

2020 - 2021 Warrant Articles in plain English

The Monadnock Regional School Board would like to share with you, the voters, its explanation of the 2020 - 2021 Warrant Articles in plain English. The Warrant Articles are the items on which you will vote at the polls on March 10th of 2020. There are eleven Warrant Articles, with one of the articles by petition. Copies of the original petition and minutes from the February Deliberative Session can be found in the SAU office beside the High School.

ARTICLE ONE: Shall the Monadnock Regional School District raise and appropriate in the operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles, which will be voted on separately, totaling \$33,727,946 (\$970,000 is required for federal grants and nutrition grants that are funded by separate State and Federal revenues) Should this article be defeated, the default budget will be \$33,251,463 which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Monadnock Regional School District by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with Revised Statutes Annotated (RSA) 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee does not support this article. (Majority vote required).

The proposed budget is \$33,727,946 which includes \$970,000 that is required and supplied by Federal and State grants, including nutrition aid. This budget amount is \$476,483 more than the default budget which is \$33,251,463. It includes staff salaries, teaching materials, and utilities for all district buildings.

ARTICLE TWO: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of 1,130,000 for renovations at Monadnock Regional Middle High School. This is a special warrant article in accordance with RSA 32:3 VI. This will be a non-lapsing Warrant Article per RSA 32:7 and will not lapse until the renovation projects are complete or June 30, 2023 whichever is earlier. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. (Majority vote required).

The warrant article allows for the removal of four temporary classrooms at MRMHS and replace with four permanent classrooms (similar to the project constructed at Mt. Caesar).

ARTICLE THREE: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$250,000 for engineering and design work as a result of feasibility study. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32:3 VI. This will be a non-lapsing warrant article per RSA 32:7. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee does not support this article. (Majority vote required)

The sum of \$250,000 is for engineering and design work ONLY to enable the District to more fully explore building a new school for Troy and Fitzwilliam students and adding an addition to Mt. Caesar for Swanzey students. This concept was determined to be the most favorable option of several presented in feasibility study.

ARTICLE FOUR: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$240,000 for maintenance and repair work at all of the District's schools. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32:3 VI. This will be a non-lapsing warrant article per RSA 32:7 and will not lapse until the maintenance projects are complete or June 30, 2023 whichever is earlier. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. (Majority vote required)

This article will allow the carpet to be replaced in the auditorium at MRMHS, add AC to the top floor (splits) at Cutler, finish replacing the gym roof at Troy, replace half of the windows with energy efficient windows and secure the vestibule entrance at Emerson and update the heating and cooling systems at Gilsum.

ARTICLE FIVE: Shall the Monadnock Regional School District raise and appropriate the sum of \$1 to be added to the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum to come from the June 30, 2020 fund balance available for transfer on July 1st 2020. No new amount to be raised from taxation. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. (Majority vote required).

This is a trust fund designed to provide the district with an emergency fund should there be any unexpected special education costs. The trust currently holds \$332,049, and no additional money is needed at this time. This warrant is filed for the ballot each year to allow for an increase and discussion during deliberative, and must be approved each year by the voters.

ARTICLE SIX: To see if the school district will vote to discontinue the 2009 School Bldg Capital Reserve Fund created in 2008.

This fund has a similar purpose as the School Building Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund. The Trustees have advised that we do not need both. The Capital Reserve has a balance of approximately \$3,150.

ARTICLE SEVEN: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to establish a District Vehicle Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 198:20-c, V for the purpose of purchasing new or replacement vehicles and to raise and appropriate up to \$50,000 from its unassigned fund balance if any, remaining on hand at the end of fiscal year June 30, 2020, to be placed in the fund; further to name the school board as agents to expend from the fund. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. (Majority vote required).

This trust will allow for the replacement of district vehicles. As with our other expendable trust funds, an expendable trust fund is like a savings account with a specific purpose.

ARTICLE EIGHT: To see if the school district will vote to establish a School Grounds Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 198:20-c,V for the purpose of funding improvements to school grounds and parking lots and to raise and appropriate up to \$60,000 from its unassigned fund balance, if any, remaining on hand at the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2020, to be placed in the fund; further to name the school board as agents to expend from the fund (Optional). If there is an insufficient, unassigned fund balance as of June 30, 2020, to fund this appropriation and the appropriation in Article SEVEN, then Article SEVEN will be funded first, with any additional unassigned fund balance to be applied to this warrant article. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. (Majority vote required).

This would also establish an expendable trust but its purpose would be for school grounds and school parking lots.

ARTICLE NINE: To see if the school district will vote to authorize, indefinitely until rescinded, to retain year-end unassigned general funds in an amount not to exceed, in any fiscal year, 2.5 percent of the current fiscal year's net assessment, in accordance with RSA 198:4-b, II. Such fund balance retained may only be used to reduce the tax rate or for emergencies to be approved by the Department of Education under RSA 32:11. (Majority vote required)

This article allows districts to retain year end unused funds up to 2.5 percent of the current fiscal year's net assessment for either reducing the tax rate or emergencies.

ARTICLE 11: Shall the Monadnock Regional School District receive and approve the reports of the agents, auditors, committees and officers chosen as printed and distributed in the Annual Report? (Majority vote required).

This article does not require funding; it provides the voters with an opportunity to approve the various components of our annual report.

Article 12: To listen to opinions of a purely advisory nature with regards to the conduct of school affairs for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required).

This article does not require funding; it provides voters with opportunity to express their opinions of school-related matters during public comments at School Board meetings as well as meetings of any School Board committee.