

**Surry School District
Annual Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2025**

Present:

Wayne Hartz Moderator, Tim Peloquin, Chair, Caroll Lothrop, Interim School District Clerk & Vice Chair, Frank Buffum, Member, Melinda Garland, Secretary, John Davis, Member, Rebecca Russo, Treasurer

Meeting Called to Order: 7:00PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Election Results announced by Caroll Lothrop

School Board: Melinda Garland – 65, John Davis – 59, Joanne Maynard - 1

Moderator: Wayne Hartz - 70

Clerk: Melinda Garland – 1, Caroll Lothrop – 1, Rebecca Russo – 2, Bonny LaRocca – 1, Kathy Hammond - 1

To the residents of Surry, NH, Cheshire County, qualified to vote in school district affairs: You are hereby notified and warned that the Annual Meeting will be held at 7:00PM on Thursday, March 13, 2025 at the Surry Town Hall, to act on the following warrant articles:

Article 1: Report of District Officers

To hear the reports of the District Officers

Steve Goldsmith, Motion to accept report accepted as written.

Second: Jay Croteau

No discussion

All voted in favor.

Article 2: Main Operating Budget

To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,451,293.00 for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for the School District Officials and Agents, and for the payment of the Statutory Obligations of the District for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year. The School Board and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. The School Board and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.

This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. (Majority vote required.)

Motion: John Berglund

Second: Jay Croteau

Discussion: Caroll notified attendees that there were some differences from the budget printed in the Town Report. The budget spreadsheet passed out at this meeting shows we used the wrong figure for 2025-26 State Aid, The anticipated State Aid will be \$488,108, not \$526,498, and the Estimated Local Taxes to be raised is \$1,866,185 not \$1,827,795.

Tim: The school district budget is down 8%. The school board believes strongly in the need to have a cushion for unanticipated enrollment increases because student numbers fluctuate in and out of our town significantly on an annual basis. Combined with turmoil in the state and federal government, this year the town will get less money back than in the past. The town also has a large number of graduates. However, twenty-nine 1-5 year olds are waiting to enter the school system, which is a 69% increase over previous years.

Tim addressed the AREA Agreements, why they exist to benefit both the Keene and sending districts' needs, and how Surry's AREA relationship to Keene is unique because all Surry grades attend Keene schools. The hope is that Surry School District will negotiate an Elementary School Special Education rate commensurate with the services received. Tim addressed the concern that some residents have expressed about what the School District raises and what is usually returned to the town on an annual basis. Instead of returning unexpended funds to voters on an annual basis, he stated that holding these funds to reduce the fluctuations might be appreciated.

Bruce Smith: noted that \$200,000 unreserved balance from the town was used to both level the spike and decrease the tax rate.

Mark Howard: confused by different numbers listed by both Bruce Smith and Tim to offset the funds paid to the school board.

The moderator noted that the School District Annual Meeting exceeded the time allotted, and the Town's Annual Meeting needed to begin.

David Lane: Made a motion to call the question.
Bill Foshier: Second
2/3 majority required. Ayes unanimous.

Wayne Hartz: Read Article 2 again.
The budget was approved unanimously.

Laura Barrett made a motion to lay the remaining articles aside and adjourn the meeting until after the town meeting.
Bill Foshier: Second.
Unanimously accepted, 7:40PM

Wayne Hartz: reconvened the meeting at 8:01PM

Article 3: Amendment of Grade 6 AREA Agreement

Shall the Surry School District accept the provisions of RSA 195:A:14, as amended, to modify the Grade 6 Authorized Regional Enrollment Area (A.R.E.A.) Agreement among the school districts of Keene, Nelson, Stoddard, Sullivan and Surry in accordance with the proposed terms of the amended AREA Agreement approved by the Surry School Board on September 16, 2024 and on file with the School District Clerk.

Motion: David Lane
Second: Jay Croteau

Mark Howard asked if the Board was in favor of this Agreement. Tim confirmed that the Board believes this is in the best interests of the Town. Carroll also commented that the AREA districts now have been given seats on Keene School District subcommittees, so we will have opportunity to affect policy. Melinda Garland will sit on curriculum committee. The article passed unanimously.

Article 4: Amendment of Grades 7-8 AREA Agreement

Shall the Surry School District accept the provisions of RSA 195:A:14, as amended, to modify the Grade 7-8 Authorized Regional Enrollment Area (A.R.E.A.) Agreement among the school districts of Keene, Harrisville, Nelson, Stoddard, Sullivan and Surry in accordance with the proposed terms of the amended A.R.E.A. Agreement approved by the Surry School Board on September 16, 2024, and on file with the School District Clerk.

Motion: David Lane
Second: Jay Croteau

No discussion.
The article passed unanimously.

Article 5: Amendment of Grades 9-12 AREA Agreement

Shall the Surry School District accept the provisions of RSA 195:A:14, as amended, to modify the Grades 9-12 Authorized Regional Enrollment Area (A.R.E.A.) Agreement among the school districts of Keene, Chesterfield, Marlborough, Westmoreland, Stoddard, Sullivan and Surry in accordance with the proposed terms of the amended AREA Agreement approved by the Surry School Board on September 16, 2024, and on file with the School District Clerk.

Motion: David Lane
Second: Jay Croteau

No discussion.
The article passed unanimously.

Article 6: Terms

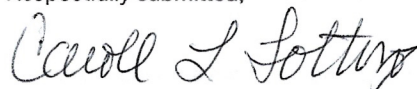
To transact any other business which may legally come before the meeting.

Motion: John Berglund
Second: David Lane

Motion to End: John Berglund
Second: David Lane

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10.

Respectfully submitted,



Carroll Lothrop, Interim School District Clerk. March 16, 2025