

**ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING AND ELECTION
LITCHFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
SAMPLE BALLOT
MARCH 12, 2019**

SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICES

SCHOOL BOARD	3 Year Term <i>(vote for two)</i>	
	BRIAN BOURQUE	
	KERI DOUGLAS	
	CHRISTINA HARRISON	

ARTICLES

ARTICLE 1 *(as amended at Deliberative Session 2-9-19)*

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 therein, totaling \$ 22,849,638? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$22,771,378 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 \$0.35 Default Budget: \$0.28

Recommended by the School Board 5-0-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 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 prepared by the School Board and reviewed by the Budget Committee. The increase of the FY20 operating budget over the FY19 operating budget is due to cost increases associated with NH Teacher Retirement rate increase, transportation contract increase and an additional kindergarten teacher and associated costs to reduce class size to align with the Class Size policy. The FY20 Default budget is \$78,260 below the FY20 Operating budget. Detailed information on the proposed operating budget and default budget can be found at <http://www.litchfieldsd.org/DistrictInformation.aspx>. Please note that although the food service and grants fund budgets are included in the gross appropriation, food service and grants are funded through federal, state and other local sources, not taxation.*

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
2019-2020	\$ 394,429
2020-2021	\$ 374,294
2012-2022	\$ 346,391

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$394,429 for fiscal year 2020, 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: \$0.43

Recommended by the School Board 5-0-0

Not Recommended by the Budget Committee because of a tied vote 4-4-0

Article Explanation: *The proposed 3 year teacher contract has been ratified by both the Litchfield School District and the Litchfield Education Association. 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: 25 employees will have salary steps adjusted to restore years without a step increase; teachers will move up a step with no adjustment to the step schedule.

Years 2 – 3: Salary schedule steps adjusted by 2%. Increase co-curricular pool 2% in years 2 and 3.

Longevity stipends increase: employed 15-19 years, increase from \$1500 to \$2500; employed 20+ years, increase from \$2500 to \$3500.

Change to a consumer driven health insurance plan with fixed out of pocket maximum costs for individual and family plans; change from 82% district contribution to 89% (Choice Plan) / 93% (No Choice Plan); anticipated savings over time.

Additional information on the proposed contract and health plans can be found at <http://www.litchfieldsd.org/DistrictInformation.aspx>.

ARTICLE 3

Shall the Litchfield School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$28,490** to hire a part time Enrichment Tutor, including salary and benefits, at Litchfield Middle School to support high achieving learners? If approved, this appropriation will be included in the operating budget in subsequent years.

Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.03

Recommended by the School Board 5-0-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 7-1-0

Article Explanation: *This position will provide support for high achieving learners in grades 5-8 by providing enrichment in and outside of the classroom; develop & implement programming for the use of higher level and creative thinking skills, problem solving techniques for these types of learners; will collaborate with teachers in development, evaluation and revision of the enrichment programming.*

ARTICLE 4

Shall the Litchfield School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$28,490** to hire a part time Math Tutor, including salary and benefits, at Litchfield Middle School to support struggling and resistant learners? If approved, this appropriation will be included in the operating budget in subsequent years.

Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.03

Recommended by the School Board Vote 5-0-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee Vote 7-1-0

Article Explanation: This position will provide math support for struggling learners in grades 5-8, which will occur in and outside of the classroom. Provide resources for teachers to help support students in the classroom.

ARTICLE 5

Shall the Litchfield School District vote to raise and appropriate up to \$100,000.00 to be added to the Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund established in 2004 with this sum to come from the June 30 unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 1 of this year?

Estimated Tax Impact \$0

Recommended by the School Board 5-0-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-0-0

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. The Capital Planning Committee has met, reviewed and discussed the District-wide School Buildings Assessment Report and identified substantial items of priority, for which part of this fund will be used. This fund can also be used to contribute toward high priority security infrastructure for building safety.

ARTICLE 6

Shall the Litchfield School District vote to permanently name the Campbell High School auditorium after Philip K. Martin, in honor of his service to Campbell High School?

Recommended by the School Board 3-2-0

Article Explanation: A proposal was brought to the School Board to name the CHS auditorium after Philip Martin, former music/band teacher at CHS, for his service to the school district and students of Litchfield. Following recently adopted policy on Naming of Facilities, the community is being asked to vote on whether to endorse this proposal.

ARTICLE 7 (Petitioned Article) (as amended at Deliberative Session 2-9-19)

Shall the School Board study the impact of an article adopting the provisions of RSA 32:5-b which could implement a tax cap whereby the Budget Committee shall not submit a recommended budget that increases the amount to be raised by local taxes, based on the prior fiscal year's actual amount of local taxes raised, by more than a certain dollar amount or percentage?

Not Recommended by the School Board 0-5-0

Article Explanation: Brought forth by petitioners and amended at Deliberative Session, to study the impact of a tax cap on the school district budget.

VOTING DAY: MARCH 12, 2019

CAMPBELL HIGH SCHOOL

7 AM – 7 PM

KIDS VOTING: MARCH 12, 2019

CAMPBELL HIGH SCHOOL

3 PM – 7 PM

Spirit Week Themes

INFORMATION ON ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Any Litchfield resident who is absent from town during polling hours can contact the Town Clerk for information on absentee balloting.