

Winnacunnet
Cooperative School
District FY24
Deliberative Session

February 9, 2023






Article 01: Operating Budget

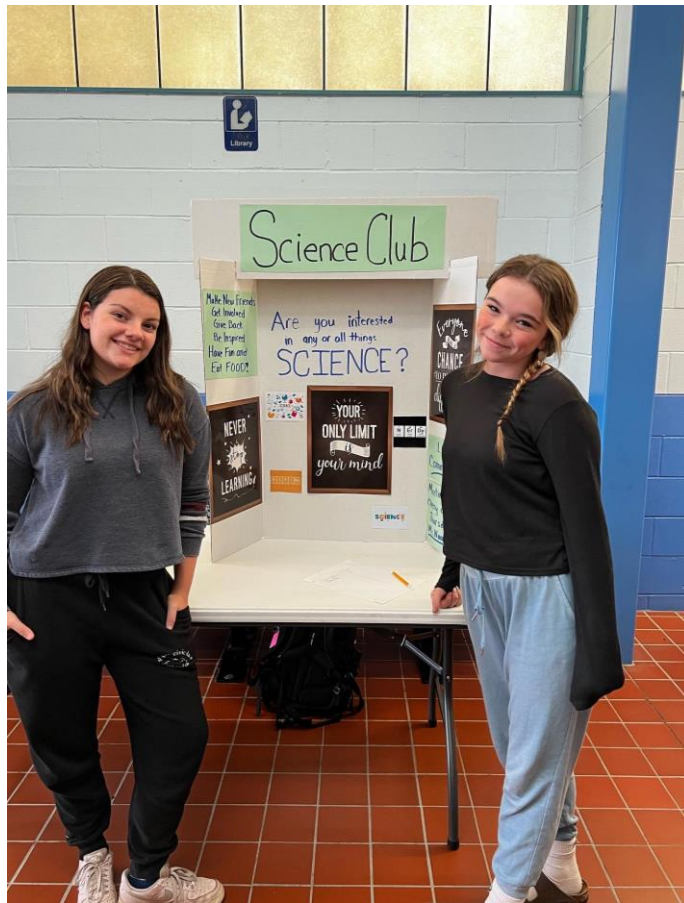
Shall the School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$30,273,491? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$29,876,572 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the 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. (Majority vote required.)

NOTE: Warrant Article #1 (operating budget) does not include appropriations in any other warrant articles.

Recommended by the School Board: 5-0; Recommended by the Budget Committee: 6-0

The proposed FY 2023-24 operating budget reflects a commitment to providing an education that promotes creativity, innovation, critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and responsible decision making – through collaborative and independent work. We believe this will enable our students to become active, contributing citizens of our community and help prepare all students to achieve their full potential.





School Goals

The Winnacunnet 2023-24 proposed operating budget provides funding and resource allocation that enhances academic programs to support all students. Winnacunnet Cooperative High School continues to follow a personalized learning model that incorporates Winnacunnet's core values, beliefs, and learning expectations – as delineated by the district's stated goal.

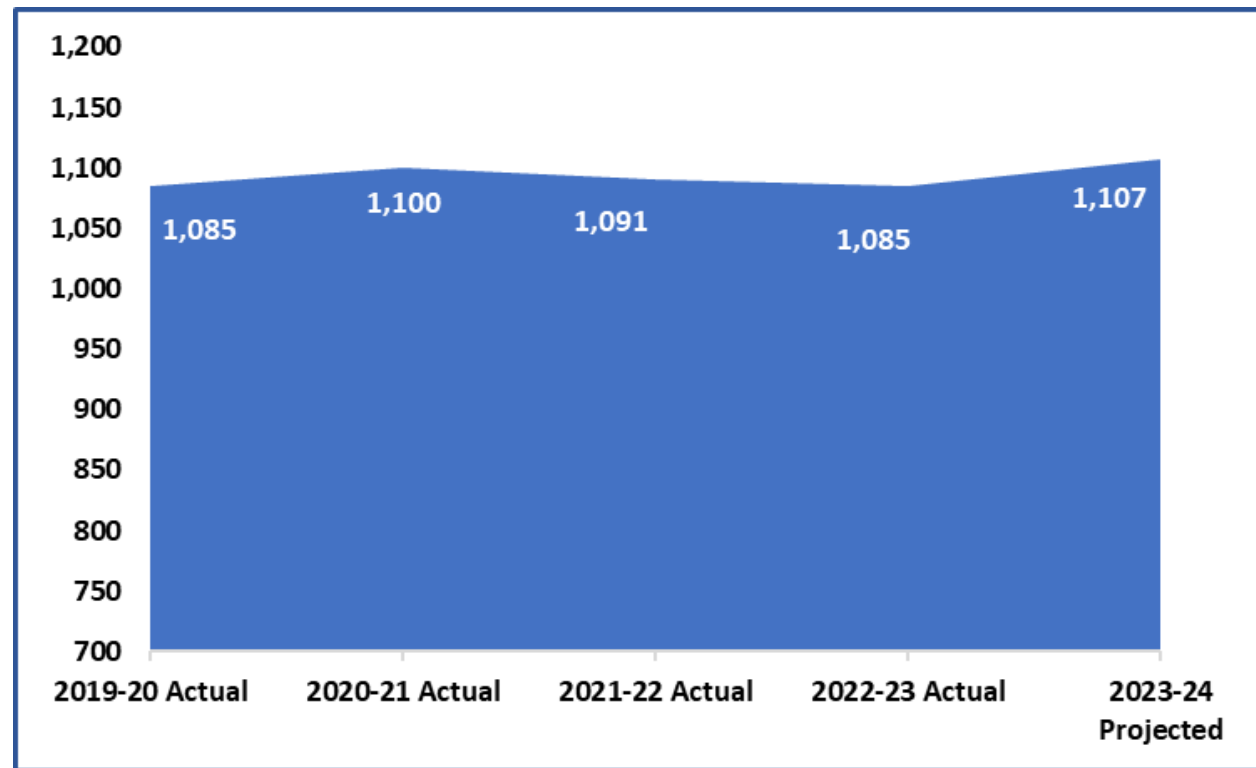
The 2023-24 proposed budget provides the resources to support this goal, and the initiatives that have been implemented to provide a personalized learning environment for each student. Further, the budget reflects continued implementation of the School Board approved Competency Based Education Learning Plan, Technology Plan, and Facilities Plan.



Enrollment

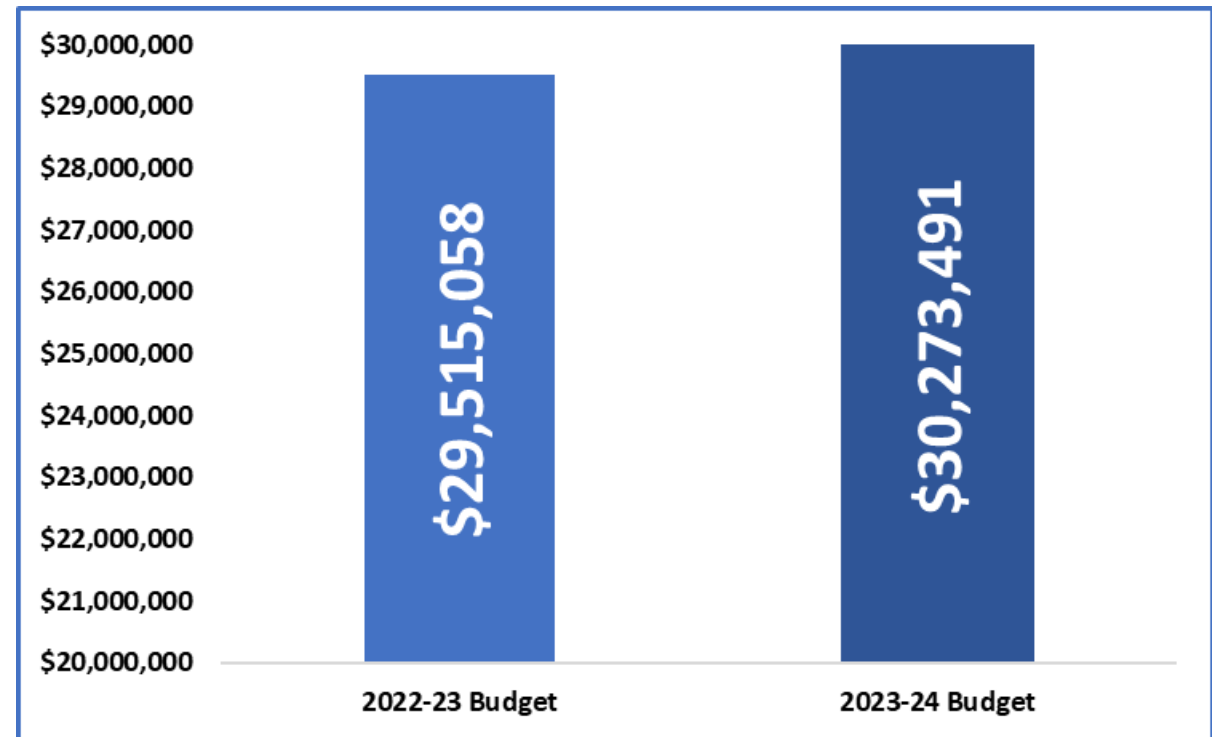


We anticipate a slight enrollment increase at Winnacunnet Cooperative High School from 1,085 students in 2022-23 to 1,107 students in 2023-24.





The FY 2023-24 proposed Winnacunnet Cooperative School District operating budget is \$30,273,491. This reflects an increase of +2.57% or a +\$758,433 increase from the FY 2022-23 budget. The proposed budget reflects an +1.33% or \$396,918 increase compared to the default budget of \$29,876,572.

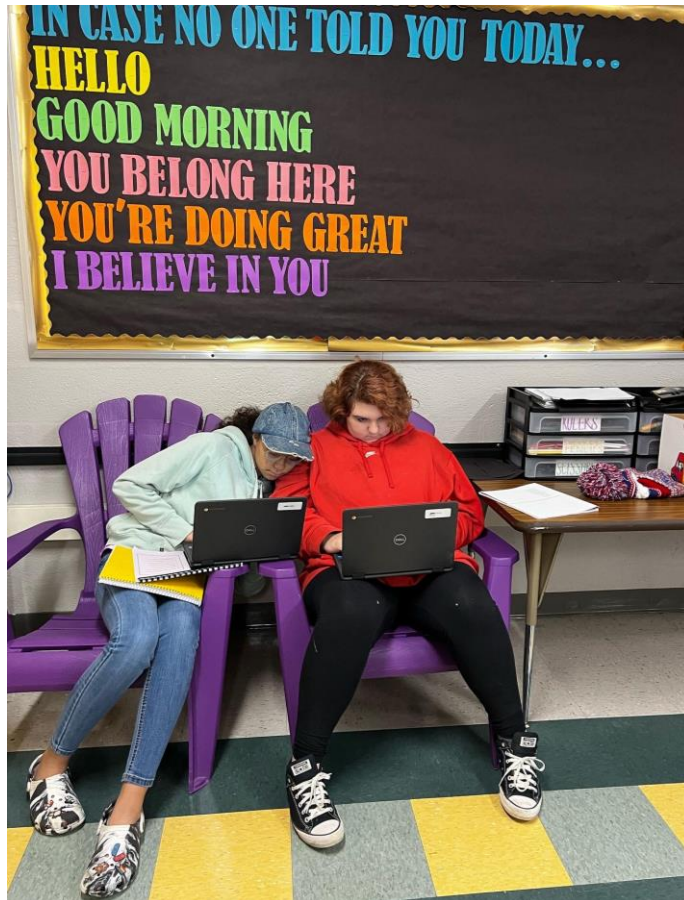




Budget Drivers

The following are the significant budget drivers in the proposed 2023-24 Winnacunnet Cooperative School District operating budget:

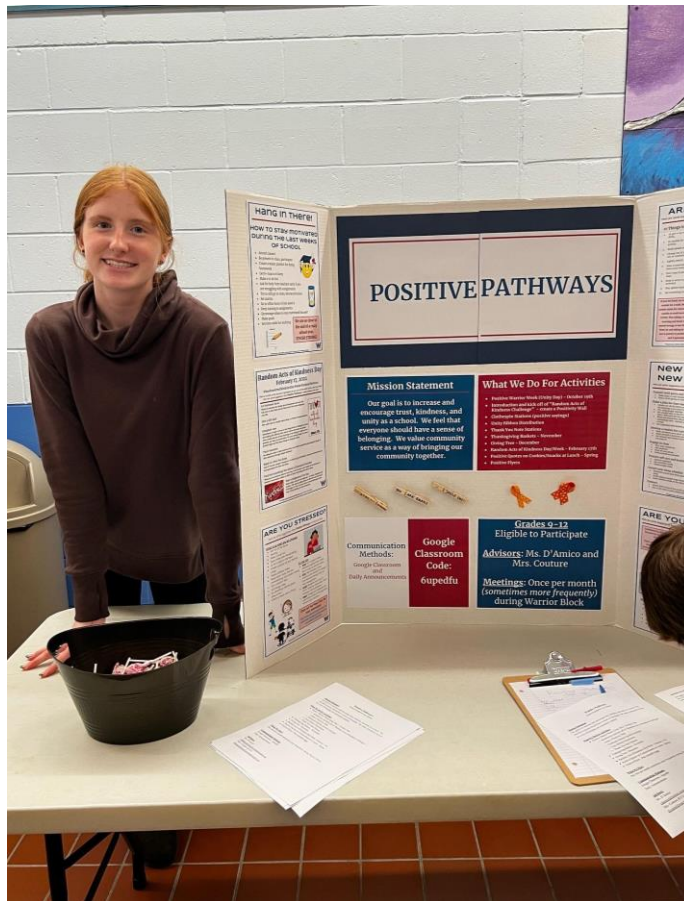
- Cost escalation across multiple accounts due to price inflation; including supplies, books, equipment, food service, software, repair/maintenance, technology hardware, contracted services, furniture, etc.
- Increase in electricity and heating fuels due to shift in energy markets.
- Technology increase due to reverting to norm after one-time federal funding.
- SAU-wide non-union staff salary cost of living adjustment (COLA) benchmarked to inflation (CPI).
- Increase in special education costs, particularly the tuition costs for out of district placements to service students with specialized needs per their individualized educational plan (IEP).
- Fees to complete the NEASC accreditation process.



Budget Drivers

The following are the significant budget drivers in the proposed 2023-24 Winnacunnet Cooperative School District operating budget (continued):

- Under-budgeting health insurance account with the provision to utilize health care expendable trust if necessary.
- NHRS employer contribution percentage reduced.
- Higher percentage allocation of SAU Services based on enrollment increase compared to other member communities.
- Vocational Program cost decrease due to lower participation.
- ESOL contracted services increase due to rise in students requiring English as second language services.
- Implementation of board approved 4-year athletic uniform replacement cycle, adjusting from 5-year cycle.
- Reduction in anticipated college course reimbursement expenditures.



Cost of Living Adjustment

COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT

Embedded in the Winnacunnet Cooperative School District operating budget is a salary cost of living adjustment (COLA) for all non-union staff members. The administration recommends an SAU-wide COLA based upon documented inflation.

The SAU benchmarks the cost of living adjustment to the consumer price index (CPI-U) for the Portsmouth region. The CPI saw an increase of 7.0% from July 2021 to July 2022 for our specific geographic region. The budget process is such that we forecast a year in advance, and inflation data looks at 12 months in arrears. So, this consistent practice equalizes any inequality, by utilizing the same time-frame and index. As such, based upon current data showing previous year inflation, the proposed cost of living adjustment is 7.0% for the 2023-24 school year.

Portsmouth CPI-U (July 2021 - July 2022)	7.00%
United States CPI-U (July 2021 - July 2022)	8.50%
Social Security 2023 Cost of Living Adjustment	8.70%



Budget in Detail

GENERAL EDUCATION

Budget: \$7,516,924

Decrease: -\$84,039 (-1.11%)

The decrease in General Education reflects staffing changes that resulted in hiring of new staff at lower cost, as well as reductions in books/print media and equipment. The decrease was offset by increases due to price inflation, particularly in the supplies account. Additionally, Winnacunnet's allocation of ESOL services was increased in contracted services to reflect additional student need.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Budget: \$3,770,494

Increase: +\$335,943 (+9.78%)

Special education costs are based on services legally mandated per students' individualized education plans (IEP). The increase is primarily due to additional out of district placements tuition costs. Additionally, we have restructured special education services and personnel to better utilize IDEA funds and maximize Medicaid reimbursement. Despite a significant increase in identified students, requiring the addition of a 1.0 FTE case manager, the restructure will be close to cost neutral, factoring in the increased revenue.



VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Budget: \$268,776

Decrease: -\$48,524 (-15.29%)

The vocational programs budget reflects anticipated decline in student enrollment, offset by the annual tuition increase as determined by the Seacoast School of Technology's (SST) governing board.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Budget: \$938,495

Increase: +\$24,322 (+2.66%)

The increase in student activities reflects the implementation of a 4-year uniform replacement cycle and increases in officials, supplies, dues and fees, and contracted services based on cost increases, in addition to salary cost of living adjustments. The increase was offset slightly by reductions in equipment and repair/maintenance.



Budget in Detail

SUMMER SCHOOL

Budget: \$79,250

Increase: +\$11,750 (+17.41%)

The increase reflects the continued expansion of the summer program after the one-time supplemental ESSER funding.

EVENING SCHOOL

Budget: \$138,966

Increase: +\$11,090 (+8.67%)

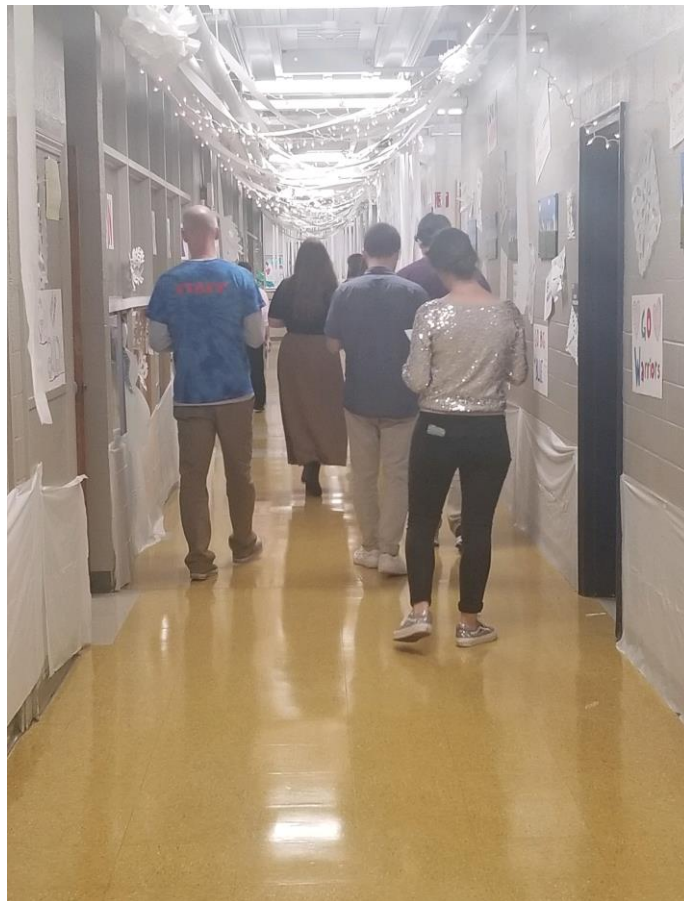
The increase is based on an anticipated reduction in grant funding for evening school programs.

GUIDANCE

Budget: \$963,480

Increase: +\$21,726 (+2.31%)

The slight increase in guidance reflects the staff cost of living adjustment, salary steps, necessary tutoring and testing costs.



Budget in Detail

HEALTH SERVICES

Budget: \$166,105

Increase: +\$3,791 (+2.34%)

The increase in Health reflects additional costs in supplies due to price inflation and improved substitute nurse availability.

SPEECH SERVICES

Budget: \$68,135

Increase: +\$68,134 (+6,813,400%)

The Speech Services increase reflects the special education restructure of IDEA grant funds utilization to better maximize Medicaid reimbursement. We are consolidating two part time SLP contracted services positions to a 1.0 FTE in-house position, to provide better service at a lower cost.

OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES

Budget: \$1

Increase: +\$0.00 (+0.00%)

The Other Support Services account is kept open for potential future need.



Budget in Detail

IMPROVEMENT OF INSTRUCTION

Budget: \$437,589

Increase: +\$12,999 (+3.06%)

The increase in Improvement of Instruction reflects the staff salary cost of living adjustment, offset by a savings in anticipated college course reimbursement costs.

EDUCATIONAL MEDIA

Budget: \$188,580

Increase: +\$8,691 (+4.83%)

Educational media is increasing based on the staff cost of living adjustment and step increases, in addition to information access fees cost escalation.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Budget: \$746,314

Increase: +\$151,280 (+25.42%)

The Information Technology accounts align with the School Board approved Technology Plan. The primary reason for the increase is due to reverting to normal technology spending levels after one-time federal funding that artificially lowered costs in 2022-23.



Budget in Detail



SUPPORT SERVICES

Budget: \$70,000

Increase: +\$10,000 (+20.00%)

The increase reflects an increase in the school's portion of the School Resource Officer's (SRO) salary.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Budget: \$79,299

Increase: +\$5,948 (+8.11%)

The increase in board of education reflects an increase in audit services and annual meeting costs, in addition to a cost of living adjustment for district officers.



Budget in Detail



SAU SERVICES

Budget: \$1,017,704

Increase: +\$71,605 (+7.57%)

The increase in SAU services reflects the SAU central office budget allocation, based on enrollment increase compared to other member communities. The SAU 21 model provides an aligned, high functioning structure that utilizes economy of scale, operational efficiencies, and shared personnel – to provide cost, performance, and efficiency benefits to each individual district; while embracing individual school district identity and autonomy.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Budget: \$1,054,152

Increase: +\$79,679 (+8.18%)

The primary driver for the increase is due to the salary cost of living adjustment and step increases, equipment rental/lease, travel reimbursement, and the dues required as part of the NEASC accreditation process.



Budget in Detail

BUILDINGS

Budget: \$1,918,192

Increase: +\$86,020 (+4.69%)

The Buildings, Grounds, and Vehicles accounts align with the School Board approved Facilities Plan. The increase is based on staff salary cost of living adjustment, step increases, equipment and energy costs reflecting an anticipated increase in electricity and heating fuels. The increase is offset by reductions in repair/maintenance, renovations, training, trash removal, consultants, and overtime accounts.

GROUND

Budget: \$273,530

Increase: +\$30 (+0.01%)

The Grounds account is level-funded after recognizing a savings in snow removal offset by a corresponding increase in grounds repair and equipment.



Budget in Detail

VEHICLES

Budget: \$32,400

Decrease: -\$24 (-0.07%)

The Vehicles account shows no increase. However, note that we have reached the end of lease payments for a van and utility vehicle. The corresponding increase is the addition of a new van and truck to replace vehicles that have reached end of life.

SECURITY SERVICES

Budget: \$0

Decrease: -\$2 (-100.00%)

We are proposing eliminating the Security Services account.

TRANSPORTATION

Budget: \$1,341,966

Increase: +\$65,120 (+5.10%)

The increase in transportation is primarily due to increases in special education and athletics transportation costs. The remainder of the increase reflects year 5 of the 5-year contract with First Student to supply general education, field trip, and other transportation services.



Budget in Detail

DEBT SERVICE

Budget: \$1,971,439

Increase: +\$4,126 (+0.21%)

The debt service account provides the principal and interest payments on the bond issue for the building project. The last payment is scheduled for August 2024.

Due to refinancing, we will receive a total of \$522,657 in refunds over the 20 year term.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Budget: \$6,617,075

Decrease: -\$93,661 (-1.40%)

The decrease in employee benefits is due to underbudgeting health insurance and the reduction in NHRS employer contribution percentage. The reductions were offset by increases to health insurance premiums (5.8% GMR) and FICA costs.



Budget in Detail

INTERFUND TRANSFER

Budget: \$1

Increase: +\$0.00 (+0.00%)

We do not anticipate a need for a transfer from the general fund to cover a school nutrition deficit.

FOOD SERVICE

Budget: \$614,624

Increase: +\$12,429 (+2.06%)

The increase in the Food Service fund reflects price inflation, an increase in food and supplies costs and staff salary cost of living adjustment and steps. The increases were offset by the use of food service surplus balance to reduce costs.



Default Budget

Default Budget: \$29,876,572

(-\$396,918 less than the proposed operating budget of \$30,273,491)

The amount of the same appropriations as contained in the operating budget authorized for the previous year, reduced and increased, as the case may be, by debt service, contracts, and other obligations previously incurred or mandated by law, and reduced by one-time expenditures contained in the operating budget and by salaries and benefits of positions that have been eliminated in the proposed budget. For the purposes of this paragraph, one-time expenditures shall be appropriations not likely to recur in the succeeding budget, and eliminated positions shall not include vacant positions under recruitment or positions redefined in the proposed operating budget, as determined by the governing body, unless the provisions of RSA 40:14-b are adopted, of the local political subdivision. In calculating the default budget amount, the governing body shall follow the statutory formula which may result in a higher or lower amount than the proposed operating budget.



Article 02: Seacoast Education Association Collective Bargaining Agreement

To see if the School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Winnacunnet School Board and the Seacoast Education Association for the following increases and reductions in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

Year	Estimated Salary Increase	Estimated Health/ Dental Insurance Costs	Estimated Salary Driven Benefits Increase	TOTAL Estimated Costs
2023-24	\$558,437	\$6,121	\$154,520	\$719,077
2024-25	\$388,750	\$1,875	\$107,567	\$498,192
2025-26	\$344,389	\$1,875	\$96,292	\$441,556
2026-27	\$292,871	\$1,875	\$81,037	\$375,783

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$719,077 for the 2023-24 school year, 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 in accordance with the current collective bargaining agreement. (Majority vote required.)

Recommended by the School Board: 5-0; Recommended by the Budget Committee: 6-0

NOTE: In order for this article to be adopted, it must be approved by the voters of the school districts of Hampton Falls, North Hampton, Seabrook, South Hampton and the voters of the Winnacunnet Cooperative School District (which includes Hampton voters).



Seacoast Education Association (SEA) Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA)

Year 1: \$719,077; Year 2: \$498,192; Year 3: \$441,556; Year 4: \$375,783

SEA employees, our amazing teachers, represent the greatest impact to our students learning growth – providing essential personalized instruction, teaching, and experiences to our students – both in general education and special education.

Passage of the CBA is critical for the Winnacunnet Cooperative School District and the SAU's retention of our best teachers and our ability to hire new high-quality teachers. It is incredibly important that we are able to compete with area school districts, or we are at risk of losing teachers due to uncompetitive compensation. When contracts fail, teachers do not receive pay increases or steps. And, this further perpetuates a compensation differential with surrounding SAU's.

The proposed CBA warrant article will need approval from each member district, including the North Hampton, Hampton Falls, Seabrook, South Hampton, and Winnacunnet ballots. Should it fail on any ONE of these ballots, it will fail for all our districts. This will result in our tremendous teachers receiving no salary step or cost of living adjustment.



Warrant Articles



Article 03: HVAC Upgrades

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$125,000 for HVAC upgrades at Winnacunnet High School. This project is part of the facility plan adopted by the school board. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until the project is complete or June 30, 2026, whichever is earlier. (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the School Board: 5-0; Recommended by the Budget Committee: 6-0



Warrant Articles



HVAC Upgrades: \$125,000 (Raise & Appropriate)

The School Board proposes issuance of a warrant article to raise and appropriate \$125,000 to fund the planned HVAC upgrades project per the HVAC replacement plan and five-year capital improvement plan (CIP).

The proposed HVAC upgrades project reflects the scheduled upgrades per the plan. The project is part of the ongoing HVAC replacement cycle that includes ongoing HVAC replacement, upgrades, controls integration, and duct cleaning as the systems reach end of life.

The HVAC replacement cycle helps minimize large one-time expenditures for multiple system replacements and levels the spending over multiple years.



Article 04: Auditorium Lighting

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$160,000 to replace lighting in the Auditorium at Winnacunnet High School (Phase 2 of 2). This project is part of the facility plan adopted by the school board. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or June 30, 2026, whichever is earlier. (Majority vote required.)

Recommended by the School Board: 5-0; Recommended by the Budget Committee: 6-0



Warrant Articles

Auditorium Lighting Upgrade - Year 2 of 2: \$160,000 (Raise & Appropriate)

The School Board proposes issuance of a warrant article to raise and appropriate \$160,000 for the auditorium lighting project. This project represents year 2 of the 2 year phased project, and aligns with the five (5) year capital improvement plan (CIP).

The auditorium lighting replacement project represents a full replacement and upgrade of the auditorium lighting system, over the phased plan. The current system has become obsolete and requires replacement. The new proposed lighting system is designed to provide the proper lighting for both in school productions and events, and for outside organizations.



Article 05: Athletic Field Lighting

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate \$180,000 to replace and repair athletic field lighting (Phase 2 of 2) at Winnacunnet High School. This project is part of the facility plan adopted by the school board. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or June 30, 2026, whichever is earlier. (Majority vote required.)

Recommended by the School Board: 5-0; Recommended by the Budget Committee: 6-0



Warrant Articles

Alumni Field LED Lighting - Year 2 of 2: \$180,000 (Raise & Appropriate)

The School Board proposes issuance of a warrant article to raise and appropriate \$180,000 to fund the replacement of athletic field lighting. This project represents year 2 of the 2 year replacement plan, and aligns with the five (5) year capital improvement plan (CIP).

The athletic field lightbulbs are starting to burn out, with no replacements currently manufactured. The intent is to replace the current lighting with LED lighting to continue to provide athletic lighting, provide a long-term solution, and lower electricity costs.



Article 06: Discontinue Technology Expendable Trust

To see if the School District will vote to discontinue the Technology Expendable Trust Fund created in 2013. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the district's general fund. (Majority vote required.)

Recommended by the School Board: 5-0; Recommended by the Budget Committee: 6-0



Warrant Articles



Technology Expendable Trust: Discontinue trust

The 2022-23 budget included the plan to expend the remaining funds in the technology expendable trust, with the intent to close the fund in 2023-24. As such, we are proposing a warrant article to discontinue the Technology Expendable Trust.



Thank You!

Thank you to the
school board, budget
committee, teachers,
parents, students, staff
and community for the
outstanding support of
Winnacunnet High
School!