

SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

February 18, 2016

6:00 PM

A Public Hearing was held by the Sanborn Regional School Board on Thursday, February 18, 2016. The meeting was held at the Sanborn Regional Middle School Gymnasium. The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM by SB Member Ms. Wendy Miller. Ms. Miller opened the meeting by reading the Warrant Article. The purpose of the meeting was to get community input and an opportunity for the community to ask questions.

The Public Hearing began with a salute to the flag.

ARTICLE 11. Default Budget

Submitted by petition of 25 or more registered voters: Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:14b to delegate the determination of the default budget to the municipal budget committee which has been adopted under RSA 32:14?

Ms. Bennett started off by asking why the SB was required to have two public hearings (one in Kingston and one in Newton)? Dr. Blake responded that it is the way that the RSA is written. The school district encompasses Kingston and Newton and there needs to be a public hearing in each town of the District. Ms. Bennett said she is concerned with the BC having the power to determine the amount of the default budget. She stated that the BC may not have all the proper information. She said that preparing the default budget is subject to interpretation. Ms. Ross said there needs to be a system of checks and balances. Ms. Bennett asked where the "checks and balances" would be if the BC interprets what would be deemed to be reasonable expenses? Ms. Bennett is concerned about interpretations of onetime expenses vs. ongoing expenses. Ms. Annie Collyer of Newton said she was astonished that the SB doesn't seem to trust the elected officials of the BC to prepare the default budget. "I don't get it." "I don't understand."

Ms. Bennett said that each year both the Budget Committee and the School Board members are subject to change. What's not different, is the long range planning. The Administration makes the long range plans and is the unified component that meets these plans and prepares the budget. Currently the Superintendent and Administration prepare the default budget. The SB approves the budget. This article would give the BC final say in the default budget, and the SB and the Superintendent would be giving complete authority to the BC. The BC would prepare the default budget and then "walk away". It would be the responsibility of the SB and Administration to work with the budget.

Dr. Blake described the default budget as a "fall back" sort of like a safety valve. By giving the BC authority to set the default budget, the SB and Administration must work with the default budget; the BC has no responsibility going forward. Ms. Ross said that every BC and SB member could have different cuts. Mr. Miller stated that all the discussion tonight was speculation. He said if this article passes he does not think it is the intention to tell the administration "hands off". Mr. Miller said if the budget passes, then the SB would deal with it.

Ms. Annie Collyer thanked the SB for sharing their thoughts and she said she honors all the members for their time and effort.

At 6:30 PM, Ms. Ross made a motion to adjourn the public hearing. Ms. Bennett seconded the motion.