

# 2026 ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES

## SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PITTSFIELD DELIBERATIVE SESSION

February 5, 2026

School District Moderator Jack Marston called the First Session of the 2026 School District Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Pittsfield Middle High School Cafeteria, Thursday February 5, 2026. School District Moderator Marston welcomed those in attendance and led the *Pledge of Allegiance*. He explained he would read each warrant article and then would open the floor for discussion and the option to amend. He asked that those who wish to speak take advantage of the microphone and announce their name for the minutes. He also asked that the subject matter remain pertinent to the warrant article that is currently being discussed. He reminded the Body that no final votes would be taken today, but would happen by ballot on Election Day Tuesday, March 10, 2026. Other School District officials in attendance included School Board Chairperson Sandra Adams, School Board Vice Chairperson Molly Goggin, School Board members Adam Gauthier, Tim Robinson, and Eric Nilsson; School District Superintendent Sandie MacDonald; School District Attorney Barbara Loughman; Middle High School Principal Erik Anderson and Elementary School Principal Kristen White; School District Financial Manager Rheana Anderson; Budget Committee Chairperson Dan Greene; Budget Committee members Debbie Vintinner and Ray Benoit.

School District Moderator Jackson Marston then read the introduction to the warrant:

To the inhabitants of the School District in the Town of Pittsfield in the County of Merrimack in the State of New Hampshire qualified to vote in District affairs you are hereby notified of the Deliberative Session, Session One, will be held as follows:

Thursday, February 5, 2026  
(Snow Date Friday, February 6, 2026)  
6:00 p.m.  
Pittsfield Middle High School Cafeteria  
23 Oneida Street

Session Two will be held as follows:

Tuesday, March 10, 2026  
7 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Pittsfield Middle High School Gymnasium  
23 Oneida Street

## 2026 ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES

### **Article 01**

To choose by ballot the following officers:

One (1) School Board member by ballot for a three (3) year term

One (1) School District Treasurer by ballot for a three (3) year term

### **Article 02 Officer Salaries**

Shall the school district establish the salaries for district officers for the coming year as follows:

Moderator: \$100.00 District Clerk: \$100.00

Chairman of the Board: \$700.00

School District Board Members: \$600.00

District Treasurer: \$600.00

Recommended by the School Board: YES 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee: YES 10-0

Article 2 was read by School District Moderator Marston.

School Board member Adam Gauthier made the motion to accept Article 2 as read. Seconded by School Board Chairperson Sandra Adams.

Moderator Marston opened the floor for discussion.

**There being no discussion, Article 2 shall appear on the ballot as presented.**

### **Article 03 Operating Budget**

To see if the Pittsfield School District will vote to 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 in the first session, for the purposes set for therein, totaling \$12,197,846. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$12,800,715, which is the same as the last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Pittsfield School District or by law, or the government 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)

Estimated Tax Impact Operating Budget- \$9.14 per thousand dollars of the town's assessed value of \$666,707,155

Estimated Tax Impact Default Operating Budget \$10.04 per thousand dollars of the town's assessed value of \$666,707,155

**Recommended by the School Board: YES 5-0**

**Recommended by the Budget Committee: YES 10-0**

## 2026 ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES

Article 3 was read by School District Moderator Marston.

School Board member Adam Gauthier made the motion to accept Article 2 as read. Seconded by School Board member Molly Goggin.

Moderator Marston opened the floor for discussion.

Budget Committee member Debbie Vintinner stated this is the third year we've had a budget over one million dollars for a total of 461 students and it seems the more money we give the more money is spent.

Budget Committee member Debbie Vintinner made a motion to amend the budget to \$10,978,061.40. Seconded by Matt Fallon.

Art St. Laurent asked what we would lose if this amendment passed. He asked Budget Committee member Debbie Vintinner where she proposed the cuts should come from.

Budget Committee member Debbie Vintinner answered she just deducted 10% from the proposed amount.

School Board Vice Chairperson Molly Goggin responded that doing a quick calculation, the proposed amendment would be closer to a 11.1% reduction. She stated the School Board would be looking at cutting the preschool program, all co-curriculars, all athletic programs, including transportation, field trip transportation, after school late bus, our tech ed program contract with CRTC (Concord Regional Technical Center), a nurse, a guidance counselor, the psychologist would be reduced to a part-time, the library media specialist would be one staff salary. They would have to reduce the Chromebook replacement program by half. They would need to reduce three teachers at the elementary school, reduce two teachers at the middle high school and reduce two regular education support positions at the middle high school. These cuts would be for a 10% reduction, not the proposed 11.1%.

School Board Chairperson Sandra Adams stated these cuts would leave the District only minimally compliant with state standards and would significantly affect the District's ability to maintain progress.

Carole Dodge noted that of the potential cuts listed, none are for administration. She stated the School Board is trying to scare the public. She stated it was requested at the Deliberative Session last year that the School Board look at cutting administration positions.

School Board member Adam Gauthier responded that the Elementary School Vice Principal position was eliminated at the end of the last school year. The Board did hire a full time Superintendent, and she and her staff have reduced the \$1,900,000 deficit to \$0 as of today.

Carole Dodge reminded the Board that they committed to a Saturday meeting last year instead of a Thursday so it would be easier for more people to attend, and it is still on a Thursday evening.

## 2026 ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES

She stated the Board needs to sharpen their pencils and stop thinking in a nostalgic way. She believes the students deserve a better education than currently provided here.

School Board Vice Chairperson Molly Goggin responded that the cuts mentioned are not scare tactics, they are all that is left to cut and still maintain a minimum standard.

Keith Walden asked if all the reductions proposed last year happened.

School Board member Adam Gauthier stated some of the open positions were not filled and \$400,000 was put back into the budget by amendment last year so not all positions needed to be eliminated. He also stated the proposed budget this year is less than last year.

Holly Brown asked if open enrollment article would address the low number of students.

School Board Vice Chairperson Molly Goggin acknowledged all these articles are related, but this process requires that we stay on one article at a time.

Mary Paradise stated this has been a battle as long as she has lived here. Ultimately, the students will be the ones who suffer. Based on the noise above us in the gym, she said it appears the building is being used to its capacity. Whether or not there are only 10 children in a sophomore class, they still have to have science by law. Just because there are less of them doesn't mean we can hire a quarter of a teacher for every position. New Hampshire does not fund education properly. Special education uses the bulk of many school budgets and is mandated by law. The deficits in the communities are the things they are mandated to pay, and it leaves them with nothing for the regular running of the school. She stated we have a Budget Committee who reviewed this Budget and would have gone through it line by line. They supported the proposed budget 10-0. She encouraged the Body to vote down the proposed amendment.

David Hilton asked if the proposed amendment passed, would it impact the proficiency rate.

School Board Chairperson Sandra Adams responded it would very likely have an impact on proficiency. She emphasized that the Budget Committee voted 10-0 to support the operating budget for the school, and that the motion to cut the budget was made by one of the Budget Committee members who voted in favor.

Budget Committee member Debbie Vintinner responded she had a change of heart after she had looked things over again. She didn't want to vote yes, but everyone else on the Budget Committee did, so she went along with them.

Kacie Stauch asked for the percentage staff pays for insurance.

School Board Vice Chairperson Molly Goggin responded they pay 15%.

Kacie Stauch stated she pays 55%. She believes they should have insurance, but they should pay a higher percentage.

## 2026 ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES

School Board Vice Chairperson Molly Goggin responded health insurance is part of the collective bargaining agreement which is made between the teachers' union and the School Board. It has been negotiated and is addressed in Article 6. It can't be reduced or increased within our current budget.

Anne Hilton asked what would happen if we told the State we couldn't pay. She asked what the line item for "travel expenses" included.

Superintendent Sandie MacDonald responded they sometimes have to send teachers to different schools for special education needs, or other meetings. She stated they went through every line of the budget again when the School Board became aware that there was going to be a proposed 10% cut to see what they could eliminate and still stay within minimum standards. They can't just reduce teacher benefits. They are part of their contract. The School Board would have to cut a teacher. We are required to have a school principal at both schools. We are required to have a guidance counselor for 500 students. We are required to have a nurse. You have to have superintendent services. These requirements are outlined in Chapter Ed 300 of the NH Department of Education Administrative Rules. There's about 67 pages of them that outline what you have to have.

Kacie Stauch asked if the School District can bill students' health insurance for some expenses.

Superintendent Sandie MacDonald responded they can bill Medicaid when it is allowed. All services required under special education – health services, speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy – are the obligation of the School District.

Keith Walden asked if there was a breakdown of the special education costs.

Superintendent Sandie MacDonald responded that they can give information in general terms, but the breakdown of services per student is private information. There are currently 140 students receiving special education services.

There being no further discussion on the amendment, School District Moderator Marston called for the vote on the amendment.

The amendment failed by card vote.

Matt Fallon made a motion to amend the budget to \$11,316,430. Seconded by Kacie Stauch.

Budget Committee member Ray Benoit stated he respects the desire to keep costs down, but reiterated that the budget presented is less than last year. If we want to reduce it further, we need to listen to the School Board about what will be cut. He asked the Body if we want to silence the gym. He asked if that would add anything to our students' education and experience. He asked if we want to eliminate the last of the extracurriculars. He asked how that added to their experience. He stated the sad truth is our costs have gone up across the board for all of us, in all aspects. Our electric metered costs have gone up 10% in the last year. He stated the School Board and new administration have done the difficult job of cutting to the bone, which everyone

## 2026 ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES

is asking them to do. He suggested that this year the Body vote down these amendments, vote on the budget as proposed, and then get to work right away on next year's budget.

Matt Fallon stated the proposed amendment is an \$800,000 reduction, less than the previous request.

Louis Houle agreed the proposed budget is a big number. It would be nice to make the cut, but it won't touch the special education costs. It will, however destroy the programs for the other students. The problem is at the State house. The Governor's speech today promoted the end of public education. Our kids could go elsewhere, but we will have no say in the costs, especially the special education students. Those costs will not go away. He encouraged everyone to be part of the budget process. We can't just show up at the end and complain. He has met with the Education committee in Concord. He showed them our budget cost increases only represented State mandated costs. They did not care. But we care. If we send our students to other schools our budget will most certainly increase. We will be under the control of another district.

There being no further discussion on the amendment, School District Moderator Marston called for the vote on the amendment.

The amendment failed by card vote.

School District Moderator Marston re-read the article as originally presented for clarification.

**There being no further discussion, Article 3 shall appear on the ballot as originally presented.**

### **Article 04 FV25 Deficit**

To see if the district will vote to raise \$633,362 to reduce the general fund deficit pursuant to RSA 194:3-b. (Majority vote required)

Estimated Tax Impact- \$0.95 per thousand dollars of the town's assessed value of \$666,707,155

**Recommended by the School Board: YES 5-0**

**Recommended by the Budget Committee: YES 10-0**

Article 4 was read by School District Moderator Marston.

School Board member Sandra Adams made the motion to accept Article 4 as read. Seconded by School Board member Tim Robinson.

Moderator Marston opened the floor for discussion.

Ann Rheume asked for confirmation that the deficit has been resolved.

School Board member Adam Gauthier responded that as of today the deficit has been brought down to zero and will stay there barring any unforeseen costs before the end of the school year.

## 2026 ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES

Superintendent Sandie MacDonald stated when the 2024-2025 school year ended, the budget was \$1.9 million short. Over the summer the School Board had a forensic audit. Some revenue that was owed to the School District was collected and some expenses were covered by grants. This reduced last year's budget deficit to \$633,000. Because there was a deficit at the end of last school year, we are required by law to write a deficit warrant article. She stated that School Board member Adam Gauthier was referring to the savings that this team has worked to find that will allow the District to save \$633,000 additional dollars this year, barring any unforeseen expenses. The School District is required to present the article but not obligated to spend the funds if it is not necessary to do so. If there is a fund balance that money would be used to pay the deficit warrant article. If you don't vote the deficit warrant article in, the Department of Revenue Administration will assign the dollar amount regardless.

Budget Committee member Ray Benoit reiterated the School Board cannot assign this year's money to last year until a potential fund balance exists. They won't know until the end of the year what is left. He believes this team has worked very hard to find these savings. He supports this article.

Ryan Rafferty asked for clarification of the estimated tax impact noted in Article 3 as compared to the estimated tax impact noted in Article 4.

Superintendent Sandie MacDonald responded part of the operating budget is offset by revenue that comes from the State adequacy fund.

Keith Walden noted the \$633,362 deficit is a lot lower than originally presented. He asked what caused the deficit, and where did the money come from to lower the original number.

Superintendent Sandie MacDonald explained the deficit was carried over from previous fiscal years 2022, 2023, and 2024. The main cause was that special education program and special education transport costs were higher than budgeted. There was also an amount returned to taxpayers as a surplus, that wasn't actually a surplus, so it had to also be added to the deficit. Some of the deficit was covered by the Special Education fund. The hope is the remaining deficit will be covered by a "fund balance" left over at the end of the year. It is a goal, not a guarantee.

**There being no further discussion, Article 4 shall appear on the ballot as presented.**

### **Article 05 Prospect Mountain Open Enrollment Tuition**

To see if the district will raise and appropriate \$248,054 for the current fiscal year to cover open enrollment tuition for Pittsfield students attending Prospect Mountain High School during the 2023-2024, 2024-2025, and 2025-2026 school years.

Estimated Tax Impact- \$0.37 per thousand dollars of the town's assessed value of \$666,707,155

**Recommended by the School Board: YES 5-0**

**Recommended by the Budget Committee: YES 10-0**

Article 5 was read by School District Moderator Marston.

## 2026 ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES

School Board member Adam Gauthier made the motion to accept Article 5 as read. Seconded by School Board member Sandra Adams.

Moderator Marston opened the floor for discussion.

**There being no discussion, Article 5 shall appear on the ballot as presented.**

### **Article 06 Collective Bargaining Agreement**

To see if the school district will vote to approve the cost items included in the three-year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Pittsfield School Board and the Education Association of Pittsfield which call for the following increase in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels over those paid in the prior fiscal year:

Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Total Estimated increase: \$144,942

Fiscal Year 2027-2028 Total Estimated increase: \$165,287

Fiscal Year 2028-2029 Total Estimated increase: \$173,511

And furthermore, to raise and appropriate to the sum of \$144,942 for the upcoming fiscal year such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries, FICA and retirement benefits as required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at the current staffing levels. (Majority vote required)

Estimated Tax Impact- \$0.28 per thousand dollars of town's assessed value \$666,707,155

**Recommended by the Pittsfield School Board: YES 5-0**

**Recommended by the Budget Committee: YES 10-0**

Article 6 was read by School District Moderator Marston.

School Board Vice Chairperson Molly Goggin made the motion to accept Article 6 as read. Seconded by School Board member Eric Nilsson.

Moderator Marston opened the floor for discussion.

Budget Committee member Debbie Vintinner asked for the key components of the agreement.

School Board Vice Chairperson Molly Goggin responded it is a CBA (Collective Bargaining Agreement) between the teacher's union and the school board. It includes the teacher's salary based upon their step. The step is based upon their years of experience and the education levels they have obtained. The agreement also includes any benefits associated with those employees, including their health insurance.

Budget Committee member Debbie Vintinner asked if there were any other additional benefits provided to employees in the proposed collective bargaining agreement like more paid holidays, improved benefit coverage, or any reduction in benefits.



## 2026 ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES

School Board Vice Chairperson Molly Goggin responded there were no additions or reductions. She felt the Body should be aware that the bargaining unit was adamant that they didn't want to increase taxes and they were very specific about not overreaching or asking too much, to the point that the School Board felt as though some of the salaries are not competitive and are concerned that it will be difficult to recruit teachers. She stated there was great consideration, maybe to the detriment of hiring with these presented salaries.

Budget Committee member Ray Benoit asked if the listed figures are in addition to what they already receive.

School Board Vice Chairperson Molly Goggin responded the numbers represent salary increases per year for the entire collective bargaining unit. It also takes into account the increase in health insurance costs. It is an approximate 3% increase overall.

Louis Houle stated our teachers are currently the second lowest paid in the state of NH. They are not asking for a lot.

David Hilton asked if salaries could be tied to proficiency rates.

School District Attorney Barbara Loughman stated the bargaining agreement can only be modified through negotiations between the School Board and the Teachers' Union. It cannot be amended in this meeting.

**There being no further discussion, Article 6 shall appear on the ballot as presented.**

### **Article 07 Authorization for a Special Meeting on CBA Rejected or Amended**

Shall the Pittsfield School District if article VII is defeated, authorize the school board to call one special meeting, at its option, to address article VI cost items only? (Majority vote)

**Recommended by the School Board: YES 5-0**

Article 07 was read by School District Moderator Marston.

School Board member Eric Nilsson made the motion to accept Article 7 as read. Seconded by Tim Robinson.

Ryan Rafferty submitted and made a motion to accept an amendment to change wording of the article to:

"Shall the Pittsfield School District if article **VI** is defeated, authorize the school board to call one special meeting, at its option, to address article VI cost items only? (Majority vote)"

School Board member Adam Gauthier seconded.

There being no further discussion on the amendment, School District Moderator Marston called for the vote on the amendment.

## 2026 ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES

The amendment passed by card vote.

School District Moderator Marston opened the floor for discussion on amendment.

**There being no further discussion, Article 07 shall appear on the ballot as amended.**

### **Article 08 Open Enrollment**

To see if the Pittsfield School District will vote to designate Pittsfield Elementary and Pittsfield Middle High Schools as open enrollment schools to allow an unlimited number of students from outside Pittsfield to attend schools within the Pittsfield School District as provided in RSA 194-D:2 and :3 and limit the percentage of Pittsfield students who may attend open enrollment schools located outside the Pittsfield School District to zero (0) percent of the school district's current pupil enrollment.

**Recommended by the School Board: YES 5-0**

Article 8 was read by School District Moderator Marston.

School Board member Tim Robinson made the motion to accept Article 8 as read. Seconded by School Board Vice Chairperson Molly Goggin.

School District Moderator Marston opened the floor for discussion.

Budget Committee Ray Benoit stated some of our students are currently going to Prospect Mountain. Prospect Mountain has approved this warrant article for their school where they don't allow their students to go anywhere else, but they'll accept students coming in. It is very specific language that the state requires and that has passed in other towns. Students can still go to these other schools, but as a town we are not willing to pay for their tuition to go elsewhere. He noted that this may be non-binding because the Governor and State Legislature are working to eliminate this option.

Ryan Rafferty expressed his concern about the school's capacity to accept an unlimited number of out of district students.

School Board Vice Chairperson Molly Goggin responded the receiving district can determine how many students they would take in. One of the potential drawbacks of open enrollment is the school district that's receiving gets to determine who they accept and deny. Students would have to apply. It is a privatization of public education.

Cleon Riel asked if we vote yes and the State votes to put in their language, how would that affect the ballot.

School District Attorney Barbara Loughman responded the State legislation would pre-empt, or over rule, the decision if it chooses to go with open enrollment.

## 2026 ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES

Cleon Riel encouraged the Body to contact our legislators and tell them how detrimental this is. It is clear their plan is to destroy public education, but it doesn't mean we should stop expressing our views and telling them we want to save our school system.

Katie Bocash encouraged everyone to vote in favor of this article. She reiterated that this article will not prevent parents from sending their student elsewhere if they choose to. It just won't be at the expense of our School District.

Louis Houle reiterated that this is a huge problem stemming from the State Legislature. He pointed out that our State Representative has not been to any of our meetings. He is voting for laws that are hurting our tax base tremendously. He encouraged everyone to remember this when we vote again.

Diane Melim stated we are not the only district with this article on the ballot and that we are not alone in this.

**There being no further discussion, Article 8 shall appear on the ballot as presented.**

### **Article 09 To Establish a Study Committee Under RSA 194-C:2**

To see if the Pittsfield School District will vote to establish a Study Committee under RSA 194-C:2 for the purpose of examining the long-term future of the Pittsfield School District, including but not limited to district organization, reorganization, sustainability, governance options, regional partnerships, and other structural or operational models. The Study Committee shall gather community input, analyze financial and operational data, and prepare a written report of findings and recommendations for the School Board no later than December 31, 2026. The Committee shall consist of nine members appointed by the School Board, including two School Board members, the Superintendent or designee, three staff members, and three community members. This study shall not predetermine or require any specific outcome and is expressly limited to research, analysis, and public engagement. No appropriation is requested under this article.

**Recommended by the School Board: YES 5-0**

Article 9 was read by School District Moderator Marston.

School Board member Adam Gauthier made the motion to accept Article 9 as read. Seconded by School Board Vice Chairperson Molly Goggin.

Moderator Marston opened the floor for discussion.

**There being no discussion, Article 9 shall appear on the ballot as presented.**

## 2026 ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES

### Article 10 CITIZEN PETITION School Warrant Article – SB2 School District in Accordance With RSA 197:6

To see if the Pittsfield School District will vote to authorize the Pittsfield School Board to initiate and carry out the formal process, as permitted by New Hampshire law and Department of Education regulations, to pursue the potential closure of Pittsfield High School at the conclusion of the 2026-2027 school year, including but not limited to conducting any required studies; providing opportunities for meaningful public input; utilizing objective and publicly disclosed criteria; and developing a transition plan for affected students, staff, and programs; and to investigate, evaluate, and, where appropriate, negotiate alternative secondary education options for students currently served by Pittsfield High School, including but not limited to regionalization, tuition agreements with other public school districts, charter schools, academies, or other lawful educational placements; and to report its findings, proposed options, and any recommendations back to the voters at a future School District meeting before any final action is taken.

Article 10 was read by School District Moderator Marston.

Devin Funk made the motion to accept Article 10 as read. Seconded by Robert Rheame.

School District Moderator Marston opened the floor for discussion.

Budget Committee member Ray Benoit agreed we need a study, but felt this petition conflicted with the previous article. He suggested voting no on this petition this year, let the first committee complete its job and then do a deep dive next year.

Art St Laurent stated he was happy so many people are getting involved and expressing their concerns. He believes Article 9 will cover what Article 10 is trying to do. He feels Article 10 is too broad. He believes we should approve Article 9 and postpone Article 10 for a period of time.

Mary Paradise agreed this article should be postponed. She is concerned that this article authorizes a committee to investigate and negotiate alternative secondary education options, which she doesn't feel is appropriate. She also noted the statement that charter schools should be considered an option. Public schools can't send a student to charter schools, only parents can.

Devin Funk stated she is just looking for options for the kids. She stated we have a C - rated school. She has two younger kids and doesn't accept that rating for them. She also doesn't believe it is good for our taxes. She would like for a committee to give us the exact amounts for keeping the school and for sending our kids to other schools. She wants to have a choice. She questioned whether or not it is financially better to keep our school with a low number of graduating kids or send them to another school. She wants to look for better options for our taxes and the kids' education. Other schools may have extracurriculars we don't offer. She is concerned for other students and as well as her children.

School Board Vice Chairperson Molly Goggin responded that this is the intent of Article 9. To have a plan in place for 2027-2028 school year is too tight a timeline. There is a process that has to happen when a school closes. There's a process to tuition, a process for agreements, a process

## 2026 ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES

to regionalize. It is all done both at the local level and the state level. Speaking as a mother, she stated her three kids have had wonderful experiences in the School District. Her daughter is slated to graduate early next year and start college early. She would really like her to do that in the school that she's gone to since she was five years old. She agrees we have to consider options for everybody and not just for parents, but believes we need to take a measured approach as Article 9 suggests. She believes Article 10 would tie their hands.

Art St. Laurent stated open enrollment is going to happen, but the question is at what cost to the taxpayers. He was disappointed with how the past studies were conducted, but is optimistic that this School Board will be very transparent and he intends to be part of the process.

Ryan Rafferty asked if this article will be on the ballot no matter what, regardless of how this Body feels.

School District Moderator Marston confirmed it would.

Louis Houle felt the past studies were conducted well. He was asked to review one of the last studies before it was presented. The data showed it was cheaper to leave this school open. Not necessarily better, but less expensive. He believes Article 9 includes what is needed, and that this article would really tie our hands. It says that the School basically will not exist at the end of next year, whether we have another school to go to or not. He asked for a non-binding, straw vote to gauge how the Body felt about this article.

Cleon Riel stated he has been involved in negotiated agreements with other schools coming into a district. The bottom line is these other school districts have their CBAs, and some of them are tied to a number of students in the classrooms. We may think we can save money if we go to another district, but they have to accept us and that just doesn't automatically happen. They may not want to take any of your students with special education needs. They may not want to take any of your non-high flyers. He stated those conversations are happening at the negotiating table. He believes we need to be very careful if we think this going to be an easy process.

There was a request for a nonbinding, straw vote to record how the Body felt about this article.

Moderator Marston called for a hand vote.

The majority of the attendees did not support the article as it will appear on the ballot.

**There being no further discussion, Article 10 shall appear on the ballot as presented.**

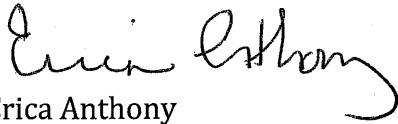
## 2026 ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES

School District Moderator Marston asked if there was any other business to address.

Louis Houle asked the Body to recognize that our State Representatives are not representing our best interests and remember that when they are at the polls this fall.

There being no further discussion or business, School District Moderator Marston thanked the Body for attending and adjourned the meeting at 7:40p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erica Anthony". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Erica" and last name "Anthony" clearly distinguishable.

Erica Anthony  
School District Clerk