

THE BUDGET

We all want our schools to improve. To be above average. To have our high school fully re-accredited. To make annual yearly progress towards the targets of No Child Left Behind.

This year's proposed budget is **over \$1 million less** than the default budget, and was designed to be mostly the same as the budget we're operating with right now. We are adjusting to drastically lower enrollment – down 39% from our peak years ago – that reflects changing demographics in the entire state. All the surrounding districts face similar enrollment declines. The budget was amended up \$918,000 at the Deliberative Session.

This budget includes \$1,202,580 for expenses for the new Monadnock-only SAU 93. SAU costs are no longer in a separate warrant article, by law. This figure is \$58,450 **less** than the current Monadnock SAU 38 budget, living up to the predicted savings in the SAU Withdrawal Report.

Our schools operated with default budgets for years. A default budget applies the previous year's spending to the following year, with adjustments for contractual changes, such as teacher and staff contracts, health insurance, and retirement contributions.

A recent consulting report said that our test scores were rising faster than any district in the state, achievement attained under passed budgets that included spending cuts.

The Board and Budget Committee support the proposed budget. But no matter how you vote, please vote, and participate in our democracy.

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Swansey, NH 03446

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THE GREEN SHEET

Information for Monadnock School District voters

Happenings in the schools:

Fast ForWord, our reading software bought with stimulus money, continues to help students make progress in developing reading skills.

The Literacy Task Force, comprised of 26 teachers and staff, continues to work towards a goal of 100% competency by third grade.

“Professional Learning Communities” are maturing in their use and value. Similar to Quality Circles, they help improve teachers.

“Response to Intervention” is being put in place to have a consistent roadmap for what to do when students need help

SERESC Improvements are being implemented in response to a consulting study that identified district-wide issues.

THE HIGH SCHOOL RENOVATION AND HEALTH AND SAFETY WARRANT ARTICLES

These articles continue work begun previously.

Article 3, the High School Renovation Warrant Article is the third year of five years of work worth a total of five million dollars. This year's projects run new water mains and electrical mains, renovate bathrooms, and hang a new drop ceiling in hallways and the cafeteria. We are earning 56% state aid back on these warrants. We are applying almost \$400,000 that we already have, and hope to receive \$630,700 in state aid in the coming year. Passing this warrant will earn us, we hope, \$752,000 in state building aid in the future. While state aid is contingent on the Legislature, we feel relatively good that they'll meet their building aid commitments. This is good work at a bargain price.

Article 4, the Health and Safety Warrant Article, will finish the required fire sprinkler system at Mt. Caesar. We began the work last year installing a new alarm system. At \$148,000, it is about \$100,000 **less** than we usually ask for Health and Safety items.

ALL-DAY KINDERGARTEN

This article is aimed directly at student achievement. Almost half our incoming kindergarteners are already behind, and we have until third grade to catch them up. All-Day Kindergarten gives us a running start at getting them to grade level. It is one of the best investments we can make in education. Most of the cost is for additional teachers.

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