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2012 VOTER'S GUIDE



PELHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT

**PELHAM SCHOOL
DISTRICT**
School Administrative Unit #28

Dr. Henry LaBranche
Superintendent

Amanda Lecaroz
Assistant Superintendent

Natasha Ondzes
Curriculum Director

Adam Steel
Business Administrator

Sarah Jardim-Lee
Asst. Bus. Administrator

Tina McCoy
Director of Student Services

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 available at the School District website at: <http://www.pelhamsd.org>. 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 to exercise their voting rights on March 13, 2012, from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM at Pelham High School.

**Sincerely,
Pelham School Board**



The School Board warrant articles are listed below along with a brief, non-partisan explanation of the article to provide you with the necessary information to make an informed choice on March 13, 2012.

Article 1: Election of Officers: (voting by official ballot March 13, 2012)

Two (2) School Board Members for the ensuing three years;

- Megan Larson
- Debbie Ryan

School District Clerk for the ensuing two year, unexpired term;

- Open Position

Article 2: Operating Budget

"Shall the Pelham 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 \$25,859,566 (twenty-five million, eight hundred and fifty-nine thousand, five hundred and sixty-six dollars)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$25,590,455 (twenty-five million, five hundred and ninety thousand, four hundred and fifty-five dollars), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Pelham 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)

Recommended by the School Board—Recommended by the Budget Committee

NOTE: Warrant Article 2 does not include appropriations proposed in any other warrant articles.

**ELECTION DAY— TUESDAY, MARCH 13th, 2012
7 AM—8 PM—Pelham High School**

Article 3: Collective Bargaining Agreement

"Shall the Pelham School District vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the School Board and PESPA (Pelham Education Support Personnel Association) which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase
2012-2013	\$39,973

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$39,973 (thirty-nine thousand, nine hundred and seventy-three dollars) for the 2012-2013 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 the current staffing levels."

Recommended by the School Board—Recommended by the Budget Committee

ARTICLE 3 EXPLANATION:

- **The Collective Bargaining Agreement covers 106 employees in the Pelham School District who provide educational support in roles such as instructional assistant and/or tutor. These individuals provide integral services to the Pelham School District by assisting students with special needs including, but not limited to educational, emotional, organizational and physical support.**

Article 4: Heating, Ventilation and AC

"Shall the Pelham School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500,000 (five hundred thousand dollars) for the purpose of replacing the core components of the HVAC system at Pelham High School? This is a special warrant article."

Recommended by the School Board—Recommended by the Budget Committee

ARTICLE 4 EXPLANATION:

- **The current HVAC system is nearing the end of its useful life. The new system will save money on energy costs by improving efficiency and air quality, reducing ambient noise and providing a more balanced system; it will provide an improved learning environment for the students and staff at Pelham High School; improve the school facility for future use; and address a deficiency noted in the NEASC Accreditation report.**

Article 5: Air Conditioning

"If and only if article 4 passes, shall the Pelham School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$400,000 (four hundred thousand dollars) for the purpose of installing HVAC components at Pelham High School that will provide air conditioning to the entire school building? This is a special warrant article."

Recommended by the School Board—Recommended by the Budget Committee

ARTICLE 5 EXPLANATION:

- **Air Conditioning will provide an improved learning and working environment for students and staff. We have special needs students that are moving through the K-12 system that will require this type of environment and we will be required to provide it.**

Article 6: Sprinklers

"Shall the Pelham School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500,000 (five hundred thousand dollars) for the purpose of installing an automatic sprinkler system at Pelham High School? This is a special warrant article."

Recommended by the School Board—Recommended by the Budget Committee

ARTICLE 6 EXPLANATION:

- **Provide protection of the facility in the event of a fire; include tapping into the municipal water supply; provide a more reliable water source to the entire Pelham High School site; improve the school facility for future use; and addresses a deficiency noted in the NEASC Accreditation report.**

Article 7: Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund

"Shall the Pelham School District vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of \$50,000 (fifty thousand dollars) to be added to the previously established (1999-2000) School District Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund, with such sum to be funded from the June 30, 2012 unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2012?" (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the School Board—Recommended by the Budget Committee

ARTICLE 7 EXPLANATION:

- **This appropriation provides relief for the annual budget in case of emergency or unplanned situations affecting the District's facilities and which require immediate action. The Maintenance Capital Reserve is not funded by additional taxes. Money would be set aside for this fund only if there is a surplus in the current budget.**

Article 8: St. Patrick School Child Benefit Services

"Shall the Pelham School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$31,262 (thirty-one thousand, two hundred and sixty-two dollars) for Child Benefit Services as defined by RSA 189:49 for approximately 113 Pelham children attending St. Patrick School? This is a special warrant article."

Recommended by the School Board—Recommended by the Budget Committee

ARTICLE 8 EXPLANATION:

- **Funds can be used for nursing, lunch services, and educational testing for Pelham children attending St. Patrick School.**

Article 9: Marsh Road Property

"Shall the Pelham School District vote to authorize the School Board to sell the District's property at 86 Marsh Road identified on Tax Map 28 parcel 7-149 on the terms and conditions that the School Board determine are in the best interest of the District with the provision that a public hearing be held to provide information of the negotiated price with the buyer?"

ARTICLE 9 EXPLANATION:

- **The School Board cannot sell property without getting voter approval first. While there is no current intent to sell the land, approval of this article will give the Board the authority to act if an opportunity arises. A public hearing will be held to provide details of any negotiations with a potential buyer.**

Article 10: Special Education Deficit

"Shall the Pelham School District raise and appropriate the sum of \$377,000 (three hundred and seventy-seven thousand dollars) as a deficit appropriation for the current fiscal year (2011-2012) for the purpose of covering unanticipated expenses related to providing special education services?"

Recommended by the School Board—Recommended by the Budget Committee

ARTICLE 10 EXPLANATION:

- **Five (5) unanticipated out of district placements at private special education day schools during the 2011-2012 school year costing approximately \$36,000.00 each for tuition and transportation. One (1) unanticipated residential special education placement during 2011-2012 school year, at an anticipated cost of approximately \$155,000.00.**

Article 11: Default Budget

"Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:14-b to delegate the determination of the school default budget to the municipal budget committee which has been adopted under RSA 32:14?" (3/5 ballot vote required)
Submitted by Petition.



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