



LONDONDERRY SCHOOL BOARD

To the parents and community members of Londonderry,

My name is Mike Saucier and I am Chairman of the School Board this year. On behalf of the School Board and Administration, I would like to thank all who took the time out of their busy schedules to send emails, make calls, attend Budget Workshops, or attend the School Deliberative Session on Friday, February 5th. This letter is intended to explain each of the nine Articles that you will see on the school ballot in March and to answer or clarify questions that have been raised and to provide information for those who have not been able to attend or watch the meetings.

Below you will find information about each of the specific Articles that you will see on the school ballot in March. Article 2 is the General Fund Operating Budget for the next fiscal year. Articles 3-9 each have a specific purpose and cannot be used for any other purpose. In addition no funds from these articles can be transferred to the General Fund as they are designed to address a specific purpose with additional funding above the General Fund Operating Budget. These projects are deemed necessary and important to the functioning of the School District, above and beyond the general costs of operations. They are designed to ensure the projects are properly funded without significant increases or decreases on the General Fund Operating Budget.

If you are looking for more specific information and a break down of expenses, all budget materials can be found on the School District website on the Business Office Page at: https://londonderry.org/departments/business_office

We encourage all voters to vote on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at the Londonderry High School Gym. The polls open at 6:00am and close at 8:00pm. If you have questions please reach out to the School Board any time via email at schoolboard@londonderry.org

Article 1 - Election of Officers

- To elect two members of the School Board for three year terms

Article 2 - General Fund Operating Budget

- The School Board has proposed a General Fund Operating Budget of \$81,497,456. This represents an increase in the level of spending from the current fiscal year of \$2,601,990.
- The major increases in the proposed budget are generally outside of the control of the School Board that involve Retirement Costs and Health Care Premiums.
- The cost of student transportation is up \$440,227 from the current fiscal year. This is mainly due to the fact that the School District is currently operating under the Default Budget that did not allow for any contractual increases. This number therefore represents a two-year jump in costs.
- District-wide salaries, including the costs of four continuing collective bargaining agreements previously approved by the voters, will increase \$278,833.
- The District continues to receive over \$1 million for tuition from the Hooksett School District, that carries very little cost to the District as no additional staffing or facility space is necessary
- During the various budget workshops, the District and Board reduced the level of staffing, the request of equipment costs, and the costs of maintenance and construction.
- The School Board is presenting a General Fund operating budget that is \$404,380 lower than the initial request of the Superintendent and is \$367,658 lower than the calculated Default Budget.
- School Board Budget as Amended - Estimated Tax Impact: \$12.79
- Default Budget - Estimated Tax Impact: \$12.87
- School Board Vote: 4-1
- Budget Committee Vote: 6-0-1

Article 3 - School Lunch and Federal Funds

- This allows the School District to accept and receive funds from the Federal Government to offset the cost of the required school lunch program and funds to support special education costs of students attending the School District.
- Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.00
- School Board Vote: 5-0
- Budget Committee Vote: 7-0

Article 4 - Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

- This provides funds to cover the costs of necessary classroom equipment and small equipment for Buildings and Grounds and Technology not funded in the General Fund. There is no tax impact from this Article - if approved funds will be taken from the 2021 undesignated fund balance.
- Total Requested: \$25,000
- Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.00
- School Board Vote: 5-0
- Budget Committee Vote: 7-0

Article 5 - District Technology Infrastructure Capital Reserve Fund

- This provides funds to maintain and improve the District's network infrastructure so that the delivery of instruction and/or the technology needs of faculty and staff is reliable and has the increased speed and bandwidth necessary.
- Total Requested: \$125,000
- Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.03
- School Board Vote: 5-0
- Budget Committee Vote: 4-3

Article 6 - Vehicle and Machinery Capital Reserve Fund

- This provides funds to purchase vehicles and machinery necessary to provide the proper maintenance to District property such as snow removal grounds, and fields maintenance. There is no tax impact from this Article - if approved funds will be taken from the 2021 undesignated fund balance.
- Total Requested \$75,000
- Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.00
- School Board Vote: 5-0
- Budget Committee Vote: 7-0

Article 7 - Buildings and Grounds Capital Reserve Fund

- This provides funding to ensure property maintenance, repairs, and replacement to the District buildings, grounds, and infrastructure are funded to keep the areas efficient and safe. This fund is used to pay for expensive, long term projects without having to take out loans and that helps keep the tax rate level year to year. Past examples of projects are repaving the Middle School Parking lot, replacing boilers in each building, building roofing when repairs become too expensive, etc...
- Total Requested: \$600,000 (Initial proposal before Board amended was for \$750,000)
- Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.13
- School Board Vote: 5-0
- Budget Committee Vote: 6-1

Article 8 - Adoption of Retention of Fund Balance

- This allows the School District to retain up to 5% of the School District net assessment and makes the School Board agents to expend from the unassigned fund balance fund. This increases the limit from the previous 2.5% and gives the Board permission to hold a Public Hearing and choose how to use that money rather than going through the state as previously required. There is no tax impact from this Article.
- Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.00
- School Board Vote: 5-0
- Budget Committee Vote: 7-0

Article 9 - Dining Service

- This addresses the need to fund the replacement of three lunch serving lines that are old and out of code. There is no tax impact from this Article - if approved funds will be taken from the 2021 undesignated fund balance.
- Total Requested: \$96,000
- Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.00
- School Board Vote: 5-0
- Budget Committee Vote: 7-0