



TOWN OF DEERING

Board of Selectmen

762 Deering Center Road
Deering, NH 03244

Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2019

Selectmen present: Allen Belouin, Rebecca Mitchell, Bill Whisman
Mr. Belouin called the meeting to order at 700.

New Business

Town Administrator Interim Position

Mr. Belouin motioned to appoint Ms. Diane Kendall as Interim Town Administrator until Mr. McAllister returns from leave, not longer than December 2020 and to set the wage for Interim Town Administrator at \$34.84 per hour effective pay period beginning October 6, 2019 with all other benefits and conditions as explained in the town Personnel Policy. Mr. Whisman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Temporary Administrative Vacancy

Ms. Kendall submitted a job posting for the position of temporary part-time Administrative Assistant. The Selectmen unanimously directed Ms. Kendall to post and advertise the position and to begin preliminary screening of applicants.

Hillsborough-Deering School Board Special Meeting – Additional State Funding

The Selectmen discussed an email from Hillsborough-Deering School Board Representative Chris Bober regarding state education stabilization grant additional funding and an upcoming School Board Meeting on October 17, 2019. Ms. Kendall distributed information regarding the School Board October 17 agenda and state stabilization grants.

TO BE REVIEWED AND/OR SIGNED:

- AP Manifest October 12, 2019
Ruth Clement Arts Fund \$600.00

There being no further business to come before the Board Mr. Whisman made the motion to adjourn. Ms. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. The meeting adjourned at 745.

Respectfully Submitted,

\s\ Diane Kendall
Interim Town Administrator



TOWN OF DEERING

Board of Selectmen

762 Deering Center Road

Deering, NH 03244

603-464-3248

Immediate Job Opening

Posted: October 15, 2019

Position: Administrative Assistant

Description: Part-time temporary business office Administrative Assistant reporting to the Interim Town Administrator and serving all departments of the town. Ideal candidates are organized, self-directed, professionals who enjoy working with people and systems. Previous work in local government is beneficial but not necessary.

Job Summary: Assist with functions of human resources, payroll, accounting, building permits, customer service, email and phone communication, website, welfare and general office organization.

Qualifications: At least two years' experience in payroll, accounting and office management

1. Knowledge and experience administrating payroll using ADP, Paychex or similar programs
2. Demonstrated expertise using: Microsoft Office products; financial management accounting software (Experience with Infinite Visions accounting system a plus)
3. Knowledge of paper and electronic file organization and practices
4. Experience with website content editing a plus
5. High School diploma; Associates Degree in accounting preferred or related combination of education and work history

Working Conditions: 20-30 hours per week Monday-Thursday; friendly work environment; hourly wage based on upon experience and education

Application Closing Date: October 25, 2019

Application Procedure: Send resume by email to assistant@deering.nh.us with ADMIN ASSIST JOB in the subject line.

Subject: **Fwd: Money for school district**
 From: Chris Bober <cmbober@gmail.com>
 To: Carol Baker <townclerk@deering.nh.us>, Gary Samuels <samuelspatty@gmail.com>
 Date: 2019-10-08 10:16



Hi carol, gary, instead of retying, I am forwarding email I sent to Aaron.

If you have questions please let me know. Call or write.

Chris

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Chris Bober** <cmbober@gmail.com>
 Date: Tue, Oct 8, 2019, 11:14 AM
 Subject: Money for school district
 To: Aaron Gill <nhveedub@gmail.com>, Aaron Gill <gilldeering@gmail.com>, Aaron Gill <aarongillnh@gmail.com>

Aaron,

As you know, the NH state budget passed. I am going to attempt to explain but email questions or call. This is hard over email.... school boards we need to decide whether to attempt to add the money to this years budget as other revenue or return it. Since our school budget is set we would need to hold a public hearing, deliberative and paper ballot voting session. Since this is a special election the state is allowing us to do all this in one night, as long as we have the required 14 day notice. So we are at oct 31 or first of nov already.... we as a board are having a board meeting next thursday to decide.. pros and cons in both sides. If money goes back and affects this years tax rate we probably have \$100 per household on taxes... maybe. Otherwise we can vote as a board and a community after hearings to use the money for this year. Whatever is left goes back as surplus.

We are looking into the district needs list. This will include maintainance, funding trust funds, technology etc. By utilizing it we avoid having a potential "cliff" if we dont have a favorable budget after 2021.

Call or email. I would like to get your thoughts on this to help decide what to do. At the moment most of the board is on the fence as what to do. Only one board member is firm on giving it a back.

I am inclined to have the hearing, deliberative and ballot vote to let the communities decide by their vote based on what we present instead of just saying nonand passing on this. It is a rare opportunity which brings adequacy funding back up, and they may be building aid in this budget as well. We have already voted to add hdsd to the building aid list thinking forward to facilities needs. (I can elaborate) essentially things like adding tech and consumer sciences back to campus, potentially bringing alt program back ..all things that would also save money down range by not sending students to concord (tech) and to deering (alt program).

Lots here....

Welcome your thoughts.

769.1483

Chris

On Tue, Apr 30, 2019, 3:19 PM Aaron Gill <nhveedub@gmail.com> wrote:
 -Aaron

**HILLSBORO-DEERING SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
Thursday, October 17, 2019 – 6:15pm
Hillsboro-Deering Elementary School Media Center**

The mission of the Hillsboro-Deering School Board is to articulate and develop the educational goals of the community and to allocate community resources effectively and responsibly. It strives to create with educational professionals, a dynamic learning environment in which all students are inspired to realize their individual potential, learn critical academic skills, develop intellectual curiosity and moral courage, and prepare to be active citizens.

AGENDA

A. Call Meeting to Order

B. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Public announcement - the meeting is being video and audio recorded and will appear on the district website, www.hdsd.org. A live stream video, in real time, can be viewed at www.townhallstreams.com.

C. Board Discussion Item

1. Additional State Funding Discussion

D. Public Comment

NOTE: This is an opportunity for members of the public to share an idea or concern with the board. Comments are limited to 5 minutes per person. It is not the practice of the board to immediately respond to comments made.

E. School Board Response to Public Comment

NOTE: At this time, the board may respond to comments made or answer questions asked during previous board meeting public comment sessions. No additional public comments will be taken at this time.

F. Action Items

1. Additional State Funding

G. Non-Public Session – if needed

H. Call Back to Order

I. Action Following Non-Public Session

J. Adjournment

++++
Per RSA 91-A:3 II. (a) -(e), (k) and (l) only the following matters may be considered or acted upon by a school board in non-public session:

- a) the dismissal, promotion or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him/her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted;
- b) the hiring of any person as a public employee;

The next regular meeting of the Hillsboro-Deering School Board will be held on Monday, October 21, 2019 at 6:15pm in the Hillsboro-Deering Elementary School Media Center.

- c) matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting;
- d) consideration of the acquisition, sale or lease of property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community; and
- e) consideration or negotiations of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed against the body or agency or any subdivision thereof, or against any member thereof, because of his/her membership in such body or agency until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled.
- k) Consideration by a school board of entering into a student or pupil tuition contract authorized by RSA 194 or RSA 195-A, which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general public or the school district that is considering a contract, including any meeting between the school boards, or committees thereof, involved in the negotiations.
- l) Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or more members of the public body, even where legal counsel is not present.

**HILLSBORO-DEERING SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, October 7, 2019 - 6:15pm
Hillsboro-Deering Elementary School Cafeteria**

The mission of the Hillsboro-Deering School Board is to articulate and develop the educational goals of the community and to allocate community resources effectively and responsibly. It strives to create with educational professionals, a dynamic learning environment in which all students are inspired to realize their individual potential, learn critical academic skills, develop intellectual curiosity and moral courage, and prepare to be active citizens.

MINUTES

In Attendance:

Board Members:

Kathryn McGinn

Paul Plater

Chris Bober

Rich Pelletier

Herla Iadonisi

Student Representative - Amos Ek

Administration:

Robert Hassett, Superintendent

Lori Schmidt, Business Administrator

Patricia Parenteau, Assistant

Superintendent

Jennifer Crawford, Director of

Curriculum Instruction and Assessment

Jim O'Rourke

Marc Peterson

Dona Furlong

A. Call Meeting to Order

Chair McGinn called the meeting at 6:15pm

B. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

- a. Chair McGinn led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. She thanked everyone for attending the meeting and stated that the meeting was being audio recorded and will appear on the district website, www.hdsd.org.

C. Recognitions

1. Thank you to Steve and Leslie Crowell from Antrim for their generous donation of a wheelchair lift for the Hillsboro-Deering School District.

D. Correspondence

1. NHSBA sent an email about reinstating the stabilization grant aide, which come in around \$576,000 to come to the HD School District. Information has been sent to the board.

E. Student Report - Amos Ek

1. Homecoming was last week

2. National Honor Society - Halloween event on October 26th
3. DECA team is preparing for their next competition

F. Presentation

1. HDES PTO Update
 - a. Fall Book Fair to raise Scholastic Dollars to buy new books for teachers
 - b. Will be hosting a movie night with a drive in them
 - c. Hosting a family dance night in February
 - d. Literacy Day on October 31st
 - i. Volunteers will go into the classrooms and read to the students
 - e. The PTO also handles teacher requests when funds are not available
 - f. Fundraising
 - i. Met their goal of \$75,000 to go towards a new playground
 1. Thanks to the school board for warrant article to match their fundraising efforts,
2. HDHS SAT and AP Scores – Jim O'Rourke
 - a. Full presentation can be heard online
 - b. AP Test scores
 - i. 65% of seniors scored a 3 or higher in AP classes
 1. A 3 means they can get college credit for the class
 - ii. There is not a report to compare our scores to other schools in the state
 1. We do come in above average in the nation for AP Testing
 - c. SAT
 - i. Full discussion can be heard online
 - ii. The test was changed in a 2016
 1. This is the first time the data has been broken down this way to identify Areas where students are in need of the most improvement.
 - iii. Action Plan
 1. Task force
 - a. Content Literacy
 - b. Content Math
 2. Teacher Professional Development
 3. Khan Academy availability
 4. SAT question of the day
 - iv. Our students are right in the area of standard deviation for SAT scores in the state.

5 min break @ 7:15pm

Called back to order @ 7:20pm

G. Public Comment

1. None

H. School Board Response to Public Comment

1. None

I. Board Discussion Items

1. Policy Committee Meeting

- a. Board Representation on Committee
 - i. meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 3.45pm-5pm
 - ii. will leave it as one board member with McGinn as the alternate as needed.
- b. GBEF/JICL/KF Acceptable Use Policy for District Technology Resources- First Reading
 - i. Replaces GBEF Staff Acceptable Use Policy for District Networks, Electronic Devices and Internet; JICL Student Acceptable Use Policy for District Networks, Electronic Devices and Internet; and KD School District Social Media Sites
 - ii. Plater
 1. The new policy is very large. Thinks having 3 separate policies is fine.
 2. The new policy does not include the list of unacceptable use items
 - a. The new policy takes the expectation of behavior approach - more positive than a list of "can't do"
 - iii. Combines all the technology policies and adheres to the NHSBA Standard.

2. School Board Mission Statement and Objectives

- a. Iadonisi
 - i. Passed out a proposed mission statement update
 - ii. We are not so different from the SAU
 - iii. Our focus should be on our students
- b. Pelletier
 - i. Likes the original mission statement
 - ii. We should not have the same mission statement as the SAU
 1. Educational decisions are made at the local board level. Not governed by the SAU board
- c. McGinn - Does the current mission still meet our needs?
 - i. Agreed to stay with the current mission statement at this time

3. Facilities Study

- a. What are our overall needs on a campus perspective?
 - i. Tech Program in the HS
 - ii. Fields

- iii. Performing Arts Center
- b. Pelletier
 - i. Remembers the facilities department had a wishlist of projects
 - 1. Capital Improvement Plan
- c. Should we put a committee together?
 - i. Yes, and then have them report back to the board.
- d. Bober
 - i. Board discussions in meetings gives the public a chance to comment
- e. Have the Admin team create a list and bring it to the board next month
 - i. List of projects and estimated costs

J. Superintendent's Report

- 1. General Update
 - a. Went to Homecoming events last week - weather was great and everyone had a good time
- 2. Appointments Leaves and Resignations
 - a. see attached sheet
- 3. Project AWARE Grant - Patricia Parenteau
 - a. 5 year grant - 395k/ year
 - i. Would have to hire a FT grant manager
 - b. More info to come
- 4. Out of NE/Overnight Field Trips
 - a. HDMS Gettysburg & Washington DC Trip - 4/24/20-4/28/20
- 5. Facilities Use Fee Waiver Request – Hillsboro Lion's Club
 - a. Annual Senior Citizen's Dinner, 11/16/19 – request to waive \$600
 - b. 2nd Annual High School Sing-Off, 12/7/19 - request to waive \$325
 - i. Tabled
 - c. Clash of the Concert Bands, 1/11/20 – request to waive \$325
 - i. Tabled
- 6. Business Administrator's Report
 - a. Budget Transfers
 - i. Cleaning up Budget Lines
 - 1. Transfer to more concise line items
 - b. Technology Inventory
 - i. Discussion can be heard online
 - ii. 300 chromebooks and Ipads need to be replaced in order to support the iReady program that is used for Math, LA, and benchmark testing
 - 1. \$22,250 per 100 Chromebooks
 - a. around \$70,000

- 2. looking at \$28,000 in Ipads
- iii. the replacement rotation has 3 grade levels of equipment to be replaced every year.
 - 1. will need to add \$70,000 to the budget for next year.
- iv. We have to decide if we want to take this out of the trust fund.
We will need a public hearing
- c. School Lunch Prices
 - i. DOE says we must increase or prices or we will not get school lunch funding.
 - ii. Need to increase by a minimum of \$.10 but will probably need to increase again next year.
- d. \$576,000 additional funds from the State
 - i. will need to have a public hearing, a deliberative session, public vote to be able to use this money this year
 - ii. If we do nothing, it will go back to reducing taxes.
 - iii. Pelletier
 - 1. feels it should go back to reduce the tax rate
 - 2. If we do go through the process, we have to have a purpose for the money.
 - iv. Iadonisi
 - 1. It would be interesting to see how many people would vote to get their \$100 back, or see it go to the kids.
 - v. Lori
 - 1. The tax rate would not be set until the vote happens
 - 2. If it returns to the taxpayers, it will be a paper trail leading to the revenue the item that will be returned to the taxpayers.
 - 3. This stabilization grant is for 3 years
 - 4. RSA 3-A
 - a. with proper notice, we could have the deliberative session. and vote on the same meeting

K. Minutes - September 16, 2019 regular meeting

- 1. Tabled

L. Public Comment

- 1. Segedy
 - a. give the money back
 - b. You had a very big increase this year and this money would offset this.
 - c. The role of the Superintendent

- i. You are required to have Superintendent services, not to have a full time Superintendent.
- d. Replacing the computers
 - i. I said at the time it was not a good idea to buy all of the computers at one time.
- e. Alt School
 - i. You could have saved a lot more money if you had used the buildings you already had instead of tearing them down and throwing them away.

M. School Board Response to Public Comment

- 1. None

N. Action Items

- 1. Appointments, Leaves and Resignations
 - a. Pelletier moved to accept the Appointments, Leaves and Resignations as presented. Bober seconds. Motion passed 5-0
- 2. Out of NE/Overnight Field Trips
 - a. HDMS Gettysburg & Washington DC Trip - 4/24/20-4/28/20
 - i. Plater moved to accept the Out of NE/Overnight Field Trip of HDMS Gettysburg & Washington DC Trip on 4/24/20-4/28/20 as presented. Pelletier seconds. Motion passed 5-0
- 3. Facilities Use Fee Waiver Request
 - a. Hillsboro Lion's Club
 - i. Annual Senior Citizen's Dinner, 11/16/19 – request to waive \$600
 - 1. Pelletier moved to waive the \$600 Facilities Use Fee for the Lions Club Annual Senior Citizen's Dinner on 11/16/19 as presented. Pelletier seconds. Motion passed 5-0
- 4. Policies Requiring Board Action
 - a. GBEF/JICL/KF Acceptable Use Policy for District Technology Resources - First Reading
 - i. Bober moved to accept the first reading of GBEF/JICL/KF Acceptable Use Policy for District Technology Resources as presented.

Pelletier seconds. Motion passed 4-1-0. (Plater voted No)

5. Budget Transfers
 - a. Bober moved to accept the Budget Transfers as presented. Plater seconds. Motion passed 5-0
6. School Lunch Prices
 - a. Pelletier moved to accept a \$.10 increase to student lunches and a \$4.25 price on adult lunches. Bober seconds. Motion passed 5-0
7. Bober moved to authorize the Business Administrator to add Hillsboro-Deering to the School Building aide list. Iadonisi seconds. Motion passed 4-0-1 (Pelletier abstains)

R. Adjournment

Pelletier moved to adjourn. Bober seconds. Motion passed 5-0 @ 9:35pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Fleagle

To: Members, Hillsboro-Deering School Board
From: Mr. Robert A. Hassett, Superintendent of Schools
Date: October 7, 2019
Re: Appointments, Leaves and Resignations - Teachers & Administrators

The following resignations, leaves, and appointments of teachers have occurred since the September 16, 2019 School Board meeting:

RESIGNATIONS: None

LEAVES: None

TRANSFERS/CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENTS: None

APPOINTMENTS:

Shannon Adamo – HDES Title I Tutor, \$25.00/hour, 6.5 hours/day, 4 days/week, effective 10/7/2019-6/30/2020, NH certification in Elementary Education (K-8) and Library Media Specialist.

Melissa Robbins – HDMS DECA Advisor, \$825 stipend, effective for 2019-20 school year.

Sam Brown – HDMS Science Instructional Team Leader, \$1,200 stipend, effective for 2019-20 school year.

HDMS After School Club Advisor - \$35/hour, effective 9/16/19-10/31/19:

Shelley Cutter – Lego Robotics Club, 1 hour/week

Bob Lehmenkuler – Music Lessons, 6 hours/week

HDMS After School Academic Support Teachers - \$35.00/hour, staffed 2 days/week for 1 hour/day by 3 teachers (1 for each grade level) on a rotating schedule, effective for 2019-20 school year:

Jessica Granger

Eliza Tasker

Courtney Malinger

Sarah Murray

Seth Spinner

Melissa Robbins

Sam Brown

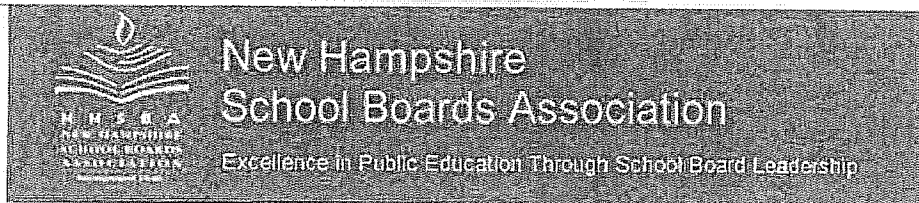
Sue Bearor

Stephani Martin

Jocelyn Drew

Carol Fogarty

From: Message from NHSBA
Sent: Monday, October 07, 2019 9:22 AM
To: cfogarty@hdsd.org
Subject: NHSBA Update: School Funding



NHSBA Update: School Funding

Dear NHSBA Members -

On Friday October 4, 2019, the NH Department of Education released updated district-by-district figures for this year's school funding. Please see the following documents:

[NHDOE - 4oct2019 - Adequacy Aid](#)
[FY 2020 Special Education Aid](#)
[FY20 Building Aid Payments to DRA-2019.8.26](#)
[Towns in Split Districts FY2020](#)
[Revised Adequacy Aid FY2020](#)

Important Matter Relative to This Year's School Funding

Because state education aid is increasing (for many districts) after school districts have already set this year's budgets, it is likely that increased state aid will be considered "unanticipated revenue" under RSA 198:20-b. As a result, districts may need to hold "special meetings" under RSA 197:3-a to accept this year's state aid.

NHSBA advises that school boards consult with their Department of Revenue Administration representatives and/or their local school attorney for specific legal guidance.

Barrett M. Christina, Esq.
NHSBA Executive Director
bchristina@nhsba.org

TITLE XV EDUCATION

CHAPTER 197 SCHOOL MEETINGS AND OFFICERS

School Meetings

Section 197:3-a

197:3-a Special Meeting for Change in Education Funding. –

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, subject to the following:

- I. The governing body of a school district that has adopted the official ballot referendum form of meeting under RSA 40:13 may elect to hold and conduct the meeting in accordance with the provisions of this section in a single session for deliberating and voting, and without regard to the provisions of RSA 40:13.
- II. A special meeting under this section shall not be petitioned under RSA 197:2, and no petitioned warrant articles shall be inserted in the warrant.
- III. The governing body's warrant shall specify, in one or more articles, the amounts of appropriations proposed for reduction, rescission, or increase from the operating budget or separate warrant articles, or both, adopted at the annual meeting.
- IV. The governing body shall hold a public hearing on the proposed reductions, rescissions, or increase at least 14 days prior to the meeting. Notice of the time, place, and subject of such hearing shall be posted in at least 2 public places within the school district, one of which shall be on the school district's website, if such exists, at least 7 days prior to the hearing.
- V. The governing body of such school district shall post a notice of the meeting, which shall include the warrant, in at least 2 public places within the school district, one of which shall be on the school district's website, if such exists, at least 7 days prior to the meeting. Additional notice shall be published in a newspaper of local or regional circulation in the school district, provided that if there is no newspaper of local or regional circulation in which notice can be published at least 7 days before the date of the meeting, public notice shall be posted in at least one additional place within the school district.
- VI. The meeting shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of this section. The most recently updated checklist shall be used.
- VII. The legislative body may approve or disapprove any proposed reduction, rescission, or increase of appropriations, or may approve lesser reductions. The legislative body shall not approve greater reductions than what is in the warrant, or reduce or rescind an appropriation not specified in the warrant, or act on any other business at the meeting.
- VIII. Except as provided in this section, the provisions of the following chapters, as they apply to special meetings of the legislative body of a school district, shall not be required for special meetings held pursuant to this paragraph: RSA 32, RSA 39, RSA 49-D, RSA 197, RSA 654, RSA 669, RSA 670, and RSA 671.

Source. 2013, 197:1, eff. Sept. 7, 2013.

TITLE XV EDUCATION

CHAPTER 198 SCHOOL MONEY

Miscellaneous Provisions

Section 198:20-b

198:20-b Appropriation for Unanticipated Funds Made Available During Year. –

I. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, any school district at an annual meeting may adopt an article authorizing indefinitely, until specific rescission of such authority, the school board to apply for, accept and expend, without further action by the school district, unanticipated money from a state, federal or other governmental unit or a private source which becomes available during the fiscal year. The following shall apply:

(a) Such warrant article to be voted on shall read: "Shall the school district accept the provisions of RSA 198:20-b providing that any school district at an annual meeting may adopt an article authorizing indefinitely, until specific rescission of such authority, the school board to apply for, accept and expend, without further action by the school district, unanticipated money from a state, federal or other governmental unit or a private source which becomes available during the fiscal year?"

(b) If a majority of voters voting on the question vote in the affirmative, the proposed warrant article shall be in effect in accordance with the terms of the article until such time as the school district votes to rescind its vote.

II. Such money shall be used only for legal purposes for which a school district may appropriate money. No funds disbursed from the education trust fund pursuant to RSA 198:42 shall, under any circumstances, emergency or otherwise, be deemed to be unanticipated money under the provisions of this section.

III. (a) For unanticipated funds in the amount of \$5,000 or more, the school board shall hold a prior public hearing on the action to be taken. Notice of the time, place, and subject of such hearing shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the relevant municipality at least 7 days before the meeting is held.

(b) A school board may establish the amount of unanticipated funds required for notice under this subparagraph, provided such amount is less than \$5,000. For unanticipated funds in an amount less than \$5,000, the school board shall post notice of the funds in the agenda and shall include notice in the minutes of the school board meeting in which such funds are discussed. The acceptance of unanticipated funds under this subparagraph shall be made in public session of any regular school board meeting.

IV. Action to be taken under this section shall:

(a) Not require the expenditure of other school district funds except those funds lawfully appropriated for the same purpose; and

(b) Be exempt from all provisions of RSA 32 relative to limitation and expenditure of school district moneys.

Source. 1981, 167:1. 1991, 329:1. 1993, 176:12, 13. 2000, 201:1. 2005, 188:1, eff. Aug. 29, 2005.

Stabilization Grants: A vital part of the formula for NH's most vulnerable communities

January 22, 2019



The big question
for 2019



What is an "adequate
education"?



Stabilization Grants



How does SWEPT
affect the budget?



School Building Aid:
Past, Present, & Future

Stabilization grants are a substantial source of state aid to many New Hampshire communities. In the third segment on our state's education funding formula, we'll review their intended purpose and what's being proposed in 2019.

Let's begin with the basics:

- Stabilization grants were intended to stabilize **property-poor towns** that would lose money due to the funding formula changes that went into effect in 2012. The change in the funding formula resulted in \$158 million cut in state education funding.
- Two-thirds of New Hampshire's communities receive stabilization grants, ranging from \$12,435 (Durham) to \$12,454,439 (Manchester) in 2012.
 - In 14 towns, the stabilization grant is at least half of their total amount of state funding.
- These grants were established to be a set amount of funds that did not fluctuate with student enrollment.
- From 2012 to 2016, districts received that set amount of stabilization money.
- In 2017, an amendment to the state budget led to a decrease in the stabilization grants by 4% per year, or \$6.5 million every year, for the next 25 years.
- There are several proposals for 2019, including freezing the cuts at 2018 levels and repealing the stabilization grants all together (detailed below).

Why were they created?

In 2011, the state legislature significantly changed the education funding formula. The revised formula removed the **Fiscal Capacity Disparity Aid** and changed the formula for **differentiated aid**.

This change would have resulted in a loss of \$158 million in total state aid between 2011 and 2012. Recognizing that districts might be unable to sustain such large losses in state funding, lawmakers created "stabilization grants" to ensure that districts would not receive less in 2012 than they did in 2011.

Districts continued to receive the same amount of funding each year after that – regardless of changes in enrollment or property values (or **other factors** that determine state aid). The amount the town received in 2012 would be the same amount in 2013 and 2014, no matter what. Again, this was meant to "stabilize" district budgets, which would have received less money under the new funding formula.

In 2015, lawmakers added an amendment to the state budget that would reduce the amount of stabilization by 4% of the original grant each year starting in 2017, eventually phasing out the program completely by 2042. The cuts were intended to make up for the additional funds necessary to remove the state's cap on growth in per-pupil spending, per the *City of Dover v. State* lawsuit.

Where are they now?

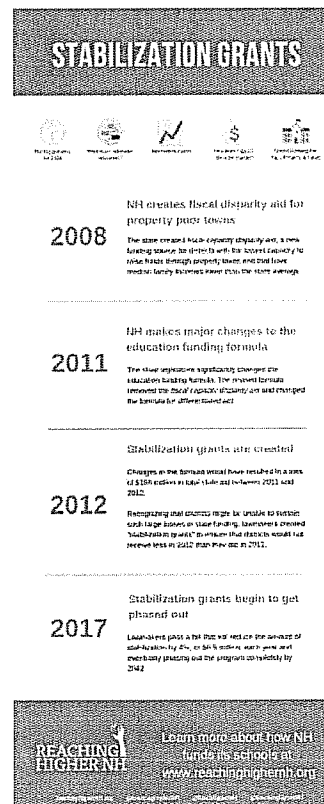
In 2019, the state issued stabilization grants at 88% of the 2012 levels. Statewide, that meant a loss of \$6.5 million. And they're set to lose another 4% next year.

In about 70 communities, stabilization accounts for at least 40% of their state aid. These districts are property-poor, have large numbers of students in poverty, and typically have higher taxes than the state average.

With a 4% decrease in the stabilization grant annually, Berlin incurs a \$220,000 loss in state aid per year, compelling the city to raise taxes by \$0.55 every year to make up the difference.

On January 17, 2019, the House Education Committee held a public hearing on HB 177, which freezes the annual cuts to stabilization grants and holds them at 2018 levels. Administrators and local officials from many of the state's hardest-hit districts, including Derry, Berlin, Franklin, and Pittsfield, testified in support of the bill. (Reaching Higher NH streamed the hearing, and you can watch it here.)

Email Address



Check out this infographic to learn the about why and how stabilization grants were created.

The cuts have been devastating and "demoralizing" to the city, according to a letter submitted to the House Education Committee by the Berlin Board of Schools, read by the city's mayor at the hearing on January 17:

"The loss of stabilization grants at a loss of \$220,000 per year has had devastating consequences. Three years in, we have lost over \$875,000. This has placed inexcusable burdens on our teachers and staff who have been tasked with additional duties without compensation... Now, we are left with closing our last neighborhood elementary school... the third school [in Berlin] to close since 2009."

"We need to have funds restored until a new and just formula is enacted to ensure all students across our state have adequate resources for education, not just property-rich communities."

School board members were unable to attend the House Education Committee hearing on January 17, as they were meeting to vote to close the city's last remaining elementary school.

Dr. John Freeman, the Superintendent of Pittsfield School District, said at the same hearing on January 17 that stabilization grant cuts have contributed to rising budget pressures, reduced funds for materials and technology, and reductions in staffing. In Pittsfield, 4 out of 20 elementary school teachers have been laid off, they have eliminated one of their two guidance counselors, all of their school resource officers, and offer foreign languages through the software-based Rosetta Stone program supervised by a paraprofessional.

What's Next for Stabilization

There have been several proposals put forth for the 2019 legislative session. Among the proposals are:

- HB 177 proposes a freeze to stabilization grant cuts and restores them to their 2016 levels.
- HB 711 proposes repealing the stabilization grants altogether while increasing the base adequacy per student on a sliding scale.
- HB 734 proposes suspending the 4% annual reduction for 2 years, beginning in 2020.
- Members of the Committee to Study Education Funding and the Cost of an Opportunity for an Adequate Education issued a recommendation in November 2018 to eliminate stabilization grants all together in favor of increased base adequacy, increased differentiated aid, and a proposal to create a new grant program for property-poor towns, similar to the fiscal capacity disparity aid program.
 - HB 709 proposes repealing the stabilization grants altogether while increasing the base adequacy per student, establishing a fiscal capacity disparity aid program, and requiring school districts to report on the use of adequate education grant funds
 - HB 713 also proposes repealing the stabilization grants altogether, while increasing the base adequacy per student, establishing a fiscal capacity disparity aid program, and requiring school districts to report on the use of adequate education grant funds, but it provides slightly less funding per pupil and allows districts to decide whether to provide transportation for students.

Follow Reaching Higher NH on Facebook and Twitter, and sign up for our newsletter, to stay informed about the many proposals regarding the way we pay for our schools, including changes to stabilization grants. Next week, we will explain another component to the formula: the state education property tax known as SWEPT!

Check our five-part series breaking down education funding in New Hampshire and stay tuned to learn more about how we are paying for school in New Hampshire:

- **Part One: The big question for 2019: How will we pay for our schools?**
- **Part Two: Is an “adequate education” adequate for our students?**
- **Part Four: State Education Property Tax: Locally raised, locally kept**
- **Part Five: School Building Aid:** What is the history of building aid and how does it help districts?
What is the current state of the building aid fund?

SHARE THIS PAGE

Share this:



Reaching Higher NH
Change in State Aid, FY2019-FY2020

Town	Change in Stabilization Grant over 2018	Total Change in State Aid
STATE TOTAL	(\$6,202,818)	(\$1,062,964)
Acworth	(\$9,816)	\$50,985
Albany	(\$12,617)	\$15,440
Alexandria	(\$11,337)	\$37,334
Allenstown	(\$89,164)	(\$80,732)
Alstead	(\$28,850)	\$22,691
Alton	\$0	\$0
Amherst	\$0	(\$9,583)
Andover	(\$8,498)	(\$5,266)
Antrim	(\$48,295)	(\$26,984)
Ashland	(\$11,006)	(\$12,445)
Atkinson	\$0	\$13,783
Auburn	(\$2,768)	\$94,125
Barnstead	(\$35,537)	(\$40,890)
Barrington	(\$29,019)	\$79,483
Bartlett	\$0	\$0
Bath	(\$10,361)	\$8,746
Bedford	\$0	\$606,143
Belmont	(\$49,351)	\$11,075
Bennington	(\$19,594)	\$55,121
Benton	(\$2,391)	\$10,556
Berlin	(\$219,824)	(\$145,998)
Bethlehem	(\$17,969)	(\$66,978)
Boscawen	(\$44,798)	(\$7,803)
Bow	(\$13,968)	\$116,673
Bradford	(\$7,982)	(\$7,239)

Reaching Higher NH
Change in State Aid, FY2019-FY2020

Town	Change in Stabilization Grant over 2018	Total Change in State Aid
Brentwood	\$0	(\$68,203)
Bridgewater	\$0	\$0
Bristol	(\$10,681)	(\$23,485)
Brookfield	(\$2,240)	\$1,245
Brookline	(\$30,341)	\$216,521
Cambridge	\$0	\$0
Campton	(\$26,769)	(\$5,325)
Canaan	(\$38,271)	(\$85,399)
Candia	\$0	\$117,149
Canterbury	\$0	(\$50,841)
Carroll	\$0	\$0
Center Harbor	\$0	\$0
Charlestown	(\$100,801)	(\$13,549)
Chatham	\$0	\$15,329
Chester	(\$21,293)	(\$142,029)
Chesterfield	(\$4,770)	\$54,681
Chichester	(\$4,624)	(\$85,897)
Claremont	(\$251,312)	(\$81,307)
Clarksville	(\$1,877)	(\$19,959)
Colebrook	(\$43,520)	(\$14,079)
Columbia	(\$7,990)	\$8,032
Concord	(\$71,765)	(\$144,018)
Conway	(\$31,747)	(\$161,411)
Cornish	(\$16,745)	(\$22,629)
Croydon	(\$7,635)	\$22,032
Dalton	(\$13,167)	(\$6,918)

Reaching Higher NH
Change in State Aid, FY2019-FY2020

Town	Change in Stabilization Grant over 2018	Total Change in State Aid
Danbury	(\$15,633)	(\$44,952)
Danville	(\$43,285)	(\$166,550)
Deerfield	(\$13,650)	\$11,017
Deering	(\$15,936)	\$42,541
Derry	(\$346,348)	(\$527,038)
Dix's Grant	\$0	\$0
Dixville	\$0	\$0
Dorchester	(\$7,233)	(\$1,830)
Dover	\$0	\$214,346
Dublin	(\$595)	(\$70,762)
Dummer	(\$2,035)	\$157
Dunbarton	\$0	\$37,557
Durham	(\$498)	\$46,221
East Kingston	\$0	(\$41,849)
Easton	\$0	\$0
Eaton	\$0	\$0
Effingham	(\$12,946)	\$10,976
Ellsworth	\$0	\$6,796
Enfield	(\$2,349)	(\$18,242)
Epping	(\$34,656)	(\$48,392)
Epsom	(\$38,222)	(\$451)
Errol	\$0	\$0
Exeter	\$0	(\$230,651)
Farmington	(\$116,584)	(\$120,700)
Fitzwilliam	(\$8,330)	(\$57,557)
Francestown	(\$6,945)	\$25,853

Reaching Higher NH
Change in State Aid, FY2019-FY2020

Town	Change in Stabilization Grant over 2018	Total Change in State Aid
Franconia	\$0	\$0
Franklin	(\$161,400)	(\$315,838)
Freedom	\$0	\$0
Fremont	\$0	\$66,385
Gilford	(\$14,553)	\$35,208
Gilmanton	\$0	\$64,448
Gilsum	(\$11,442)	(\$22,206)
Goffstown	(\$41,604)	\$289,155
Gorham	(\$33,974)	(\$40,271)
Goshen	(\$8,867)	(\$6,397)
Grafton	(\$10,007)	\$1,135
Grantham	\$0	\$73,419
Greenfield	(\$13,910)	(\$67,404)
Greenland	(\$789)	\$72,908
Greenville	(\$47,445)	(\$113,140)
Groton	\$0	\$0
Hale's Location	\$0	\$0
Hampstead	(\$547)	\$25,623
Hampton	\$0	\$0
Hampton Falls	\$0	(\$29,844)
Hancock	(\$5,159)	(\$43,914)
Hanover	\$0	\$0
Harrisville	\$0	\$0
Hart's Location	\$0	\$0
Haverhill	(\$84,391)	\$12,363
Hebron	\$0	\$0

Reaching Higher NH
Change in State Aid, FY2019-FY2020

Town	Change in Stabilization Grant over 2018	Total Change in State Aid
Henniker	(\$33,567)	(\$82,009)
Hill	(\$2,582)	(\$35,518)
Hillsboro	(\$93,516)	(\$80,978)
Hinsdale	(\$98,225)	(\$119,597)
Holderness	\$0	\$0
Hollis	\$0	\$127,429
Hooksett	\$0	\$125,363
Hopkinton	\$0	\$200,996
Hudson	\$0	\$21,293
Jackson	\$0	\$0
Jaffrey	(\$48,427)	(\$56,720)
Jefferson	(\$8,321)	(\$22,849)
Keene	(\$142,246)	\$242,622
Kensington	\$0	(\$23,170)
Kingston	\$0	(\$60,004)
Laconia	(\$58,540)	\$157,670
Lancaster	(\$79,806)	(\$61,653)
Landaff	(\$2,453)	\$15,690
Langdon	(\$6,966)	(\$14,989)
Lebanon	(\$30,737)	\$12,665
Lee	(\$26,906)	(\$31,341)
Lempster	(\$10,844)	\$7,753
Lincoln	\$0	\$0
Lisbon	(\$35,377)	\$75,903
Litchfield	(\$86,680)	(\$176,676)
Littleton	(\$59,950)	\$231

Reaching Higher NH
Change in State Aid, FY2019-FY2020

Town	Change in Stabilization Grant over 2018	Total Change in State Aid
Londonderry	(\$51,803)	(\$147,272)
Loudon	(\$28,592)	(\$73,150)
Lyman	(\$4,064)	(\$13,586)
Lyme	(\$2,110)	\$53,123
Lyndeborough	(\$3,812)	(\$24,096)
Madbury	(\$5,691)	\$85,613
Madison	(\$12,307)	(\$396)
Manchester	(\$498,177)	\$7,300
Marlborough	(\$22,004)	(\$57,331)
Marlow	(\$14,759)	\$11,453
Martin's Location	\$0	\$0
Mason	(\$2,156)	(\$38,952)
Meredith	\$0	\$0
Merrimack	(\$21,253)	(\$152,532)
Middleton	(\$23,183)	\$11,527
Milan	(\$25,100)	\$32,731
Milford	(\$44,019)	(\$110,535)
Millsfield	\$0	\$0
Milton	(\$51,247)	(\$42,611)
Monroe	(\$2,125)	(\$7,301)
Mont Vernon	(\$10,104)	(\$37,095)
Moultonborough	\$0	\$0
Nashua	(\$191,758)	\$41,752
Nelson	\$80,560	(\$895)
New Boston	(\$1,415)	\$77,082
New Castle	\$0	\$0

Reaching Higher NH
Change in State Aid, FY2019-FY2020

Town	Change in Stabilization Grant over 2018	Total Change in State Aid
New Durham	\$0	\$106,201
New Hampton	(\$14,366)	(\$100,112)
New Ipswich	(\$35,662)	\$27,873
New London	\$0	\$0
Newbury	\$0	\$0
Newfields	\$0	(\$34,193)
Newington	\$0	\$0
Newmarket	\$0	\$55,909
Newport	(\$146,551)	(\$198,283)
Newton	(\$3,884)	\$33,497
North Hampton	\$0	\$0
Northfield	(\$91,097)	(\$66,176)
Northumberland	(\$55,441)	(\$48,578)
Northwood	(\$30,773)	(\$78,308)
Nottingham	\$0	\$60,415
Odell	\$0	\$0
Orange	(\$5,139)	\$5,942
Orford	(\$2,170)	(\$17,873)
Ossipee	(\$40,759)	\$43,966
Pelham	\$0	(\$155,605)
Pembroke	(\$94,522)	(\$130,311)
Penacook	(\$40,688)	(\$41,741)
Peterborough	(\$16,014)	\$37,323
Piermont	(\$5,764)	(\$27,313)
Pinkham's Grant	\$0	\$0
Pittsburg	\$0	\$0

Reaching Higher NH
Change in State Aid, FY2019-FY2020

Town	Change in Stabilization Grant over 2018	Total Change in State Aid
Pittsfield	(\$87,411)	(\$51,306)
Plainfield	(\$6,702)	\$91,171
Plaistow	\$0	(\$39,070)
Plymouth	(\$68,476)	\$18,978
Portsmouth	\$0	\$0
Randolph	\$0	\$0
Raymond	(\$69,785)	(\$200,154)
Richmond	(\$18,634)	\$24,073
Rindge	\$0	(\$66,283)
Rochester	(\$351,072)	(\$11,012)
Rollinsford	\$0	\$145,471
Roxbury	(\$1,388)	\$9,070
Rumney	(\$14,719)	\$61,922
Rye	\$0	\$0
Salem	\$0	\$377,162
Salisbury	(\$2,583)	(\$19,670)
Sanbornton	(\$6,822)	\$86,737
Sandown	(\$55,909)	(\$68,276)
Sandwich	\$0	\$0
Seabrook	(\$3,162)	\$33,787
Sharon	(\$1,151)	\$7,391
Shelburne	(\$2,345)	(\$694)
Somersworth	(\$89,966)	(\$234,654)
South Hampton	(\$781)	\$76,640
Springfield	(\$1,733)	(\$18,509)
Stark	(\$7,266)	\$5,543

Reaching Higher NH
Change in State Aid, FY2019-FY2020

Town	Change in Stabilization Grant over 2018	Total Change in State Aid
Stewartstown	(\$7,820)	(\$17,288)
Stoddard	\$0	(\$20,432)
Strafford	(\$25,597)	\$5,276
Stratford	(\$19,569)	\$5,803
Stratham	\$0	\$53,293
Success	\$0	\$0
Sugar Hill	\$0	\$0
Sullivan	(\$15,929)	(\$23,078)
Sunapee	\$0	\$0
Surry	(\$2,721)	\$11,451
Sutton	\$0	\$1,295
Swanzey	(\$110,797)	\$34,557
Tamworth	(\$4,448)	(\$26,962)
Temple	(\$3,388)	\$35,824
Thornton	(\$6,124)	\$100,763
Tilton	(\$22,666)	(\$44,712)
Troy	(\$43,422)	\$13,533
Tuftonboro	\$0	\$0
Unity	(\$17,076)	(\$52,897)
Wakefield	(\$25,796)	\$81,173
Walpole	(\$15,448)	(\$32,689)
Warner	(\$9,149)	\$16,935
Warren	(\$16,879)	\$7,189
Washington	\$0	\$3,090
Waterville Valley	\$0	\$0
Weare	(\$125,036)	(\$194,480)

Reaching Higher NH
Change in State Aid, FY2019-FY2020

Town	Change in Stabilization Grant over 2018	Total Change in State Aid
Webster	(\$513)	\$28,912
Wentworth	(\$11,898)	\$22,002
Wentworth's Location	\$0	\$0
Westmoreland	(\$9,704)	\$7,732
Whitefield	(\$33,527)	\$45,736
Wilmot	(\$3,242)	\$51,215
Wilton	(\$2,697)	\$41,785
Winchester	(\$74,193)	(\$87,216)
Windham	\$0	\$151,092
Windsor	\$0	(\$59,305)
Wolfeboro	\$0	\$0
Woodstock	(\$4,156)	(\$56,748)

Bos October 12, 2019 7:00 AM

Please Sign In