are also taxpayers, but I wanted to speak in favor of this. I work in the real estate field so I just want to speak about that a little bit later. I do think that the CTE program will allow our youth to access an updated and relevant education and a path to earning a living wage without taking on huge school loans which they can't pay until they are forty years old. I think voting on Article 1 and 2 is also financially responsible to our elderly community on a fixed income, especially because we have an opportunity to access funds from the state to cover up to 75% of this cost. Plus the revenue raised by the CTE program, all of that revenue goes back into the program and also helps sustain it when repairs or equipment replacement is needed.

We have to invest in our schools to retain our taxpaying youth and attract younger families to our town, who will also raise a family here possibly, and it could help our taxes to stay low long term. For my investment in taxes I think it's a great investment. I have no skin in the game here. I have no grandkids that are going to benefit by this. I just think our whole town and the kids here will benefit by this, and I have no problem if my taxes have to go up a little bit to make this happen. It's a good investment. It's probably the best one I'll ever make, better than what I do at the banks these days. I'm looking forward to an increase in my property values at a possible 6% that's estimated. Like I said, I am a realtor and one of the first questions I'm asked is how are the schools. People move into towns because of schools and they move out of towns because of schools, and one of the former speakers is spot on. I hear it all the time. I've been to conferences by NH Housing Authority and the panels that they have up there, they have builders up there that are desperately in need of help in these programs. These kids can get educated and get a job right out of high school. Some of them are getting pulled out of high school now to do the jobs because of the CTE and vocational that they have now. There's more people entering into the CTE programs just because they know they can make a living wage. So I am in favor of this and I hope everyone else will hopefully vote for this and the future too. Thank you.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Further discussion, Warrant Article #1.

Ryan Caron, 23 B Street

I am an Alvirne High School Alumni, graduate class of 2011. During my time at Alvirne I realized that it's not what space you work in that defines greatness. I was a member of Class Act. We worked in a gymnasium. We did great things. We did all of it, without the need for updated spaces or new and fancy technologies. It's not the space you work in, it's your perseverance and your ability to work around the space you're given. That is the reality of the real world. I can't attest to many of the programs in the Voc. wing. However, I can attest to the Culinary Program. While I was not a member of the culinary program at Alvirne, post high school I worked for two years at Surf on Main Street in Nashua. I went to culinary school in college. The idea that the students aren't learning what they need to because of space restrictions within the culinary program is a logical fallacy. Anybody that has ever worked in a kitchen can attest to the fact that many of the kitchens that you work in, that you're doing 2, 3, 400 people a night, are the size of your bathroom. The idea that we need these updated new improved large spaces to learn is absurd.

A former speaker mentioned that half of the people in this town, within five years, will end up leaving. Now you can be bullied into thinking that if you don't vote for this that you are of a loser mentality. I don't want to be voting for something because I have been bullied into it. That's what society does already, and I'm sure many of you are sick of it. However, the speaker was correct when he said that half of the people in this town would leave in five years. But it is not because of the school system. It is because we have outpriced ourselves and we can no longer afford to live in this town. We as taxpayers have never said no to the town. Our taxes have been raised so astronomically high that people in this town can no longer afford to live here. The elderly who are on fixed incomes have to choose between their medications or a roof over their head. My grandfather has lived in this town for decades and is currently considering selling his home because he can no longer afford to live here because of the tax hikes and the tax increases that the citizens of this town have never said no to. I urge you to vote no, not because we are on a downward spiral, but because anybody that wants to live here, that wants to be able to keep their home after all these years of tax increases, that want to have their students in this school district. If you want to be able to keep the home you raised your kids in, vote no for this because you're not going to be able to afford to live here anymore. Thank you.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Further discussion on Warrant Article #1.

Mary Joy Gasdia, 4 MacCann Road

I'm a Hudson resident. I'm a proud parent of three kids that are in the Hudson school district. I'm a proud involved community member. I'm involved in the school district. I've been involved in town items. I am speaking on behalf of warrant article 1 because as a previous person who stood up spoke about when people come to Hudson, when they are looking at homes, the first question they ask is how are the schools. Everybody asks that, whatever town they are going to. I would love it if instead of getting a little piece of paper or a printout on Google that tells you just the numbers, because we're not all about numbers and it isn't all about test scores. Do I want us to have great test scores? Absolutely. I can tell you first hand from being in the schools physically for years, I have a kid in the high school so this is now talking about ten, twelve years in the school system. I can tell you that these teachers work really, really hard, and our kids are getting a solid education. And yes, they are doing that despite the limitations of the small classrooms and other things. But I would love nothing more than to be able to have something that shows people that want to come here we do have a great school district, and you know why we have a great school district? Because we have a big portion of this community that cares about students, that cares about providing the best that they should be able to receive. I'm not talking about going above and beyond. If we wanted to live in an above and beyond, I could have moved to Bedford. I moved to Hudson. I could have moved to a different town. I moved here and I'll tell you right now, I could say tomorrow, I could make the decision and say, you know what, who cares? I'm not going to speak at this Deliberative. I'm just going to move. I'm going to another town and put my kids in a better school district and see you later. But you know what? It's more than a school district. This is a community. There are families here who care.



There are people going back and forth watching these Facebook posts. You have a lot of people who say, you know what, I can't afford it and I can't vote for it. If you legitimately can't afford this, then vote no. If you legitimately, and I mean this is a tax burden, you are a senior and you have a fixed income and you can't do it, then absolutely vote no. I'm not sitting here saying uproot your life. But if you're somebody that is sitting here on the fence and you're looking at your expenses for the year and your saying it's another hundred-something dollars. You know what, I want you to really look through, I would actually urge, I'd like to do a call-out to all the parents that have kids from the Early Learning Center/Preschool all the way up to 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Call Karen Worthen, schedule a walk-through tour of the CTE center, because I will tell you right now, I already have a student there who doesn't use that portion of that building, and we've been through, I've been to Checkers. And I can tell you now, I never knew. I went the other night to this CTE walk through, and the facility they have now, which by the way I graduated high school in 1992. That's how old it is, it's ridiculous. Things get outdated. So the previous speaker said we don't need a bigger space. Guess what? The reality is time's change and you do need to upgrade. Can everybody afford to do it? No. But our town could. Our town can. We can vote this in. We're going to be getting all this money of assistance and guess what? If they don't give us the assistance, it doesn't happen. So the people that argue we may not get the money, then we don't have to pay for it, so it's not going to hurt you. If we don't get the money it's voted down. So that argument's already off the table.

I'll tell you now, younger families, anybody who couldn't make it today. If you have a kid in first grade, second grade. People do tours for preschool. What preschool is my kid going to go to, what kindergarten, what soccer team are they going to be on? You know where you need to be? You need to look a couple of years ahead because you're going to blink and it's going to happen. Go to that high school, walk in those doors and see what it has to offer. My daughter went through there and I had to literally say listen, this isn't every high school. You don't just get to go in and have a medical area. You don't get to go in and work with animals. You don't get to go in and work with kids in an education program. This doesn't happen, this is special. People don't get it. It is special what is in that building, and if you've never seen, holy cow you are missing out. So before you just dismiss and say I'm going to move my kids to another school district, take a look.

This isn't all about private schools and fancy things. This is about having a building that supports what's needed, and having it be updated to as it should be for the year 2018 people. Things happen and progress. We are not in 1992. If you like things in 1992, move to a different town that wants to live like 1992. But the reality is life is changing, we need to accustom to it. I would absolutely encourage you to vote for Article 1 and parents, please, go look at that CTE center. If nothing else just go and have that tour prior to casting your vote and make an informed vote. Vote based on what you see, what you need. Don't just vote based on people's hearsay. Don't vote on what I'm saying. Go look at it yourself and then make your decision and say is it worth it for our students.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Further discussion, Warrant Article #1. Mr. Barrett you already spoken a first time? I would like to have some of the people that haven't spoken the first time to be able to speak before you're allowed to speak a second time. Yes sir.

Alejandro Urrutia, 9 Campbello Street

I moved here to Hudson 25-26 years ago. I moved to New England and I was working in Boston and Cambridge. Why I choose to move my family to live here in Hudson was because of the school district. That is what invited me at that time my whole family to move here. And I think we need to continue doing that. And the only way to do that is to adapt our schools to the demands of today and the next future. My choice was pretty good. One of my children is a successful businessman in California. My second son is a lawyer and my daughter is finishing her Master on public health. And that has been thanks that we chose Hudson to live here. And I hope other families choose Hudson also because of the school district, so I want to invite all of you to vote in favor of Article 1. And let me tell you my children have better English than I do thanks to the school. Thank you.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Further discussion on Warrant Article #1. Yes sir.

Ken Kleiner, 15 Sand Hill Road

I've lived in Hudson a very long time. I'm a graduate from 1985 with Alvirne, along with Mr. Beals. I remember back then I thought, well ok I could go to shop, I could do woodwork, and stuff like that at Alvirne, that was cool. So push ahead a long time. I have three kids now, two of them have gone through Alvirne and one is going to be a senior next year. I'm ashamed of myself because I feel I never gave my kids the right idea of what an amazing program they had in CTE at Alvirne. I always thought it was just woodworking, it was just shop, it was just welding. But lo and behold my daughter told me last year that she wants to be a Vet Tech. And I learned of our Vet Science program, which again, I didn't know about. When we walked in there two years ago to do a tour I was blown away by what was available. She is going to hopefully be in Vet Science next year as a senior, and that's given her such an encouragement to feel that she can go ahead and learn real time, to hold animals and take care of animals. To me that makes a huge difference. The touching and feeling and the things you can actually get involved with at Alvirne is huge, and I think as a parent, as Mrs. Gardia said, you should go if you have small children and take a tour of that building and look at what's available because there's a lot there and there's so much more that can happen. I've never visited Checkers and, again, I'm ashamed of that. But I think as a town we need to embrace that and really look at it and think of all the improvements that we can make. So I urge you to vote for that and to really take a tour and look at what's available. Thank you.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Further discussion on Warrant Article #1.

Gretchen Whiting, 22 Glen Drive

There's three things I want to bring up. One thing that I haven't heard from people speaking is the safety. The entrance from the CTE wing that goes in to the rest of the high school, it isn't as safe. Regardless if you use the CTE wing or not, you still have access to it and that goes into the rest of the high school and the safety has to be a high concern. Mr. Beals talked about the fire sprinkler system that needs to be updated. It needs to be done. The safety entrances, buzzing people in, not being able to see who they are, what they have on them or not. That needs to be addressed. That needs to be taken care of. That should be priority number one and I haven't heard anybody speak about that. I need to make sure that that's addressed.

Another point that I want to make is, I don't know if any of you have a 401k. But if you do, you put money in and your company matches that at a certain percentage. If you think about the money that we are going to put in with the State of New Hampshire, you can think about it in terms of a 401k. We're putting 25%, if the State of New Hampshire matches up to 75%, like a 401k. My taxes will change based on the Hills Garrison, but my real estate property, from what I've understood, will go up by 6%. So I'm putting in 25 and the State of New Hampshire puts in 75 for my house value to go up by 6%, to me that's a win, win.

The third thing I want to bring up is, I'm one of five girls. I don't know about anybody else that has gone to college at 18 knowing what they want to do. My three older sisters didn't. They spent 6, 7 and 8 years at college, paying for college to figure out what they want to do because they changed their major one or two times. Fortunately I went to a high school that did end up implementing a computer program. I went and participated in that program and found out that's what I wanted to go to. So I only went four years. I only had to pay four years of school. By having a better CTE, even a CTE program that we have, but by bettering that program and adding more programs, we have 17 but you're adding more. By adding those in there you're going to allow children to identify what they want to do, what they don't want to do. They can go to school and with the college education costs rising, it's going to benefit the students going to college knowing what they don't want to do or what they do want to do. I have a daughter that's a sophomore. Next year she's going to be participating in the Education center. She doesn't know whether she wants to teach. She thinks she does, she doesn't know. What does she want to teach in? She doesn't know, she's thinking Math. But by participating in the CTE program, as well as the regular education that she gets, she's going to help make that determination. But I'm not going to have to pay for that determination in college. I'm paying it with taxpayer money instead. You're going to pay it one way or another.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Further discussion on Warrant Article #1.

Margaret McQueeney, 2 Manny Court

My husband and I have been living in town for 20 years. We are both retired now. Our two daughters attended school here. But what I'd like to say is we did come to Hudson for high school purposes. We didn't want our children going to a really large high school. We

also wanted to have, at that time I called it, Vocational school. One daughter went the college route and the other went the vocational tech route. Both are taxpayers now, one here in Hudson and one out of state. But I want to talk to you about our homes. We've lived in our home for 20 years, and after you've had a new home for about ten years things start to go, like the hot water heater. The first time it went it was about eight years into our home and I think it cost \$800 to have it repaired. It went again about two years ago, and the price went up to \$1800. I called around our neighborhood and said, are you kidding me? It's that expensive now? And they said, oh ya, that's what they go for now, because the code had changed. So why I want to relay this to you is that's what will happen with this school also. If we put it off the price will just keep increasing and increasing. As you own something other things go, like your heating system, your roof. And maybe you wanted a new door because, a few years ago in 2008 we had a mini recession and the government was offering us some money for updating our homes, like insulating them, windows and doors. So we did take advantage of that and we bought a new door and a new storm door because the government was going to give us a tax credit, and that money was our money. Just like that \$17 thousand dollars that the state will give back to us. It's really our money. We paid that money either to the State or to the federal government, so it's going to come back to us. It's ours. I think we should take advantage of it and that's what I'd like to say, that we do have to keep investing in our community. The money is there now, let's take it while we have that opportunity. So thank you and I hope you vote for #1 article.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. That was \$17 million, not \$17 thousand.

Ed Peterson, 7B Taunton Lane

I am a senior citizen, I am on fixed income. I am in favor of this. The reason I'm in favor of this is I also officiate basketball games. I've been to every school in the area. Trust me, Alvirne's not high on the list. Alvirne is at the bottom, which is sad for this town. So I urge you to vote yes on this program. Thank you.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Further discussion on Warrant Article #1.

Marie O'Donnell, 942 Fox Hollow Drive

I wasn't planning on speaking today. I wasn't planning on coming this morning, sorry I don't have my maroon on. Because I'm in favor. I'm a thirty year educator and I'm a person that scrolls through and says, oh it's for the school, I'm in. But as I sit here and listen I feel like my perspective as an educator, I teach in Massachusetts and have a very brief and parallel situation in the town I teach in Chelmsford. We were one of three towns in all of Massachusetts that didn't offer any full day K programs. We're not talking about full day K, I get it, but the state had been giving a grant for years and years and years and when it got down to be three towns that didn't offer it, guess what, the grant went away. So I really urge everyone to think about the future of our town and the future of our students. And while the state is offering to give us funding I think it's a win, win. If they don't give us the money then we don't spend the money and we go to plan B. But I would

just hate for this opportunity to pass by because people were feeling uncomfortable about \$0.20 cents increase on their taxes per thousand. That's all I wanted to say, just consider the future for our kids and our town.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Further discussion on Warrant Article #1. I'd just like to remind everyone that when there are no more people wishing to speak then we will close the discussion and move on, just so you know. We had one brave soul that spoke in opposition and did so eloquently. We like to get both sides of the discussion and the debate going on. If there's any more after this lady, if anyone wants to speak in opposition, I'd put them up front so that we can get a little bit of a plus and minus on this discussion.

Phyllis Appler, 62 Glen Drive

How did he know I was going to rise in favor of Article 1? I am and I did teach at Alvirne for thirty years and so I can tell you how valuable that CTE program is to Alvirne High School. Not only are your academic sons and daughters able to cross over and sample things in the vocational area, but your teachers on the academic side of things are able to use the wonderful support of all of that CTE faculty to help make their own programs stronger. So I think that teaching there in a place where there is a lot of interchange between the CTE and other classes is something so valuable that you really want to keep it in top notch shape. So thank you for supporting this warrant article.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Further discussion on Warrant Article #1.

Ray Gendron, 7 First Street

I've only been here 58 years but I'm trying to catch up with some of these people. Housing was just reassessed this year at a pretty substantial increase. Was that in anticipation of this program, or is it strictly independent at this point? I'd like to have an answer to that question.

The second question would be it appears that you're expanding a number of disciplines that will be taught. I wonder how that fits in with the people that you need to teach these programs and how that will affect the ongoing costs of salaries and benefits that may result if you have to increase the teacher force.

I guess there is a third one coming up here. The skills required to teach these many disciplines need to be good skills. I'm not clear on how the existing teaching staff adapts to these kinds of requirements. What's the problem there and how much might that involve the teaching staff in terms of numbers? That's all I have, thank you.

Moderator Inderbitzen

In terms of your first question Mr. Gendron, I can answer that. The reassessment reevaluation of housing is a state law that requires the town to do that every so often. It has nothing to do with the town budget or the school budget. It's just something that has to be done and it's based on real estate values and there's a whole bunch of stuff that I'm

not that familiar with. But it's a requirement and that's why that occurred and I think we were in the cycle for revaluation last year. So that's why that happened. The other questions, can someone yield to the other two questions he had?

Principal Steve Beals

I need the PowerPoint slides so I can get to operational costs, if you may, and then I'll take both your questions Mr. Gendron. I'll begin with, these are all of the CT programs that are currently in existence at Alvirne High School. Our CT Director talked about the new program that would be having recent approval, as well as an expanded program. To your question to teacher and certification. All teacher at Alvirne or in the Hudson school district need to work through state certification processes. I will tell you in our trade related areas of the CT, not always but it's frequent that we bring in people directly from industry. We are very fortunate to have a community member who is a welder who is our welding teacher. He came with great references and has owned a business in Hudson for a long time, and we are working with him to get certified. Similarly in our Building Trade shop, we had a past Alvirne graduate who ran his own construction business. He came in to our building and he needed to move through a certification process.

A little bit different story, in our heavy duty equipment program we have a new staff member this year, also an Alvirne graduate, who came back to us with a full certification in mechanics. So he runs that program and we were fortunate because it's not always easy to find someone. But whether a teacher is our Veterinary Science teacher over here, certified in the State of New Hampshire. Whether I'm the Principal of Alvirne High School, certified in the State of New Hampshire. Career Technical Center Director, certified in New Hampshire. So we have processes in place, we follow all guidelines of the State of New Hampshire for that process.

The other question that you referenced, I'm going to use this projected operating cost, and I thank you for the question because I do think it's important. The slide in front of you talks about three key areas that we have worked collaboratively together with district administration. First and foremost on the CT side of the building. On the CT side, because of the new square footage, that new addition area, 37,000 square feet, we are recommending a new custodian. That's a full time custodian with benefits that would not be added next year. This would be after the construction process and the building is built. The cost for that you can see on the screen.

Utility costs: There is no question that our efficient systems are going to help save money. However, code compliant systems in the year 2019/2020 have many more opportunities for air circulation, for dehumidification, for some areas with air conditioning. We will have brand new boilers in the CT area that will be high efficient boilers but they will also be heating more space. That number there, \$29,000 represents without a full energy model because we are at a conceptual design stage, we still have full engineering to do, represents both the cost of electricity and gas.

If you look deeply at our plans you will notice how technological the CT center is. Spaces for Engineering, a maker space, Digital Electronics, Digital Art & Media, TV Film Studio

and Broadcasting, Accounting, Academy of Finance, Welding. Those welders plug in before any kid is going to use them, so our costs will be higher.

The last line on there is staffing, and as has been noted this morning, welding and fabrication is on the rise. There is no doubt that we believe that our Welding and Fabrication program will have a full time teacher with benefits. Currently that individual is part time. The second program that has been talked about as far as expansion, Health Science. This dollar value allows us to move our welding teacher to full time and additional time for Health Science. You heard the CT Director talk about 20% of the students who make application for Health Science we cannot accept because we don't have enough space and teacher coverage for it. We're already addressing some of that in the operating budget for the 2018/2019 school year, more to follow.

If you add all of those three costs together, you will see in the lower right side, that cost represents about 1/3 of 1% of the operating budget for our town. New costs, I want you to have the right information, and again, thank you for the question.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Further discussion on Warrant Article #1.

James Weaver, 27 Rolling Woods Drive

I was raised here my entire life. I am a product of Hudson. I went through the CTE program, graduated in 2003, and was an area student to Nashua High for Automotive because Hudson didn't provide it. But I did go through many of the other programs they do provide. I went through the Marketing program. I took Welding. I took Small Engines. I would say for how many parents have their kids in college and when they're in college change their degrees and can't decide what they want to do, I would ask you to look at this and say there's many opportunities for them to try something and decide they don't want it before they go to college and realize they've spent \$120k on something they're not going to use.

I feel like I'm lucky. I have two young daughters who, if this goes through, will be able to benefit from this. This is a driving factor, if this passed through, I would see no reason I'd ever want to leave Hudson. I've been here my entire life. I've always wanted to live here. I've got a young family, an eight year old and a four year old. I think that the young families that you want moving in are going to help move Hudson forward. So I rise in support of this article. Thank you.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Further discussion on Warrant Article #1.

Lisa Moreau, 9 Evergreen Drive

Proud member of Alvirne High School and prouder member of Hudson, NH. In response to the gentlemen who works at Surf, first of all you are comparing apples to oranges because when a restaurateur builds their restaurant their focus is on maximizing seating capacity for a higher profit margin, which means a smaller kitchen. A professional kitchen

is not a teaching situation but an environment where qualified employees work in tandem. However, the Culinary program at Alvirne is a teaching program and the students need the space to learn the proper techniques and skills necessary to either go to a culinary program at a college or go straight into a restaurant confident in their knowledge of the numerous expectations of a kitchen staff member in a profit driven business. I can remember taking my kids to Checkers in 1998 and there were numerous seniors in the amazing food and prices offered at Checkers. Unfortunately the public involvement with Checkers has significantly declined over the years. With this amazing renovation project Checkers will now be front and center with the public access so more of the public can experience this food, experience and atmosphere of the CTE program. Plus, it's a bonus, Shirley's there.

Another point. I am one of the many Freshman Seminar teachers who is working with our freshmen to make the most of the four years at Alvirne High School. When we went over their course selections this week for next year. 90% of them wanted to know how they could fit CTE into their schedules for next year. For those of us who knew that college was our only goal post high school, we're all set on the academic side of Alvirne. But what about those students who are not college bound? Do we ignore their needs because they're not college bound? No. We as a town have an amazing program at the CTE which prepares our students to move into higher paying jobs, e.g. LNA, Vet Science, because of the dedication and preparation of the teachers and staff of the CTE who can confidently recommend those students into internships and jobs because of the skills, lessons and techniques acquired at the CTE Center. As for the people on a fixed income, I don't know what others do in Hudson, but as a responsible person my household lives by a strict budget, scheduled to pay our bills, as well as contributing to a retirement account because we won't have Social Security to help out with our retirement. Both of our children have come through Alvirne High School so we are done and also have no skin in the game. But does that mean I do not want the future students of Hudson not to have the best opportunities at Alvirne? Or have the ability and options to try on numerous professions through the CTE in order to decide for themselves what they want to do and who they want to be? Vote yes for Article 1 and every article pertaining to the renovations. Thank you.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Further discussion on Warrant Article #1.

Barbara Desmond, 37 Dracut Road

I'm in favor of the renovation because I think it's critical to attracting homeowners to Hudson and retaining them. I have a high school student at Alvirne and she's doing the Pre-Engineering program. I've been strongly encouraging her to consider an engineering career. I love that the pre-engineering program allows her to dip her toes in that and see if she will enjoy it before I pay for engineering college and then she changes her major. Sitting here listening made me think how does this renovation benefit the pre-engineering program? I work in Human Resources at an employer in New Hampshire. We (*inaudible*) fiercely to hire engineers into our company. The competition for engineers in the United States is extremely high. There is not enough engineers for the future jobs. So I think the pre-engineering program is terrific and I think it should grow. There are a lot of employers in New Hampshire looking to hire Engineers. You spoke to it just a couple of moments



ago a little bit but could you elaborate a little more on how the technology will be updated to support that program.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Mr. Beals will yield to the question.

Principal Steve Beals

I'm going to bring your attention to the following slide we talked about in our initial presentation. If you look at the floor plans that are on the left side of the room, you will see the highlighted areas of where Engineering specifically would go and what its neighbors are. We would be bringing in a new electrical and I.T. area into this renovation and addition area, and the hub of those two areas would be surrounded by our most technologically rich needs. That involves your daughter's experience in the current Engineering room. She has the wonderful viewpoint of a freezer from our cafeteria in her classroom. I assure you through this renovation that freezer would no longer be part of her room furniture. What is part of her room furniture is collaborative work stations, a maker space, which when she does go to Engineering in college she'll be able to experience as well for 21<sup>st</sup> century learning. Kids design in an engineering lab and they go build in the maker space. Think of it in those two hands. The room right next to that again is a Digital Electronics lab. Currently we are forced to, I think the best thing I could share with you to help promote Pre-Engineering is the new Middle School program and project Lead the Way in Engineering. There is no question the feeder program is established, for those in the audience today with middle schoolers. Our new stem related programs at the elementary level we're going to see a consistent incline of kids moving through every level of the school district in 21<sup>st</sup> century curricular needs that we hope will end up being Engineering students in high school. We have incredible area partners, BAE and the programs they offer our students, specialized to kids' interest areas, as well as further internship opportunities I hope we'll highlight. But instead of highlighting it on a form, what I'll simply do is try to highlight for you roughly where the circle is on the screen, that whole new white area where the pointer is all of our engineering related areas. You will see a much better viewpoint on the slides or on the pictures to the side. Thank you.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Further discussion on Warrant Article #1.

Jim Wilkins, 112 Belknap Road

I'm just concerned that putting the \$17 million into the warrant codifies it into a non-negotiable demand that would prevent us from accepting more money if the State chooses to offer it, and give us nothing if they offer us a little less. Can anybody address that?

Moderator Inderbitzen

Seems like a question, would someone like to yield to that question? On the \$17 million.

Principal Steve Beals

I'm going to invite Lance Whitehead, who's our architect who has been part of multiple CT additions and renovation projects to start, and then Karen Burnell will help follow up from a local side. Thank you for the question.

Lance Whitehead

The way you would try to structure the article and be clear about the information is that we've been working with the Department of Education since day one. Two years ago we engaged them to talk about how the costs would break down and to give them an idea of future budgets of theirs that would be coming forward in the next biennium. To date we've been working with them to arrive at that \$17 million dollar figure, applying the 75% aid that they're offering two items that they are covering. There are specific items in state law that they do not cover. That's how we got to the other \$8 million dollars to the local side. The intent of the article wording is that the State, if they give us \$16,999,000, that the overall project will be reduced by that amount. The local side would stay fixed or could be reduced but will never go up to cover the State's side. So should the State offer us less money, the project would decline. Should the State offer us more money, I would kick questions like that to the attorney and the Business Manager to understand that because I don't think we've actually contemplated if the State were to give us a bigger check. I would love to accept it and I think that's an excellent question.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Our Business Manager Mrs. Burnell.

Business Manager Karen Burnell

The only piece of that article that locks anything in is the piece that says that we cannot exceed funding/bonding of the \$8.2 million. As far as revenue, I will say that if we were to receive more I'm sure we could go to the Board and accept more, but it does have the original project based at the \$25,262,000 with the not-to-exceed borrowing or funding of the \$8.2 million. Thank you.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Further discussion on Warrant Article #1.

**MOTION BY JAMES BATTIS, 6 POTTER ROAD, SECONDED BY PATTY LANGLAIS, TO MOVE THE QUESTION.**

Moderator Inderbitzen

If you look at the rules a motion to move the question is non-debatable. It is to cut off debate, to stop talking about warrant article 1 and move on. It requires a 2/3 vote, which I will do with the voting cards. Basically if you wish to cut off debate you would vote in favor to move the question. If you want to continue listening, and there was one or two people still in line, then you would vote no. So I am going to take the motion. Those in favor of limiting debate, cutting off debate of Warrant Article 1 please raise your voter cards. Those opposed to limiting debate please raise your voter cards. I see a 2/3, the motion passes.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Moderator Inderbitzen

The discussion on Warrant Article #1 is closed.

**MOTION BY LEE LAVOIE, SECONDED BY PATTY LANGLAIS, TO RESTRICT RECONSIDERATION OF ARTICLE 1.**

Moderator Inderbitzen

Motion made to restrict reconsideration. Well I've already declared it as closed, and according to our procedures, closed means it goes to the ballot. The motion is to restrict reconsideration, I'll explain that in a minute. And that was also seconded by Mrs. Langlais. The motion to restrict reconsideration means that no one in the future of this meeting could call up and say I want to reconsider warrant article 1. It closes off debate. The article is now closed as it is, can't be brought up again in the meeting and will go to the ballot as it's written. Are you all clear with this restrict reconsideration? It means we will no longer be able to talk about it at this meeting. Those in favor of restricting reconsideration of Warrant Article 1 please raise your cards. Those opposed raise your cards. The article passes, that's a majority vote. Article number 1 is restricted.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Moderator Inderbitzen

Given that it is a little after 11:00 should we take a 10 minute break? No, you want to continue? Ok we will continue.

**WARRANT ARTICLE 2**

**If, and only if, Warrant Article 1 passes, shall the Hudson School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$21,825,000 for the design, construction, and equipping of additions and renovations to Alvirne High School and further authorize the School Board to issue not more than \$21,825,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Chapter 33) and authorize the School Board to issue and negotiate, sell, and deliver such bonds or notes and determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and further authorize the School Board to apply for, obtain, and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project; and further raise and appropriate the additional sum of \$479,695 for the first year payment on the bond and authorize the School Board to take any other action necessary to carry out this vote or to pass any other vote relative thereto? This Article will be null and void if Warrant Article 1 does not pass. Recommended by the Hudson School Board 5-0, Recommended by the Budget Committee 7-4 (3/5 ballot vote required). I will recognize Chairman Lavoie to present Warrant Article #2.**

School Board Member Lee Lavoie

Good Morning Mr. Moderator, Budget Committee and School Board. This is democracy in action folks. This is where it happens and from here on end we'll send it to the ballot and then get a chance to vote again. But this is the true democracy base. Mr. Moderator, I want to thank you for your service, and the Budget Committee and School Board. I know Selectman Luszey's here and if there's anybody else who is elected I want to thank them for serving Hudson. Sometimes it's a tough job, sometimes I feel like people are throwing tomatoes at us. I never got a chance to introduce my School Board.

Moderator Inderbitzen

I did pass that, we'll do that after the break. Let's stick to Warrant Article 2.

Lee Lavoie

Alright, you're the boss. Thank you Mr. Moderator. The School Board approved article 2, which was read by the Moderator, by a 5-0 vote, and passed the Budget Committee by a 7-4 vote. Most of this, as will be explained to you later, is security, building a new ADA compliant gymnasium, and repairing and taking the gymnasium and renovating it into an auditorium, moving the main office to the main parking lot for better security. After the Renovation Committee did the CTE center we sat back and said, should we move forward and look at renovating portions of Alvirne High School to make it a better facility? I just want people to understand that the main building was built very well but it's the technical piece and the infrastructure piece that needs to be upgraded. The article language clearly states not to exceed community costs of a project municipal bond will be \$21,825,000. If both articles pass with a 60% vote, now both articles have to pass, the tax impact for a home valued of \$300k will be \$138 when you offset the Hills Garrison terminating, so one bond will be expiring and another one will come back.

The High School was rebuilt in 1975 following the largest fire in the history of Hudson. The building is very structurally sound but lacks the infrastructure for 21<sup>st</sup> century high school in technology, electrical and mechanical systems. Many recent improvements have occurred at the High School which will be detailed later in the presentation. This article primarily consists of building a new main entrance area to enhance building security, build a new ADA compliant gymnasium, locker rooms and fitness areas, renovating the former gymnasium into an auditorium, renovating the cafeteria space, and finally, updating the parking lot and outside areas to enhance safety for students, staff and visitors on the property. We will have a team of school staff members and our architect construction partners present a short video. Mr. Beals?

Principal Steve Beals

Good morning again. For those of you who are tired of listening to me already, these projects are intertwined. Everything I said in the beginning about our due diligence. We've been working on it for two years. At the same time we were assessing aspects of our CT building, we were certainly assessing the needs of Alvirne High School.

I want to take us again to the now way, way back machine to 1975, the year of our bicentennial. The year that my wife and I entered third grade at the Webster School

building, and for the first time in my young life, I experienced my first educational mentor, Ralph Pearce. Many in the room may remember Mr. Pearce. Gas cost \$0.44 cents a gallon. Technology - Microsoft just received their trademark. So we have to go back in time. The Board Chair very openly talked about the fire of 1974. They talk about the High School was rebuilt following that fire with incredible community support. That community support was led by hope. A speaker in the first article talked about fiscally conservative but with compassion. People came out of the woodwork following that fire. While I may have been 8 years old and not remember all of that, the community uprising, which is the same community uprising I am hoping that you will entertain through the aspects of our addition and renovation plans. Finally, the film of the year, first blockbuster in the United States, Jaws. Please know, if any of you choose to chew me up and spit me out, remember what happened to the shark at the end of it.

Statement of need – you will see our local community contribution is just under \$22 million dollars. These combined forces will be the biggest project in the history of the Town of Hudson. As a possible means of moving us forward, increasing tax values, property values, increasing taxes. There's no denying that aspect. Some of the needs that are associated and the highlights of our work; Engineering report, architect reports. First and foremost, you have no secure access for visitors with a school of 1,200 students. When we started the enrollment was larger. We were at 1,300 students two years ago. We have parking lot safety procedures. Please, just drive in any morning. The joy of our experience is 7:10 to 7:20am. Please come back if you've missed the first opportunity at 2:10pm. Every student, past, future, current, knows how desirable parking is, but we also know that pedestrian, school bus and kid drivers all interact at the same time.

A previous speaker on the first article talked about a gymnasium that he officiates basketball in. He has to get up to the second floor for that gymnasium, it is not ADA compliant. The locker room for the boys is on the first floor. The fitness area is on the third floor, the gym and the girl's locker room is on the second floor.

Cafeteria and Kitchen space; take a tour through, it's a cut-through. It's a hallway that is a big box room that you cannot get to one place to another without going through it. The High School lacks, based on our talented music and theater students, a performing arts space. A gymnasium is a performing space but it's not an adequate performing space. There are no sound panels. There is no acoustics. We rent lights. We love having student technicians running our lights and all the things that they learn.

We have no community access for administration of the school. Though some will reference a cushy office for the Principal, please come and visit me in that cushy office. It's on the second floor. When you walk in on the first floor you are going to have to take a staircase. I hope you come at a passing time so you can interact in your passageway with 1,200 students. Ask one of them for directions. My hope is they'll tell you where my office is. It does not have that same ADA compliant access to the gym. It's a long way around. We put a new elevator in and we put it in an area that would access every one of our floors. People look at the building and say there are three floors, but the lower level of

the cafeteria and the art rooms and the access to the CT is on a fourth level, a lower level. We need a modern utility infrastructure.

Some current needs: There's the cafeteria. That's a passageway any time of the day. Now this happened to be the start of a lunch period but you can see we don't have a lot of people eating lunch yet, because they are moving to and from. If you want to go the CT center, you go out a door. If you want to go Science on the first floor, you go out a door.

Current issues – that is our secure main entrance. I mean no disrespect to anybody in the world of security. Security in 2018 is different than 1975. Even though we have significantly upgraded in 2013, I can now confidently tell you all of our exterior doors are locked. I can tell you confidently that we have a staff member who remote buzzes people into the building, but when you enter that building you are in an egress for the cafeteria and the gymnasium. It's a stairwell. You come in to that area and instantaneously upon signing in you are interacting with students, staff, and anyone else visiting the building.

Current issues - some have said why don't you have the main entrance in that historic front of the building? First and foremost, please look at the five steps that lead into it. Please know that once you come up those five steps, you come up another four steps before you're in the hallway. In order to make that ADA compliant, away from our parking area, you are going to take all the green space in the front of the building and make it a parking lot. So ADA handicap accessibility parking can be part of it, and then your ramp is going to move all the way from there to Route 102. We didn't want kids crossing the road, we certainly don't have the space there. What was built in 1975 to today's standards is inadequate.

Current issue – that's our gymnasium. While it can look nice with banners on the wall and maroon Bronco in the middle. If I am a student whose passion is theater, I'm sorry. They have no real access to that space. Their access is on the stage with the curtain closed when they're trying to paint a scene, when they're trying to practice a line with basketballs bouncing while they are doing it. There's not a single acoustical panel. We can hang them up. It's designed as a gym. There's not an acoustical panel in that roof structure. What we did learn through our investigation, it can be an ideal auditorium space.

Current issues – a little bit difficult to see. That's the Special Education Administration office. Parents, the busiest office in the entire building is the Special Education office of the school. We have mandated meetings for parents. A parent comes in to that building by going in the secure entrance, a video remote on the CT side of the building, they have to go back outside to then come back in to the building, and that's the way we have CT office space. You see file cabinets in a corner. Storage for secure special education files need to be separated. They don't need to be part of an office area. Our new main office area covers all of that area.

You have already seen this slide previously. The differences for this scope will be the next slide when we focus on the left side of the building. That focus indicates the gray roof area, converted current gymnasium into an auditorium. We'll talk more about that as we

go. You will see the white roof area. All new addition area. New addition of a gymnasium, locker rooms, fitness area. Addition of a main entrance area, fully secure. Not only is the office area when you come in to a building you get buzzed in and you're in a secure office that has no access to students and staff, other than the office staff. If you have a special education meeting your meeting is in that office. We have a School Resource Officer, and we are thankful to the Hudson Police Department and the Town of Hudson in their budget for us to have an SRO, full time, full school year, in our building. His office is currently in the middle of the building. In this design right next to the main entrance is also the School Resource Officer's office.

You see significant updated parking. That parking area, as well as a new parking lot, and then a field replacement, is part of ensuring that we have separated parking and access for parents who are dropping off students in the morning, for school buses coming in dropping off students, and for high school students and staff coming in to our building. You see an update of the entrance area. You see buses in the back corner. They'll come around and drop to a sidewalk area to allow kids to come in. You need a safe haven. The safe haven currently is that you just walk through the parking lot. You walk in and out of cars. You have double access with a new one way entrance to Alvirne. That main entrance area with drop off cars that can stack up, if you will, before they drop off individuals.

Updated rendering of the gymnasium. This is a community asset. We have shared with no commitment to the Hudson Recreation Committee that we want them to use this space. Currently, the Recreation Department does not use the Alvirne gymnasium simply because we can never get them in there. This gym is referred to frequently as a double gym. You have a game court going sideways that you could play two recreational basketball games at a time. If your family, or your family if you are watching at home, has a male and a female, as my family did, we played basketball for our boys on Saturday and basketball for our girls on Sunday. We had no family time because we spent it at a gym. This allows Saturday access if the Rec Committee chooses to take it. When we have a game court, like last night's Varsity basketball game that we escaped in an overtime victory against Bishop Guertin, and it felt like work to me I will tell you that, just a big crowd and emotion. That's what we want in a gym. I love the fact that this gymnasium has windows, what a novel idea for a gym. Bring some natural light into that area.

This area has a 680 seat auditorium. This is the community jewel. I recognize there will be speakers this morning that are going to talk about wants and needs, and they're going to refer to it as a want, and I'm going to refer to it as a need. Come and watch the theater kids doing their preparations in a hallway, trying to create a scenery that then gets destroyed because they have nowhere to store it. Talk about a music program, that when they want to move the marimba into the second story gym they have to bring it out the music room door, through the parking lot, in the front door, carry it up the stairs, carry it up the next set of stairs and wheel it down the hallway because it's too big to fit in the elevator. Our music students are the most successful in our State. I said in the beginning 21 students in Jazz All-State today. That's a combination of choral and instrumental kids. For those of you who have been to a Cabaret, as I have. For those of you who have come to our concerts. And here's your promo, we have an eight through twelfth concert coming up in the month

of February. What a nice opportunity to see middle school kid's part of their transition to the school. Sound panels are on the wall. Sound panels are on the ceiling. Acoustical everywhere. Seats, cushioned chairs. Some are going to argue, why you didn't put more chairs in? We wanted you to be comfortable. 680 seats. We have three tiers of seating; floor, mezzanine and balcony. If we have a smaller event we can close the balcony. Theater may want a more intimate setting. Music may want a bigger setting. The chairs on the first floor are not the metal chairs you're sitting in or the plastic chairs you're sitting in. This is an auditorium style seat. Come to a performance at Alvirne and you know what I mean.

Most importantly - need. Our students past, current, and future deserve better than they have in the gymnasium. Karen Burnell will come forward and talk about tax impact of this article.

Business Manager Karen Burnell

As Mr. Beals stated, these projects are intertwined. I do apologize for it sounds like I continue to pound tax impact into the community. The CTE renovation bond in Articles 1 and 2 will not exceed a community taxation of more than \$30,087,500. The 30 year debt has a tax impact of \$0.73 cents based on current quotes. As I said in Article 1, there will be a bid process following approval of these warrant articles. The current projected interest and principal cost to a taxpayer would be \$219 per year, or \$0.60 per day, at a home valued at \$300k prior to the final payment of Hills Garrison. As I said previously, the final payment of Hills Garrison Bond is in 2021. That will have a tax rate impact reduction of \$0.20 cents, resulting in a savings per household of \$81, or \$0.22 cents per day. When the completion of Hills Garrison bond payment is taken into consideration, there will be a tax impact of \$0.46 cents, with a yearly cost of \$138, or \$0.38 cents per day. That is based on the 2016 evaluation of the Town. At this point I will introduce Superintendent Russell and he will talk about why to vote.

Superintendent Russell

Good morning everyone. The next two slides are going to be based on two tenants. One of the tenant is an axiom that I learned from one of my mentors, and that is if you make a decision based on what's best for students you will never make a bad decision. So please keep that in mind as we go through this. The reason why you should vote for Article 2 is it enhances school safety for the students and the staff. Every student and every staff member has the right to come to a school where they feel they're going to be there safely. This year alone, as everyone probably knows, has been acts of violence in schools that involved gunfire. There has been 9 so far in this country this year, this past month. I'm not saying that is our biggest concern but there are other concerns where community members might want to come in and address a student because they know they're going to be there and so they come to the school and might want to try to get in. And sometimes they do get let in and sometimes they don't get let in. But if we have a secure front that won't happen. We'll have the SRO up front and we'll have the right people up there that will make sure that the students and staff are being safe. Right now, as Mr. Beals had alluded to, you walk into a side door at the Steck entrance and you walk through the



cafeteria, then you walk through all the students and go up to the main offices. That's not safe for anybody and we need to fix that.

Second of all, Mr. Beals also spoke to the parking lot. I will say about the parking lot that the best way to describe it, it's a controlled chaos in the morning and in the afternoon, and it's just not safe for kids and we do need to address that.

The existing building will be improved upon with three major things. They'll be getting a new boiler, a new ceiling from the ceiling tile on up that includes lights, and the ceiling tiles will all be replaced, and a new sprinkler system will be put in there for another safety feature.

Right now if you are a person in either a walker or a wheelchair and need to get to the gym, you walk into the elevator, you come out on the other side of the building then you have to be escorted around multiple classrooms and hallways in order to get to the gym. With the new renovation that won't have to be the case. You'll be able to get off the elevator, not to the gym but to the auditorium and be right there and not have to go through the arduous task of getting to an event.

The students in this town, a lot of them are involved with sports and a lot are involved with theater, and they deserve a setting that's a modern facility in order to do their activities. That's something that if you look around the communities, there's not too many communities that still have wooden bleachers and old facilities as Hudson does. That's something that's going to have to be addressed at some point, and right now is the right time to do it. That goes to avoiding further construction costs. Because as time goes on, and it's been spoken about a couple of different times today, the cost is only going to go up. This goes to the second tenant that I was speaking of. You don't want to be penny wise and pound foolish. You don't want to keep on kicking this down road. This is something that needs to be addressed sooner rather than later because the costs will be going up quite a bit.

The last point of why you should be voting for this is because the home values are projected to go up about 6%. That's based on research and that is a conservative number. So a lot of people talk about the safety of the school. I can say that we have put in every single effort that we possibly can with the building that we have in place to make the students and the staff as safe as possible. But right now it's still not up to the standards of the communities that surround us. We need to modernize the facilities so that you have the same safety features that all of these other schools have and all these other students and staff members have available to them. So I do think that people should have the absolute consideration to make sure that things are in place for our students as they are for all the other communities around us.

Lastly, I'd like to say that there's going to be a short video presentation for your pleasure to go over the finer points of Article 2. Thank you.

Principal Steve Beals

Please start the video. Thank you.

*(Video presentation)*

Moderator Inderbitzen

Okay, thank you. At this point we'll open Article 2 to questions, comments, or concerns.

Mary Joy Gasdia, 4 MacCann Road

I'm so excited that there's so many people here in the room today because, regardless of whether you are for or against this, you're getting informed and you're hearing and being a part of the process. I'm proud of all of us for that however everything plays out. I just want to speak, I believe Mr. Beals said the last time it was renovated was in 1975? Is that the last time? So anyways, I was only 1 years old, so it's pretty old since we've done something this big or to this magnitude. I can say that while the building structurally obviously has needs that change all these years. All of us, I'm a parent and parents, even 25, 30 years ago, 50 years ago, being a parent doesn't change. We all want the same things. My grandmother, your grandmother, your grandfather, we all want the same things for our kids. You're a parent, you give birth to a child and you say to yourself, Oh my God I'm never going to let anything happen to you. I'm going to do everything in my power to keep you safe. I'm going to do everything in my power to give you the best life I can give you. Maybe I can't give you what the Jones' can give you but I'm going to damn well do the best I can.

My husband and I each work a job to be able to pay to afford to put food on the table for my children, to be able to afford a house that has heat that we feel comfortable with, and to be able to provide them with the necessities that they need. We work extra hours to be able to pay for extracurricular things to be able to give them more, and that's by our choice. Not everybody can afford to do that and I'm blessed to be able to find the time and to be married to somebody where we are both in a position to be able to do those things. But whether you can afford to put something small on the table or something large on the table, we both go to bed at night saying, I want my kid to be safe, I love my kid, I'm proud of my kid and I want the best for them. And that's what Warrant Article 2 to me provides.

All parents, not just school parents, seniors, people who just had kids, really, really, really if you look at the safety issues that are involved at this school, it's sickening. So I get the fact that people will say that you can just fix the front door and put a ramp in. That's not what this is about. Somebody said everybody wants a shiny new building. There's nothing shiny about this renovation. We're talking about safety. Safety is a paramount concern. When I went to look at a preschool and a kindergarten, like most people do, you want your kid in an environment where somebody has to buzz in before they can get there. I can tell you proudly today that two of my children go to schools in Hudson where, if I went to that front door, if I showed up at Hudson Memorial School tomorrow, I volunteer there on a weekly basis. Most people in that building know me. Nobody will let me through that door. Hi Mary Joy, doesn't matter. They close the door, I'm buzzed in. I'm buzzed in to the first little entryway, then I'm buzzed into an office with adults, and I'm not let near any

children in the building, as it should be. I have no right to be in there with your children unless they deem that I'm safe to be in there. I'm a fingerprinted person in the district, I'm allowed to work and volunteer, but I'm not allowed to just walk in and stroll through the cafeteria because that's not how it works, and that's for your kids' safety and mine.

The same thing happens at Nottingham West, at the Early Learning Center, and at Hills Garrison, because those buildings are built in a way that offer that security structure. Alvirne High School is not built that way. It cannot just be fixed to allow that. The current infrastructure, if people don't understand what that means look up the word infrastructure. And you can't just go and say well, they don't use the front door. They can use the front door tomorrow, that's not going to fix the problem. So that argument that you're selling yourself to make yourself okay is wrong. So if you want to vote no because you don't believe in it, that's fine or you can't afford it. But don't vote no based on some passing thing you're hearing because the reality is, there are over 39 open access points that allow people to walk into Alvirne High School. 39 different ways that I can walk in and stroll into that school and I'm not buzzed in. You know what that means? I walk in and you know who I'm with? Students. Do you know who you're with when you walk in that school? My kid that's eating lunch. My kid is sitting there at a lunch table enjoying his day and God knows who can walk in. Somebody's mother is mad because somebody bullied their kid. That person can walk right in and go have a conversation with that kid. It's not fair, it's not right.

The teachers and staff are not safe, our students are not safe. We have a moral obligation as people to care about each other and to want the best and to try and keep people safe. I'm shocked at the Town, that you don't have Selectmen that are saying this is a requirement. 100% we need our students safe. Do you think the people in Sandy Hook were sitting there saying we're going to vote that down? No, they'd be saying keep your kids safe because I don't get to hug mine at night. All of us want to hug our kids at night and know they're safe in the morning. I try to give my kids the best. The education at Alvirne is great. We have teachers that work so hard all across this district. My kid is accelerating, he's doing phenomenal. He's going to leave here and make Hudson proud. My daughter is going in there next year and she's going to thrive in that CTE program and she's proud of it. And she damn well should be because it's a great program with people that care. Stop talking about the teachers and all this baloney. Let's start talking about the positives. We have a great thing in Hudson but the reality is that we need to keep that safe and we owe it to our kids. If you walk into these other schools, it's safe. Do those parents, do you parents that are at Nottingham and the ELC, you're worrying about who you're letting your kid go to their house for a play date. Guess what, in a couple of years, you're going to be worrying about walking into that school building. I say a prayer every night that my kids are going to be safe tomorrow. But the reality is that I cannot guarantee their safety, but I'm going to do whatever I can. The School District does whatever it can right now to try and keep my kid safe. Mr. Beals, Mr. Russell, they're trying to do what they can within their means but it is inadequate, it's not acceptable, it's 2018 and it's scary. If you have a child, think about what you'd want your kid to feel if they walked in that building. They have that right to safety.

The ADA piece, if people don't know what ADA means, I've heard people say what's ADA? American for Disabilities Act. People that are disabled, people that have an impairment, have a right to enter that building and we are required, required to meet that. You can't walk in that building and just meet ADA compliance by just saying let's slap a ramp on the front. You need to take certain things into consideration. So before you just throw those things out there, get educated on there and find out what it is because that is a serious issue.

Another paramount issue for safety has to do with the parking lot. Go in there and hope that these people know how to drive and what they're doing. Everybody's going every which way. People say when Mr. Lane was there it wasn't a problem. Yes, it was a problem when Mr. Lane was there. Mr. Lane did the best he could, just like Mr. Beals does. And if people don't believe that then go to that parking lot because that man is out there rain, sleet or snow so that my kid, he could prevent him from getting hit by a car on his walk in. Or prevent me from getting hit by a car, or a teacher, on their walk in. He is there every single day doing the gosh darn best that he can. So don't throw something out and say so and so did it better. Shame on you for trying to find all the negatives and all the wrongs. If you want to pick it apart, I pick it apart. I say you know what? Can I spend the money on this? I work my butt off so that I'm going to be able to pay this money for my taxes to be able to ensure what's best for my kids because that's what I need to do. I go to work every day and I promise them I am going to do whatever I can. And this is whatever you can. I urge you all to vote in support of Warrant Article 2.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. I'll recognize School Board Member Milbouer. She was next in line.

Stacy Milbouer

So I'm talking as a School Board member and then in a little bit I'll talk as a parent. I just want to talk a little bit about the importance. I'm going to talk about the arts and the gym right now, how important these things are outside of academics. Everybody know about STEM, right? Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics. But the new trend and the statistics show that what really prepares children for 21<sup>st</sup> century occupations is STEAM, and that means it adds the Arts into that. This is all about equality in a way. Equal access for people in wheelchairs. It's also equality when it comes to our facilities, when it comes to our gym, when it comes to our auditorium. We're not equal to other school districts. Other school districts which have smaller budgets than we do. So these are not, you know, gym, music, theater, are not just frivolous things, they're careers as well. There's three members of the School Board who have children who are either currently in college for theater and music and arts, or are about to go there. These are not just, oh my son is going to be a rock n roll performer, he's not. He's going into sort of the technical, composing end of it. There are a lot of careers in this and it's all about communication as well. So I just want to mention that it's not just STEM, it's also STEAM.

I also want to mention that, this is me as a parent now, I am the demographic, sort of caught in between all the demographics. I'm going to be 61 in two days, so I'm a senior citizen. I have a son in college I'm paying tuition for, and I am sort of semi-retired. So I'm in that

kind of demographic and my kid's out of Alvirne. I don't have to worry about the high school. These renovations aren't just important. We've got to think about the kids that are not our kids that are the kids that are coming up. But more importantly, Hudson isn't exactly like a thriving metropolis of activity. Our high school is the center and the heart of our town. This is where we go, even if we don't have kids. We go to Cabaret, we go to football games. This is where our community comes together. We don't have a civic center. We have this, but this isn't really suitable for some of the things that we do. So think about this if you don't have children in the system or if your kids have gone through. Think about it selfishly in that the High School and the facilities there are our gathering place, it's our meeting place for this community. So I'm willing to pay those extra taxes and believe me, I'm probably going to be eating cat food in a few years. But some things are really worth it. Honestly, I'm not going to say it's not a lot of money on your taxes because money is money, but it is money well spent and well thought out. Thank you.

James Weaver, 27 Rolling Woods Drive

I rise in support of this article. I think that while I'm a townie, thinking of my daughters going to this same school that I went to and my parents went to, with pretty much the same safety features, kind of scares me. Like the previous speakers said we all want our kids to be safe, so I rise in support of this article.

Ted Luszey, 13 Cathedral Lane

I rise to make a motion for amendment. I'd like to amend warrant article 2 by striking the words "if and only if Warrant Article 1 passes". If I get a second I will speak.

**MOTION TO AMEND WARRANT ARTICLE 2 BY TED LUSZEY, SECONDED BY MARIE O'DONNELL, TO STRIKE THE WORDS "IF AND ONLY IF WARRANT ARTICLE 1 PASSES".**

Moderator Inderbitzen

The amendment now being put forward is to strike the words, where is that?

Ted Luszey

It's the first line, "If and only if Warrant Article 1 passes".

Moderator Inderbitzen

Ok, so we're striking out those words, the first part before "shall the Hudson School District". Is there going to be a second amendment for the last line as well?

Ted Luszey

Yes, I will clean it all up if I can get past the first one.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Motion by Mr. Luszey, second by Ms. O'Donnell, to remove the words "if and only if Warrant Article 1 passes". We are talking now about that amendment and that amendment only. Mr. Luszey, speak to your amendment.

Ted Luszey

Yes, thank you. The purpose for that is Warrant Article 2 is held hostage by Warrant Article 1. Since Warrant Article 2 fixes the majority of the security issues in the Alvirne High School, this is a priority article. I spoke at the public deliberative session that said if we have such security issues they should be addressed now. Since the amount of money needed to do that is probably not available in the budget currently, this article will address that. Therefore, I believe, by striking those words out and making Warrant Article 2 stand alone, it has a much higher probability of passing if it's not attached to Warrant Article 1.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Discussion on the amendment to Warrant Article 2, to remove the words "if and only if Warrant Article 1 passes".

Patty Langlais, 22 Stonewood Lane

Could someone please from the School Board stand up? There's a reason why we did this so Steve, do you want to stand up and address what Ted said because I believe what we talked about is that it's going to change the cost of things if that's the way it's done.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Question of the Board. Mr. Beals will yield.

Principal Beals

I think the first deliberations, as part of the two year experience of the Renovation committee, all of the work we were studying was initially going to be in one warrant article. The School Board in June, as you remember Mrs. Langlais, decided that it would be a better opportunity to bring forward two separate warrant article. With a lot of rationale between "if and only if", and not trying to split people who may be in favor of the CTE, because that's where they are at in their perspective and vote. It has state reimbursement money available to it. I might be able to see the argument of \$25 million for \$8 million easier than I may be able to see \$30 million of a \$47 million dollar project. So all of the language from the School Board's work sessions that we continually had, and all of the work of the Renovation Committee, future architect meetings, design meetings, always separated them into two. So there's not a more specific rationale behind that. What I would offer now, outside of my professional hat as principal, I said earlier that this is the biggest project in the history of the Town, and I am fearful of one article. While my mind can conceptually say I believe both of these are needed, conceptually we only get the opportunity for the CT Renovation and the state funding if that part passes. I do not want to see it potentially not pass because people can't wrestle themselves around a \$47 million dollar project and a \$30 million dollar bond. I would feel more comfortable if someone from the Board, specifically, could reference their deliberations because I'm really not here to speak about the Board's deliberations other than my own experience.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Does anybody on the Board... Superintendent Russell, will yield.

Superintendent Russell

So my recollection of the conversations that we had about this was to put this language in there for this one reason. We didn't want it to have the appearance that we were trying to sneak another project in with attractive CTE project because the CT was being well supported by the projected \$17 million dollars, and so we didn't want to come in with the other side of the project looking like, that's the side that we really want to kind of get in there. So we wanted to say to the Townspeople, and protect them in a sense, that if and only if that first one did pass then we would proceed with the second one. That was the reasoning from my recollection of why we put that language in the second article.

Ted Luszey

If I may Mr. Moderator, to the previous speaker. Why wouldn't the wording of Warrant Article 1 be "if and only if Warrant Article 2 passes shall we build Warrant Article 1"? Because this addresses all of your safety and fire concerns. Warrant Article 1 is educational and on a total different end of business. So you are trying to hold this warrant article hostage to Warrant Article 1 and it should be separate. Let the voters decide which one is more important, 1 or 2 or both.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. On the amendment to strike the words. Mrs. O'Donnell is first because she seconded the motion.

Marie O'Donnell, 942 Fox Hollow Drive

I am going to admit that I'm just jumping in here and I don't want to upset the apple cart. What speaks to me on this article is the safety. We have just announced publicly that there are 39 access points to the Alvirne High School that are not secure. We've given a map basically about how to get in the building and where to go and how you have access to the students terrifies me in 2018. To me, this article needs to be on its own because it addresses the safety of the students that are there now. Believe me, I fully support #1 too, but this one on its own, I feel like, addresses something completely different and I feel like should be a high priority for the people in this town, whether you have children in this town or not. God forbid we have an incident, all of our property values are going to be affected. People aren't going to move to Hudson. It will devastate our town. I would only hope that on the good heart of the townspeople that they would agree that our students have to be safe first and foremost, and our educators and the people coming and going out of that people. That's why I feel like it should be separate from #1.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. On the amendment to strike the words "if and only if Warrant Article 1 passes".

School Board Member Stacy Milbouer

So I'd like to speak on behalf of the School Board and sort of the evolution. Steve was right, when we started out with this whole thing it was just the CTE. So you've got to know that we weren't talking about all of this. It was just the CTE and we were all on board with it. So that's where this began, and then, at some point it was added that we would do the High School renovation. So remember, when we started out the safety issue

connected with the warrant article wasn't coming up. It was just the CTE and accepting those state funds. So when the committee came to us and said we want to add a renovation, again, we didn't want the town to think we were going for the CTE thing and, while we're at it, let's throw in the big renovation into one big warrant article. So our motivation was to be crystal clear transparent, that these were two separate things that came up separately. That was our intention. We felt if we would support both of these articles that they would both have a better chance of passing this way. This was our feeling at the time. I don't really have a problem at this point with separating them because remember, the safety issue wasn't initially a part of the initial plan. We are talking about a year or two ago when we came up with this strategy. Definitely opposed to it being into one article, I don't think that's fair. I guess I'm not that opposed to separating them at this point but that was our motivation initially.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Yes, sir, on the amendment.

Ed Peterson, Taunton Lane

I just want to know if there's any architectural structures that would add extra costs if we are not doing both amendments.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Question about the costs of the structural.

Principal Beals

I'll yield in a moment to our Architect and Construction Manager. A previous comment connected to yours Mr. Peterson is the connections of the different elements of construction. Please know, as the first slide in Warrant Article 1 indicated, roughly \$1.5 million dollars of sprinkler system is in Warrant Article 1, all of which is in the Alvirne renovation side. So there's a duplication. If only Article 2 passed in this process we would not have the money in that budget to pay for the sprinkler system, if only that article passed and the CTE did not. Additionally, we talked in the CT article about a brand new electrical infrastructure and I.T. infrastructure. Those are for the entire building. We would be building a system that was going to be large enough to not only accomplish everything in the CT, but everything at Alvirne. Again, in the "what if" scenario, Article 2 passes, Article 1 does not. We are in the electrical and I.T. world of over a million dollars that is no longer in Article 2. My opinion as a taxpayer and resident is that by separating this vote, they'll both fail. I urge you not to support the amendment.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Yes, sir, on the amendment.

Dave Morin, 29 Library Street

I speak in favor of the amendment. I do have a background in safety and what we're talking about with the safety of the children, I would caution everybody to be very careful what they say in public, where this is going to go or what the safety issues are within the school. It could lead to further problems later on. I've heard many, many people worried about the



safety of our children. I know what the problems are with the school. I had this discussion with Mr. Beals. I think this is the priority. The parents are saying that, the School Board is saying that, and the Principal is. We need to worry more about our safety than the other stuff. We just had Mr. Beals say it is going to cost us a lot of money if we don't do this. What is the priority, the money or the safety? Thank you.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Further discussion on the amendment to take out the words "if and only if Warrant Article 1 passes".

Peggy Huard, 13 David Drive

Do we have a number attributed to the security? I don't have the plans with me. Do we have a number?

Moderator Inderbitzen

A question if there is a number for the security part of the plan.

Principal Beals

I don't know specifically to your question but I'll start with the main entrance area.

Peggy Huard

If you could just get me a general idea, that'd be great.

Principal Beals

The new secure entrance/administration area and offices is approximately a \$2 million dollar project. If we add in to the safety, because it's also on that theme relative to the parking infrastructure, the safety lanes, etc. The site related costs broken down is approximately \$1.6 million dollars. Those two pieces, obviously are not representative of future or previous comments about what might be in Article 1 that isn't in Article 2.

Peggy Huard

So that's specifically Article 2. So for maybe \$3.6 million out of \$20 million to go to security, it seems like an illogical way to get security measures put in. So I disagree with the amendment and I wonder if it's that great of a security issue, why hasn't that been addressed up until now? Why is this coming through with this huge enormous warrant article? To ask the taxpayers for \$22 million to address \$3 million dollars, \$4 million dollars' worth of security issues seems extremely illogical to me. Thank you.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Further discussion on the amendment, to remove the words.

Ted Trost, 63 Rangers Drive

It seems to me that if we are going to tie Warrant Article 2 to Warrant Article 1 we're sending a message that safety's only important if we pass Warrant Article 1, the CTE Renovation. That doesn't make sense to me. I'm in favor of the amendment.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Any further discussion on the amendment? We still have discussion. This is just to remove the words, please stick to that.

Laurie Jasper, 83 Old Derry Road

I am rising to speak to the amendment. We have a School Board that we have voted into office. I don't always agree with you but I respect your opinions. I know that you've said two years went into this project and the two warrant articles were decided on as the best option to hopefully get both. I'd like to hear from the School Board members, if anyone would like to speak, about their opinion on this amendment. I know we've heard from a couple of them. Also, bringing up safety as a scare tactic right now is not the best way to get anything done. I remember back when there was a school board member several years ago who's no longer on the School Board, but there was a lot of talk and discussion about school safety. I know a lot of upgrades were done at that time. There are 39 entrance/exits to Alvirne? I question that. I wonder if that's actually true. I wonder how many of those are actually able to be opened and closed. I know that for fire safety you have to allow people to get out of the building as much as not letting bad people in. Of course I'm concerned about the children's safety, and maybe there are things that should be being addressed that aren't right now. \$3.6 million to upgrade, and maybe it's time to look at that as well, but if this is going to take care of all of that and more, I do not agree and I will not support this amendment. Sorry to the Selectman, but I believe the School Board and the powers that be there have done their due diligence.

The first article, there's a reason that it's one article and there's a reason for this one being article 2. What I think is the proper way to do this is to get out and get people motivated to get out to vote and to tell, and I know a lot of people are already doing that. But that's how you get people to vote. You don't remove language that's been worked on so hard that will potentially then blow up everything. I am also concerned and I want to know that the School Board is going to address those safety concerns that have just been brought up here when it hasn't been brought up in other places. I do agree with the previous speaker talking about safety and being careful what you talk about. Most of the safety issues should not be talked about in a public setting so no one, except those who are in charge, know how safe things are. Thank you very much.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Further discussion on the amendment.

Patty Langlais

I'm going to rise as a School Board member. So I'm going to address some of Mrs. Jasper's concerns. First of all, she's absolutely right about safety. Are any schools anywhere perfectly safe 100% of the time? Absolutely not. If you don't think that a kid can get in our school that's a student with a gun, you're wrong! You're all wrong! This isn't about safety. We were focusing on education. Is it great that we can do the safety piece along with this in the second warrant article? Of course. Is that school as safe as it can be right now? Yes it is! People saying it's not is ridiculous. The doors are locked down. Is it perfect? Absolutely not! Would we all wish it to be better? Of course. But the point is

that Article 1 is addressing a wonderful educational opportunity we have for our students, Article 2 we can tie it in and we can hit some of those marks that we want to hit. We did it in two separate articles because we wanted to take advantage of the State's generous 75% funding and get our CTE, and we didn't want the whole thing to be shot down because people thought the combination was going to be too much. We're very aware of Hudson's conservativeness. That's the way this town is. But please stop saying our schools are not safe because that's a falsehood and no school is safe anymore. You can all disagree with me, that's fine. But I'm telling you my kids went there, I felt safe there, my kids went through all the schools and I never had issue of them not being safe.

Moderator Inderbitzen

On the amendment please. Please be in order. Any more on the amendment.

*(Comment from the audience is inaudible)*

Moderator Inderbitzen

Mr. Luszey's already spoken to his amendment. Mr. Gasdia.

Gary Gasdia, 4 MacCann Road

So here's the thing. I understand on the surface what it looks like and what it looks like is this is great, we can all vote for this one and we're not going to be tied to number 1. But here's the reality, as Mr. Beals said. If we do that it is not going to pass because what's happening in this room right now is the ruse that I warned all of you about. We are focusing \$22 million dollars on safety and safety only and I believe it's important. I'm not going to go against my wife because anyone who's married knows that's a stupid idea. But, that is not the issue here. We are not coming up with \$22 million dollars so we can come up with \$3, but that's the ruse that I warned all of you about. This is what's happening. We're going to leave here and you're going to vote no because you're going to say, I'm not spending \$22 million bucks for just safety. No, look at the article. There's a million other things in there. This is the ruse. I warned you. I didn't think I was going to have to come back here. I thought it was going to happen on Facebook, but it still happened here.

Moderator Inderbitzen

On the amendment please, to remove the words "if and only if Warrant Article 1 passes". Yes, sir.

Philip MacSweeney, 10 Hickory Street

I've been a resident of Hudson since 1966 and a homeowner. The reason I'm speaking about this issue is that I think back to King Solomon. Cut the baby in half and those who don't want this or don't want that, they'll be happy with a dead child. The thing is that everything that has been asked for today in both articles, every detail, is entirely necessary. I've had four children who went through Alvirne, great. They have great lives, great futures. They didn't need the CTE but so many do. And the other thing that I want to say is that back when Mr. Beals was at Alvirne High School, I remember speaking in front of the audience here. There was somebody, conservative, who said the girls in Home Ec have to pay for the own eggs to cook and bake pies and cakes. And I stood up and I spoke and

fortunately it didn't pass. As ridiculous as turning down either of these things, so were the eggs! And that's all I have to say and good luck, and I hope that the rest of the community that didn't show, most of the people that are here are for everything that's here. A few aren't because they just aren't educated enough to realize all the details on both sides.

Moderator Inderbitzen

On the amendment Mr. MacSweeney.

Philip MacSweeney

I don't know what you want to do with the amendment but don't cut the baby in half. And whatever it takes to bring that about is entirely necessary. Sorry I raised my voice, I do have a little bit of a blood pressure issue after teaching English at Nashua High for 35 years.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Please be in order everyone, please be in order. We are talking about the amendment to remove the words.

Lindsey Benson, 13 Par Lane

I am completely against this amendment. I have volunteered a ton of my time over the past six months to try to disperse information about this project to the town. You might know me from the Renovations for Generation page, I'm the one that runs it. Seeing everyone here is so exciting. You don't know who's getting the information, you just know you click and send and hoping it comes across to people. If nothing else this project has unified us. I've sat in this room with nobody here and now look at all of us now. This amendment proposal just is literally, in my opinion, an attempt to poke a bear. It's an attempt to separate us. So I urge every single person in this room who is for this to disagree with this amendment. Thank you.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Any further discussion on the amendment, to remove the words "if and only if Warrant Article 1 passes"?

Karen Desjadon, 58 Highland Street

I am against the amendment. I want to thank you, the administration, so much for putting these presentations together for all of us. Make no mistake, what they are speaking about has been planned and researched thoroughly. All of this does not come together over night. This language has not been chosen arbitrarily. I think it's so important to recognize that all these obstacles and struggles that Mr. Beals is speaking about are the real trials of working at a high school today. Over the last sixteen years I've worked in two high schools, and his descriptions fit the trials in those schools as well. While I've not been in Alvirne during the school day I can tell you that he is not exaggerating and that this job needs to be done correctly. Not by adding a wing here or there, which has been done in our neighboring community. That only leads to problems in five years. It also does not provide the opportunities we want for our children. We want this to be completed in its entirety, not separately. Our community deserves a new space that accommodates the needs of all learners from a newborn to a senior citizen. We must have secure learning

spaces which start in the parking lot, continue to the classroom, and extend to extracurricular activities. All this has to happen together. I love the idea of this renovation because it gets to the heart of what a community should be.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Please stick to the amendment that we are removing or not removing the words. We can talk more on the article after we do this.

Karen Desjadon

Yup, I have two sentences, I promise. Hold on. I love the idea of this renovation because it gets to the heart of what a community should be. It's cyclical in nature, offering opportunities to each and every age group, and each and every person. Please vote in support of these two warrant articles together with the language as proposed.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. On the amendment.

**MOTION BY NORM MARTIN, SECOND BY SHAWN MURRAY, TO MOVE THE QUESTION.**

Moderator Inderbitzen

The motion is to close debate on amendment 1, which means we will take an immediate vote after we decide that. It's a 2/3 vote. The motion to move the question passes.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Moderator Inderbitzen

We will now take a vote on amendment #1. Amendment #1 says "if and only if Warrant Article 1 passes" we remove those words. If you are in favor of the amendment to remove the words, please raise your cards. All opposed? The amendment fails.

**AMENDMENT #1 FAILS**

Moderator Inderbitzen

We are now on Warrant Article #2 as worded, the original words, for further discussion.

Jeff Peterson, 32 Quail Run Drive

I have two daughters in Hudson public schools and for the last eleven years have been Social Studies Department Chair. Before being at Alvirne I was at Merrimack High School, which is a similar size and demographic to Alvirne. Merrimack has both a theater for their theater arts and concerts, and a double size gym for their athletics. Again, like Mr. Beals would say, I would say this is not a want but a need. We have one of, if not the best, music program in the State of New Hampshire. It's the second largest music program in the State of New Hampshire, second only to Londonderry. The Theater Arts program is excellent. Mrs. LaFrance, thank you. The facilities in which they have to do it are severely

limited, to say the least. We deserve a better place for our Theater Arts, our Music and Athletics programs than what we currently offer our students. Thank you.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Further discussion on Warrant Article #2.

Brian Lindsay, 111 Highland Street

I'd like to first state that I'm opposed to anything that doesn't bring it all new. Mr. Beals and I have talked about blowing it up and building new but I understand that it's not going to happen in this town. Can I make this fan interactive for second?

Moderator Inderbitzen

Direct your questions to me please Mr. Lindsay.

Brian Lindsay

What I'd like to know is how many people in this room have taken high level Social Studies, high level Math, high level English that have gone on in their life and not even touched any of that? Can I have a raise of hands please?

*(Inaudible comment from the audience)*

Moderator Inderbitzen

Well, it's a question he has of the body. If the body wishes to choose they could but...

Brian Lindsay

Does the body choose to acknowledge that anybody here that has not used high level calculus that they've taken in high school? My point to this is, I have six children, all of them ending up going through the Hudson school system. One is a Philosophy major right now looking to go to law school. One has graduated college with a Marketing & English degree. One is aspiring to be Musical/Theater Major. Now, are the English classes a need for the musical theater major? No. Are the high level calculus classes a need for the musical theater major? The answer to that is no. Is a very important and appropriate theater program and facility for that important to that person? Yes it is. The English Major, they don't need the high calculus but they take it anyway. So my point is a need to you is different than a need to me. So to sit here, and the people around town are saying a theater is a want, not a need. That is false. A need is different to everybody that goes through everything in life, so please keep that in mind when you vote. Needs are individual. Nobody's needs are the same.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Further discussion on Warrant Article 2.

Ken Kleiner, 15 Sand Hill Road

I think I mentioned earlier that we have three children, two of them have gone through the Hudson school system, including Alvirne. All three of them have been, or are involved in the music program, and I wanted to talk a bit about that and how it relates to this warrant

article with the proposed auditorium. I've gone to many, many concerts in elementary school, middle school and high school, as some of you may have gone. You may have sat in a hot, very hot, middle school gym, possibly warm high school gym and elementary school watching concerts. It's not really about our comfort. We're uncomfortable when we watch these shows because it's hot and everything, but it's really not about us and it's not about our comfort and how we are feeling when we watch the concerts. It's really more about the kids and what they're doing and what they're experiencing. For example, when Alvirne has a concert, three days before that concert or Cabaret, which is coming up in March, for three days the Athletic Department, the P.E. department are giving up their classroom for set up and delivery of the concert. And that's like asking the Chemistry Department to please give up your classroom for three days while we do something else in your room. It just doesn't seem right. There's a lot of work that has to take place in order to pull off a concert and to set up the chairs and have the kids practice on the stage. It takes a lot of work and having an auditorium for that would really solve a lot of that problem. The auditorium could also be used to help the middle school kids and the elementary school kids. They could play there in front of an audience. Think about how a middle school kid would feel playing in front of an audience in a state of the art auditorium where they have access to the music, the sound. They would really feel blessed, I think, by that. That makes a big difference to how a kid feels about music.

It's interesting, when my son decided to join music, my oldest ten years ago, I said "music, why do you want to play music?" I'm not musical, my wife, sorry I don't know if you're musical or not, but I thought Band? Why do they want to be in Band? I was thinking back to band in High School. Well, Band now is huge. Band, more than anything else, Band and Chorus, gives you the ability to learn how to interact with other people, with other teams, be a part of a team and be an individual also, an individual contributor. So music is a huge part of a student's life. I've had people say to me what do we need an auditorium for, you're doing fine in the gym. But I think I just mentioned why. There's a lot of things that have to happen to pull a concert off, and having a place where that just happens is a huge part. It could also be used, obviously, for community center events. But another part of having an auditorium is if you have kids in the school that want to learn about sound recording, they want to learn about sound mixing, lighting and all those types of things, they can do that with an auditorium. State of the art mixing boards, they can sit there and learn. That's another class, possibly, that they could possibly benefit from. So I want to just recommend that this is all a good idea. It really gives us all another place to hang out and watch concerts at and I really hope you'll think about that and think about the impact it will have on the kids and their education. Thank you.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Further discussion on Warrant Article #2.

Jim Wilkins, 112 Belknap

I apologize for not having prepared an exciting and entertaining performance but I simply have a financial question. If these all pass where does that put our indebtedness relative to the State's recommendations?

Moderator Inderbitzen

Question of indebtedness if the two articles pass. Ms. Burnell? She is probably getting a coffee. When we are done with this article we will take a break. I've had two coffees, I need a break. There was question concerning our indebtedness if both articles pass. Mr. Wilkins, was that your question:

Jim Wilkins

Yes, relative to the State's recommendations. I believe they have a maximum.

Business Manager Karen Burnell

So the State indebtedness does not let us exceed 10%. We would not even be close. The Town of Hudson, at this point, does not have a lot of indebtedness.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Further discussion, Warrant Article #2.

Patty Langlais

You already know who I am. I'm speaking as a mother this time that has had two students that have gone through the Theater program at Alvirne so I have been a part of that program for the past ten years. I'm speaking on behalf of the auditorium because as you can all see, I've probably never stepped foot in a gym, although I think the gym is a wonderful idea. You've listened and listened but I just want to give you a couple of facts that you may not realize about our theater program. Our theater program is wonderful. Our kids do everything from teching, sound boards, lights, all themselves, which is extremely unusual for high school students. Most high schools do not allow their students to do that, so for us that's such an advantage because there's so many careers they can go in. I have a daughter who's a sophomore in college and, I will tell you that I am not a stupid person, so I pay \$55,000 per year to send her to school for theater. There must be a reason why I do that because I'm not stupid, because I know there's a career in it. I want to let you know at Alvirne this is what happens for our theater students. Did you realize that the costume closet for the theater department right now is shared with the custodians? Did you realize that all the costumes smell like urinal cakes? Because they do. Did you realize that for ten years the students have worked to make platforms, which are the things that you put on the stage, and stairs and pieces for sets that we use every time a production goes on? For ten years we saved, we fundraised, we have never gotten anything in the budget except for the past 2 ½ years where we have now received \$5,000. Before that we got \$0. So this was all hard work from parents and husbands making this. Do you realize that two years ago all of that got thrown out because it happened to be stored in the Building Trades, and nobody realized it was for theater and thought it was just trash? So ten years of hard work and a lot of money got thrown in a dumpster, so they've had to start all over again. My point being is that they have no home. They have no place to be. This is a valuable program. You probably don't realize, there's Summer Shakespeare that goes on every year. That's an unfunded program as well, or used to be, now we just fund for the staff. My daughter just got accepted into the Commonwealth Shakespeare's program, which is extremely prestigious, and she was only able to do this because of the people at Alvirne and that program. So I highly encourage you to support Article 2. Thank you.



Moderator Inderbitzen

Further discussion, Article 2.

Joshua Carter, 9 Jackson Drive

I'm coming to you as a Class Act alumni of the Thespian Troupe 6986, and also the 2012/2013 President of the AHS Concert Band. I'm here today to speak in favor of the renovations proposed at Alvirne High School. I was born and raised here in Hudson. I attended Library Street School from first grade to fifth before it was joined with Dr. H.O. Smith. I was a short and quiet kid coming home from school at 3:30 in afternoon, I would do my homework immediately before going outside in search of friends to play with. So I was kind of almost an outcast. So throughout middle school I would try to stay in the background, even though I desperately wanted to be noticed. I'll admit I became a bit of a teacher's pet, as their positive remarks on my assignments seemed to pacify my need for validation. I remember constantly thinking to myself, is that what I'm meant to be? Am I that awkward kid in those movies that never really gets a chance to shine? The first semester of my freshmen year of high school was about as much of a repeat as all of middle school, socially. Luckily, I made two key friendships that would forever change my life, Kimmy Mayer and Matthew Gleason. Matt and Kimmy brought me into the Class Act family, the theater program here at Alvirne. I had been friends with Kimmy since 8<sup>th</sup> grade, but Matt I had only met that year in Mrs. LaFrance's Honors English class. Together we three began exploring the world of technical theater, lights, sound and costume. After completing my first show I was entirely hooked. For the first time in my life I felt like I was on a team that cared just as much as I did on a common objective. We then went to a bunch of different workshops and theater conferences to advance our skills in technical theater. When we came back our shows took on a whole new level of performance. We began playing with projections and lighting. In Blythe Spirit we created the spectral ghost on stage. In the Laramie Project we brought the stage from the main fiscal form down to the gymnasium floor so that our audience could be with us and not just observers. Not only did we learn cool new tricks, we also learned practical methods of forming notes, organizing ideas and being efficient, you know, things that jobs these days ask for. During Months on End I had decided to sit that show out and focus on work and school. Because I was a Tech Director of the Class Act Board, I still needed to check in and see how things were going.

Moderator Inderbitzen

I will ask you to please stick to Warrant Article 2, whether in favor. I understand the story but we do have to move along. Sorry.

Joshua Carter

No problem. My main point to this entire story that I was going to share is that we've hit a roadblock in Alvirne Technical Theater. I've been part of them as a volunteer, registered in Hudson schools. We just can't perform any higher than we are at right now. Our light design on the stage is very small compared to what is possible for us. Our sound is terrible. As someone who was focused on sound design the most, there's only so much we can do for acoustics there. There's an immediate drop off in sound because of the gymnasium.

These renovations that are being proposed will not only allow better quality theater to be brought to everyone in Hudson but it will allow the kids to really do what they want to do. As a performer and an artist myself I wanted to give the Town of Hudson, a place that I love and I love being here, I just want to give you guys the performance that you want to see. And I know that's what I know a lot of these kids that I've worked with want to do. So by supporting this article you will not only be able to bring light to this school with a new gymnasium, a new CTE program, and a new theater, but you'll also give the kids a gift to be able to give back to you in performance.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Further discussion on Warrant Article #2.

Courtney Langlais, 22 Stonewood Lane

Thanks mom for saying those things about me. That was very nice. So I don't have a script, so improv today, which is theater. I'm here to speak in favor of, and more specifically, the auditorium part of this. Like my mother, I'm not very athletic. I just want to say that I do feel that there is a need for this auditorium. I have worked professionally already as an actress last summer, and this summer I am doing it again. People would say that you don't need an auditorium. This isn't a career choice. This is a career choice. There are many different aspects that you can go into for this. For example, for me Dramaturgy is very important, which combines my major in History as well as Theater. So it's not just about performing on the stage, it's about everything that happens behind the scenes as well. Again, repeating from before, the sound is awful in the gymnasium. I invite you all to come to a tech rehearsal for one of the shows at the High School so that you can watch the entire set be built on the gym floor and the hallways. It is not a great space for that. Having the theater program honestly teaches the kids not only about memorizing lines but it also helps with their confidence, and it give kids who previously have not had a place in the High School to find where they belong. And that's extremely important because if you don't have that, where are those kids going to go? That's their entire support system. That's their family. If I didn't have that I can tell you that I wouldn't be where I am today. Thank you so much. Please vote in favor of Article 2.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Further discussion, Warrant Article #2.

Nicole St. Germaine, 20A Bockes Road

Just like the previous speaker, Class Act was my high school family. I didn't fit in really anywhere and I was very, very driven to become a Firefighter. So Article #1, CTE that was great. I had programs here for that. I found Class Act because I needed something to do with my life. They were so much more than that. They are so much more than a theater program. They really are. No matter what you do people need a space to do it. All they want for their kids is to progress them. Right now in the Theater space, we can't progress. Mrs. LaFrance and Mrs. Dennis try to push theater boundaries so much and we've hit a roadblock. There's only so much we can do on a gym floor or on a stage where we have to cram everything in to two days. I don't know if you've seen a theater show but we build our set in two days. We've build classrooms and offices in two days. We ask people to

build in months. And our costume closet smells like urinals. I'm telling you that the space between this microphone and this chair, that's all you have to walk in. It's all clothes. You have no room to move and it's five feet above your head to have an actual space to work and to make. Maybe that will lower our theater budget because we have a place we can make things. We don't have to go to Goodwill and try and scrape by. We'll have a place where people belong. We'll have a place where people can do what they love and create and just make things.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Further discussion on Warrant Article #2.

Mr. Moderator, I would like to request permission to speak as a student, though an unregistered voter at this time?

Moderator Inderbitzen

If there's objection? Yes, your name please?

Kaylie Shaughnessy

I am a current senior at Alvirne High School and an active member of the Band as a Drum Major, and in the Theater as an actor and technician. I'm here today as an advocate for these programs to discuss the benefits of the expansion project being proposed at the High School. As many of you know Alvirne has developed strong music and theater programs over the years. We currently use the gym to put on the Holiday and Spring Concert series, as well as various theater productions throughout the year, including the Spring Musical. Preparing for these events involves countless hours of setting up and breaking down our set pieces, folding chairs for audiences like this kind of setup. We need to ensure the safety of our guests by taping down every electrical wire that we run across the gym floor. We are thankful for the volunteers and parent who assist with this. However, with an auditorium we could spend more time preparing stronger, more attractive set pieces for performances and not have to worry about taking an hour to away from our rehearsal time to set up. This space would also allow for larger crowds for such performances, more comfortable seating for our audiences, as opposed to the folding plastic chairs, and a professional atmosphere that would not disrupt the athletics department.

A few months prior to the Spring Musical the Music Department works diligently to put up our annual Cabaret show, the Town's most popular event. We've transformed the gym into an elaborately decorated showroom to fit each year's theme. Nearly every year all three Cabaret shows sell out, leaving an unlucky bunch without access. Not only would the auditorium be useful to the program, but a new larger gym would be able to accommodate a bigger audience in a spacious setting without covering every inch of the floor with tables and chairs. A new auditorium will not only benefit the students of Alvirne High but it will benefit the community as well. Community events, such as this one, could be held in the auditorium easily. We have many events that would be able to take advantage of the auditorium space. Elementary school concerts, at Hills Garrison there is a cafetorium right now that doubles as their music classroom. The Middle School concerts which have the gymnasium as well as a cafetorium, the stage bridges across them. There's Middle

School Honors Band Festivals, All State Festivals and Theater Festivals, for which our students have to travel out of town and sometimes out of state to attend. Several of our students are actually at Pinkerton Academy at the Jazz All State Festival right now. It could also be rented out for local dance studios to host their annual recitals and other events hosted by local business, which would in turn boost revenue.

Alvirne High School currently has about a quarter of its students participating in performing arts programs. With the appropriate resources and dedicated venue for us to perform the number could grow and in turn, allow us to put on better performances and attract larger crowds. This would also make the Town of Hudson more attractive to younger families who are just starting out and looking to move to a community with updated school facilities. In closing, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today, and as a soon to be registered voter, I hope you will join me on March 13<sup>th</sup> and vote yes on Article 2. Thank you.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Further discussion. Warrant Article 2.

Dianna LaMothe, 21 St. Laurent Drive

With Warrant Article 2 we hear a lot of talk about buildings, which is expected and necessary. I'm standing up here today and I've volunteered many hours on the Ren for Gen Committee because to me it's much more than just buildings. Clearly there's a safety benefit to new entrances but I'd like to point out the benefits of the gymnasium and auditorium that are sometimes looked at as being optional. I'll speak more specifically about the gym because athletics has been a big part of my children's upbringing and I can speak more directly to that. I think my comments could relate to both. Both my children went to Presentation of Mary Academy through eighth grade, so when they came to Alvirne they were coming into basically a new school system. My son graduated from Alvirne last year, my daughter is a freshman there this year. I love Alvirne. I have no doubt that sports helped to make that transition seamless. Sports provides a common ground for kids to connect on. We heard it from a previous speaker with the Performing Arts.

*(This section of audio/video is garbled and cuts off the remainder of Dianna LaMothe and skips to the next person speaking mid conversation)*

Laurie McDermott, 19 Glen Drive

*(garbled audio/video)* the basketball teams are shuffled all over town. One day that week she had to be at the Nashua Sports Academy, out on Amherst Street to play basketball to practice, and also at Rivier College to practice, also at the Community Center. So these kids are driving around to all these different gyms because they need gym space because the band and chorus are using them for the concerts. Now if you're somebody that's in both you are driving across town to basketball practice, driving back across town to use the gym for the concert. There's just not enough space. We have six just basketball teams playing in that one gym so there's three boys and three girls basketball teams. But at the same time you have the wrestling season, the cheerleading season, the indoor track season, and gymnastics. All these people have to find places to practice. When you add in the

concerts or the other events that happen at the gym it becomes a logistical nightmare. So again, I also think, as the auditorium would be a fantastic space that the rest of the community could use for events like having other band concerts or other things like that, the gym is also that way. We've all had kids go through Rec. Department programs, trying to find gym space for their basketball programs. So it would be a benefit for the community as a whole to have this extra gym space.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Further discussion, Warrant Article #2.

Peggy Huard, 13 David Drive:

First of all I'd like to applaud the Class Act for putting on such outstanding performances in the (*inaudible*) conditions they have. I have been to, a Shrek performance is an outstanding high school performance. So I can only imagine what they can do with the outstanding, extraordinary renovations and additions. I rise in great ambivalence to this warrant article because my son is due to start his freshman year next year. And so on the first hand I think, Oh wow, that would be great, a brand new high school but then I say, wait a second, he has to go to school for three years in the crappy conditions that you guys have all been describing to me. So what am I supposed to do? Yes, I want a new school but I want it now and I can't have it now. I have to agree with Mr. Lindsay that I would love to see it start from scratch and a brand new school. So it's just concerning that this is the only alternative that has been presented to us. I would double my taxes for a brand new school, but a renovated old school is still an old school. I can't get past the fact that my son is going to be going to school there in three of the most crucial years of his life in complete chaos, and I'm still going to have to pay the same taxes.

As far as the focus of the warrant article, once again we are focused on some special interest groups and not enough on general education. I hear the pleas for theater, I hear the pleas for sports. My son participates in both. He has participated for all four years at the Middle School in the Drama Club and I hope he would participate in the High School. He's participated in the extracurricular activity, the Town recreational sports, and I hope he would participate in High School as well. However, the cost of these items in relationship to what the general population isn't getting; we're still without textbooks, we're still struggling to get children to pass grades. I hear children going on to the High School with all failing grades in Middle School. I hear about children being bullied in high school to the point they're in tears. I have several families reporting that to me. So to spend this kind of money, I'm at a loss. Because on one hand, yes I would have loved it for the four years for my son. On the other hand I say we aren't doing it right to begin with. Is this renovation actually going to change anything? Thank you.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Further discussion, Warrant Article #2.

Alex Tarlavsky, 101 Barbara Lane

I'll try to be brief. Everybody speaks about the individual needs and their families and how they've gone through this wonderful program at school, etc. etc. etc. Let's speak about the

specifics of two articles that we're here to discuss. They're actually all in one. There's no way to truly separate them. Article 1 will have funding eventually from the state. It's almost guaranteed, just take it for granted. Doing them separate will increase the cost twofold at least from my experience knowing how the things are built and how much they cost. So we need to go for two of them as one. Think about it. It's an investment. It's not just an investment in our kids, it's an investment in our community that will reflect in property values and eventually will lower your taxes. I'll explain how it's going to help. That's happening in many other places around the country. So when you make an investment in your community, and the school is the focal point, the people moving in are very dedicated and they like to have the best what they paid for. Those are the people that go around that are well educated, well skilled, and that will bring business, serious business. Not just retail or fire house or some other simple business to our community. Those businesses will pay the major portion of town expenses. That's why we need to vote for number one and number two, because the future is in business coming in. The business that will require the educated and skilled force, and the only way to do it is to improve the school. The only way to improve the school right now, it's not to build from scratch because you're not going to get anything from the State. Take whatever they give you, start doing it. As we go we can improve. We need to invest now because there's no better time than now. Don't wait for anything. It might cost a little bit to begin with but then you reap the benefits of it very, very soon. All of your kids or your future grandkids will be well rounded people, because if they're not they will never succeed anywhere. Theater is important, math is important, CTE is important. They will feed off each other. Believe me, they will benefit everybody. And the people in the CTE, they are the mentors that your kids are going to need in life. The people with real experience. Academics is not the solution, not 100% solution for success. You need the mentors. CTE provides that. Theater will bring in the mentors to expand their horizons. They need that. Everything has to fall in place so please vote yes for two, vote yes for one, and please invest now. Don't be fooled by anything else, don't go into politics about this or anything else. It's secondary. Politics are secondary. Think about what you are putting your money into. The money you are putting into school will return trifold or five fold, you pick the number. Just put the money in right now. This is the time to do it and I can ask to just to wrap up the discussion that has been going on for too long.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you Mr. Tarlovsky. Next in order, please. On the Warrant Article #2.

Tom Barrett, 37 Winnhaven Drive:

Make a motion to move the discussion.

**MOTION BY TOM BARRETT, SECONDED BY MALCOLM PRICE, TO MOVE THE QUESTION.**

Moderator Inderbitzen

Motion made to move the question. Malcolm seconded, Mr. Price. That's to cut off debate on Warrant Article #2. This vote requires two-thirds. We're going to cut off debate. If you vote yes we'll finish the debate on Article 2 and it will go to the ballot. If you vote no

*(a comment from the audience regarding people in line to speak)* the motion's been made, I have to take it, it's non-debatable. The body has a choice if they want to hear some more people then they would vote no on this. You have that choice. If you are in favor of cutting off debate on Warrant Article 2 please raise your cards. Thank you. Those opposed to cutting off debate. The ayes have it. Motion carries. Article 2 is moved to the ballot.

### **MOTION CARRIED**

Lee Lavoie

Mr. Moderator, can I make a motion to restrict reconsideration of Article 2?

### **MOTION BY LEE LAVOIE, SECONDED BY MALCOLM PRICE, TO RESTRICT RECONSIDERATION OF ARTICLE 2.**

Moderator Inderbitzen

Motion by Mr. Lavoie, second by Mr. Price. Mr. Lavoie moves to restrict reconsideration, seconded by Mr. Price. That motion is just a simple majority but that would prevent this article from being brought up again later in the meeting. All those in favor of restricting reconsideration of Article 2 raise your cards. Those opposed? Thank you. Article 2 is restricted. We will take a break.

### **MOTION CARRIED**

### **WARRANT ARTICLE 3**

#### **Operating Budget**

**Shall the Hudson School District vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant article and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by the vote at the first session for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$53,195,295? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget will be \$53,121,082, which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Hudson School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting under RSA 40:13X and XVI to take up a revised operating budget only. Recommended by the Hudson School Board 5-0, Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-2. I will recognize the Budget Committee Chairman Mr. Trost to begin the Warrant Article 3 Budget.**

Ted Trost

Thank you Mr. Moderator. Thank you all who stayed here for the second portion of today's meeting. This year's budget, as the Moderator mentioned, is \$53,195,295. That budget represents the amounts that input was given by the department heads to the School Board. The School Board then made whatever changes they felt were appropriate and then passed it on to the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee then made whatever changes the Budget Committee felt were prudent at the time and today, it is your opportunity to make any changes if you would like or then it goes on to the ballot for the voters to decide yes or no. I'd like to introduce this year's Budget Committee if I may. My Vice-Chair

Normand Martin, the Clerk Joe Fernald, Jim Barnes, the Selectmen's representative alternate Dave Morin, Bob Guessferd, Shawn Murray, Lori Robicheau-Pagan, Grace Hopkins, and not with us today is Andy Levin. I'd also like to recognize the School Board liaison Malcolm Price who is sitting with the School Board today but is an active part of the Budget Committee. Thank you all.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. I'll now recognize the Chairman of the School Board, Mr. Lavoie on Warrant Article 3, the Operating Budget.

Lee Lavoie

Good afternoon now. The proposed budget was created through a joint effort between each school SAU staff, the School Board, and the Budget Committee. The proposed budget reflects an increase of \$120,052, or less than 1%. The anticipated tax rate will be \$13.10. After taking all the funds into account, as well as anticipated revenues, the town's appropriation will increase by \$905,126. The increase in the general fund, combined with the decrease in revenue, will result in a tax increase of \$0.29 cents. The default budget is \$74,000 less than the proposed budget. Areas of contract obligations within the general fund include \$794,590 in salaries, \$540,061 in benefits, and \$126,889 in transportation. The above obligations equals an amount greater than the total increase in the budget. Excluding their contractual obligations the general fund budget is down \$1,185,875. The budget begins with the district administration who's on the School Board. The administration made budget increases of \$22,756 to the general fund. The Budget Committee, in turn, made \$410,798 in additional cuts to the operating budget. The community combined tax rate, in comparison with other communities in the region, remains the lowest. Cost per pupil state average is \$15,311 for fiscal year 2017. So \$15,311 is the average for state wide. Cost per pupil in Hudson is \$12,998. This is grossly under the state average in comparison to other communities. Mr. Moderator, with your permission can I introduce my School Board.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Yes, I'm sorry, I kind of went over that in the beginning because we started so late, but please do.

Lee Lavoie

Sitting next, Superintendent Larry Russell, School Board Vice-Chair Patty Langlais, School Board Member Stacy Milbouer, School Board Member Malcolm Price, and I personally sent Darcy on her way. Her daughter is competing in the Jazz thing today and I said, you need to be there for your daughter, so blame me if she's not here. Karen Burnell, our Business Administrator, and our Attorney Gordon Graham. And gone now is Dillon Pinard who was our School Board Rep from Alvirne High School, and Gail Porter is our Administrative Assistant. Thank you.



Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Warrant Article 3, we will now open the floor to questions, comments, discussions, or amendments on Warrant Article 3, the Operating Budget. Anyone wishing to address Warrant Article 3?

Lindsey Benson, 13 Par Lane

My family moved to Hudson about six years ago. We have a first grader and we have three year old twins at Library Street School. I just had a flashback looking up at the cost per pupil that you just shared because I was sitting in these seats when I first moved here and I remember looking at that because I was new to the community and I thought, wow that's low. And then I remember kind of feeling like everyone was proud of it. So anyways I just had a flashback. I'm still fighting here for our kids and to build up our schools and to really reach the full potential that I know our community has. But the reason I'm standing here is to talk about Warrant Article 3.

Recently I participated in the Budget deliberations of the School and Budget Committee. I did want to start by thanking the elected members for their time and consideration when they went through the budget to try and find areas of savings. I learned that they made a variety of cuts when they were given the budget from the School Board, their recommended budget, they made some cuts. They reduced the total budget that was recommended to them by the School Board by \$400,000, which basically was targeting the fund balance. We were reassured that these cuts would not impact students or instruction. However, the Town might be learning that when it comes to my kids I just don't take what someone says at face value. I've got to do some digging, I've got to find the facts, and then I have to share it with as many people in town as possible to make sure that we can make an informed decision. Standing here today I can't see how these cuts could possibly not impact our students, because there are certain obligations that need to be paid for.

So let's talk about some of the areas that were reduced in the budget. Snow plowing: We have to factor in snow removal into our budget. We live in New Hampshire. Apparently there's been talk that the Town wants to collaborate with the Schools on this and I actually think that's an amazing idea. However, I would love to see a collaborative session on TV, maybe a discussion about that before we start cutting systems that we already have in place. Another area that was reduced by \$50,000 was transportation of homeless students. This transportation is mandated by law, and the cost has risen and fluctuated in the past four years between \$40,000 and \$140,000. So where will the money come from if the cost exceeds the now reduced budget?

Another area affected by the cuts is Health Insurance Buffer. The teachers and staff have a contract, and what if someone gets married or has a child? Where will that money come from to pay for this change? Lastly, what if it's a cold year as it was, remember those few weeks in December this year, I don't want to think about them again, but what if we do have another cold year and rates inevitably change and become more expensive. The reduced utilities account might not be able to cover it. So again, all these things will add up and will need to be paid for. The money will have to come from somewhere. So yes, maybe the reductions weren't made directly in the accounts that impact instruction, but all

the things that I listed above will need to be paid for. Those funds will have to come from somewhere.

I was told that these cuts were meant to send a message to the School Board to better budget and to stop taxing our taxpayers. At what sacrifice though? The Budget Committee said they wouldn't attack instruction but where else could the money transfer from when these other obligations come up? Do we really want to risk short changing our kids which, come on guys, lowest cost per pupil pretty much in the state. Can we possibly risk that more cuts? Of course we can't, which is why I'm recommending an amendment to Warrant Article 3, the School District Operating Budget, with additions to restore the reduced accounts as follows, and I'll read through them but I also do have

Moderator Inderbitzen

You got up to speak. You can't speak and make an amendment at the same time, so someone else will have to come forward and make an amendment. But you can tell what your recommendations are if you wish. You can finish speaking Mrs. Benson. You can say what your recommendations are.

Lindsey Benson

Thank you. Here are my recommendations and I do have, Mr. Moderator, a second page that I can give you with the numbers if you'd like.

Snow Plowing -	\$ 87,528
Health Insurance Buffer -	\$100,000
Homeless Transportation -	\$ 50,000
Utility Gas -	\$ 65,000
Utility Electric -	\$ 25,000
Total	\$327,528

These dollar amounts, in case anyone was wondering, are based on the cuts that were made for the snow plowing, health insurance buffer and homeless transportation that I've gathered from both my observations at the Budget Committee Public Hearing as well as through the School District. The Utility numbers are based on reviewing past usage. I am supporting some reduction to that last account, the utility one, but not to the extent that was supported by the Budget Committee. I'm asking everyone to please support our students, our school district staff and the school budget. We shouldn't have to fight this hard for the money the school needs to do their jobs, especially over \$327,000. That is minimal for our kids. Thank you.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Further discussion, Warrant Article #3.

Peggy Huard, 13 David Drive

Where do I begin? While the School District has a legal obligation to provide certain services there is no dollar value tied to that. They do not have a right to override internal controls. They're still required to go through the bidding process. I personally, year after

year after year, pull actual detail. So I compare what they've spent against what they're requested. The rise in the homeless transportation is incredible, without disclosing confidentiality in any way. But we have \$30,000 to transport one student, and in Parent Choice Charter School to Pembroke, NH, we have \$50,000 to transport one student. Among some of the other accounts there are astronomical expenses that do not show due diligence prudence on behalf of this school district. So not cutting transportation, but something has to be done to take control of the rising cost. To add back the \$400,000, that's peanuts, but it's the principle. I can double my taxes for the right expenses. We could double your budget and you still wouldn't get education right, because you are missing something. You're missing a very small component. There are children failing, children being bullied and you are not correcting it. You don't know how to correct it. You've been given recommendations, suggestions. You just don't cut it. So I don't care what we give you, you'll still have the same flaws.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Further discussion on Warrant Article 3.

Katlyn DeLuca, 15 Hickory Street

I actually didn't intend on speaking today but I do agree with a lot of the things that one of the prior speakers had said. I do have a daughter who's in HMS and a son who's in private school because my experience with my daughter going through the elementary school was trying. She has dyslexia and going through the process with the Special Education Department was extremely trying on my part. They will not give her an IEP because she is not failing. She tries her hardest to get the grades she does. This district does not focus on our children. Cutting their budget further so that they have to find ways to say no, we're not going to help you because your child is not failing yet, is something that I cannot get on board with. My son is on the other side of the coin where he's very, very advanced. This district, again, does not have the support set in place to help those students. Those students are bored and getting in trouble because they're not interested in the classroom. So I guess at this point I don't agree with anything that would cut our budget further. If anything I think we should add to it. Thank you.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you.

Kristina Young, 7 Telolian Drive

I am recommending an amendment to Warrant Article 3, the School District Operating Budget, with additions to restore the reduced accounts as follows:

Snow Plowing by \$87,528  
Health Insurance Buffer by \$100,000  
Homeless Transportation by \$50,000  
Utility Gas by \$65,000  
Utility Electric by \$25,000  
Totaling \$327,528

**MOTION BY KRISTINA YOUNG, SECONDED BY PATTY LANGLAIS, TO AMEND WARRANT ARTICLE 3 BY RESTORING \$327,528 TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OPERATING BUDGET.**

Moderator Inderbitzen

We have a second, Mrs. Langlais. Let me read the amendment. To add in to the items, \$87,528 for snow plowing, and the intent is to add it for those amounts even though the School Board can move money around how they wish, \$100,000 for Health Insurance, \$50,000 for Homeless Transportation, \$65,000 and \$25,000 for the utilities, totaling \$327,528. That is the amendment, to add that amount to the budget. We are going to deal with just that amendment. The total amount is \$327,528. Everyone has to understand that you're changing the bottom line. It's up to the School Board as to where those monies are applied. So we're going to just deal with the bottom line. You can talk about the issue because that's the way you presented it. So Ms. Young, if you wanted to speak to your amendment? No? Mrs. Langlais, you are the seconder, would you want to speak to the amendment? Ok, you are deferring to Mrs. Milbouer. Ok, on the amendment now.

Stacy Milbouer

So I'm going to talk about the amendment in general. If the amendment doesn't go through... first of all, I'd like to go back and say that we were very, very conservative with our budget this year. It was basically, I don't want to say flat lined, that sounds like dead. Most of our budget comes from mandated salaries, etc. I just want to go back and mention this so it is a little complicated. If this does not go through, if we do not get this money put back in, and we carefully looked at all these things. I mentioned this at the budget meeting we were down to paper clips, in terms of what we were cutting. So if this money does not go through, let's just take Homeless Transportation for example. I believe the figure we projected was \$88,000. We would have to take that money from somewhere else. All of this money has to be taken from somewhere else, and that would include things like teacher's salaries, it could be textbooks, it could be computers, it could be musical instruments, it could be football uniforms. This is going to come out of something. It directly affects the children. This is mandated. We have to pay the \$88,000 for this, for example. The insurance difference between single or family plan. We have to do that, it's contractual. So this isn't something that isn't... it's a state mandate that we pay that, the Homeless Transportation. It is an unfunded mandate for the State, we still have to pay that money. They don't care if it's unfunded. We've got to come up with it. Coming out of books, maybe. Coming out of something in your kids' classroom. Do we have money budgeted for books in our budget? Absolutely. But we're going to have to get that money from somewhere. We can't counterfeit it. I know people will say things like we have our hand out here at the School Board because we have such a lush lifestyle here. The reality is, I don't have a player in the game anymore in the school district. I care about the kids in this district, we all do. But we were very conservative. We couldn't get any more conservative and so I support this amendment because if we don't get this money, it's going to come out of something that you're going to care a lot about. Thank you.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Ok, on Amendment #1, to speak on the addition of \$327,528. Yes sir.

Dave Morin, 29 Library Street

I stand against this amendment. I have several questions if you just want to get someone up there that can answer them.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Well, ask the questions and we'll see who will respond.

Dave Morin

Ok, the first one is, before we had the current plowing contract who was taking care of the plowing for the schools?

Moderator Inderbitzen

The town was.

Dave Morin

Ok, and how much was that, what was the cost to the schools for plowing?

Moderator Inderbitzen

The Business Administrator will be there?

Karen Burnell

Prior to us having a contract to do the plowing, salting and sanding for the school district, the Town took care of our plowing, salting and sanding. The Town did hire an outside contractor. I am under the understanding that they spent anywhere from \$8,000 to \$40,000 in those years. I didn't bring the exact numbers, but I will say that we did meet with the Town after the money was cut from the budget and, although they hired an outside contractor, they also had their own equipment to add in to. So if the plow trucks couldn't keep up they had town equipment. That isn't what we have in our district.

Dave Morin

Ok, so I know the Town posted \$25,000 a year to plow your schools. Obviously they went from \$8,000 to \$40,000. Every year except the \$40,000 year, it came under the \$25,000, am I correct? I am correct, I'll just answer that for you.

Moderator Inderbitzen

That's something the School Board doesn't have, that information.

Karen Burnell

That is a correct statement if you are saying it is, what they paid for an outside contractor.

Dave Morin

I'm not asking an outside contractor. I'm asking how much was the contract with this Town to plow the schools?

Karen Burnell

We did not have a contract.

Dave Morin

You had a hand shake.

Karen Burnell

A verbal.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Direct the questions through here Mr. Morin.

Dave Morin

I'm trying to but we're walking around the question here.

Karen Burnell

We had a verbal agreement with the town.

Dave Morin

Ok. What does the School Department have for plowing equipment?

Karen Burnell

We have three plow trucks.

Dave Morin

What else?

Karen Burnell

We have three plow trucks. I didn't bring my notes. We have a Bobcat, and I don't remember what else we have.

Dave Morin

Ok, you have three plow trucks, a bobcat with a very large snow plow, and a snow blower, and you also have sand trucks.

Karen Burnell

We have one sander.

Dave Morin

Ok, you have a sand truck. What are you paying right now for the contract for the private contractor to do the schools?

Karen Burnell

The School District went out to bid for a contract, of which the lowest bid came in at \$70,000 plus additional costs, for if we needed additional sand or things like that. So the total in the budget was \$88,000.

Dave Morin

So we could have gotten done with our own town equipment at about \$25,000 versus \$80,000, where the town Highway Department also has sand and salt that they would supply to do the parking lots. Am I correct?

Karen Burnell

That's your assumption.

Moderator Inderbitzen

You can make your own assumptions Mr. Morin. You ask the questions and we'll try to answer them.

Dave Morin

But I am. It's making a point here that we can do this through the town for a lot less than the \$80,000.

Karen Burnell

Excuse me, we did meet with the Town. We met with the Road Agent. He did state that at this time he could not go back to doing it for the School District. At that time he had, I believe it was 32 employees. He only has 26 employees at this time. He said it could never go back to the way it was. He did say that we could come to some type of agreement where we would have to have our own trucks or lease our trucks or whatever we were going to do and that he could supply us with salt and sand.

Dave Morin

Could I ask when you had that meeting?

Karen Burnell

It was after the money was cut from the Budget Committee.

Dave Morin

Ok, I'm under the understanding that around February 11<sup>th</sup> you guys met again to have the Town come back and start plowing again, and that was from the Town.

Karen Burnell

No, that is not a true statement. We met, Superintendent Russell, myself, Steve Malizia and the Road Agent did meet.

Dave Morin

You didn't meet?

Karen Burnell

No, we did meet that one time.

Dave Morin

Recently, in February?

Karen Burnell

Yes

Lee Lavoie

Point of Order Mr. Moderator.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Yes, Point of Order.

Lee Lavoie

Selectman Morin needs to address, ask the questions, through you.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Let's take them one at a time.

Lee Lavoie

This is not going to be a courtroom Mr. Moderator.

Karen Burnell

We did meet and what the result of that meeting was is what I just told.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Further question Mr. Morin?

Dave Morin

Yeah, I just want to make a statement I think the Town can do this for \$25,000 and we're wasting the \$80,000. I would vote against this amendment and keep that \$80,000 out of the budget. Thank you.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Further discussion on the amendment, to reduce the budget by \$327,528. Mr. Lawrence will yield to the question. Increase, I'm sorry. Increase. Thank you. I get it wrong sometimes.

Superintendent Lawrence

Just for clarification for the meeting that we did hold. Not only did the Town say that they had a reduction in staff from 32 to 26 they could no longer do it, but they also gave suggestions on how we could do it. So they said you can buy two additional trucks, which we would need people to drive the trucks and operate the trucks. We'd have to buy sanders and so forth and so on. Regardless of how we go in the future, it's going to be a cost. It's not going to be zero. Zero's not going to be an appropriate number to work with. There's going to be some type of cost associated with it, and it's not going to be \$25,000. There's going to be additional costs for that. And when they spoke with us about having



collaboration with us, there was conditions put on it too that would be restrictive to the School District that would be difficult to work with. We would work with them as best we could but they said we couldn't always assure you of sand and salt. We couldn't always assure you when we can come by. We couldn't always assure you of when we could have a front end loader to help us out. That was another item that they did want to help us out with and we do appreciate that. We went to have this meeting because the Budget Committee felt that the School District and the Town were not collaborating. We absolutely did collaborate and it wasn't the result that was proposed by the Budget Committee or anybody on the Budget Committee. It wasn't the outlook that we were looking for either. So unfortunately, there is definitely going to be a cost and it can be as high as what the budget this year is if we have to continue with what we are using right now.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. On the amendment.

Leo Bernard, 3 Bungalow Ave

As a former Budget Committee member I understand what they are going through and everything, and I believe the cuts are what they found are needed. So I am against this. I believe the Budget Committee did the best they can and checked everything off before they made this recommendation, so I'm against it.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. On the amendment to add in the \$327,528. Yes sir.

Gary Gasdia, 4 MacCann Road

I appreciate everything the Budget Committee does. I appreciate everything the School Board does. I think we need to keep in mind here, I think we saw the problem in this town just manifest itself, right? I mean, there it was. Why do we have waste? We just saw it. These guys don't talk to those guys. I just thanked you guys for all that but cut the crap. Ok? Get it done. Here's the thing about this, and I just want to be clear because the reality is that if the School Board puts this in the budget and they don't need it, it goes back to town. We're talking about, and now it's less, \$400,000 on \$53 million. I want you to all put it in perspective. Let's say you make \$65 grand a year, you pay taxes, you put in your 401k and all that. Now we're looking at .07%, that's \$35. If you can keep your budget on annual basis within \$35, you are a budgeting whiz. You are without question the greatest budgeter in the history of the world. So I understand that is their job. So I applaud them for doing it, and I applaud us for having this conversation, because they did exactly what they were supposed to do. I just want to make sure we are putting the understanding in place here. \$400,000 is a lot of money if I were paying it, but on a \$53 million budget it's the equivalent of me being off my budget for \$35, which I think is one gigabyte of data over on Verizon Wireless. We're not talking a lot here, so let's just put it in perspective. This year we've got to suck it up. But the real problem is this argument we just saw here. Cut the crap and get it done.

Moderator Inderbitzen

On the amendment.

Peggy Huard, 13 David Drive

Once again the School Board, Ms. Milbouer, are using a scare tactic to get people to accept this amendment. If the \$400,000 comes from something that's going to hurt the students, the school district and the School Board, you don't know how to manage your money, and you need a new School Board and a new school district.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Any further discussion on the amendment?

Shawn Murray, 55 Kienia Road

I'm one of those people that were referred to earlier as an idiot or something like that. I do serve on your Budget Committee and also was an employee of the town for over thirteen years. You do see the School Board and Budget Committee going back and forth. We spend many months going over the budget. The budget's \$53 million dollars. If someone had a copy of the School Budget, if you hold it up so people can see how thick it is and where the numbers are. We do our due diligence, we don't just make arbitrary cuts. Not to further the argument and to the amendment, I've spoken directly with the Road Agent and they were willing to try and work something out with the School. But by law the Budget Committee is supposed to look at the budget. We are supposed to be prudent protectors of the budget and make recommendations to make sure the taxpayers are getting the worth of the money that you pay in taxes. So when we look at things like plowing contracts where a plowing contract was entered into for a price of \$78,000, with very little oversight in it. Basically they paid a contractor \$78,000 without putting any requirements on it; when they would plow, what would happen if they didn't plow. So the Budget Committee looks at those things and says you need to go and reevaluate that. If you go back and look at the history of the money that's turned back every year, which is left over because you can't predict everything and that happens, typically the budget was anywhere from \$400,000, one year it was \$900,000. The School Board would take some of that money and work on some of the improvements that they needed. Not a problem, that's in a sense, smart budgeting. But year after year, as it keeps building without a master plan, you're just hoping you have extra money and you take on a project. So from my perspective I didn't think that was good budgeting either. Just so you know the Budget Committee works very hard. We don't arbitrarily make cuts. This School Board and Budget Committee and Town has to get together, which isn't happening, and when it does happen we do take steps to try to get it to work. Thank you.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Further discussion on the amendment.

Normand Martin, 3 Edgar Court

I have that document in hand. It tells you that in FY11 the Town spent \$18,130. In FY12 they spent \$7,050, maybe it didn't snow that year. In FY13 they spent \$21,710. FY14 they spent \$21,870. FY15 they spent \$43,800. In FY16 that's when all this stuff happened,

I won't go there, \$7,442. A total of \$120,002. In the two years of the contract that was just negotiated by the Hudson School District, I just picked a number, \$72,000. That's \$144,000 in that contract. The Town, over a period of six fiscal years, spent \$120,000. The School District in two fiscal years is spending \$144,000. Just to give you information. Thank you.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Further discussion on the amendment to increase the budget.

Ted Luszey, 13 Cathedral Lane

I'm not going to talk about snow plowing. But I am going to talk about this Warrant Article 3 and the budget. I want you to take a look at that slide that is up there. The Operating Budget as it stands being presented is \$53,195,295. That is what the School Board said they need in order to run the Schools, providing every educational opportunity that they provide today, all transportation and all special services. What the Budget Committee had to do in order to eliminate a budgeted surplus, because that's what they did, they anticipated a \$400,000 surplus fund. So they were appropriating \$400,000 surplus money from the taxpayers. Now I'm going to stand here as a Selectman and tell you kind of what that means. Let's add the Town budget on top of this \$53 million. The Town budget is \$27 million, so we're up to \$75 million dollars we have to collect from the taxpayers of Hudson. Now we have to add another \$3 for county. Now we have to add another \$2 for the State. We are getting up there folks. We are talking one portion of the taxpayers tax bills, and what the School Board doesn't see, and what the Budget Committee doesn't see, but what the Selectmen does see, is the taxpayers coming in and saying please don't take my house for taxes because I can't pay it any more. That happens in this community. So we are very conscious about what happens. \$400,000 equals what on a tax rate? Ten cents? Twelve cents per thousand. And that's where we start adding up pennies, folks, for the fixed rate people in this community. We are the fastest aging community in the State of New Hampshire and we have got a tremendous amount of Over 55 communities. And there lies part of the problem on why school budgets are becoming an issue in this community.

Moderator Inderbitzen

On the amendment now.

Mary Joy Gasdia, 4 MacCann Road

Sitting here I was not going to talk about this but I'm just literally listening right now to the things each person has said getting up and I've decided that 100% I would like to support this amendment and I'm going to tell you why. I stood here and Mr. Luszey just made a good point. No, the School Board and Budget Committee don't get to see the people that unfortunately, sadly, go in and lose their house. That's something that the Selectmen see. The Selectmen, unfortunately, don't sadly see the poor sad parents that go in because they're not getting what they need in the school system because you're not privy to that. So I think that it's hard to make that argument and say let's feel bad. Are people going to lose their houses? Not just in Hudson. It happens everywhere so I can't base my decision on that.

What I can say is I listen to the School Board get up and Mrs. Burnell said that we went out to bid. We went with the lowest bid that we received. Not we received a lower bid and we decided to go with \$78,000. We went with the lowest bid that we received. Then I heard the Budget Committee talk, or Mr. Morin got up, the Selectman, talk about how when the Town did it, the Town did it for less. Rah, rah for the Town. The Town did it less for years. The Town also stopped doing it for us. That's a fact. The Town stopped doing it for us. The Town doesn't collaborate with the School District. The School District doesn't collaborate with the Town. Obviously you guys don't do a great job at that. That's been apparent by what's happening here. Could we do better at it? Sure, we can do better at everything. But sitting here listening, what I heard is "we went out to bid for this". We searched for the best thing we could get and this is what it was and we went with the lowest. Have they gotten lower in the past? Yes, but circumstances have changed. Have we met with the Road Agent? Sure. Is the Road Agent here to tell us the conversation? Is Mr. Malizia here to talk about the conversation? No. So I don't want to vote or make my decision based off the guy in the room who says, well I spoke to the Road Agent. Well good for you. That's great you spoke personally to the Road Agent. Maybe he told you yeah I said I'd do it but he's not here today saying that. And if he's such a great guy and he'd do it then why isn't he saying I'm going to go to that School Board meeting and I'm going to say to them "listen, there's a better way". If these Selectmen have a better way show up at the School Board meeting, stand in the audience and say "guess what".

You all live in Hudson right? There's a better way, guys. We know a way because we've done this for years, as Mr. Martin just pointed out. Six years we kept it under this. This is how we did it. Why can't you bring that information forward? I don't think anybody has the answer because, Hatfield's & McCoy's, we always have to fight. Bring that information forward, and from what I've heard today, it might have been considered by the School Board. They were going out to bid. There was nothing brought forward by a \$25,000 guy. He didn't bring it forward. Not from what we heard, except for the private conversation that somebody else had with the Road Agent. As far as I'm concerned, it sounds to me, based on what was just spoken about in regards to the snow plowing, that they went out for a bid that they needed. It also sounds to me that, based on all the different items that were brought up in this amendment, there are different ways that you have to have that extra money. And the bottom line is if we don't have the extra money there it's going to be taken out of something important that somebody's kid is going to value. Whether it hits my kid in the music department or my kid that does athletics or my kid that doesn't do any of it, whether it hits the special needs or it comes out of this, it's going to somehow affect students in the district. There is no way. And now our School Board, that should be working to improve and fix the issues that everybody's bring up like the bullying issue and other main issues in school, they don't even have time to focus on that because they have to dilly dally around and figure out how to find all this money that's being cut out. So I'm 100% in support of the amendment. I am also in support of any way to get everybody to just learn to collaborate in a better way, because there's got to be a better way. Both of your meetings are open to each other. Come to the meeting and make your suggestion at a time when they can use it. Don't come when it's the day to do it and say shame on you School Board. Because I'm sorry, but that's embarrassing. It's embarrassing to our town.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Further discussion on the amendment.

John Knowles, 51 Quail Run

I just have question to start with. You're talking about all these numbers for the cost. Is that based on a contract that's currently in place for fiscal 2019? Did you have a multi-year contract?

Moderator Inderbitzen

Somebody yield to the question.

John Knowles

It's just a yes or no question. If the answer to that is yes, is there any way you can get out of the contract?

Moderator Inderbitzen

I'm understanding it's the affirmative.

Karen Burnell

Yes, because the contract allows for funding, so if it's cut out of the budget we would be able to get out of it.

John Knowles

Ok, so in theory, it would be possible if you could reach an agreement with the Town to do it for less than \$70,000 you could then get out of the other contract and have the Town do it, does that make sense?

Moderator Inderbitzen

That was stated as yes.

John Knowles

That's an "if", if you could do that.

Superintendent Bill Lawrence

Right, and we did have that conversation with the Town and the Town said that wouldn't be possible. What they did lay out was that they could do salt and sand. They could do front end loading for us when it was available from them, so it's a bit of a condition on that. But they said we would have to either get our own trucks or get our own private people that come and plow for us. We'd have to do something else on top of what they're doing for us. They would not do the plowing for us. They said that's not a possibility. It wasn't about cooperation it was about the fact that they went from 32 to 26. They're limited in what they could do.

John Knowles

There appears to be little bit of a discussion about whether the Town actually could or would do it. I'm not saying that you weren't told that but I kind of wonder, just hypothetically. Even if you can't do it now if maybe we shouldn't really sit down and have the Selectmen and the School Board get together and talk about this? Don't talk to the Road Agent, the Selectmen will do that, and get them to agree on it and make a formal agreement for the future. Just to do something like that is my suggestion.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Further discussion on the amendment, to increase the budget.

Dave Morin, 29 Library Street

First of all the comment was just made that if the Town has a better idea, well we did have a better idea and we were doing it for a lot cheaper than they're doing it now, to answer that question. Second of all, myself and Mr. Russell actually met after the budget hearing to discuss this and I was told that they were going to have the meeting with Kevin Burns to get this squared away. And again, I talked to the Town Administrator and he tells me a whole different story than what we just got. I strongly recommend that we vote this amendment down. Thank you.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Further discussion on the amendment. Mrs. Huard for a second time.

Peggy Huard, 13 David Drive

It's not about the money it's about the principle. It's about what I can see when I look at actual numbers and what I can hear in this discussion now. I don't know if Karen, you can tell us what your background is in, but \$400,000 is... I just asked... you're out of line.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Please be in order. Please be in order.

Peggy Huard

I know what you make, I see your salary in the budget. It's common knowledge, it's public knowledge.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Please be in order.

Peggy Huard

I'm just questioning

Moderator Inderbitzen

Ladies and gentlemen, we are talking about an amendment. Mrs. Huard, please be in order. We're talking about an amendment. We're not talking about personnel and individuals. We are talking about an amendment to raise the budget. You can speak to that issue.

Peggy Huard

\$400,000 for someone that is qualified to manage a budget should be very simple. It should not take away from the kids. Every single year there is money, excess money at the end of the year. The High School has taken or received an additional \$100,000 in a number of years to make renovations that weren't planned, make general repairs that weren't planned. There's money moved all around. This instance here with this discrepancy between who can do what at what cost. There's hired cost vendors. That was your lowest bidder? Well you could go out to bid again. When I look at the High School renovations, the general renovations, there's a contractor in the schools putting floors down...

Moderator Inderbitzen

Please stick to the amendment Mrs. Huard.

Peggy Huard

...that lives on the same street as Patty Langlais. So who are we picking for vendors? We can do better. It's not about the money, it's about the deception and the lies that come forward from the School Department and the School Board.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Please be in order Mrs. Huard. Please be in order Mrs. Huard. Mrs. Langlais has moved to move the question.

**MOTION BY PATTY LANGLAIS TO MOVE THE QUESTION, SECONDED BY MRS. MILBOUER.**

Moderator Inderbitzen

Point of order Mr. Murray? (*Inaudible*) Motion to move the question by Langlais, seconded by Mrs. Milbouer. There was a statement made that there's still some people looking, that wanted to speak to the amendment. So your vote is whether to cut off debate or whether to allow the debate on the amendment to continue. Those who are in favor of cutting off debate please raise your cards. Those opposed please raise your cards. The house is in doubt. I'm going to do a count. It's a 2/3 and it was almost equal... so it's not a 2/3 so the motion fails. I'm sorry, it looked pretty even to me so it's not a 2/3.

**MOTION FAILS**

Moderator Inderbitzen

So we're continuing the discussion on amendment #1. Yes, ma'am. (*comment from the audience*) No you may not. If you want to make a motion I'll recognize you after Mr. Luszey. There's two people in line.

Laurie Robicheau-Pagan, 7 Catalpa Drive

I thank you for letting me speak. I'm on the Budget Committee for the first year. Sitting on the Budget Committee through this process has been very difficult because I still cannot answer the questions for myself of why the snow plow issue has not been resolved. The second piece that I want to say is that I am in support of this amendment for the change in

the budget. We entrust these people in the school district with the lives and education of our children. We can certainly entrust them to make a budget that will efficiently and effectively provide their education.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Mr. Luszey.

Ted Luszey, 13 Cathedral Lane

This is the last time I'll speak on this one. I just want to let folks understand when the Board of Selectmen and the School Board passes their budget over to the Budget Committee, by law, it becomes their budget. And what they're required to do, by law, is to make sure that each elected body has enough money, no more, no less, to carry out their mission. The School Board's mission, based on what the School Board requested, is \$53,195,295 for the next fiscal year and that's why I'll support this amendment to cut that \$400,000.

Moderator Inderbitzen:

It's not to cut it, it's to add.

Ted Luszey

Oh, I'm sorry, that's right, not to add it. Think about that. It's a gross budget process. It doesn't matter what the line items say in that book the day the vote is taken. The day after, whatever the voters state, whether it's the new operating budget or if it's the default operating budget, the School Board gets to apply that money to any line item they so choose as long as they execute the mission that they were given and that is to educate the kids.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Further discussion on the amendment.

Laurie Jasper, 83 Old Derry Road

I don't even know what I got up to say except that there does seem to be some disconnect. I have been watching this process for years and years and years, and I know it's very complicated. The Budget Committee does their due diligence and I know how hard they work. They work nights and they go to meetings that practically no one shows up for to do a public hearing, so a lot of these things can be handled before we get to this place. \$400,000 on a \$53 million dollar budget is a drop in the bucket, I understand that. But if the Budget Committee decided that it should be cut, for whatever reason, I know that if that happens the School Board will find that money if that money is needed because we do something called gross budgeting. Am I correct, Mr. Moderator?

Moderator Inderbitzen

From what I understand that is correct.

Laurie Jasper

Ok, so I don't think it's taking anything away from education. I think we have wonderful teachers, wonderful schools, and I think education is paramount to the School Board and



to the people who teach and work in the school district. I don't like seeing this back and forth about snow plowing and snow and who did what. I can just imagine that then we'd have to hire five more people to run the plows. I think that the Town does an admirable job with snow plowing and our Road Agent, he knows what he's doing. I think that there's some disconnect somewhere from what I'm sensing and there needs to be an air clearing and let's do what's best for the Town and for the people and for the students.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Are you in favor or opposed to the amendment?

Laurie Jasper:

The amendment was to put it back in. I am against the amendment.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Ok, thank you. That's what we've got to be clear with this. Whether you're in favor or opposed. Yes, sir?

Tom Barrett, 37 Winnhaven Drive

I'd like to make a motion to move the question.

**MOTION BY TOM BARRETT, SECONDED BY MRS. LANGLAIS, TO MOVE THE QUESTION**

Moderator Inderbitzen

Ok, a motion made and seconded by Mrs. Langlais. I think this time we're probably ready for that. That would be to cut off debate on the amendment and to take a vote on the amendment. If you are in favor of cutting off debate at this time please raise your cards. Thank you. Those opposed to cutting off debate. Thank you. The 2/3 has it, it's passed.

**MOTION CARRIED**

So we are going to take a vote on the amendment, to increase the budget by \$327,528. All those in favor of that amendment, please raise your cards. All those opposed? The ayes have it. The motion passes, the budget is now amended.

**AMENDMENT # 1 PASSES**

**WARRANT ARTICLE 3, AS AMENDED**

Dave Morin

I'd like to make an amendment to cut \$80,000 from the school budget on plowing.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Let me get back on to the article. Do you have those numbers to put up on the screen? We're adding \$327,528. I want to get the numbers up there so everyone can see it. Is that correct Mrs. Burnell? It's \$53,522,823 correct? That is correct? Ok, that's good. I just

want to make sure that everybody knows what we're voting on. Mr. Morin's at the mic, I'll recognize Mr. Morin. We are now on the amended Article 3. What a minute, I didn't accept any motion at this point. Mr. Morin.

Dave Morin

I'd like to make an amendment to cut \$80,000 from the School budget for plowing.

**MOTION BY DAVE MORIN, SECONDED BY MR. BERNARD, TO CUT \$80,000 FROM SCHOOL BUDGET FOR PLOWING.**

Moderator Inderbitzen

Seconded by Mr. Bernard. Sorry I didn't see you back there. To reduce the budget by \$80,000. It's a second amendment to reduce the budget by \$80,000. We're just going to deal with that amendment at this point. Mr. Morin to speak to your amendment.

Dave Morin

We already know it can be done cheaper. This will not affect the snow plowing this year, it is for the next budget. I would hope and believe that the two boards could get together and get this issue squared away so that we won't have to deal with it again. Thank you.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Discussion on amendment #2 to reduce the budget by \$80,000.

Gary Gasdia, 4 MacCann Road

I just have question for the Moderator. So the problem from what I'm hearing with the \$80,000 is the Town says they won't do it. We have two selectmen here. Can we see you say to us definitively that you will vote 100% to fund the plowing because then how many more votes will we need? Just one, right? So if you two are both going to say in public that you will vote for it then I will agree with you. If the answer is I'm unsure, we need the \$80,000. So there's a lot of back room meetings going on, I want to see you vote.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Question of the Selectmen, if they wish to yield. Mr. Luszey?

Ted Luszey

The School Board and the Board of Selectmen have worked many, many times together in the past. If this should pass I am sure that the School Board and the Board of Selectmen will come to some type of resolution on this. It's not just a matter of saying yes or no right now because what's not addressed in the Board of Selectmen's budget next year is doing the school. So it has to occur. If there's monies left over at the end of the year the answer is yes, it can be happen. But understand something too. The Board of Selectmen's composition changes in March. There's two people that have to get either re-elected or new people get elected. So I can't stand here and give you a definitive yes or no what the direction of the Board is going to be because it's going to be a brand new Board.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Further discussion on the amendment. Please, someone yield, they gave an answer that they felt was appropriate. Thank you. Further discussion on the amendment. Yes sir, Mr. Knowles.

John Knowles, 51 Quail Run

After all the discussion I think I'm still in favor of the amendment but I still have questions about it. I would really like to see the Town doing this instead of the School Board. But it's not clear to me that there's any reasonable guarantee that that's going to happen right away. I'm thinking of possible solutions like, what if we pass or don't pass this amendment or we leave the money in the budget. Could the School Board say, "well, if we work out something we will give the money to the Town" so we can reimburse them for whatever they're having to do? That would be just an informal thing, you could do that, you're paying for snow plowing.

Moderator Inderbitzen

That's outside the scope of this meeting.

John Knowles

But that would be a possible thing about this particular amendment.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Ok, thank you. Please be in order everyone.

Fred Giuffrida, 14 Pinewood Road

Mr. Moderator, I'd like to move the question to leaving \$80,000 in the budget.

**MOTION BY FRED GIUFFRIDA, SECONDED BY PATTY LANGLAIS, TO MOVE THE QUESTION**

Moderator Inderbitzen

Motion to move the question. Seconded by School Board member Langlais. This is to cut off debate on the amendment to reduce the budget by \$80,000. There's still people in line but if the body is ready? Those in favor of moving the question please raise your cards, cutting off debate. Thank you. Those opposed to cutting off debate? The ayes have it by 2/3.

**MOTION CARRIED**

We are now taking a vote on the amendment to reduce the budget by \$80,000. If you are in favor of reducing the budget by \$80,000 please raise your cards. Thank you. Those opposed to reducing the budget? The nays have it, the motion fails.

**AMENDMENT #2 FAILS**

Article 3 is now \$53,522,823. Any further discussion on article 3?

Laurie Jasper, 83 Old Derry Road

To speak to Article 3 we are in danger and this is a question. The Budget Committee will take a vote after we're finished here won't they?

Moderator Inderbitzen

Yes, they will.

Laurie Jasper

So there's a possibility that the Budget Committee could change their vote from recommended by the Budget Committee 9-2 to something else.

Moderator Inderbitzen

That's correct.

Laurie Jasper

Is it worth \$80,000?

Moderator Inderbitzen

That issue's been decided. On Article 3 as amended.

Ted Luszey

As amended, I just want, again, to have folks look at the slide. Should the budget fail on March 13<sup>th</sup> the default budget, the question to the School Board, do you have snow plowing money?

Moderator Inderbitzen

Oh, in the default budget. That's a question of the Board. Are there funds in the default budget?

Lee Lavoie

We have a contract.

Ted Luszey

Exactly, you have a contract, if the money's there. Again, it's actually to the previous speaker's note, what this legislative body just did is they added \$401,741 back to this budget that is in excess of what the School Board needs to run the school district.

Moderator Inderbitzen

That's not quite right. We added \$327,528. We don't have that kind of control over the default budget.

Ted Luszey

Mr. Moderator, the difference to my point is \$401,000 on the default based on what we just approved. So my point is, should the budget pass that we just voted on, we are appropriating \$401,741 excess that should go back to the taxpayers for no reason.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Discussion on Warrant Article #3 as amended.

Jim Wilkins

I hope this is relevant at this point. Is the Town road crew down from 32 to 26 due to a vacancy or a necessity? Was it cut to that?

Moderator Inderbitzen

That really doesn't address Warrant Article 3. That's another issue to bring up at the Board of Selectman or the Town Meeting.

Ed Peterson, 7B Taunton Lane

I'm a simple man but before that \$400,000 got over there, the difference was \$74,000. Now, once we added that \$400,000 the default budget jumped up really high. Can you explain why that happens?

Moderator Inderbitzen

No, the default budget stayed the same.

Ed Peterson

It did stay the same? Ok, then my mistake. I have to get my eyes checked I guess.

Moderator Inderbitzen

The default budget is \$53,121,082.

Ed Peterson

And that's what is was in the beginning? Alright then, I apologize.

Moderator Inderbitzen

No problem. Further discussion on Warrant Article #3. Mr. Trost.

Ted Trost

I have a question for the Business Administrator, if she's around. So when the Budget Committee originally cut the money out of the school budget, the \$400,000 odd thousand dollars, the default budget changed. Would it not change again? It will change again, so the slide has not been updated yet to reflect the default. That was a good question by the audience.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Are you taking care of that Mrs. Burnell? You were. It does change, ok, I was not aware of that. Do they now have that information? We're going to be updating the slide. Mr. Murray, point of order? Yes, we're going to get that slide updated. I didn't think the default budget could change but I'm not the finance expert here. Ok, the default budget then, under this new amount will be \$53,297,224. Most of these things are due to state requirements and previous votes like contracts that have to be put into the budget that we

don't really have any control over. So the numbers you are now seeing are the amended operating budget, which actually caused an amendment to the default budget even though it's not an amendment.

Ted Luszey

Point of Order Mr. Moderator. The default budget should not change because the default budget is based on this years' budget plus any contractual obligations that already exists, so that number should be static. The only thing that should be changing is the new operating budget and the difference operating/default number, not the default budget.

Moderator Inderbitzen

That's a question I'm going to have to ask the Business Administrator as to why the default budget, what went up?

Karen Burnell

At the time that the snow plowing and homeless transportation was cut from the operating budget, the default was adjusted at that point.

Ted Luszey

But again, the default budget for next fiscal year should be the current budget plus any contractual obligation minus any onetime expenses, so that number should not have changed.

Karen Burnell

I'm just looking at the Finance Director, give me a second. So the homeless transportation was not added back in because it's not officially a contract?

Ted Luszey

The default budget is defined by law so I'm not sure why that number's changing.

Karen Burnell

Because originally the plowing was deducted from the default.

Ted Luszey

But it's contractual right now so that number should be part of that default number.

Karen Burnell

And it was not originally.

Moderator Inderbitzen

That was a mistake apparently.

Ted Luszey

Then I don't know what numbers we should be deliberating to at this point Mr. Moderator.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Please be in order. We are trying to straighten this out. Was this an error in default budget that was posted with the warrant? This meeting doesn't have the ability to change the default budget, so we have to put back the original number. Oh, it's a correction. They have to fill out the form that creates the default budget. Ok, so that number's going to have to be reviewed prior to the ballot being printed, so apparently we're in a mode where there was an error made in calculating the default budget, which is going to have to be corrected prior to the ballot being printed. There's so much discussion going on that I don't think we should be doing it at this point. They're telling me that the number you are seeing for the default budget is the correct number now.

Katlyn DeLuca

So isn't that higher than what the operating budget was before? So my question is, is the default budget going up because we put money back in, so then you're now contractually obligated to pay the snow plow contract? Is that what's going on? So you weren't before because the money was taken out of the budget but you are now because it was put back in, is that what is happening?

Moderator Inderbitzen

Mrs. DeLuca I'm not sure myself. We're going to have to do a review of this so it's not going to be decided right here and now. Let's take a five minute break while they discuss what they're doing here.

Let's come back in to order. Sorry for the confusion. Apparently in the calculation of the default budget there was an error made where two contracts, which are legal obligations, were left out of the default budget, the plowing and the homeless transportation, that should have been in that default number. So the default number that you see is the correct number, which, from the original warrant article, would have been a few thousand dollars higher than what was being asked for. But since the meeting added in the \$327,528, it's now still less than the operating budget as amended, ok? Is that clear to everybody? So the mistake, they can correct it at any time. They decided to correct it at this meeting so we all know what that default budget would be. That was a mistake in the calculations that were done. So we are on Warrant Article #3. The numbers you see on the screen, the operating budget and the default budget are the correct numbers (*operating budget as amended \$52,522,823, corrected default budget \$53,197,224*)

Kristina Young

I was just confused because in the language of the article it is different.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Yes, they are going to have to change it in the language of the budget, our IT guys? They need to change that default number, on the upper part. He's just fixing it. Is everyone clear now? These are the numbers, Warrant Article 3 as amended, with the additional money and the default budget as corrected for the errors that were discovered here today. On Article 3, yes sir.

Chris Landry, 25 Beechwood Road

I'll get back to talking about the article in a little bit. I have some numbers here because I look at this every year and compare the Hudson budget to some local towns, specifically towns like Merrimack, Londonderry and Bedford. Towns in the same area, similar demographics, similar size budgets and similar size school populations, I think that's useful. As has already been mentioned Hudson's per student expenditure has historically been very low. It still is low. It's like 18% below the average. We used to be in the bottom one or two of the State. We've moved up. We're all the way up to 149 out of 161, so we're still way low. So I think we need to commend the School Board and the School Administration for doing what they do with what they have to work with.

The other thing I think is interesting is on the tax side. Clearly the school expenses are the largest portion of your total tax bill. There's school stuff and there's other stuff. In Hudson, looking at equalized tax valuations, which is the way you can compare it between different towns that have different valuations, we spend about 65% of our total taxes on schools. That sounds like a lot until you compare it to these other towns. Those other three towns I mentioned spend 71-73% of their budget on schools. If you look at a town like Merrimack they spend 38% more per student than Hudson does. While we're doing a great job on the schools, we're really doing it at a bargain price compared to similar towns. If you look at the tax rates, our equalized tax valuations for schools is quite low compared to other towns. Our tax rate for the other stuff is a little bit higher than the other towns. When you look at all the money the school spends there's no doubt about it, \$53 million dollars is a lot of money. But we get a lot for that money. I think that arguing over a little bit of money here or there and asking the School Board to cut by another half percent when they are already doing the job so efficiently is a little unfair to the elected officials that do that. So I ask you to support this budget as amended. I think it's a good budget. I think it will allow us to continue to do a great job in our schools for our students.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Further discussion on Warrant Article 3.

Laurie Jasper, 83 Old Derry Road

I do apologize that I'm back here talking but I am really confused and I have a couple of questions. This meeting was posted, by law it has to be posted, correct? So the budget is the Budget Committee's budget right now, the operating budget.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Well it's this meeting's right now.

Laurie Jasper

Ok, it's the meeting's budget. But the default budget has been changed because there was two errors. But the School Board also posted, on January 24, 2018, the default budget as posted, so my question is the legality of this. I'm not a lawyer and I don't play one on tv but I'm really concerned that this is going to get into a whole mess. And I'm wondering, because something changed, why we don't have to go back and ask to stop this meeting and to continue at another time after 24 hours posting again, because right now the



information is not valid to what was originally posted. So I think I've just given the attorney some reason to get paid today. I really am concerned. I don't want anything to go wrong and I want to know for myself.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Attorney Graham, who does play an attorney on tv, please use the microphone Mr. Graham.

Attorney Graham

I won't even have to answer the question, I'll read what the legislature has said. This is RSA 40:13, XI, b, and it's talking about the default budget.

*“This amount shall not be amended by the legislative body. However, this amount may be adjusted by the governing body, unless the provisions of RSA 40:14-b are adopted, acting on relevant new information at any time before the ballots are printed, provided the governing body, unless the provisions of RSA 40:14-b are adopted, completes an amended default budget form.”*

And the 40:14-b is if the voters have delegated to the Budget Committee the responsibility for determining the default budget. So it can be amended by the School Board at any time prior to the time the ballots are printed on relevant new information.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Yes sir, you are next in line.

Tom Barrett, 37 Winnhaven Drive

I make a motion to move the discussion.

**MOTION BY TOM BARRETT, SECONDED BY PATTY LANGLAIS, TO MOVE THE QUESTION.**

Moderator Inderbitzen

Motion made to move the question, seconded by Mrs. Langlais. This is to cut off debate. It requires a 2/3 vote. If you are in favor of cutting off debate on Warrant Article #3, please raise your cards. Those opposed please raise your cards. The ayes have it by 2/3. We are now closing discussion on Warrant Article 3 and it moves to the ballot.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Lee Lavoie

Mr. Moderator, can I make a motion to restrict reconsideration of Article 3?

**MOTION BY LEE LAVOIE, SECONDED BY MR. FARNHAM, TO RESTRICT RECONSIDERATION OF ARTICLE 3.**

Moderator Inderbitzen

A motion to restrict reconsideration, so it can no longer be brought up at this meeting. All in favor of restricting reconsideration of Article 3. Those opposed. Article 3 passes. We restricted reconsideration.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**WARRANT ARTICLE 4**

**Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Hudson School Board and the Secretaries**

**Shall the Hudson School District vote to approve the cost items in the collective bargaining agreement between the Secretaries AFT Local #6260, AFT-NH, AFL-CIO (Hudson School District Secretaries) and the Hudson School Board, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year:**

<b>2018-19</b>	<b>\$11,330</b>
<b>2019-20</b>	<b>\$27,372</b>
<b>2020-21</b>	<b>\$28,288</b>
<b>2021-22</b>	<b>\$36,995</b>

**and to further raise and appropriate \$11,330 for the upcoming fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement that would be paid under current staffing levels.**

**Recommended by the Hudson School Board 5-0. Recommended by Budget Committee 10-0-1.** I will now recognize School Board Member Stacy Milbouer to present Article 4.

Stacy Milbouer

This is a four year contract negotiated by the School Board covering twenty nine full and part time secretaries. It includes a 2.75% salary increase each year of the contract. The increases in salaries are offset by the union agreeing to accept a consumer driven health plan. This is the last group of the school district to move into our consumer driven open access plan. Due to higher deductibles offset by health savings in the first year will be approximately \$20,000 with approximately \$5,000 in years two and three of the contract.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. I'll open Warrant Article 4 to questions, comments. Anybody wish to discuss Warrant Article 4? If not, I will declare the discussion on Warrant Article 4 closed and it moves to the ballot.

**WARRANT ARTICLE 5**

**Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Hudson School Board and the Federation of PSRP's**

**Shall the Hudson School District vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement between the PSRP AFT Local #6245, AFT-NH, AFL-CIO (Hudson**

**School District full and part-time cafeteria personnel, part time para-educators and part-time licensed practical nurses) and the Hudson School Board which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year:**

<b>2018-19</b>	<b>\$67,503</b>
<b>2019-20</b>	<b>\$87,967</b>
<b>2020-21</b>	<b>\$69,802</b>
<b>2021-22</b>	<b>\$72,567</b>

**and to further raise and appropriate \$67,503 for the upcoming fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement that would be paid under current staffing levels.**

**Recommended by the Hudson School Board 4-0. Recommended by Budget Committee 11-0.** I will recognize School Board member Milbouer to present Article 5.

Stacy Milbouer

This is a four year contract negotiated by the School Board that includes 118 para-educators, one part time licensed practical nurse, and 31 food service employees. Year one of the contract para's will receive a 2.5% increase, no step. Year two, one step. Year three, 2.25% increase and no step. Year four, one step. Year one on the contract food service employees will receive a 2.5% increase, year's two to four they will receive a 2.75% increase yearly. The food service portion of this warrant article has no impact on the taxpayers. Salaries and benefits are funded through the program.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. I'll now open discussion on Warrant Article 5. Is there anyone wishing to discuss article 5?

Peggy Huard, 13 David Drive

I just have a quick question. As you summarized that, it does say an increase in salaries and benefits. So typically the para's don't have benefits, is that true in this case as well? I don't have a physical copy of the contract so were there benefits added to the contract?

Moderator Inderbitzen

The Superintendent will yield.

Superintendent Bill Russell

Is your question do the para's have benefits?

Peggy Huard

Well in the past there were very few who had benefits. Typically they were part time employees with no benefits.

Superintendent Russell

Yes, that's accurate. There's very few people in this bargaining unit that do have benefits. The vast majority of the para's don't. Some of the food workers do because they are full time.

Peggy Huard

And in the past contract the contract stated they worked less than six hours a day for 182 days a year. Is that still a stipulation in the new contract?

Superintendent Russell

I can't answer that without the contract in front of me.

Peggy Huard

Is there anyone here that can answer that because I'd like to know so that I can vote? Where will this contract be available before Election Day?

Superintendent Russell

They're on the website.

Peggy Huard

I do rise in support of the para-educators because I know that they do work really hard and, pending that question, I'm going to assume that nothing's changed. Para-educators are district employees, working under supervision of a teacher or other professional practitioner, who often provides instructional support including one on one tutoring, assistance in classroom management, instructional assistance in a computer laboratory, instructional support in a library/media or act as a translator. Last year's contract did state that they were always part time workers working less than six hours a day for 182 days a year. I'm going to assume that's changed because no one's telling me otherwise. Several help wanted advertisements that I found show that they typically work 5.5 hours, which is about 1,000 hours per year. While our district does not always require para-educators to be certified a large majority are. There are two levels of state certification, one and two. Level one requires a high school diploma or GED and 50 hours of continuing education. Level two requires an associate's degree or 48 or more college credits in continuing education. There are many other skilled accomplishments that are evaluated for both levels. In the past budget para-educators salaries range from \$13,000 to \$32,000, or an average salary of \$20,000. Para-educators are making between 13 to 30 hours, with a median of 20 hours in, as Mr. Russell confirmed, there are no additional benefits for them. So I ask that you vote for this increase.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Further discussion on Warrant Article 5. Anyone wish to discuss Warrant Article 5 contract? If not, I declare the discussion on warrant article 5 closed and it moves to the ballot.

## **WARRANT ARTICLE 6**

### **Wage Increase for Five School Board Members**

**Shall the Hudson School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 which represents a \$2,000 increase in stipend for each of the five (5) school board members?  
Recommended by the Hudson School Board 3-1, Not Recommended by Budget Committee 5-6.** I will recognize Mrs. Langlais from the School Board to present Article 6.

Patty Langlais

Currently the School Board members make \$1,100 a year. Most of us don't even realize this when we take this position. The \$2,000 increase would bring us in line with what the Selectmen make as a stipend. In all equality that is the reason for the increase, so that we can be in line with the Selectmen considering that we have a \$53 million dollar budget.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Any discussion on Warrant Article #6, wage increase for the School Board?

Peggy Huard, 13 David Drive

I make a motion to amend the warrant to "Shall the Hudson School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$0 which represents a \$0 increase in stipend for each of the five school board members".

**MOTION TO AMEND BY PEGGY HUARD, SECONDED BY FRED GIUFFRIDA, TO DECREASE WARRANT ARTICLE 6 TO ZERO.**

Moderator Inderbitzen

Ok, Mrs. Huard moves to amend, is there a second? Mr. Giuffrida seconds. The amendment is to take the two numbers, \$10,000 and \$2,000, and make them zero. On the amendment Mrs. Huard.

Peggy Huard

This is a 200% increase, far greater increase than I've ever seen any line item budget. I don't agree with the comparative. We should never compare ourselves to others.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Please be in order ladies and gentlemen.

Peggy Huard

I don't agree that you should receive that type of increase just because the Board of Selectmen receive it. And frankly, over the last few years I've worked with the school board, I haven't seen any improvement in the test scores. I still see bullying and I still see children failing. Thank you.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Discussion on the amendment to take the numbers to zero. Anyone wish to discuss?

Chris Landry, 25 Beechwood Road

I rise in opposition to the amendment. I suspect there are good arguments either way on the question but I think we should let the entire governing body, the town, the school district, to decide that at the ballot. I don't like it when this body does things like this, takes it to zero. Let's let the decision be made by the voters.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Yes, ma'am, on the amendment.

Katlyn DeLuca, 15 Hickory Street

I just had a question. You compared it to the Selectmen. What exactly, how do the hours compare, how does the job specifically compare?

Moderator Inderbitzen

Anyone wish to yield to that question? School Board member Langlais?

Patty Langlais

It depends on what you do on School Board. We have what committees you're on. We have almost the same amount of committees. They're responsible for the town, we're responsible for all the students. They're responsible for their budget of \$24 million, we're responsible for our budget of \$53 million. We sit on the Budget Committee, they sit on the Budget Committee. It's very similar to what we do. We're just dealing with students, they're dealing with the population of Hudson, but our time commitment is pretty much the same.

Katlyn DeLuca

Thank you. I don't see a reason why we shouldn't give the town the opportunity at least to make that decision so I don't agree with the amendment.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. On the amendment. Mr. Giuffrida.

Fred Giuffrida

I did second the amendment but I would like to distance myself from the reasoning of the initiator of the amendment. I think you guys do a great job. Budget Committee makes zero, if I'm correct, right? I wouldn't pay the Board of Selectmen. They somehow managed to put in their stipend. It's not a paid position guys. It's a volunteer thing. You don't go there to get paid. Aside from incidental expenses, unless we decide as a town that we're going to pay our boards, there doesn't seem to be much justification for it. So, sorry.

Moderator Inderbitzen

You're in favor of the amendment?

Fred Giuffrida

I seconded the amendment.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Yes, ok, sometimes people second just to get the discussion. Any further discussion on the amendment? Yes ma'am?

Lindsey Benson, 13 Par Lane

Just one more. I disagree with this amendment. To be totally honest I know I don't attend a lot of meetings but thankfully they are recorded so I can watch them while my three young children are running around. It's unfortunate and I'm sorry to the Budget Committee you don't get paid, but the Selectmen and the School Board, both of you work extremely hard. There is a lot of people that come through your doors. There are issues that come up that a lot of people in town

do not want to deal with and you do it gracefully. So I completely disagree with the amendment and I think again, we should also let the town vote on this too.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. The amendment is to take the \$10,000 and \$2,000 to zero. Are you ready for a vote? If you're in favor of the amendment to reducing the amounts to zero, please raise your cards. Those opposed, please raise your cards. The nays have it, the amendment fails.

**AMENDMENT FAILS**

Any further discussion on Warrant Article 6, wage increase for school board members? If not, I'll declare the discussion on warrant article 6 closed and it moves to the ballot.

**WARRANT ARTICLE 7**

**Partial Roof Replacement at Hudson Memorial Middle School**

**Shall the Hudson School District vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$185,000 to replace a section of the roof at Hudson Memorial School? Recommended by the Hudson School Board 5-0, Recommended by Budget Committee 11-0.** I'll recognize Mrs. Langlais to present article 7.

Patty Langlais

The roofing system at Hudson Memorial that covers the band room and the hallways needs replacement. The current roof membrane is no longer under warranty and beyond the recommended serviceable life. The frequency of leaks and repairs has grown exponentially over the past five years. The school district will continue to have roof replacement warrant articles as we move forward with a roof replacement plan for all of our buildings.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Anyone wish to discuss warrant article 7, roof replacement for Memorial? Seeing none, we'll close the discussion on warrant article 7 and moves to the ballot.

**WARRANT ARTICLE 8**

**Increasing funds in the Capital Reserve School Renovation Fund**

**Shall the Hudson School District vote to raise and appropriate a sum of up to \$100,000 to be added to the Capital Reserve School Renovation Fund established in September 1999? This sum is to come from the June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1 with no amount to be raised by additional taxation. Recommended by the Hudson School Board 5-0, Recommended by Budget Committee 11-0.** I'll recognize Mrs. Langlais to present warrant article #8.

Patty Langlais

The Capital Reserve Renovation Fund was established in 1999 to cover all our financial liability for any unforeseen circumstances as it relates to our buildings. Currently there is a balance of \$81,110. All funds withdrawn from this account need approval of the voters. Last year in fiscal 2017 the voters approved to withdraw the funds for a partial roof replacement at Alvirne High School. As no amount is to be raised by additional taxation, the estimated tax impact of warrant article 8 is zero cents. Additionally, both the School Board and the Budget Committee unanimously voted to support warrant article 8.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Thank you. Anyone wish to discuss warrant article 8, the Capital Reserve?

Ted Trost

I just wanted to point out that although technically speaking there is no impact on the voters from additional taxation, it does use \$100,000 that would otherwise be returned to the voters at the end of the budget year. However, I do support the warrant article.

Moderator Inderbitzen

Any further discussion on warrant article 8? Seeing none, we'll close the discussion on warrant article 8 and it moves to the ballot.

I have a few things to say before we take a motion to adjourn. Ladies and gentlemen, I appreciate everyone here and who was here earlier. We had over 200 check in at the checklist, which is a record for a school district meeting, at least in my time. I want to thank everyone for making that effort. It was a little bit cumbersome but, and a lot of people weren't familiar with the process. Hopefully we educated some people and through the videos that will be played and watched over the next few weeks. I do want to thank everyone who provided services, our cable people. We're going to be behind for a basketball game that's coming up and I appreciate that. I have one little piece from Plato that I thought would be interesting to remind you to Please, don't forget to vote on Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, on both the town and school budgets. We'll be here next Saturday on the town budget. Please try to make it. Part of your taxes are on that as well. I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Lee Lavoie: Mr. Moderator, I'd like to make a motion to adjourn if all our business is done today.

**MOTION BY LEE LAVOIE, SECONDED BY LEO BERNARD, TO ADJOURN.**

Moderator Inderbitzen: This is the only voice vote I take. All those in favor of adjournment please say Aye. Those opposed? Thank you. Meeting adjourned at 3:06pm

**MOTION CARRIED**

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Patricia Barry, School District Clerk