



2022 VOTER GUIDE SCHOOL WARRANT ARTICLES

To Our Friends and Neighbors, the Residents of Pelham,

We compiled this Voter Guide to assist you in making informed decisions on Town Meeting Day. The information outlines the School District Warrant Articles and provides a brief explanation of each.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us at psb@pelhamsd.org or visit us at www.pelhamsd.org for additional information. School Board members, school administrators, and SAU staff are happy to answer any questions you may have.

Our hope is that this guide provides you the tools necessary to cast a well-informed vote. Town Meeting Day is Tuesday, March 8, 2022, between 7:00 AM and 8:00 PM, at Pelham High School. We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you at the polls.

Respectfully yours,

Pelham School Board

ARTICLE 1 - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

To elect by ballot the following School District Officers:

School Board Member	3-Year Term
School Board Member	3-Year Term

ARTICLE 2 - OPERATING BUDGET

Shall the Pelham 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 of the annual school district meeting, for the purposes set forth herein, totaling thirty-nine million, nine hundred twelve thousand, four hundred ninety-three dollars (\$39,912,493)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be thirty-eight million, nine hundred eighty-eight thousand, seven hundred seventy-seven dollars, (\$38,988,777), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Pelham School District or by law; or the Pelham School Board 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
Recommended by the Budget Committee***

ARTICLE 2 - EXPLANATION

This article reflects the operating budget, which is the funding necessary to provide quality educational programming for our students. The general fund is the only part of the budget that impacts the tax rate. Because of the non-discretionary increases as detailed on the following page, the School Board proposes fewer and smaller initiatives in this budget cycle.

ARTICLE 2 - EXPLANATION (CONTINUED)

GOALS AND COMMITMENTS

Our School District goals for the 2021-22 School Year include:

- Improving math performance;
- Attaining voter approval for full-day kindergarten for 2022-23; and,
- Improving culture and climate.

The Pelham School Board is also committed to:

- Maintaining programming and class size guidelines;
- Maintaining long-term plans for technology, instructional materials, and capital maintenance; and,
- Applying for any available Federal and State-level grant funding. Specifically, we will complete air conditioning on the second floor and cafeteria at Pelham Elementary School prior to the start of next school year through Federal grant funding.

NON-DISCRETIONARY ITEMS

Non-Discretionary items, which are also included in the default budget, account for 89% of the increase in the proposed budget.

- Debt Service reflects the net increase due to the first payment on our bond to fund the Pelham Memorial School Project. We sold 20 year bonds through the NH Municipal Bond Bank with an effective interest rate of 1.74%.
- Special Education costs include increased expenses for our students placed out-of-district and at charter schools.
- Contractual Salary and Benefits increases for our professional educators and instructional assistants are based on the contracts that the community approved in previous years.
- Health Insurance includes a guaranteed maximum increase of 12.5%.

Non-Discretionary Spending Increases	Amount
Debt Service	\$1,629,626
Special Education	\$642,542
Contractual Salary and Benefits	\$362,498
Health Insurance	\$446,091
Total	\$3,080,757



**TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2022
7:00 AM ~ 8:00 PM
PELHAM HIGH SCHOOL
PLEASE ENTER VIA
THE STUDENT ENTRANCE**

PRSRT STD
 ECRWSS
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 EDDM RETAIL

*****ECRWSS*****

Postal Customer
 Pelham, NH 03076

ARTICLE 2—EXPLANATION (CONTINUED)

The School Board has three smaller initiatives considering the non-discretionary increases in the budget.

FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN - \$108,297

- Our current 2.5 hours of programming does not provide sufficient time for a full program of pre-literacy and pre-math skills plus the opportunity for structured play and socialization.
- The lack of full-day kindergarten puts Pelham at a competitive disadvantage in the housing market compared to our neighboring towns.
- Pelham is only one of 6 out of 100+ communities in NH without a full-day kindergarten program.
- To offset the cost of this important initiative, the School Board will:
 - Re-allocate positions due to projected enrollment; and,
 - Eliminate the mid-day kindergarten bus route, which costs \$79,838.

STAFFING THE FULL MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM - \$0

Pelham Memorial School has been considered an Upper Elementary school due to lack of Family and Consumer Science (FACS) and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) programs. The 2022-23 Operating Budget includes a full-time FACS and a full-time STEAM teacher. Due to enrollment projections, two positions in grades 6-8 would be re-allocated. Salaries and benefits for these positions are 100% offset by the re-allocated positions.

SECOND GRADE READING PROGRAM - \$24,090

This would extend the evidence-based reading curriculum currently in place in third through fifth grade into second grade. It will improve students’ reading and writing skills, coordinate between the grades, increase grammar instruction, and lighten the load on teachers. This cost covers a six-year subscription to all curriculum materials, both physical and electronic, as well as teacher resources.

Demonstrating the Board’s continued commitment to fiscal responsibility, the Pelham School District had the 17th lowest per pupil spending across 178 school districts in the State of New Hampshire (2020-2021).

Year	Pelham	NH State Average
2020-2021	\$ 16,211	\$ 18,434

ARTICLE 3 - SOLAR LEASING

Shall the Pelham School District vote to authorize the School Board to enter into a long-term lease of School District property for the purpose of installing solar panels at no cost to the District but resulting in savings on the District’s energy costs, all on such terms and conditions as the School Board determines are in the best interest of the district? (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the School Board

ARTICLE 3 - EXPLANATION

This Warrant Article asks for voter approval to lease School District property (e.g. rooftop space) for the purpose of installing solar panels. Approval of this Warrant Article would result in the District taking the following actions:

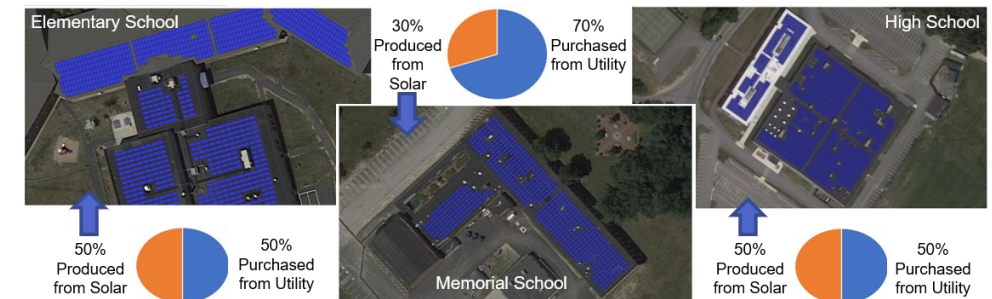
- Soliciting and evaluating requests for proposal for solar arrays;
- Negotiating to maximize financial benefits to the District; and,
- Executing a lease agreement.

The benefits of passing this Warrant Article include:

- Provides an option to off-set increasing electric supply rates;
- Conservatively projected savings of \$300,000 attained over a standard 25-year agreement;
- Leasing limits risks to the District and does not require capital expenditure; and,
- Educational and environmental benefits to the entire community.

The School Board is committed to only pursuing a solar project under the following conditions: a) solar panels installed at **no cost** to the District; and, b) the project meets economic, educational, and environmental objectives.

The images below depict a conceptual layout across our three schools.



ARTICLE 4 - BY PETITION

Shall the voters of the Pelham School District vote to adopt the following provisions pertaining to requirements to wear face coverings within the Pelham School District; (a) The use of face coverings shall be optional for all students at the sole discretion of their parent or guardian, (b) the use of face coverings shall be optional for any employees and visitors on school district facilities and attending school sanctioned events? (Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 4 - EXPLANATION

The School Board does not explain petition warrant articles. We do not want to inadvertently explain something inaccurately or miss important points the petitioners feel should be emphasized.