



## SAU 90 – Hampton School District 2016 School Warrant Articles

**This document is intended to help Hampton voters understand the Warrant Articles that will appear on the SAU 90 ballot on March 8, 2016.** Each Article is explained, and there is a short statement about what those in favor say about it, and what those opposed say.

### Candidates:

Position	Term	# of Positions	# of Candidates	Candidate Names
School Board	3 Yrs	2	3	Les Shepard   Ginny Bridle-Russell   Kevin Lonergan

**Note:** There are 2 school board positions open each for a 3-year term. There are 3 Candidates.

### Article 1: Hampton Academy Renovation

Shall the Hampton School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$24,945,000 for reconstructing and equipping the Hampton Academy middle school; and authorize the issuance of not more than \$24,945,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Chapter 33); and authorize the School Board to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; and further to raise and appropriate the additional sum of \$460,550 for the payment of the first year's interest on the bonds or notes authorized by this article, and authorize the School Board to apply for, accept and expend any grants for this purpose and take any other action necessary to carry out this vote? (Three-fifths vote required.)

**What it means:** A comprehensive renovation of Hampton Academy is proposed for a total cost of \$24,945,000. The project would address infrastructure needs such as new roofs, windows and air quality issues; space to accommodate current technology and learning methods and would also incorporate a Community Room. Details are included below. The cost would be financed through bond debt.

**Those in favor say:** Information has been put forward by SAU 90, and is the basis for this section. A link to the Hampton Academy Renovation Project page can be found at the bottom of this section.

Click here for images of the school:

[Hampton Academy](#)

**Following are some of the highlights of the project as found in the SAU 90 materials:**

- The building was originally built in 1939, with additions in 1961 and 1974.
- The building houses Grades 6-8.
- The project will add 51,000 square feet and will renovate 63,300 square feet.
- Specifics of the project, which will respect the character of the site:
  - Re-design to better protect flow of students and visitors for safety reasons
  - New roofs, windows, and technology infrastructure
  - Improved parking with safer traffic flow
  - Upgraded mechanical, electrical, air quality, data and building safety systems
  - Community auditorium with fixed seating for 550
  - Community Room and public meeting space with video recording for Channel 13
- Why now? The needs of Hampton Academy have been researched for years and there is a carefully vetted design for the work. Program and safety concerns continue to change with the changing society. The building and the additions are old, and many expensive infrastructure repairs will need to be undertaken with or without the re-design. Retiring bond payments can help fund this project, and interest rates are not likely to get lower than they are now.
- If the project is NOT undertaken as currently proposed, the Town will still need to address major infrastructure issues including: roof replacement, electrical upgrades, fire suppression, air quality, a complete restroom renovation, and ADA code compliance. Putting the project off is likely to incur rising construction costs and rising bond rates, making future repairs more expensive for taxpayers.
- The funding requested is stated as being the “Guaranteed Maximum Price.”

**Those against say:** Those who have expressed issues with the proposal focus on:

- The overall cost of the project and the impact on the tax bill
- Other Town needs such as water drainage issues that will also need to be addressed
- The scope of the renovation and whether there might be a less expensive option
- Whether specific items are really necessary, such as a gym or an auditorium

**Fiscal Impact:** The average Hampton home valued at \$329,000 would bear an increased tax cost of \$55.93 in 2016 if this Article passes. There will be future year impacts as well, with the 2017 cost estimated at \$106.26 for the average-valued home.

<http://www.sau90.org/node/hampton-academy-building-project>

**Article 2: Hampton School District Operating Budget - \$20,184,320**

Shall the 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 \$20,184,320? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$20,256,680, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the 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. (Majority vote required.)

*Note: Warrant Article #2 (operating budget) does not include appropriations in any other warrant articles.*

**What it means:** The proposed Operating Budget for Hampton School District is \$72,360 less than the Default Budget. The Default Budget is defined as the prior year's budget increased by contractual obligations, debt service and any Warrant Articles passed by the voters. Approval of the Article will result in the lower budget.

**Those in favor say:** The Operating Budget is less than the Default Budget, so it makes sense to vote for that.

**Those against say:** No one spoke against this Article at public hearings.

**Fiscal Impact:** The average Hampton home valued at \$329,000 would bear a decreased tax cost of \$8.79 if this Article passes.

### **Article 3: Collective Bargaining Agreement – Seacoast Education Association**

To see if the School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hampton School Board and the Seacoast Education Association covering the four year period from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2020 which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

Year	Estimated Increase
2016-17	\$239,020
2017-18	\$254,533
2018-19	\$252,502
2019-20	\$250,748

and further raise and appropriate the sum of \$239,020 for the 2016-17 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels in accordance with the most recent collective bargaining agreement. (Majority vote required.)

**What it means:** School officials have negotiated with the Seacoast Education Association, representing about 120 teachers. The amounts noted represent less than 1% increases, plus additional “step” increases. The voters must now approve the increase.

**Those in favor say:** These negotiations, similar to other collective bargaining agreements in town, are a compromise between “give backs” related to health insurance, and the need to maintain competitive salaries for teachers in Marston School, Centre School and Hampton Academy.

**Those against say:** No one spoke against this Article at public hearings.

**Fiscal Impact:** The average Hampton home valued at \$329,000 would bear an increased tax cost of \$28.29 in 2016 if this Article passes. Subsequent years included in the contract would increase the average homeowners taxes by about \$30.00 per year.

## Article 4: Marston and Centre School Repairs - \$300,000

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300,000 to continue long term maintenance, repair and modernization work to include technical and/or engineering services at Hampton's Marston and Centre school buildings and grounds? This article is a continuation of an annual program planned to keep the buildings updated and in good condition, thereby protecting the taxpayer's investment. Projects planned for 2016-17 are listed below. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until these projects are completed or June 30, 2018, whichever is earlier. (Majority vote required.)

### Marston School

Replace roof over original building and 1975 addition (phased)	\$215,000
Implement security improvements (phased)	25,000
	<b>\$240,000</b>

### Centre School

Replace original classroom sinks and counter tops (phased)	\$ 20,000
ADA improvements (district-wide)	5,000
Replace hallway entrance doors to Gymnasium	5,000
Roof repairs (ongoing)	5,000
Implement security improvements (phased)	25,000
	<b>\$ 60,000</b>

**What it means:** The Article is self-explanatory – the funds are sought to keep the two schools in good condition.

**Those in favor say:** This is a routine request to maintain the buildings in good order.

**Those against say:** No one spoke against this Article at public hearings.

**Fiscal Impact:** The average Hampton home valued at \$329,000 would bear an increased tax cost of \$35.50 in 2016 if this Article passes. Approval of this Article affects 2016 only.

## Article 5: Conveyance of two parcels for the Hampton Academy renovation

Shall the School District vote to authorize the School Board to accept conveyance of two parcels of property from the Town of Hampton on such terms and conditions as the School Board determine are appropriate, the first commonly known as the Arnold property, and the second being known as the Martel property? Both parcels abut the property of the School District on Academy Avenue and have been leased to and used by the Hampton School District for many years for school bus loading and unloading and staff parking. (Majority vote required).

**What it means:** This is the corollary of Article 36 on the main ballot. The voters must approve both sides of the conveyance – the Town to deed the properties to SAU 90, and for SAU 90 to accept the conveyance. This would only be effective if the voters approve SAU 90 Article 1.

**What people are saying:** There have been many comments with regard to the Hampton Academy renovation (covered under Article 1), but we are not aware of any discussions specifically related to the conveyance of these parcels.

**Fiscal Impact:** No tax impact.

## **Article 6: Sacred Heart School Child Benefit Services - \$45,600**

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate funds in the amount of \$45,600 to provide child benefit services, in accordance with RSA 189:49, for students who are residents of the Hampton School District and attend Sacred Heart School located in Hampton, New Hampshire. BY PETITION. (Majority vote required).

**What it means:** Sacred Heart School is a private school in town. 48 Hampton residents attend Sacred Heart as opposed to attending the Hampton public schools. This Article asks for an offset for child benefit services in lieu of the taxpayers paying for the students to attend public school.

**Those in favor say:** These students would otherwise be attending the public schools at an Average cost per student of \$15,212. The Article asks for \$950 per student. These funds help to cover a nurse, educational technology, supplies and textbooks. Funds are not used for any religious purposes.

**Those against say:** One speaker had an issue with supporting a religious organization, even if the funds were not specifically used for religious purposes.

**Fiscal Impact:** The average Hampton home valued at \$329,000 would bear an increased tax cost of \$5.40 in 2016 if this Article passes. Approval of this Article affects 2016 only.