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## A thinking voter's resource



This provides information on the SAU 90 School District Ballot.

### Candidates

Position - SAU 90	Term	# Open	# of Candidates	Candidate Names	
School Board Member	3 Yrs	1	2	Amy Hansen	Andrea Shepard

### SAU 90 Article 1 – Hampton Academy Reconstruction Project

Shall the Hampton School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,950,000 for reconstructing and equipping the Hampton Academy middle school; and authorize the issuance of not more than \$25,950,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Chapter 33); and authorize the School Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and further to raise and appropriate the additional sum of \$570,360 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 or other aid for this purpose and take any other action necessary to carry out this vote? (Three-fifths vote required.)

**What it means:** This is a comprehensive reconstruction of the Hampton Academy middle school facility, including:

- Vital upgrades to the mechanical, electrical, safety, air quality and accessibility systems throughout the building
- Core subject classrooms sized and equipped for contemporary education
- A full-size gymnasium with bleacher seating for 500
- Contemporary science and STEM classrooms with real laboratory facilities
- Improved classroom space for unified arts – band, chorus, fine art

- A school and community auditorium with fixed seating for 550
- Upgraded kitchen/cafeteria with storage space for all building needs
- A community room and meeting space with video recording for Cable
- Improved traffic flow with on-site bus and parent drop off and pick up

This article authorizes long-term bonding for the \$25,950,000 project and appropriates the amount of the first interest payment of \$570,360.

**Those in favor say:** This is a long over-due renovation. The team that worked on it has tried very hard to include community requirements and to respect the impact on the taxpayers. The project has been reviewed for ways to reduce the cost, but the amount that would be saved versus what would need to be sacrificed did not seem to be a reasonable tradeoff. The project must be done at some point, and chances are the cost to taxpayers will grow as time goes on.

**Those against say:** No one seems to question the need for the renovation. Some have expressed concern over the total cost, and question why the project could not be scaled back to make it more affordable for taxpayers.

**Fiscal Impact:** The financial impact in 2017 is expected to be \$59.17 for the average-value Hampton home of \$404,000. For the following years of the bond, the cost will be \$196 per year for the average-value home.

### **SAU 90 Article 2 – Operating Budget \$20,635,850**

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 \$20,635,850? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$20,679,275, 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.)

**What it means:** The proposed operating budget for FY 2017-18 is \$20,635,850. That figure is higher than the current FY 2016-17 budget by \$212,510, an increase of 1.04%. If the proposed budget fails, the default budget will be \$20,679,275, which is \$43,425 higher than the proposed. Voting FOR the proposed budget will REDUCE the tax impact.

**Those in favor say:** The budget was developed using a zero-based approach. Every effort was made to keep the budget as low as possible in deference to the taxpayers who will also be asked to approve Article 1.

**Those against say:** Given that the proposed operating budget for SAU 90 is less than

the Default Budget, there have been mostly comments in favor.

**Fiscal Impact:** The proposed 2017 budget for SAU 90 will cause an increase in total property taxes of \$21.89 for an average-valued home.

### **SAU 90 Article 3 – Long-Term Maintenance and Modernization**

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 2017-18 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, 2019, whichever is earlier.

#### Marston School

Replace roof over original building, annex and kitchen (phased)	\$230,000
Replace original classroom sinks and counter tops (phased)	15,000
Implement security improvements (phased)	15,000
	<b>\$260,000</b>

#### Centre School

Replace original classroom sinks and counter tops (phased)	\$ 15,000
ADA improvements (district-wide)	5,000
Roof repairs (ongoing)	5,000
Implement security improvements (phased)	15,000
	<b>\$ 40,000</b>

**What it means:** The school district has voted for a number of years to appropriate \$300,000 for ongoing long term maintenance projects in the Hampton school buildings. The School Board again this year requests \$300,000 to continue the projects listed above.

**Those in favor say:** It is far easier on the taxpayer to accommodate regular maintenance projects than to have a major, emergency project that needs immediate funding.

**Those against say:** No one spoke against this article at the public meetings.

**Fiscal Impact:** No tax impact (same cost as prior year).

### **SAU 90 Article 4 – Child Benefit Services**

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate funds in the amount of \$39,729 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:** NH state law, specifically RSA 189:49, permits a local school district to provide child benefit services for resident students attending other schools. Hampton voters have for a number of years provided funding to Sacred Heart School in Hampton to benefit students there with school nurse services, instructional materials, etc. The \$39,729 requested this year is \$5,871 less than last year due to changing enrollment in that school.

**Those in favor say:** It saves money for the Town that some parents choose to send their children to a private school. These funds support services that the children would otherwise be receiving if they attended public school.

**Those against say:** No one spoke against this article at the public meetings.

**Fiscal Impact:** At the proposed cost level, there will be a reduction in taxes versus last year of about 80 cents for a home valued at \$404,000.