

**ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING AND ELECTION
LITCHFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
SAMPLE BALLOT
MARCH 14, 2017**

SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICES

MODERATOR	SCHOOL BOARD		DISTRICT TREASURER	SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK
3 year term	3 year term	1 year term	3 year term	3 year term
JOHN REGAN	PAULA IZBICKI	JOHN YORK	LYNN BADDELEY	
(write in)	(write in)	(write in)	(write in)	(write in)

ARTICLES

ARTICLE 1

Shall the Litchfield School District 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 the vote at the first session of the annual school district meeting, for the purposes set forth herein, totaling Twenty-One Million, Eight Hundred Twenty-Seven Thousand, Two Hundred Twenty-Three Dollars (\$21,827,223)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Twenty-One Million, Seven Hundred Seventeen Thousand, Five Hundred Eighty-Six Dollars (\$21,717,586) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Litchfield School District or by law; or the School Board 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.

Estimated Tax Impact: Operating Budget \$0.42

Recommended by the School Board Vote 5-0-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee Vote 6-2-0

Article Explanation: This represents the proposed operating, food service and grants fund budgets as recommended by the Budget Committee and the default budget recommended by the School Board and reviewed by the Budget Committee. The increase of the FY18 operating budget over the FY17 operating budget is due to cost increases in NH Retirement rate increase, health insurance rate increase, Special Education required support services, transportation contract increase and technology purchases. Detailed information on the proposed operating budget and default budget can be found at <http://www.litchfieldsd.org/FinanceOperations.aspx>.

ARTICLE 2

Shall the Litchfield School District vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Litchfield School District and the Litchfield Education Association, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Year	Estimated Increase
2017-2018	\$ 282,018
2018-2019	\$ 293,644

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Eighty-Two Thousand, Eighteen Dollars (\$282,018) for fiscal year 2018, 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 current staffing levels.

Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.32

Recommended by the School Board Vote 5-0-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee Vote 6-2-0

Article Explanation: The proposed 2 year teacher contract has been ratified by both the Litchfield School District and the Litchfield Education Association. The Budget Committee supports this article.

Teachers are paid according to a salary schedule approved in the contract that contains wage steps based on years of experience. Each year with a contract, teachers move up one step on the "experience" scale.

Year 1 contains a salary schedule modification that removes step 1, adds a top step, and increases each step 1.5%. Teachers remain on their current step and will have an increase in co-pays for prescriptions, doctor/urgent care/ER visits. A projected health insurance savings of \$45,000 is anticipated.

Year 2 contains a 2% increase to each step and teachers move up one step. Teacher pay an additional 1% in health care premiums. A projected health insurance savings of \$19,500 is anticipated.

It should be noted that in approving this article, voters are approving the contract and cost items included in the contract. Failure of this article means teachers will have no contract and the district will have to go back into negotiations.

ARTICLE 3

Shall the Litchfield School District vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Litchfield School District and the Litchfield Support Staff Association, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Year	Estimated Increase
2017-2018	\$ 62,787
2018-2019	\$ 57,662

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty-Two Thousand, Seven Hundred Eighty-Seven Dollars (\$62,787) for fiscal year 2018, 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 current staffing levels.

Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.07

Recommended by the School Board Vote 4-0-1

Recommended by the Budget Committee Vote 7-0-1

Article Explanation: The proposed 2 year contract has been ratified by both the Litchfield School District and the Litchfield Support Staff Association.

The Budget Committee supports this article.

Support staff are paid according to a salary schedule approved in the contract that contains wage steps based on years of experience. Each year with a contract, support staff move up one step on the "experience" scale.

Year 1 support staff will move one step plus 0.4% on the schedule. Employee copays for doctor visits will increase and employee insurance premiums will increase by 1%. A projected health insurance savings of \$7,561 is anticipated.

Year 2 support staff will receive an increase of 2.7% on the schedule with no step movement. Employee insurance premiums will increase by 1.5%. A projected health insurance savings of \$4,983 is anticipated. The contract includes \$200 for workshop or course reimbursement for employees.

It should be noted that in approving this article, voters are approving the contract and cost items included in the contract. Failure of this article means support staff will have no contract and the district will have to go back into negotiations.

ARTICLE 4

Shall the Litchfield School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ninety-Two Thousand, Eight Hundred Eighty-Five Dollars (\$92,885) to be added to the operating budget for the purpose of funding salary and benefits for a full time Special Services Coordinator position to support the Special Services Director and Special Services Department?

Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.10

Recommended by the School Board Vote 5-0-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee Vote 8-0-0

Article Explanation: There is a significant number of identified students with special needs in the district. This position would be a certified special education administrator that will provide coordination of compliance, provide representation at meetings, coordinate staff, handle issues that may occur and assist the special services director and department. The approval of this article will enable school administrators to focus on evaluating teachers, growing the curriculum, interacting with students and parents, handling discipline and attendance issues, attending nighttime events and developing teacher best practices of enrichment.

ARTICLE 5

Shall the Litchfield School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty One Thousand, Six Hundred Forty-Five Dollars (\$61,645) to purchase security equipment and products to enhance safety and security for the main entrances to Griffin Memorial School, Litchfield Middle School and Campbell High School, and modular classrooms at Griffin Memorial School and Litchfield Middle School, as recommended by the NH Department of Homeland Security?

Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.07

Recommended by the School Board Vote 5-0-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee Vote 8-0-0

Article Explanation: The Department of Homeland Security completed an assessment of the school district's buildings and provided recommendations to enhance safety and security for the school buildings. Security priorities addressed in this article are additional cameras for the main entrances of GMS, LMS and CHS; ballistic film for glass for determent of intrusion; fencing around the portables at GMS and LMS. Although there were several recommendations, the School Board believes these enhancement are immediate priorities that will yield the maximum benefit for safety and security in our schools.

ARTICLE 6

Shall the Litchfield School District vote to raise and appropriate up to One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) to be added to the Special Education Capital Reserve Fund established in 2004 and authorize the use of that amount from the June 30 unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 1 of this year; and to designate the School Board as agents to expend? This is a special warrant article.

Estimated Tax Impact: \$0 Balance of fund as of June 30, 2016: \$104,210.10

Recommended by the School Board Vote 5-0-0

Not Recommended by the Budget Committee Vote 4-4-0

Article Explanation: Costs related to special education are often unanticipated. The district is aware of additional incoming special education student placements that are not included in the proposed budget. Placements can run in excess of \$100,000 per student. Additional monies for this reserve fund are necessary to support these placements when they occur.

ARTICLE 7

Shall the Litchfield School District vote to raise and appropriate up to Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be added to the Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund established in 2004 and authorize the use of that amount from the June 30 unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 1 of this year; and to designate the School Board as agents to expend? This is a special warrant article.

Estimated Tax Impact: \$0 Balance of fund as of June 30, 2016: \$101,007.69

Recommended by the School Board Vote 5-0-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee Vote 7-1-0

Article Explanation: Facility systems and equipment failure are often unanticipated. Facility systems in the school buildings are maintained, but some are very old and can fail at any time. This reserve fund was established to address critical failure of building systems and equipment and the related costs that are not included in the proposed operating budget.

ARTICLE 8

Shall the Litchfield School District vote to raise and appropriate up to Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the Technology Capital Reserve Fund established in 2016 for the purpose of funding the acquisition and replacement of hardware, software and other technology equipment, and authorize the use of that amount from the June 30, 2016 unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 1 of this year; and to designate the School Board as agents to expend? This is a special warrant article.

Estimated Tax Impact: \$0 Balance of fund as of July 1, 2016: \$50,000.00

Recommended by the School Board Vote 5-0-0

Not Recommended by the Budget Committee Vote 1-7-0

Article Explanation: Major failure of technology systems are unanticipated and can occur at any time. This reserve fund is necessary to address those failures and issues when they occur and for related costs that are not included in the proposed operating budget.