

**Merrimack School District
Voting Day – Tuesday April 11, 2023
7:00AM to 7:00PM**

**James Mastricola Upper Elementary School
Merrimack Middle School
St. John Neumann Church**

Elections, Voting, and Poling Locations
<https://www.merrimacknh.gov/elections-voting>

SUMMARY OF WARRANT ARTICLES

ARTICLE 1: Election of School District Officials

The names of candidates for elected offices for the Merrimack School District will appear on the ballot. Candidate names are those seeking the offices for School Board, School District Planning and Building Committee and School District Budget Committee.

ARTICLE 2: Accepting Gifts on Behalf of the School District

This article would allow the Merrimack School Board to accept gifts of personal or real property during the year such as land. This article appears on the ballot every year to allow the School Board to accept property on behalf of the District. If this article was not approved, all non-cash donations would have to come before the voters. This does not negate public discussion by the School Board and would still require a vote of the Board.

TAX IMPACT: NONE

This article has been recommended by the School Board.

ARTICLE 3: Merrimack Teachers Association Contract

This article seeks to provide a 4.00% increase in the 23-24 school year, a 4.00% increase in the 24-25 school year and a 3.75% increase in the 25-26 school year for the teachers of Merrimack. It is a three-year contract that builds off the momentum of last year's contract in an effort to become competitive in the market for professional staff to serve the children of Merrimack.

Currently, compared to 12 districts in our area, those being Amherst, Bedford, Bow, Brookline, Concord, Derry, Hollis, Londonderry, Milford, Nashua, Salem, and Windham, we are from \$4,000 to over \$8,000 dollars behind the area average of those districts. We compete in those markets and are in a dire struggle to keep what we have and attract what we need.

If this contract passes, at the end of the third year, we will be competitive with wages at the beginning of the salary chart, on par with those in the middle of the chart, but still lag a bit in the fourth quartile of the salary gride. This will aid us in helping to attract new teachers and assist us in maintaining our current staff of seasoned professionals where we have invested district resources in the areas of professional development, and ongoing staff training. The importance of maintaining these seasoned resources is to provide experienced mentorship programs for the new people coming into the profession. We feel this contract benefits students, staff, and the community, in our effort for continued improvement and furthers our School Board goals towards being an excellent school system that is part of the fabric of the values of Merrimack and will allow us to compete into the future.

TAX IMPACT - \$.24 cents increase per thousand or a total of \$72.00 dollars on a 300K house.

This article has been recommended by the School Board and the Budget Committee.

ARTICLE 4: Merrimack Teachers Association Contract (Special Meeting)

This article gives the School Board the option of calling one special meeting to discuss cost items only in the negotiated agreement if not passed by the voters. If this article is not on the warrant, the School Board would have to petition Superior Court to get approval for a special meeting. The court only grants such special meetings for emergency purposes.

TAX IMPACT: None.

This article has been recommended by the School Board.

ARTICLE 5: James Masticola Upper Elementary School Roof Replacement

This article seeks to replace 26,000 square feet of roof at James Masticola Elementary Upper School that is 15 to 28 years off warranty and has the potential for failing. The consequences of not taking such action at this time could be deck rot and the potential for mold in classrooms.

Two sections were constructed in 1999 and have been out of warranty since 2014. These sections are a built-up roof of tar and gravel that was applied on top of the existing roof. The other section was constructed in 1986.

These roofs are currently telegraphing potentially urgent problems with the insulation below. There are areas where the morning frost has melted immediately adjacent to unmelted areas. This indicates that the insulation in the melted areas could be saturated from leakage at the surface. There are currently two leaks, one in front of the library and one in front of the main office. We have tried patching these leaks to no avail.

Saturated insulation has no insulating value and can lead to mold problems and damage the metal deck below. We must pass this article to ensure that the current issue does not become an emergency that cannot be taken care of in a controlled fashion during the summer of 2023.

This is part of our multi-year comprehensive roof replacement plan.

TAX IMPACT – up to \$.22 cents per thousand or a total of \$66.00 dollars on a 300K house.

This article has been recommended by the School Board and the Budget Committee.

ARTICLE 6: Merrimack School District Operating Budget

This article is to raise and appropriate \$88,427,992 to support the operation of the School District. This budget represents a 1.60% increase over the 2022-2023 operating budget and was derived through a series of public meetings with the School Board, Budget Committee, and voters at the Deliberative Session. If this article is defeated, the School District will revert to a default budget which is \$ 87,169,047.

Description	2022-2023	2023-2024	Dollar	Percent
	School Board	Bud Comm	Variance	Variance
	Budget	Budget	2022-2023 vs.	2022-2023 vs.
	2022-2023	2023-2024	2023-2024	2023-2024
General Fund Operating Budget	84,115,890	85,383,379	1,267,489	1.51%
Food Service	1,421,706	1,544,613	122,907	8.65%
Federal Funds	1,500,000	1,500,000	-	0.00%
Total Budget	87,037,596	88,427,992	1,390,396	1.60%

In the 2023-2024 Merrimack School District budget, funds are being requested to support curriculum, instruction, and assessment at all grade levels. This includes resources to revise and align our curriculum to state and national standards, update our core and supplemental programs, materials, and resources, and to ensure that our assessment tools are effectively and efficiently monitoring student progress and providing differentiated support for intervention and extension opportunities.

In the area of **mathematics**, we are updating our core programs at both the elementary and middle school levels to the most recent edition of each respective program. These updates will ensure that our teachers and students have access to programs that incorporate best practices in teaching and learning, as well as the most up-to-date print and digital resources.

We are also requesting funds to support the full implementation of a **new phonics program at our three lower elementary schools**. This program utilizes a structured literacy approach to teaching and learning foundational reading skills. Its research-based approach and extensive materials will allow for the effective presentation of reading, spelling, and handwriting curriculum, using engaging, hands-on-learning techniques.

Finally, we are seeking funds in this budget to **improve and expand the assessments** we use to monitor student progress in the core academic areas. In Kindergarten through Grade 8, we hope to transition to a comprehensive assessment that includes a diagnostic tool, as well as a robust personalized learning program for reading and mathematics. At Merrimack High School, we hope to administer the PSATs to all freshmen to measure the knowledge and skills in reading, writing, and mathematics students learn in the high school classroom. Taking the PSATs in ninth grade will provide students and teachers with early feedback on their knowledge that matters most for college and career readiness.

Academic Funds for New Staff and Programs

Elementary

- 3 Full Time Equivalency (FTE) Reading Interventionist, 1 First Grade Teacher, 1 PE Teacher.

Middle School

- Funds for purchasing the "Big Ideas" math programs

Upper Elementary School

- 2 - 5th Grade Teachers at JMUES

Merrimack High School

- Funds for administering PSATs in grade 9 to measure knowledge and skills in reading, writing and mathematics
- Funds for updating biology texts
- Increase in Guidance Director salary to transition from school year to twelve-month position.
- Funds for a new position, Director of Pathways to Graduation and Extended Learning Opportunities

TAX IMPACT - \$.27 cents increase per thousand or a total of \$83.00 dollars on a 300K house. This article has been recommended by the School Board and the Budget Committee.



**ABSENTEE
OFFICIAL BALLOT
MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING
SECOND SESSION
APRIL 11, 2023**

Patricia Heil
SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

- A. TO VOTE, completely fill in the OVAL to the RIGHT of your choice(s) like this: ●
- B. Follow directions as to the number of candidates to be marked for each office.
- C. To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the candidate's name on the line provided and completely fill in the OVAL.

<p align="center">SCHOOL BOARD</p> <p align="center">Vote for not Three Year Term more than ONE</p> <p>LAURIE ROTHHAUS <input type="radio"/></p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p align="center">(Write-in)</p>	<p align="center">BUDGET COMMITTEE</p> <p align="center">Vote for not Three Year Term more than FOUR</p> <p>MICHELLE MACKEY <input type="radio"/></p> <p>CHUCK MOWER <input type="radio"/></p> <p>NAOMI SCHOENFELD <input type="radio"/></p> <p>DAN COAKLEY <input type="radio"/></p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p align="center">(Write-in)</p>	<p align="center">BUDGET COMMITTEE</p> <p align="center">Vote for not Two Year Term more than ONE</p> <p>HEATHER ROBITAILLE <input type="radio"/></p> <p>JENNIFER McCORMACK <input type="radio"/></p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p align="center">(Write-in)</p>
<p align="center">PLANNING & BUILDING COMMITTEE</p> <p align="center">Vote for not Three Year Term more than TWO</p> <p>FINLAY ROTHHAUS <input type="radio"/></p> <p>TIM GROFF <input type="radio"/></p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p align="center">(Write-in)</p> <p align="center">(Write-in)</p>	<p align="center">BUDGET COMMITTEE</p> <p align="center">Vote for not One Year Term more than ONE</p> <p>RACHEL PAEPKE <input type="radio"/></p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p align="center">(Write-in)</p>	<p align="center">BUDGET COMMITTEE</p> <p align="center">Vote for not One Year Term more than ONE</p> <p>RACHEL PAEPKE <input type="radio"/></p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p align="center">(Write-in)</p>

QUESTIONS

Article 2

Shall the Merrimack School Board be authorized to accept on behalf of the District, without further action by the voters, gifts, legacies and devises of personal or real property which may become available to the District during the fiscal year? **YES**

(Majority vote required). **NO**

(Recommended by the School Board Vote: 5-0-0).

VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT

QUESTIONS CONTINUED

Article 3

Shall the District approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the School Board and the Merrimack Teachers Association which calls for the following net changes in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year:

Year	Estimated Amount
2023-2024	\$1,205,797
2024-2025	\$1,272,070
2025-2026	\$1,230,198

and further raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,205,797 for the current fiscal 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 the current staffing levels?

(Majority vote required).

(Recommended by the School Board Vote: 5-0-0).

(Recommended by the Budget Committee Vote: 12-0-0).

YES

NO

Article 4

Shall the District, if Article 3 is defeated, authorize the School Board to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 3 cost items only?

(Majority vote required).

(Recommended by the School Board Vote: 5-0-0).

YES

NO

Article 5

(Special Warrant Article) Shall the District raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,108,669 for the purpose of roof replacement at James Masticola Upper Elementary School?

(Majority vote required).

(Recommended by the School Board Vote: 5-0-0).

(Recommended by the Budget Committee Vote: 12-0-1).

YES

NO

Article 6

Shall the 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 \$88,427,992? (Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$87,169,047 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the 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).

(Recommended by the School Board Vote: 5-0-0).

(Recommended by the Budget Committee Vote: 9-0-0).

YES

NO

VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT

SCHOOL DISTRICT VOTER WORKSHEET

ARTICLE 2: Accepting Real Property
YES - NO -

ARTICLE 3: Teachers Contract
YES - NO -

ARTICLE 4: Special Meeting Collective
Bargaining Agreement
YES - NO -

ARTICLE 5: James Masticola Upper
Elementary School Roof
Replacement
YES - NO -

ARTICLE 6: Operating Budget
YES - NO -

For more information, please visit us
online at - <http://www.sau26.org>

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ORGANIZATION
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Merrimack School District
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Merrimack, NH 03054

POSTAL PATRON

VOTER INFORMATION GUIDE
School District Election
April 11, 2023 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM

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