

PELHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Administrative Unit #28

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

Roxanne S. Wilson
Assistant Superintendent



PELHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT

2007 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/2007warrant. 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, 2007, 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 13th.

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

School Board – Three Year Term, Two Positions

Eleanor H. Burton (i)

Angèle M. Diack

Lorraine Dube

Cindy Kyzer (i)

Moderator – One Year Term

Kenneth Dunne (i)

Treasurer – One Year Term

Patricia E. Murphy (i)

Clerk – One Year Term

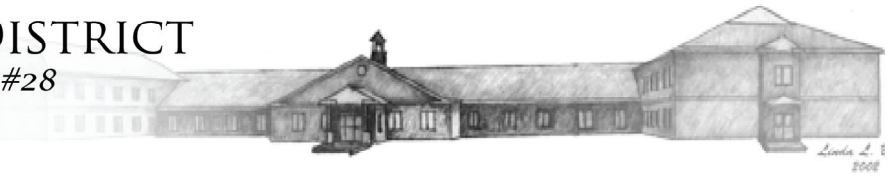
Glennie Edwards

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Article 2 - To raise and appropriate \$22,550,134 for the 2007-2008 operating budget.

This Warrant article contains the School Board and Budget Committee recommended school operating budget for the 2007-2008 school year. In accordance with state regulations, the default budget is also included. If the recommended budget does not pass, the default budget of \$22,050,613 would take effect. The difference between the recommended and default budgets is \$499,521.

Review of the recommended 2007 budget versus the 2006 operating budget shows a net increase of \$1,336,941. \$783,117 of the increase comes from three key areas: mandatory health insurance premium increases, mandatory employer paid benefit increases, and the second year lease payment for modular classrooms at Pelham High School. \$395,000 of the increase comes from life safety improvements at Pelham High School. Special Education cost increases represent \$172,365 of the increase.

Life safety improvements at Pelham High School represent a significant part of the budget increase over the previous year's budget. The budgeted amount of \$395,000, which is supported by the Budget Committee, will be used for life safety improvements as identified by the Fire Chief and State Fire Marshall in three areas of the high school comprised of approximately 10,000 square feet. The Art and Math area will be reconfigured to provide direct egress to the exterior with new floors, ceilings, mechanical and electrical systems and to correct the dead-end corridor in the English area by creating a corridor to a nearby exterior door.¹ The cost items for the high school improvements are broken down as follows:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 1. \$180,000 | Installation of a new egress through the art area; |
| 2. \$185,000 | Installation of a new egress through the math area; and |
| 3. \$30,000 | Corridor extension for English area to provide egress. |

\$255,346 was reduced from the previous year's budget through reductions in the following areas: vocational education (\$9,487), library services (\$10,286), building operations (\$51,539), special education transportation (\$29,910), community services (\$52,374), interest on Pelham Elementary School (\$51,750), and transfers to the capital reserve fund (\$50,000) which was funded from a warrant article last year.

The budget for regular programs shows a decrease because the contract between the School District and the Pelham Education Association is represented in a separate warrant article. As a result, the proposed budget includes no salary increases for professional teaching staff.

¹ Excerpts taken from report dated December 6, 2006 provided to the District by Frank P. Marinace, Architect.

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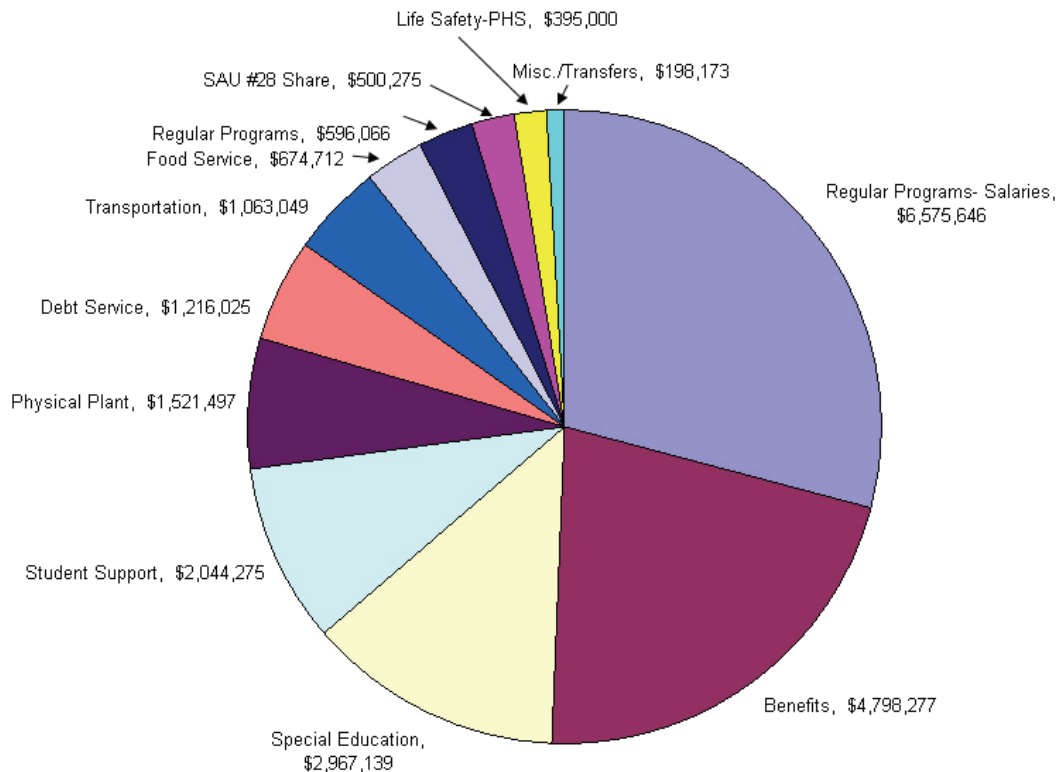
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Function	Description	2006-2007 Actual	2007-2008 Proposed	Change
Regular Programs-Salaries	Teacher, Substitute, and Aide Salaries	\$ 6,519,548	\$ 6,575,646	0.86%
Benefits	Health, Dental, and Life Insurance, FICA, NH Retirement, Unemployment for Employees	\$ 4,075,523	\$ 4,798,277	17.73%
Special Education	In District and Out-of-District Special Education and Special Services Costs	\$ 2,794,774	\$ 2,967,139	6.17%
Student Support	Co-curricular, Health, Speech, Improvement of Instruction, and Building Level Administration Costs	\$ 2,019,011	\$ 2,044,275	1.25%
Physical Plant	Costs associated with maintaining and caring for buildings, grounds, and equipment	\$ 1,379,907	\$ 1,521,497	10.26%
Debt Service	Principal and Interest for Pelham Elementary School bond	\$ 1,267,775	\$ 1,216,025	-4.08%
Transportation	Student Bus Transportation costs- contracted service.	\$ 1,058,498	\$ 1,063,049	0.43%
Food Service	Cost to run the food service program	\$ 674,712	\$ 674,712	0.00%
Regular Programs	Student Supplies, Support, and Textbooks	\$ 696,336	\$ 596,066	-14.40%
SAU #28 Share	Pelham's 49% share of the SAU #28 management fee. Windham pays 51%.	\$ 426,562	\$ 500,275	17.28%
Life Safety-PHS	Life Safety Improvement at Pelham High School	\$ -	\$ 395,000	N/A
Misc./Transfers	School Board, Transfers, Capital Reserve Funds, and other miscellaneous costs	\$ 300,547	\$ 198,173	-34.06%
Total		\$ 21,213,193	\$ 22,550,134	6.30%



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Article 3 – Collective Bargaining Agreement for PEA - \$392,033

This article represents the costs associated with ratifying a new agreement between the District and the teachers union (Pelham Education Association). This agreement is three years in length starting with the 2007-2008 school year. Here are the major aspects of the agreement:

- 1- The teacher salary budget is increased by 5% each year of the agreement. It does not mean every teacher receives a 5% raise for three years, it means that the total cost to the taxpayers for teacher salaries will increase each year by 5%;
- 2- The co-curricular positions will receive a 3.5% increase in the first year of the agreement with no increase in subsequent years;
- 3- Teachers will contribute 5% more towards the cost of health insurance premiums by the end of the agreement;
- 4- Retirement severance benefits are reduced for teachers with less than ten years of service as of 7/1/2007 from two years of salary severance to one year.

The total costs associated with the agreement are listed below:

School Year	Total Cost Increase
2007-2008	\$ 392,033
2008-2009	\$ 396,307
2009-2010	\$ 413,038

Article 4 – Non-Union Salary Increase - \$47,946

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;
- Library Aides;
- Food Service Personnel; and,
- Custodians.

Article 5 – Architectural & Engineering Fees of \$350,000 to design a high school facility

This article provides funding for architectural and engineering fees of \$350,000 to provide the District with detailed schematic construction drawings (blueprints) for a high school building project..

Article 6 – Three Year Technology Plan - \$183,333

This article represents funding for the second year of a three-year technology plan that was drafted in similar fashion to the Town's technology plan. The second year of the plan, which is represented by this warrant article, will focus on Pelham High School and will replace most of the computer technology in that building. Many of the used computers taken out of Pelham High School will be relocated to classrooms at Pelham Memorial School to provide two computers in each classroom at that building.

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Article 7 – Special Education Teacher at Pelham Memorial School - \$55,000

This article will allow for the hiring of an additional case manager/teacher at Pelham Memorial School. Identified students currently represent 16.7% of the student population at Pelham Memorial School (89 out of 533 students). The average case load for a case manager at PMS is 30 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 21 students using the anticipated numbers of students with IEP's for the 2007-2008 school year. Comparable size schools have case managers whose load is between 15-20 students.

The \$55,000 cost is broken down as follows: \$30,000 - \$35,000 for salary and approximately \$20,000 for benefits.

Article 8 – Saint Patrick School Child Benefit Services - \$53,991

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 114 Pelham students attending St Patrick's School in grade 1-8.

Article 9 – By Petition – Changing clerk, moderator, and treasurer terms to three years

This petition warrant article would change the term for the school district clerk, moderator, and treasurer from the current term length of one year to three years.