

PELHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Administrative Unit #28

Elaine F. Cutler, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Roxanne S. Wilson
Assistant Superintendent



PELHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT

2006 Voter Guide

Dear Pelham Residents,

The Pelham School Board has prepared this Voter Guide in order to provide the community with an explanation of the School District Warrant. More detailed information is also available at the Town website at www.pelhamweb.com/2006warrant. Pelham School Board members, school administrators, and members of the SAU staff are available to discuss any of the warrants with members of the community. We urge all citizens to be informed about issues in the schools and exercise their voting rights on March 14, 2006, from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Pelham High School.

Respectfully yours,

*Elaine F. Cutler, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
SAU #28*

The School Board warrant articles are listed below along with a brief, non-partisan explanation of the article. The explanations are not intended to influence your vote, but instead, to provide you with the information necessary to make an informed choice on March 14th.

Article 1 - Elected Officials: Moderator, Clerk, Two School Board Members, and Treasurer

School Board – Three Year Term, Two Positions

*Michael K. Conrad
Bruce M. Couture
Angèle M. Diack
Lorraine Dube*

Moderator – One Year Term
Kenneth P. Dunn

Treasurer – One Year Term
Patricia E. Murphy

Clerk – One Year Term
Donna D'Arcangelo

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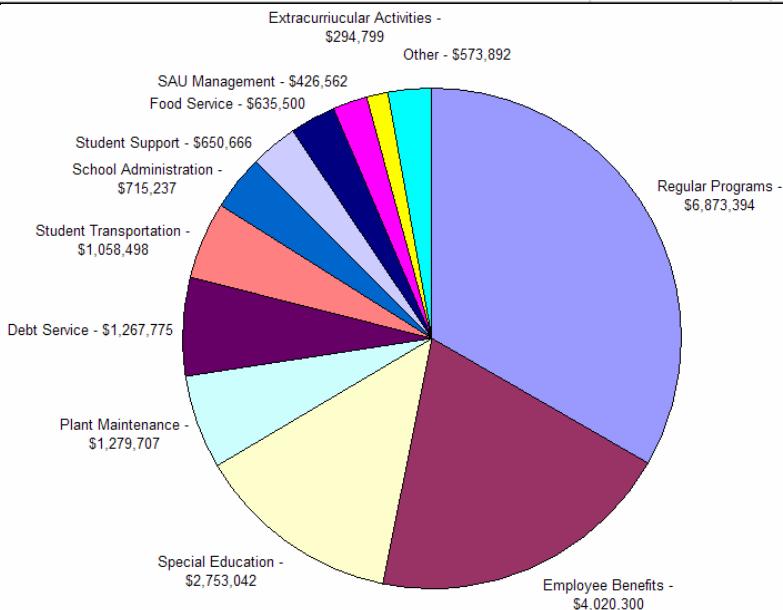


Article 2 - To raise and appropriate \$20,549,372 for the 2006-2007 operating budget.

This Warrant article contains the School Board and Budget Committee recommended school operating budget for the 2006-2007 school year. In accordance with state regulations, the default budget is also included. If the recommended budget does not pass, the default budget would take effect.

Review of the recommended 2006 budget versus the 2005 operating budget shows a net increase of \$190,163, which translates to a .93% increase. (less than 1%). The school operating budget includes all of the funds necessary to operate the three schools in Pelham along with Pelham's portion of the SAU budget, which is shared with Windham. The budgeted amount to provide health insurance benefits to employees increased by \$227,430, which means the budgets for all other accounts actually decreased by a total of \$37,267. Voter approval of the operating budget will enable the school district to provide services and supplies.

Function	Description	2005-2006 Actual	2006-2007 Proposed
Regular Programs	Teacher Salaries, Supplies, Textbooks	\$ 6,966,028	\$ 6,873,394
Employee Benefits	Health, Dental, and Life Insurance, FICA, NH Retirement, Unemployment for Employees	\$ 3,772,262	\$ 4,020,300
Special Education	In District and Out-of-District Special Education and Special Services Costs	\$ 2,682,392	\$ 2,753,042
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	Custodians, Utilities, Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 1,390,698	\$ 1,279,707
Debt Service	Principal and Interest for Pelham Elementary School bond	\$ 1,324,650	\$ 1,267,775
Student Transportation	Student Bus Transportation costs- contracted service.	\$ 992,474	\$ 1,058,498
School Administration	Administrators' salaries, school administration supplies, graduation expenses	\$ 712,173	\$ 715,237
Student Support Services	Nurse, Guidance, and Speech programs and salaries	\$ 618,651	\$ 650,666
Food Service	Cost to run the food service program	\$ 686,560	\$ 635,500
SAU Management Services	Pelham's 49% share of the SAU #28 management fee. Windham pays 51%.	\$ 368,745	\$ 426,562
Extracurricular Activities	Athletics, drama, and other extracurricular fees	\$ 277,857	\$ 294,799
Instructional Staff Services	School libraries, technology, and other support services	\$ 276,008	\$ 293,857
Transfer to Federal Funds		\$ 105,050	\$ 105,050
Other Services	Fees for financial auditing services, legal counsel, school board, moderator, treasurer salaries	\$ 67,010	\$ 67,510
Transfer to Food Service		\$ 64,819	\$ 64,819
Vocational Programs	Tuition fees for vocational enrollment in other school districts.	\$ 43,825	\$ 42,649
Other	Items funded at \$1 for book keeping purposes	\$ 10,007	\$ 7
	Total	\$ 20,359,209	\$ 20,549,372

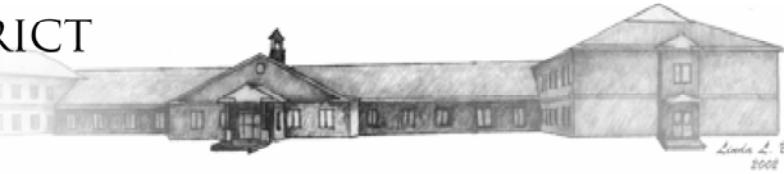


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Article 3 – Collective Bargaining Agreement for PESPA - \$35,364

The Pelham Educational Support Personnel Association is a union association that represents 83 instructional assistants, Title I tutors, and library assistants. They are paid according to collective bargaining agreements negotiated with the District in the same manner as the teacher's union. The collective bargaining agreement must be approved by voters to go into effect. This article represents a collective bargaining agreement reached with the PESPA that will be in effect for three years. In the first year, each of the 83 employees represented by PESPA will receive raises of \$0.22 an hour with a total cost to the District of \$35,364. In the second year of the agreement, each employee will get an additional raise of \$.30 an hour with a total cost of \$66,959. The third and final year, the raise will be \$.33 an hour for a total cost of \$62,558.

Year	Raise Per Hour	Total Cost to District	Difference	Percentage
2005-2006 School Year	N/A	\$ 1,214,818.00	N/A	N/A
2006-2007 School Year	\$ 0.22	\$ 1,247,669.00	\$ 35,364	2.70%
2007-2008 School Year	\$ 0.30	\$ 1,309,869.00	\$ 66,959	4.99%
2008-2009 School Year	\$ 0.33	\$ 1,367,981.79	\$ 62,558	4.44%

Article 4 – Architectural & Engineering Fees of \$350,000 to design the four-school model

This article provides funding for architectural and engineering fees of \$300,000 to provide the District with schematic drawings of a new high school on a new piece of property and \$50,000 for schematic drawings to convert the current high school to a school for grades 7 & 8 only.

This article will allow for the in-depth study and planning necessary for a four-school model for the Pelham schools in a departure from the current three-school model. In the four-school model, grades 1-4 will be at Pelham Elementary School, grades 5-6 will be at Pelham Memorial School, grades 7-8 will be at the current site of Pelham High School, and grades 9-12 will be relocated at a new high school to be located at an undetermined location.

Building	Current Grades	Future Grades
Pelham Elementary School	1-5	1-4
Pelham Memorial School	6-8	5-6
Pelham High School (Current)	9-12	7-8
New High School	N/A	9-12

Article 5 – Portable Classrooms for Pelham High School - \$200,000

This article provides for the purchase of two sets of portable, relocatable classrooms for use at Pelham High School. A total of four classrooms would be available as each set provides two classrooms.

The new classrooms would provide relief to overcrowding problems. They would be used during every class period of every day. They would be located at the far end of the parking lot, which would necessitate the relocation of existing storage containers. This article would assist Pelham High school in the accreditation process by providing adequate, required classroom space. Upon completion of a new high school, the portable classroom will be used at Pelham Memorial to assist with space concerns while the existing high school is renovated for a 7 & 8th grade facility.

Article 6 – Special Education Teacher at Pelham Elementary School - \$50,000

This article will allow for the hiring of an additional case manager/teacher at Pelham Elementary School. The average case load for a case manager at PES is 32.3 students. This number is above the average class size of 22-26 students at Pelham Elementary School. The addition of this position will lower the average to approximately

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25.8 students.. Over the last four years, the number of students requiring a case manager's services has increased by an average of 22.3%.

Article 7 – Special Education Teacher at Pelham Memorial School - \$50,000

This article will allow for the hiring of an additional case manager/teacher at Pelham Memorial School. The average case load for a case manager at PMS is 31.0 students. This number is above the average class size of 25 students at Pelham Memorial School. The addition of this position will lower the average to approximately 25.25 students using the anticipated numbers of students with IEP's for the 2006-2007 school year.

Article 8 – Pelham High School Staff Positions

Article 8a – Half-Time Business Teacher - \$25,000

This article represents an additional teacher at Pelham High School who would teach courses in business. The existing department currently serves 415 students in 14 classes. Forty-seven students were rejected from enrollment in business classes this year due to limited capacity with existing staff. There is an anticipated increase in the number of junior and senior level students. Students at those grade levels would be most affected by the creation of this position.

Article 8b – Full-Time Art Teacher - \$50,000

This article represents an additional teacher at Pelham High School that would teach courses in art. The existing department currently serves 268 students. A total of 446 students requested enrollment in an art class and an additional 108 students requested enrollment in a photography class. This request will allow more students to have their requests for art and photography classes fulfilled.

Article 8c – Full-Time Math/Science Teacher - \$50,000

This article represents an additional teacher at Pelham High School who would teach courses in math and science. Thirteen current sections which act as prerequisite courses for other courses are full and cannot accommodate additional students. The creation of this position would allow more students to enroll in math and science courses.

Article 8d – Upgrade Part-Time Guidance Position to Full-Time Status - \$25,000

This article represents an upgrade to an existing position. A currently employee would have additional hours added to the work week. The current guidance department has a case load that exceeds that which is specified in the State Standard ED 306.17. The guidance department provides the following services:

- Four year planning for all students
- Seminars for all parents at each grade level
- Career planning
- College selection and application process
- College interviews
- Coordination of student participation in special programs, i.e., St Paul's Advanced Studies, Advanced Placement classes, Rivier's Challenge Program, and National and State leadership programs
- Coordination of student testing programs: PSAT, SAT, NWEA, and NHEIAP
- Students At Risk counseling

Article 8e – Upgrade Athletic Director Position to Full-Time Status - \$50,000

This article represents an upgrade to an existing from part-time to full-time. The current Athletic Director teaches two physical education courses in addition to performing the duties of the Athletic Director.

Under the direct supervision of the Principal, the Athletic Director coordinates all aspects of the Interscholastic Athletic Program. Currently, the program consists of 34 teams, with 21 Varsity teams, 13

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sub-varsity teams, and one club team. Presently, Pelham High School is one of two Class I schools without a full time Athletic Director.

Article 8f – Increase Athletic Trainer to Full Time - \$16,586

Athletic training services for all athletes at Pelham High School are delivered through a contracted service. Passage of this article will extend the number of hours of service provided through this contract to eight hours a day and an average of 40 hours per week. This item is considered a safety issue for the well being of the student athletes.

Article 9 – Pelham Elementary School Staff Positions

Article 9a – Full-Time Primary Teacher - \$50,000

This article represents the addition of a primary teacher at Pelham Elementary School to lower the average class size for either grade one or grade two. Classroom space will occupy the current classroom used by the Title I program. The graph below indicates the projected class sizes with the addition of a primary teacher.

Current Projections without New Teacher				
Grade	Classrooms	Current Enrollment	Class Size	Projected Enrollment
R-1	10	213	21.3	217
2	7	160	22.9	199
3	9	190	21.1	161
4	7	165	23.6	190
5	7	187	26.7	167

Article 9b – Full-Time Physical Education/Health Teacher - \$50,000

This article represents the addition of a full time physical education/health teacher at Pelham Elementary School to reduce issues surrounding class size as a result of increased enrollment at Pelham Elementary School. There are 98 additional students at Pelham Elementary School since the building was opened in 2002. Currently, specialists from Pelham Memorial School travel to Pelham Elementary School to teach extra classes. The original plan was to share the PMS teachers for two years. Next year will mark the 5th year PMS teachers will travel between buildings.

Article 9c – Two Full-Time Instructional Assistants - \$28,000

This article represents the addition of two full time instructional assistants at Pelham Elementary School. Duties will include:

- Assisting with the supervision and safety of students during five lunch and recess periods;
- Supporting professional teaching staff with clerical tasks;
- Providing coverage for office staff during meetings; and,
- Providing classroom support under the supervision of teachers.

Article 10 – Non-Union Salary Increase - \$44,075

Most employees in the District are represented by collective bargaining agreements that set guaranteed rates of pay for each year. Passage of this warrant article will provide a 3% increase in pay for all employees who are not represented by a collective bargaining unit including:

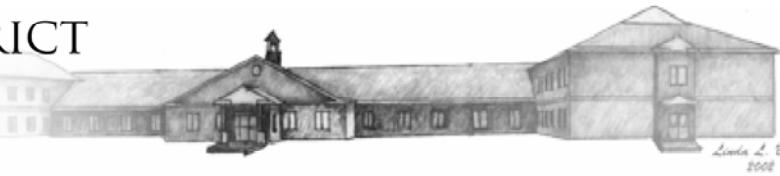
- Administrators;
- Secretaries;
- Food Service Personnel; and,
- Custodians.

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Article 11 – Three Year Technology Plan - \$183,333

This article represents a three-year technology plan that was drafted in similar fashion to the Town's technology plan that is currently in its third year of implementation. This plan will replace the existing infrastructure at all three schools to allow the creation of a centralized network. The three school buildings will be connected with fiber-optic cable to facilitate the reduction of server groups from three to one. In addition to infrastructure replacements, the technology located in every classroom will be replaced to provide students with the use of up-to-date technology. The first year of this plan, which is represented by this warrant article, will focus on Pelham Memorial School.

Article 12 – Replace Bleachers at Pelham High School - \$90,000

The article represents the replacement of the spectator bleachers located in the gymnasium of Pelham High School. The bleachers are original to the building. The bleachers have been inspected by a consulting engineering firm that concluded that they do not meet current building code requirements and should be upgraded. Passage of this article would allow for the removal and disposal of the existing bleachers and the installation of new bleachers.

Article 13 – Roof Repairs at Pelham Memorial School - \$83,000

This article represents funding necessary to complete the roof repair project at Pelham Memorial School that was started during the summer of 2005. Due to unanticipated contingencies with the project, the funding available to complete the project fell short of the actual cost. Passage of this article will allow the roofing project to be completed.

Article 14 – Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund - \$50,000

Passage of this article would allow for funds to be added to the maintenance capital reserve fund which is used for unanticipated, unbudgeted repairs to existing facilities. The current fund balance is approximately \$300.

Article 15 – Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund from Unexpended Funds - \$45,000

Passage of this article would allow for funds to be added to the maintenance capital reserve fund which is used for unanticipated, unbudgeted repairs to existing facilities. This article would be funded from any budget surplus available as of June 30, 2006 from the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

Article 16 – Classroom Furniture at Pelham High School - \$12,675

This article represents the cost to furnish Pelham High School with additional classroom desks, bookcases, chairs, and file cabinets necessary to offset additional enrollments.

Article 17 – Saint Patrick School Child Benefit Services - \$52,374

This article represents funding necessary to provide students at the Saint Patrick School with child benefit services including a nurse, nurse supplies, a lunch program, and standardized test materials. There are 126 Pelham students attending St Patrick's School in grade 1-8.

Article 18 – By Petition – Provide a Separate Vote for the SAU Budget

Adoption of this warrant article will require the SAU Operating Budget to be voted on as a separate warrant at the 2007 Annual Meeting. The 06/07 SAU operating budget is \$870,535, a 15.5% increase over 05/06. Pelham's share of the 06/07 budget is \$426,562 and Windham's share is \$443,973.

Article 19 – By Petition – Addition to Pelham High School - \$16,000,000

This Warrant Article is for an addition and renovation to Pelham High School. It requires that all building requirements by the State Department of Education be met. Passage of the Warrant Article authorizes the School Board to conduct all required engineering and architectural studies and design an addition to best suit the needs of Pelham High School in consultation with a qualified architect. The \$16 million dollars is allocated with \$9 million for the addition and \$7 million for architectural fees, renovations of the core areas, and site work including playing fields, tennis courts and up to 625 parking spaces as required by the State.