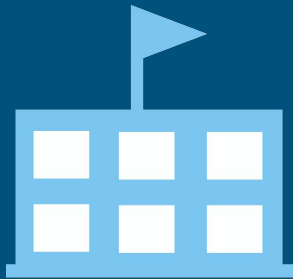


Litchfield School District

Change in Education Funding (RSA 197:3-a)



Public Hearing

Wednesday, September 2, 2020 6pm

School District Special Meeting and Vote

Wednesday, September 16, 2020 6pm

A Special Election? Why?

The current NH State Budget allocates an additional \$62.5 million in targeted appropriations to NH school districts as “Fiscal Disparity Aid”.

- Litchfield School District will receive about \$667,000
- One time funds to be deployed only in FY 2021
- Funds were not included in the FY 2021 Budget as anticipated revenue
- These additional funds were not appropriated in March 2020
- Voter approval is required to transfer these funds into the newly approved School District Capital Improvement Expendable Trust Fund
- Per RSA 197:3-a we will hold a Special Meeting for Change in Education Funding



Special Meeting for Change in Education Funding

RSA 197:3-a

“In response to statutory changes resulting in reductions or increases in distribution of state revenues for education pursuant to RSA 198:41 to school districts which would take effect after the adoption of a new school district budget and would apply in the fiscal year covered by the new budget, the governing body of a school district may, after consultation with the budget committee, call a special meeting of the legislative body to consider a reduction, rescission, or increase of appropriations made at an annual meeting.”



What is the Question Being Presented?

ARTICLE 1

Shall the Litchfield School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to \$667,000 to the Capital Improvement Expendable Trust Fund previously established on March 10, 2020? This sum to be offset by a one-time grant of “fiscal disparity” funds in the amount of up to \$667,000 as part of the State of New Hampshire’s adequacy aid to the District. No amount to be raised by additional taxation. *(Majority Vote Required)*

What will the district do with this money?

If approved, the \$667,000 will be deposited into the School District Capital Improvement Trust Fund established in March of 2020.

Current Projects

Ventilation Repairs - \$125,000

LMS Canopy Project - \$220,000

GMS Electrical Repair - \$60,000

Future Projects

Ventilation Updates - \$2.65 million

GMS Planning - \$320,000

LMS Kitchen - \$300,000

CHS Gym Bleachers - \$206,000



What if the Warrant Passes? (Yes vote)

Up to \$667,000 will be placed in the school district's Capital Improvement Expendable Trust Fund to pay for the critical repairs, upgrades, and building projects in the School District Capital Plan.

What if the Warrant doesn't pass? (No vote)

The one-time revenue will be deposited into the General Fund. As these dollars were not included in the FY21 Budget, the amount will be returned as Unassigned Fund Balance to offset next year's tax rate.



Background Information

- ❖ Our Litchfield State Representatives, Ralph Boehm and Rich Lascelles, clearly informed the public during the budget adoption last spring that these were “one time funds” intended to support infrastructure projects in local school districts.
- ❖ Due to COVID-19 savings last spring, the school district unassigned fund balance was over \$700,000. This has been returned to Litchfield taxpayers to offset increases approved at the polls in March. A further tax reduction will cause an artificial dip that will require an automatic spike the following year.
- ❖ The School Board recommends a “yes” vote on this article.

How do I vote on this issue?

Join us for the special meeting on

Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 6pm in the CHS Gym.

All registered voters will be able to vote (by raising hands) in favor of or against Warrant Article 1.

Our regularly scheduled School Board Meeting will follow at Town Hall. Remember: Masks are required on school grounds!

