

Town of Mason, New Hampshire

Mason School District

2024 Deliberative Session

February 03, 2024

The First Session, The Deliberative Session, of the Mason School District was held in the Mason Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room, 13 Darling Hill Road, Mason New Hampshire on February 03, 2024.

At 0900 Moderator Dotsie Milbrandt asked attendees to take their seats. All voters and nonvoters are requested to wear appropriate credentials and be seated after signing in with the Supervisors of the Checklist at the back table. Nonvoters are to be seated to the Moderators right in the front row.

There were fourteen voters and one nonvoter present.

Moderator Dotsie Milbrandt recognized the coordinated efforts of individuals to prepare for this meeting including School District Personnel, Supervisors of the Checklist, Physical Plant Staff, Police, and Emergency Personnel.

Moderator Dotsie Milbrandt reviewed safety procedures, calling attention to the emergency exits.

There were no requests for Interpretative Services.

**Roll Call and Introductions:**

Chairman Dr. Christopher Guiry

Vice Chairman Colin Robinson

School Board Member Nate Choquette

School Board Member Jason Iannuzzo

Absent: School Board Member Tim Leak

Accounts Payable Brenda Wiley

School District Clerk / School Board Secretary Becky Partridge

Superintendent of Schools Kristen Kivela

**Procedure**

The purpose of the Deliberative Session is to inform the voters about each proposed article, allow voters to ask questions, discuss and possibly amend the article to decide its final wording. When discussion is complete, the Moderator will call for a vote. This vote in the

affirmative will move the final form of the article to the Official Ballot to be voted on at the Town and School District Elections on March 12, 2024.

After each article is read and seconded, there will be an opportunity for voters to comment on the article. When the Moderator recognizes you, please state your name and address. All comments and questions will be directed to the Moderator.

All amendments and substantive motions are to be in writing and signed by the maker and seconder. Any five voters present may request a secret ballot vote if the request is made before the voice vote on an article. For a secret ballot vote, voters will proceed down the center aisle and be given a paper with the words, **YES** and **NO**. Tear it in half and place the appropriate half in the ballot box.

### **Call To Order**

**Moderator Dotsie Milbrandt:** By the powers vested in me by the State of New Hampshire, I now call to order the First Session, The Deliberative Session of the Mason School District Annual Meeting at 0903h.

### **Opening Exercises**

The Moderator asked for School Board Members and the public to join in The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

The first order of business is reading of the warrant. There was no objection to waive the reading of the warrant.

*On Motion of Moderator Dotsie Milbrandt, duly seconded, it was **VOTED** to allow Superintendent Kristen Kivela to speak. Motion passed*

*On Motion of School Board Member Nate Choquette, duly seconded, it was **VOTED** to place on the official ballot Article 1*

*To choose the following School District Officer: School Board Member (3 years)*

*On Motion of School Board Member Nate Choquette, duly seconded, it was **VOTED** to place on the official ballot Article 2*

*To accept the reports of agents, auditors, committees or officers chosen as printed in the Annual Mason School District Report.*

*On Motion of Chairman Dr. Christopher Guiry duly seconded, it was **VOTED** to place on the official ballot Article 3*

Shall the Mason 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 **Three Million, Nine Hundred Twenty-Nine Thousand, Seven Hundred Ninety-Eight Dollars** (\$3,929,798.00). Should this Article be defeated, the default budget shall be **Three Million, Eight Hundred Eighty-Eight Thousand and Three Hundred and Three Dollars** (\$3,888,303.00) which is the same as last year, with

certain adjustments required by previous action of the Mason School District or by law; or 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? **NOTE: This operating budget warrant article does not include appropriations contained in any other warrant article.** The School Board recommends this warrant article 5-0. (Majority Vote Required)

**Discussion:**

Kristen Kivela explained that the largest increases are tuition numbers and two session preschool, however there will be reimbursement through charging to attend.

Sherri Malouf questioned why are we putting more money into SPED, are we getting any money from the state to offset our costs? Kristen Kivela explained that the state should be reimbursing some of the costs by December however the amount is not guaranteed.

Robert Busofer asked what the m/s and h/s numbers are now and what they are projected to be? Kristen Kivela stated sixty-four (64) this year with an expected increase to seventy eight (78) next year.

*On Motion of School Board Member Nate Choquette duly seconded, it was **VOTED** to place on the official ballot Article 4*

Shall the Mason School District vote to raise and appropriate up to Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00) to be added to the previously established Unanticipated Tuition Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2010), with such amount to be funded from the June 30, unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 01? No amount to be raised from taxation. The School Board recommends this warrant article 5-0. (Majority vote required.)

**Discussion:** Dr. Chris Guiry stated that the money being raised in these warrant articles (4-6) is not added to the taxes but is funded by excess money, if there is any, from that year's budget.

Currently \$109,000.00.

*On Motion of Vice Chairman Colin Robinson, duly seconded, it was **VOTED** to place on the official ballot Article 5*

Shall the Mason School District vote to raise and appropriate up to Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) to be added to the previously established Educating Educationally Disabled Children Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2020), with such amount to be funded from the June 30, unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 01? No amount to be raised from taxation. The School Board recommends this warrant article 5-0. (Majority vote required.)

**Discussion:** None

*On Motion of School Board Member Jason Iannuzzo, duly seconded, it was **VOTED** to place on the official ballot Article 6*

Shall the Mason School District vote to raise and appropriate up to Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) to be added to the previously established School Building and Grounds Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2010), with such amount to be funded from

the June 30, unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 01? No amount to be raised from taxation. The School Board recommends this warrant article 5-0. (Majority vote required.)

**Discussion:**

School Board Member [Jason Iannuzzo](#) stated that the building is aging and repairs will be significantly expensive.

Currently \$61,000.00

There being no further business to come before the First Session, The Deliberative Session of the Mason School District a motion is in order to adjourn Sine Die. *Motion by Dr. Christopher Guiry, duly seconded and **Voted**.*

Adjourned Sine Die at 0921h.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca L. Partridge".

Respectfully Submitted,

School District Clerk

Rebecca L. Partridge