

CONWAY SCHOOL BOARD
CONWAY SCHOOL NEWS

APRIL 2009

**THE CONWAY MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE
AND THE CONWAY SCHOOL BOARD BOTH RECOMMEND
A BUDGET OF \$32,791,790 FOR THE 2009-10
SCHOOL YEAR.**

The Deliberative portion of the Conway School District Annual Meeting was held on March 4, 2009. Those present approved, to be placed on the April 2009 ballot, the agreed upon, amended budget of \$32,791,790. This amount is recommended for approval by the Municipal Budget Committee 8-0-3 and recommended for approval by the Conway School Board 7-0-0.

The new budget will continue to implement the recommendations of the Student Success Task Force (Dropout Reduction Task Force) in the 2009-10 school year. The various credit recovery programs that have been put in place, including the very effective Eagle Academy, resulted in a reduction in the dropout rate from 7% in 2005-06, to 4.4% in 2006-07, and to 2.3% in 2007-08. Both the Conway School Board and the Municipal Budget Committee feel that the approval of their recommended budget will allow the Conway School District to continue to provide quality education programs for its students as well as all students in the Mount Washington Valley who attend the Conway schools. The recommended budget represents a 0.78% increase in spending over the previous year's budget, which we feel is fair to the taxpayer as well.

Article 2 – This is the proposed budget for the 2009-10 school year. The budget of \$32,791,790 is **recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 8-0-3 and is recommended by the Conway School Board 7-0-0**. Should this article fail, the budget shall be lowered to \$32,562,169, which is the same as last year's budget with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Conway School District or by law.

Articles 3, 4 and 5 – These are Facilities Maintenance Trust articles as per the tuition contracts with sending towns for Kennett High School (Article 3), A. Crosby Kennett Middle School (Article 4), and the elementary schools (Article 5). These articles raise and appropriate the monies which are offset in part by payments from the sending towns, and are fully **supported by the School Board 7-0-0 as well as the Municipal Budget Committee 12-0-0**.

Article 6 – (AFSCME - Custodians, Maintenance, Food Service and Bus Drivers) This is a one year agreement commencing July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2010 that provides for an across-the-board COLA increase of 1.5% on the base salary for all unit members, a \$1.50 per hour one time wage adjustment for general maintenance personnel and the middle school groundskeeper, as well as some adjustments in longevity. The key element in the contract includes a change in the health insurance plan to a \$500 deductible HMO Low \$15 Co-pay, Rx Plan \$0-\$30-\$50, of which the Board will continue to contribute 80% toward the premium. The district shall also offer an IRS Code Section 125 Plan for medical expenses effective July 1, 2009. Under this plan, the District will provide reimbursement in accordance with the following schedule for eligible flexible spending expenses to all individual employees and eligible dependents (employee – up to \$500 per contract year; employee plus one – up to \$1,000 per contract year; employee plus two or more – up to \$1,500 per contract year). The estimated savings to the District over the previous health insurance plan is in excess of \$43,000. The savings to the employee will be \$272 for a single, \$545 for a two-person, and \$748 for a family. The estimated additional cost of this package is \$28,928 for the 2009-10 school year or an increase of 1.6% over the previous year's spending. This article is **recommended by the School Board 7-0-0 and the Municipal Budget Committee 12-0-0**.

Article 7 asks for \$73,922 to supplement the funding of Project SUCCEED programs for John Fuller School, Conway Elementary School, and Pine Tree School. (Note: It is anticipated that \$18,000 in revenue will be used to offset taxes.) This article is **supported by the School Board 7-0-0 and Municipal Budget Committee 7-4-1**.

Article 8 asks the voters for permission to withdraw the sum of \$850,000 from the Expendable Tuition Trust Fund to be used to offset tuition contracts for the 2009-10 school budget. The amount of \$850,000 will be used to offset Conway's tax rate. This is the final withdrawal from the trust. The article is **supported by the Municipal Budget Committee 11-0-1 and Conway School Board 7-0-0**. This is a revenue only article.

Article 9 asks the voters to raise and appropriate \$100,000 to be placed in the Expendable Trust Fund (Special Education Trust Fund) established for that purpose in 2008. The fund currently has a balance of \$100,000 and will be capped at \$500,000. This article is **recommended by the School Board 7-0-0 and recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 8-4-0**.

Article 10 asks the voters to establish a Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of purchasing school buses and to raise \$126,000 to be placed in the fund. This article is unanimously **supported by both the Conway School Board 7-0-0 and the Municipal Budget Committee 12-0-0**.

Article 11 asks the voters to raise and appropriate \$75,000 to support the first phase of a three year Technology Plan. The funds requested will replace obsolete equipment throughout the school district, provide filtering hardware to ensure the security of our system's tools as well as the safety of our students, and provide storage hardware to ensure proper management, archiving and tracking of email. In addition, it would add network switches to progress connectivity to the appropriate level at Kennett High School. This article is **recommended by the Conway School Board 7-0-0 and supported by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-3-0**.

Article 12 asks the voters to raise and appropriate \$100,000 to be placed in the Expendable Trust Fund (School Buildings Maintenance) established for that purpose in 1995. Currently the fund contains a balance of approximately \$500. The Board will cap this fund at \$500,000. This article is **recommended by the School Board 7-0-0 and the Municipal Budget Committee 9-3-0**.

Article 13 If passed, this article will allow for the numerical tallies of the School Board and the Municipal Budget Committee to be placed on the ballot in the year 2010. This article is **recommended by the School Board 7-0-0 and the Municipal Budget Committee 12-0-0**.

Article 14 is a petitioned warrant article to see if the residents of the Town of Conway will raise \$12,000 to continue Tin Mountain Conservation Center science and natural history programs in the three Conway elementary schools (grades 3-6) for the 2009-10 academic year. This article is **not recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 2-9-1**.

The Conway School District continues to pursue excellence in education for all of its students. In order to continue this effort, we must invest in the future of our Valley by supporting these proposals that have been recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee and the Conway School Board.

Conway School Board

Sheryl Kovalik * Richard Klement * Randy Davison
Kelley Murphy * Richard Breton
Janine McLauchlan * Justin Frechette

DO YOUR DUTY...

VOTE

April 14, 2009

CONWAY SCHOOL DISTRICT VOTER GUIDE

ARTICLE 1. To elect all necessary officers.

ARTICLE 2. To see if the 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 of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling thirty-two million, seven hundred ninety-one thousand, seven hundred and ninety dollars (\$32,791,790). (Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 8-0-3) Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$32,562,169, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Conway School District or by law, or the governing 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. (\$32,791,790 is recommended by the School Board 7-0-0)

- Yes
- No

ARTICLE 3. To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty-four thousand, four hundred and forty-three dollars (\$54,443) (to be offset in part by payments from the sending towns in the amount of \$35,946) to be added to the Expendable Trust Fund (New Kennett High School Facilities Maintenance Fund) established for that purpose in 2007. (Special Article by definition) (Recommended by the School Board 7-0-0) (Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 12-0-0) (Majority vote required)

- Yes
- No

ARTICLE 4. To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seventeen thousand and eighty-six dollars (\$17,086) (to be offset in part by payments from the sending towns in the amount of \$7,500) to be added to the Expendable Trust Fund (A. Crosby Kennett Middle School Facilities Maintenance Fund) established for that purpose in 2007. (Special Article by definition) (Recommended by the School Board 7-0-0) (Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 12-0-0) (Majority vote required)

- Yes
- No

ARTICLE 5. To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of nine thousand nine hundred dollars (\$9,900) (to be offset in part by payments from the sending towns in the amount of \$1,157) to be added to the Expendable Trust Fund (Elementary Schools Facilities Maintenance Fund) established for that purpose in 2007. (Special Article by definition) (Recommended by the School Board 7-0-0) (Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 12-0-0) (Majority vote required)

- Yes
- No

ARTICLE 6. To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate twenty-eight thousand, nine hundred and twenty-eight dollars (\$28,928) to fund all cost items relating to employee salaries and benefits for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) for the 2009-10 school year, which resulted from negotiations and represents negotiated increases over the current salaries and benefits. (Recommended by the School Board 7-0-0) (Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 12-0-0) This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article #2, the operating budget.

- Yes
- No

ARTICLE 7. To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate seventy-three thousand, nine hundred and twenty-two dollars (\$73,922) to supplement the funding of the John H. Fuller School, Conway Elementary School, and Pine Tree School Project SUCCEED Programs. (Designated as a Special Article) (Note: Anticipate \$18,000 in revenue to offset taxes.) (Additional grant sources will be sought to offset taxes further.) (Recommended by the School Board 7-0-0) (Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 7-4-1) This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article #2, the operating budget.

- Yes
- No

CONWAY SCHOOL DISTRICT VOTER GUIDE

Yes
 No

ARTICLE 8. To see if the school district will vote to withdraw the sum of eight hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$850,000) from the Expendable Trust Fund (Tuition Trust Fund) to be used to offset tuition contracts for the 2009-10 school budget. (Recommended by the School Board 7-0-0) (Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 11-0-1) This appropriation is included in Warrant Article #2, the operating budget. This warrant article is a “revenue only” article.

Yes
 No

ARTICLE 9. To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to be placed in the Expendable Trust Fund (Special Education Trust Fund) established for that purpose in 2008. This fund will be capped at \$500,000. (Special Article by definition) (Recommended by the School Board 7-0-0) (Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 8-4-0) This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article #2, the operating budget.

Yes
 No

ARTICLE 10. To see if the school district will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1-b for the purpose of purchasing buses. Furthermore, to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred twenty-six thousand dollars (\$126,000) to be placed in the Capital Reserve Fund (School Buses), and to name the school board as agents to expend from this fund. (Special Article by definition) (Recommended by the School Board 7-0-0) (Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 12-0-0) This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article #2, the operating budget.

Yes
 No

ARTICLE 11. To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) to initiate the first phase of the Conway School District three year Technology Plan. (Designated as a Special Article) (Recommended by the School Board 7-0-0) (Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-3-0) This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article #2, the operating budget.

Yes
 No

ARTICLE 12. To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to be placed in the School Buildings Maintenance Fund established for that purpose in 1995. This fund will be capped at \$500,000. (Special Article by definition) (Recommended by the School Board 7-0-0) (Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-3-0) This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article #2, the operating budget.

Yes
 No

ARTICLE 13. To see if the District will vote to authorize, in accordance with RSA 32:5, V-a, the placement of numerical tallies on the votes of the recommendation that accompany the warrant articles. (Recommended by the School Board 7-0-0) (Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 12-0-0)

Yes
 No

ARTICLE 14. To see if the residents of the Town of Conway will raise and appropriate \$12,000 to continue Tin Mountain Conservation Center science and natural history programs in the three Conway School District elementary schools (grades 3-6) for the 2009-2010 academic year. (Petitioned Article) (Not Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 2-9-1)