



## Hampton, NH 2025 SAU 21 Warrant Articles

### In the Know Hampton Your Source for Unbiased Town Information

This document is intended to help Hampton voters understand the Warrant Articles that will appear on the ballot on March 11, 2025. We do not tell you how to vote – that is up to you. The objective is to help voters understand what the Articles mean, what people are saying for and against, and what the cost implications may be.

#### Election of Officers for SAU 21

Positions	Term	Candidate Names
School Board Member - North Hampton (1)	3 Yrs	Tracy Williams
Budget Committee - North Hampton (1)	3 Yrs	Alain LeBlanc

**What it means:** Hampton voters get to vote on each of these open positions (even though the candidate must come from North Hampton in this case.) There are two open positions, and exactly one candidate for each. You also have the option to write-in a name.

#### Article 1: Operating Budget of \$32,236,730 versus Default Budget of \$32,117,244

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 \$32,236,730? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$32,117,244 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the 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. (Majority vote required.) NOTE: Warrant Article #1 (operating budget) does not include appropriations in any other warrant articles.

**What it means:** The proposed operating budget (excluding appropriations in any other warrant articles) is actually below the FY 2024-2025 budget by almost a million dollars (-\$957,258), or down by 2.88%. The savings occurred as follows:

- Bond Expiration – The principal and interest payment for the 20-year bond for the school building project has been fully paid.
- Personnel Reduction – Proposed reduction of 1.0 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) teacher position (anticipated retirement).
- Personnel Reduction – Proposed reduction of 1.0 FTE assoc. principal position (currently unfilled).
- General reductions – Prioritized departmental requests on all discretionary accounts to reduce costs.

The proposed Operating budget is +\$119,386 higher than the Default budget of \$32,117,244, or .37% (less than one-half of one percent) over the Default. (Note, the Default budget has the bond payments removed automatically.)

**Those in favor say:** The Board and staff worked hard to keep expenses reasonable for taxpayers. There were increases in many budget areas due to the cost of salary adjustments for union and non-union staff; health



insurance premiums; and cost escalation for supplies, vocational programs (higher participation and increase in outside tuition rates), special education expenses due to higher transportation.

**Those Against Say:** No one spoke against this Article at the SAU 21 Deliberative Session.

**Fiscal Impact:** For a Hampton property valued at \$650,000, the added tax would be \$7.15 (only Hampton's 47.3% of the cost). Take your property value, divide by 1,000 and multiply by .011 to get your cost.

### **Article 2: Roof Replacement Warrant Article: \$2,587,361**

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,587,361 for phases two and three of a multi year project to replace and repair the roofs at Winnacunnet High School? This project is part of the facility plan adopted by the school board. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until the project is complete or June 30, 2030 whichever is earlier

**What it Means:** The School Board proposes to raise and appropriate \$2,587,361 to complete the final two phases of the roof replacement project per the roofing plan, and five-year capital improvement plan (CIP).

**Those in Favor Say:** The replacement of the 20-year old main school building and gymnasium roof began in the summer of 2024 and will continue through the summer of 2027. This final phase of funding was planned to coincide with the building bond expiration, such that the decrease in one line item will offset the increase needed for the replacement roof. The newer materials planned for the new roof should last 30 years.

**Those Against Say:** No one spoke against this Article, but questions were asked, including whether the roof could incorporate solar panels to reduce energy costs in the future. The reply was that the roof will be installed so that it is "solar-ready" and can be updated later, but solar panels are not in the budget for now.

**Fiscal Impact:** The net effect of the decrease in the Operating Budget (due to the retirement of debt service and other reductions), and the addition of the funds for this Article is a net increase of \$255,103 or a 0.76 % (less than one percent) for the current year.

For a Hampton property valued at \$650,000, the additional cost impact versus last year would be \$15.60 (at Hampton's share of 47.3%). Take your property valuation, divided by 1000 and multiplied by .024 to get a number that would reflect your increase.

### **Article 3: Zero-Based Budgeting (Petitioned)**

Shall all Departments of the Winnacunnet School District be required to adopt and implement "Zero-Based" budgeting when preparing and submitting budgets to the District Treasurer and School Board for consideration for March 2026 proposals for 2027? All Winnacunnet School District Departments are to start at \$0.00, justify every expense in each department, and then review each department budget with the Winnacunnet School Board for inclusion in the annual Winnacunnet School District ballot at 2026 Town Election. CITIZEN'S PETITION

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**What it Means:** Petitioners are asking that SAU 21 officials start with a zero expectation for all budget items, and build up from there, justifying each expense.

**Those in Favor:** No one was at Deliberative Session to explain their intent or justify the request. One person asked – What is the point of this petition? But no one supporting the Article was there to respond.

**Those Against:** The school already uses a zero-based approach, assessing each department and line item from the ground up to determine exactly what resources, materials, supplies and staffing are necessary to support the operations, but also the vision and goals. The School Board and Budget Committee then review each line item to make sure they are reasonable, and that they recognize the interests of the school, the town and the taxpayers. Those against say that the added regulation of this Article would not add any sense of fiscal responsibility that is not already present.

**REMEMBER TO VOTE ON MARCH 11<sup>TH</sup>. YOU CAN BRING YOUR NOTES WITH YOU TO THE BALLOT BOOTH TO SAVE TIME. THANKS FOR BEING A THINKING HAMPTONITE.**

A Place to Write your SAU 21 Voting Notes



**2025 Hampton Town Meeting Tuesday March 11th**

**WINNACUNNET COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Election of Officers**

Positions	Term	Candidate Names
School Board Member - North Hampton (1)	3 Yrs	Tracy Williams
Budget Committee - North Hampton (1)	3 Yrs	Alain LeBlanc

Article #	Topic	Yes	No
1	Operating Budget of \$32,236,730 versus Default Budget of \$32,117,244		
2	Roof Replacement Warrant Article: \$2,587,361		
3	Zero-Based Budgeting Proposal		