



Goffstown School District Warrant Article Guide

The Goffstown School Board is pleased to offer this 2008 School District Warrant Article Guide. We have prepared information on the four articles that will appear on the School District Warrant on Tuesday, March 11, 2008. The school board values strong communication with the Goffstown community. We sincerely hope this guide will assist you in making informed voting decisions. Please remember to exercise your right to vote!

ARTICLE 1 – Election of Officers

Voters will elect three individuals to fill School Board positions. Each position is for a three-year term. (*candidates: Henry Boyle, Philip Pancoast, Sara Sarette*)

Voters will choose one School District Treasurer for the ensuing one year term. (*candidate: Lissa Winrow*)

ARTICLE 2 – Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$816,000.00) to begin Phase I upgrade and expansion of the Bartlett Elementary School and authorize the withdrawal of SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$600,000.00) from the Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The balance of TWO HUNDRED SIXTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$216,000.00) is to come from school impact fees. Furthermore, to see if the School District will vote to designate the School Board as agents to expend from the Bartlett Elementary School Facilities Capital Reserve Fund. This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article #4, the Operating Budget Article.

Passage of this article will allow for Phase 1 of the Bartlett Elementary School project to begin. This phase is organized into four “sub-projects”. (1) site work to improve bus lanes to the school; (2) structural work to include masonry repairs to the building foundation and brick work on exterior walls; (3) architectural design, renovation and construction of health office area, administrative offices, educational work area and storage areas; and (4) electrical and mechanical system upgrades including updates and refurbishments to the current electrical, alarm, HVAC and fire suppression systems.

As these funds have been previously set aside, there is no additional tax impact by the passing of this article. The existing Capital Reserve Fund was authorized and created by the district’s voters at the 2005 District Meeting. It was developed during prior years by deposits from the School District’s Unreserved Fund Balance. School Impact Fees are paid by developers.

A majority vote is required. The School Board recommends this article. The Budget Committee recommends this article.

ARTICLE 3 - Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$300,000.00) to be added to the existing Bartlett Elementary School Facilities Capital Reserve Fund for Phase II of the upgrade and expansion of the Bartlett Elementary School. Furthermore, to fund this trust from the year end undesignated fund balance available on July 1 of 2008. This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article #4, the Operating Budget Article.

This article asks voters for permission to place \$300,000 into the existing Capital Reserve Fund established for the renovation of the Bartlett Elementary School. This deposit is intended to provide partial funding required to support building and infrastructure updates which are scheduled to be a part of the Phase 2 segment of the renovation project. There is no additional impact to the tax rate since this amount will be transferred from the projected undesignated fund balance which will be available to the school district on July 1, 2008.

*A majority vote is required.
The School Board recommends this article.
The Budget Committee recommends this article.*

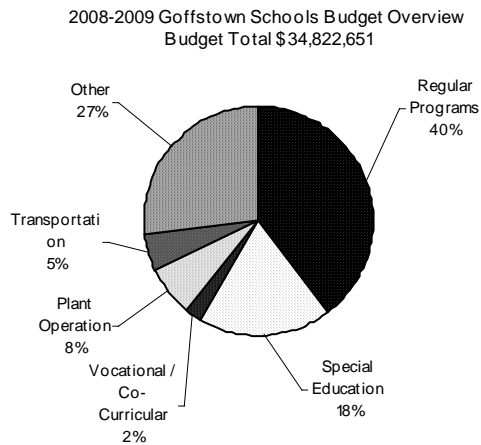


ARTICLE 4 - Operating Budget

Shall the Goffstown School District raise and appropriate as an Operating Budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein totaling

THIRTY FOUR MILLION, EIGHT HUNDRED TWENTY TWO THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED FIFTY ONE DOLLARS (\$34,822,651.00). Should this Article be defeated, the Default Budget shall be **THIRTY FOUR MILLION, FIVE HUNDRED SIXTY SIX THOUSAND, EIGHTY DOLLARS (\$34,566,080.00)** which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Goffstown School District or by law. In the event this Article is defeated, the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised Operating Budget only.

The School Board and the Goffstown Budget Committee have worked together on budget development over the past five months with an eye toward minimizing budget cost growth while ensuring that the children of our community continue to be the recipients of a quality educational experience.



The General Fund portion of the proposed budget is, in essence, a maintenance budget. These dollars support programming for the preschool/kindergarten school, two elementary schools, the middle and high schools. The district is populated by more than 3,000 students. In addition, the proposed budget supports specialized in-district and out-of-district programming for some of our neediest students.

The General Fund supports scheduled cycles of curriculum revision and technology integration. Curriculum emphasis for the upcoming year will be focused on Social Studies, Wellness / Health and World Languages instructional methods and resources in order to assure alignment with statewide frameworks and assessment criteria. Technology emphasis continues to be focused on the Information and Communication Technologies Literacy Program in grades K-12. The program weaves technology experiences into all subject content areas and at all grade levels. Technology budget funds will be used to maintain software and safe, reliable networks to transmit information among schools, central office and parents. The budget provides for one new Guidance Coordinator position, required by state regulation to support the student population levels projected within our school district.

The Federal Grants Fund portion of the budget has decreased by \$96,680 from levels of a year ago. There is a slight increase in the Food Services fund. This \$12,870 or 1.4% increase is attributable to a projected growth in sales volume. The Food Service operation is self funding; revenues are used to offset expenses.

The School Board and Goffstown Budget Committee budget is premised upon the Town's projection of a 0.75% increase in the property tax base from last year's level. The estimated school tax rate is \$12.90 per thousand. This is an increase of \$1.14 from the approved rate for this current year.

A majority vote is required. The School Board recommends this article. The Budget Committee recommends this article.

