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**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
LEMPSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT**

2023-2024

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Kelly Caron, Chairperson	Term Expires 2025
Jillian Thomas, Vice Chair	Term Expires 2024
Bruce Cragin	Term Expires 2026
Jessica Hooper	Term Expires 2026
Rachel Tirrell	Term Expires 2024

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT #71 PERSONNEL

Jim Lewis	Superintendent/Director of Student Services/Title IX Liaison
Sarah Clancy	Business Manager
Kelly Tracy	Special Education teacher/IEP Compliance Coordinator

OFFICERS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Michael Shklar – Moderator	Term Expires 2025
Susan Lichty – Clerk	Term Expires 2025
Barbara Chadwick – Treasurer	Term Expires 2025



New Hampshire
Department of
Revenue Administration

2024
WARRANT

Lempster Local School

The inhabitants of the Lempster School District, in the County of Sullivan, in the State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in district affairs. You are hereby notified to meet at the Lempster Community School in Lempster, on Saturday the 2nd of March, 2024 at seven o'clock (7:00) PM to act upon the articles set forth in the Warrant. Article 1 of the Warrant covers the election of School Board and will be acted upon at four (4:00) PM until seven-thirty (7:30) PM.

GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION

We certify and attest that on or before FEBRUARY 9, 2024, a true and attested copy of this document was posted at the place of the meeting and like copies at the Lempster Town Office and the Lempster Community School, and delivered to the SAU71 Office.

Name

Position

Signature

Kelly Caron	Chair	Kelly Caron
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Jillian Thomas	Vice Chair	Jillian Thomas
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Bruce Cragin	member	Bruce Cragin
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Jessica Hopper	member	Jessica Hopper
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Rachel Tirrell	member	Rachel Tirrell
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Article 01 School Board Member

To choose two School Board members for a three-year term beginning upon qualification at the close of the annual meeting.

Article 02 Reports

To hear reports of agents, auditors, committees, or officers chosen, and pass any vote relating thereof.

Article 03 Operating Budget

To see if the district will raise and appropriate the amount of THREE MILLION, SIX HUNDRED FIVE THOUSAND, THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY-THREE DOLLARS AND SEVENTY-NINE CENTS (\$3,605,373.79) for the statutory obligations of the district. This article does not include appropriations contained in other warrant articles. The School Board recommends this article. (Majority vote required.)

Article 04 Lempster Educational Support Personnel Association

To see if the town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the LEMPSTER SCHOOL BOARD and the LEMPSTER SUPPORT STAFF ASSOCIATION which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase
2024-2025	\$45,493.93
2025-2026	\$12,311.77
2026-2027	\$13,055.91

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,493.93 for the 2024-2025 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 current staffing level. The school board recommends this warrant article. (Majority vote required.)

Article 05 Special Education Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$50,000) to be added to the Special Education Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The School Board recommends this appropriation. (Majority vote required.)



**New Hampshire
Department of
Revenue Administration**

**2024
WARRANT**

Article 06 Building and Grounds Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$50,000) to be added to the Building and Grounds Capital Reserve Fund previously established, with such amount to be funded from the June 30 unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 1. No amount to be raised from taxation. The School Board recommends this appropriation. (Majority vote required).

Article 07 Special Meeting

Shall the school district, if warrant article #4 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address warrant article # 4 cost items only? The School Board recommends this article. (Majority vote required.)

Lempster School District

Estimated Revenue

1/25/2024

	Revenue 23-24	Estimated 24-25	Diff
Interest	\$300.00	\$350.00	\$50.00
Tuition	\$190,308.00	\$190,000.00	(\$308.00)
After School Program	\$8,534.00	\$8,600.00	\$66.00
Other Local Sources	\$2,000.00	\$500.00	(\$1,500.00)
Medicaid	\$11,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$24,000.00
Adequacy Aid	\$768,408.00	\$799,145.00	\$30,737.00
State Education Tax	\$220,854.00	\$242,001.00	\$21,147.00
Fund Balance to Reduce taxes	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Net Local education tax	\$2,285,750.00	\$2,329,778.00	\$42,177.00
(for proposed budget)			
Less Deficit Appropriation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Revenues— Proposed Budget	\$3,487,154.00	\$3,605,374.00	\$118,220.00
Estimated Federal income	\$306,148.00	\$98,085.00	(\$208,063.00)
Lunch income	\$24,800.00	\$24,800.00	\$0.00
Total Federal income	\$330,948.00	\$122,885.00	(\$208,063.00)
TOTAL REVENUE	\$3,818,102.00	\$3,728,259.00	(\$89,843.00)

Estimated Federal Income

Title I	\$49,697.00
Title II	\$5,227.00
IDEA/PreK	\$24,861.00
ESSER	0.00
Title IV	\$10,000.00
SRSA	\$8,300.00
	\$98,085.00

DESCRIPTION	2023-2024 CURRENT YEAR BUDGET	2024-2025 PROPOSED BUDGET	DOLLAR INC. /DEC	PERCENT INC./DEC.
INSTRUCTION 1100				
Teacher Salary	443,607.40	659,841.20	216,233.80	
Salary Substitutes	25,075.00	25,075.00	0.00	
Health Insurance	163,123.60	214,560.06	51,436.46	
Dental Insurance	10,314.00	12,727.32	2,413.32	
Life & LTD Insurance	1,795.47	2,740.14	944.67	
Social Security	42,331.18	58,198.28	15,867.10	
Retirement	76,275.28	126,925.46	50,650.18	
Unemployment	1,915.20	2,143.20	228.00	
Workers Compensation	3,098.75	4,260.27	1,161.52	
Contracted Services	17,112.00	19,062.00	1,950.00	
High School Tuition	846,285.00	674,885.00	-171,400.00	
Supplies &	12,600.00	10,080.00	-2,520.00	
Professional Dues	200.00	200.00	0.00	
Salary - Tier II Para	84,666.33	75,845.58	-8,820.75	
Retirement Non Teacher	8,900.78	8,338.87	-561.91	
TOTAL INSTRUCTION	1,737,299.99	1,894,882.38	157,582.39	9%
SPECIAL EDUCATION 1200				
Teacher Salary	115,784.80	46,074.00	-69,710.80	
Salary - Aide	84,666.33	74,645.58	-10,020.75	
Health Insurance	65,481.40	38,523.93	-26,957.47	
Dental Insurance	3,826.08	2,002.92	-1,823.16	
Life & LTD Insurance	717.62	290.36	-427.26	
Social Security	16,099.51	9,617.55	-6,481.96	
Retirement	18,634.04	9,048.34	-9,585.70	
Unemployment	1,436.40	1,687.20	250.80	
Workers Compensation	1,178.53	627.20	-551.33	
Tuition	150,000.00	450,000.00	300,000.00	
Contracted Services	252.00	252.00	0.00	
Retirement Non Teacher	9,420.33	8,461.63	-958.70	
Summer school salaries	10,000.00	5,000.00	-5,000.00	
TOTAL SPECIAL EDUCATION	477,497.04	646,230.71	168,733.67	35%
GIFTED AND TALENTED 1270	4,035.50	2,035.50	-2,000.00	
TOTAL GIFTED AND TALENTED	4,035.50	2,035.50	-2,000.00	-49%
OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL 1400				
Other Inst. - Salary	20,522.64	20,742.24	219.60	
Other Inst. - Retirement	4,030.65	4,073.78	43.13	
Other Inst. - FICA	1,569.98	1,586.78	16.80	
Supplies	700.00	630.00	-70.00	
TOTAL OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL	26,823.27	27,032.80	209.53	.78%
DESCRIPTION	2023-2024 CURRENT YEAR BUDGET	2024-2025 PROPOSED BUDGET	DOLLAR INC. /DEC	PERCENT INC./DEC.
GUIDANCE SERVICES 2120				
Salary Guidance	41,928.60	33,436.00	-8,492.60	
Health Insurance	500.00	500.00	0.00	
Social Security	3,207.54	2,557.85	-649.69	

Unemployment	159.60	159.60	0.00	
Workers Compensation	234.80	187.24	-47.56	
Supplies and Materials	300.00	270.00	-30.00	
TOTAL GUIDANCE SERVICES	46,330.54	37,110.69	-9,219.85	-19.9%
HEALTH SERVICES 2130				
Salary Nurse	26,933.77	27,448.92	515.15	
Health Insurance	500.00	500.00	0.00	
Social Security	2,060.43	2,099.84	39.41	
Unemployment	159.60	159.60	0.00	
Workers Compensation	150.83	153.71	2.88	
Supplies and Materials	800.00	720.00	-80.00	
TOTAL HEALTH SERVICES	30,604.63	31,082.07	477.44	1.5%
PSYCHOLOGIST SERVICES 2140				
Psychologist	23,940.00	24,082.50	142.50	
TOTAL PSYCHOLOGIST	23,940.00	24,082.50	142.50	.59%
SPEECH SERVICES 2150				
Speech & Language K-8	51,300.00	51,870.00	570.00	
TOTAL SPEECH SERVICES	51,300.00	51,870.00	570.00	1.1%
PHYSICAL THERAPY 2162				
Physical Therapist	23,812.80	24,288.00	475.20	
Physical Therapist	1,821.68	1,858.03	36.35	
Unemployment	159.60	159.60	0.00	
Workers' Comp.	133.35	136.01	2.66	
TOTAL PHYSICAL THERAPY	25,927.43	26,441.64	514.21	1.9%
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY 2163				
Occupational Therapy	22,610.00	23,062.20	452.20	
TOTAL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY	22,610.00	23,062.20	452.20	2%
SUPPORT SERVICES 2213				
Tuition Reimbursement	5,000.00	3,000.00	-2,000.00	
Conferences	5,000.00	3,000.00	-2,000.00	
Conferences-Support	2,500.00	1,000.00	-1,500.00	
Certification	1,040.00	1,040.00	0.00	
TOTAL SUPPORT SERVICES	13,540.00	8,040.00	-5,500.00	-40.6%
TECHNOLOGY SERVICES 2230				
Salary Technology	59,580.00	60,139.00	559.00	
Health Insurance	23,067.20	26,165.88	3,098.68	
Dental Insurance	1,057.56	1,107.24	49.38	
Life & LTD Insurance	265.61	273.74	8.13	
Social Security	4,557.87	4,600.63	42.76	
Unemployment	159.60	159.60	0.00	
Workers Compensation	333.65	336.78	3.13	
Supplies and Materials	600.00	600.00	0.00	
DESCRIPTION	2023-2024 CURRENT YEAR	2024-2025 PROPOSED BUDGET	DOLLAR INC. /DEC	PERCENT INC./DEC.

Salary Grounds-Mowing	2,292.55	2,367.60	75.05	
Social Security	175.38	181.17	5.79	
Grounds Gasoline	150.00	150.00	0.00	
Workers Compensation	80.01	82.63	2.62	
Grounds supplies	500.00	200.00	-300.00	
TOTAL GROUNDS AND MOWING	3,197.94	2,981.40	-216.54	-6.7%
BUS COORDINATOR 2710				
Salary Bus Coordinator	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00	
Social Security Bus	229.50	229.50	0.00	
Retirement Bus	589.20	-	-589.20	
Workers' Comp. Bus	16.80	16.80	0.00	
TOTAL BUS COORDINATOR	3,835.50	3,246.30	-589.20	-15%
PUPIL TRANSPORTATION 2721				
Gasoline/Diesel	11,018.53	11,018.53	0.00	
Salary Bus Drivers	55,677.26	45,419.30	-10,216.37	
Social Security	4,259.31	3,477.76	-781.55	
Workers' Compensation	1,943.14	1,586.59	-356.55	
Unemployment	394.30	492.43	98.13	
Bus Driver Fees	500.00	500.00	0.00	
Transportation Supplies	200.00	200.00	0.00	
Mileage	400.00	400.00	0.00	
Bus Lease	50,000.00	-	-50,000.00	
Retirement Bus Driver	1,151.49	-	-1,151.49	
Vehicle Maintenance	1,500.00	7,500.00	6,000.00	
TOTAL PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	127,044.03	70,636.20	-56,407.83	-44%
	2023-2024 CURRENT YEAR BUDGET	2024-2025 PROPOSED BUDGET	DOLLAR INC. /DEC	PERCENT INC./DEC.
SPECIAL ED. TRANSPORTATION 2722				
Transportation-Special Gr 9-12	23,100.00	57,200.00	34,100.00	
TOTAL SPECIAL ED. TRANSPORTATION	23,100.00	57,200.00	34,100.00	147.6%
Transfer to Food Service	23,000.00	23,000.00	0.00	
			0.00	0
TOTAL BUDGET	3,507,153.40	3,605,373.79		2.8%

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Building Improvement six year plan								
2	Project	Description	Estimated cost	2024-2025 Reserve	2025-2026 Reserve	2026-2027 Reserve	2027-2028 Reserve	2028-2029 Reserve	2029-2030 Reserve
3	Interior Painting	Walls and doors	10,000	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	0	0
4	Exterior Painting	Building side	25,000	2,500	2,500	2,500	5,000	5,000	0
5	Window replacement	Middle school wing. 14 windows	14,000	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	0	0
6	Ext Door Replacement	Six fire doors	20,100	10,500	10,500	0	0	0	0
7	Paving	Blacktop - in sections	75,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	0	0	0
8	Gymnasium	Replacement of the gym floor	30,000	0	0	0	15,000	15,000	15,000
9	Roof	Shingle roof as needed	30,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	0	0	0
10	Plumbing	Upgrades	10,000	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	0	0
11	Electrical	Upgrades	10,000	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	0	0
12	Bathrooms	Upgrades	10,000	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	0	0
13	Kitchen	Upgrades	10,000	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	0	0
14	Landscaping	Vegetation by entrance/ building	5,000	0	0	0	5,000	0	0
15	Ceiling tiles	in stages throughout the building	40,000	0	0	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
16	Interior doors	Upgrade replace throughout school	15,000	0	0	0	5,000	5,000	5,000
17	Learning Laboratory	Tech/virtual and live experiments	10,000	0	0	5,000	5,000	0	0
18	Replace outside boards	Boards are buckling, need upgrade	10,000	5,000	5,000	0	0	0	0
19	new desks	replacement	10,000	0	0	0	0	5,000	5,000
20			\$ 334,100.00	\$ 69,000.00	\$ 69,000.00	\$ 68,500.00	\$ 61,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 35,000.00

A. Way & Hurd School Fund					
Principal Beginning Balance					\$ 976.20
Interest Beginning Balance					\$ 362.04
Income for 2022					\$ 0.48
Total Principal and Interest					\$ 976.68
Lempster Special Education Capital Reserve					
Beginning Balance 01-01-22					\$100,075.08
New Funds 2022					\$ -
Withdrawals 2022					\$ -
Income 2022					\$ 49.67
Ending Balance 12-31-22					\$100,124.75
Lempster Building and Grounds Capital Reserve					
Beginning Balance 01-01-22					\$110,343.95
New Funds 2022					\$ -
Withdrawals 2022					\$ (56,003.00)
Income 2022					\$ 35.99
Ending Balance 12-31-22					\$ 54,376.94
Lempster Accounting Software Capital Reserve					
Beginning Balance 01-01-22					\$ 940.52
New Funds 2022					\$ -
Withdrawals 2022					\$ -
Income 2022					\$ 0.46
Ending Balance 12-31-22					\$ 940.98
Vicky Goss Memorial Scholarship Capital Reserve					
Beginning Balance 01-01-22					\$ 10,299.37
New Funds 2022					\$ -
Withdrawals 2022					
Income 2022					\$ 25.83
Ending Balance 12-31-22					\$ 10,325.20
Lempster Tuition Capital Reserve					
Beginning Balance 01-01-22					\$ 75,333.33
New Funds 2022					
Withdrawals 2022					\$ -
Income 2022					\$ 37.39
Ending Balance 12-31-22					\$ 75,370.72

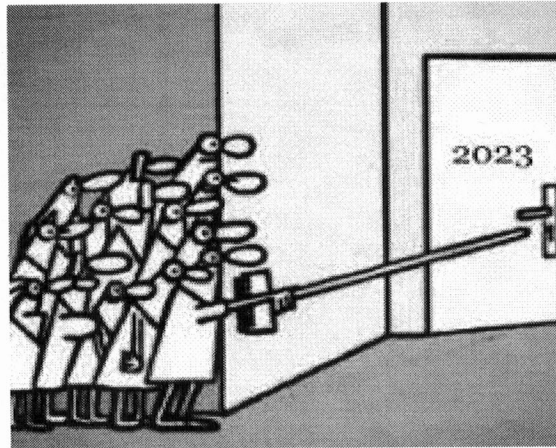
2021 - 2022 Special Education cost for the school year.

	Instruction	Related Services	Transportation	Totals
Elementary	\$503,413.36	\$220,566.57	\$7,470.00	\$731,449.93
Middle School				
High School	\$139,241.07	\$1,284.43	\$5,625.00	\$146,150.50
Administration				\$73,565.48
			Totals	\$951,165.91
Revenues received to offset special education costs			\$24,025.72 Special Education Tuition \$5,903.40 Medicaid Revenue \$41,275.69 IDEA Grant \$252.90 IDEA PK Grant \$24,333.78 Special Education Aid	
		Totals	\$95,791.49	

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2022 - 2023 Special Education cost for the school year.

	Instruction	Related Services	Transportation	Totals
Elementary	\$292,824.08	\$114,112.29	\$880.00	\$407,816.37
Middle School				
High School	\$140,563.63		\$15,080.00	\$155,643.93
Administration				\$75,677.42
			Totals	\$639,137.22
Revenues received to offset special education costs			\$23,193.29 Special Education Tuition \$25,806.00 Medicaid Revenue \$44,170.49 IDEA Grant \$424.80 IDEA PK Grant \$224.07 Special Education Aid	
		Totals	\$93,818.65	



Dear Citizens of Lempster and Friends of the Lempster School,

We didn't know what to expect when 2023 arrived, but we knew we needed to continue to address the needs of our students in the same manner we had been addressing them last year. The year 2023 was a turning point for many schools. It marked three years after the beginning of the pandemic, but many students were still struggling. In addition, it was the beginning of the end of the ESSER funds, which were designed by the government to address learning loss.

- Due to the fact the Lempster School is so small we are afforded the benefit of knowing the students extremely well. The staff members are able to determine if a student needs extra attention or assistance by a simple glance. The word "family" is very appropriate for describing our school. We used this familiarity to base the necessary support needed for our students. We hired necessary individuals to analyze specific areas, both academically and socially, and ensured students received the appropriate reinforcement in the appropriate setting. **And it worked!** Our NH State Assessment scores went up! We still have improvements to make, but we are heading in the right direction. We want to thank all the adults in town who helped solidify our message of educational importance to each child. There is no secret that when parents and adults support the school's message of a valuable education, the academic results improve.
- Covid never completely disappeared from our view in 2023, but the cases were noticeably reduced. We did not need to encourage masking and we witnessed student social interactions become stronger. However, the school remained prepared in case of any spikes in the Covid numbers. We currently have enough masks and gloves to supply the entire school for weeks. Also, washing hands is commonplace and with our nurse able to provide a day of health instruction each week, our awareness of necessary precautions has improved the general attendance of the student population.
- The year 2023 also saw the school enhance specific activities to promote learning. We added to Read-Across-America our own version of Read-Across-Lempster. We created themed days of reading as well as invited guest readers into the school and celebrated the joy of reading for fun. In April we also offered the first-ever Poetry Coffeehouse at the

Lempster School library. It was an exposure to classic and original poetry, with free coffee and free desserts! Maggie Kemp and Robin Maguire were our special guest poets. We hope to offer this event again in 2024.

- Throughout the year the Lempster School continued its focus on math fact mastery. The school's administration strongly subscribes to the beliefs that students will understand and can apply advanced mathematical concepts much more effectively when they have a solid understanding of math fact computation. For example, an individual may not know the answer to $634,815 * 5 =$ off the top of their head, but if they know their facts, they know the product ends in five! Without mastery, the simple wrong push of a calculator button could easily lead anyone to an incorrect answer.
- We are getting closer to converting to a solar-based electricity source. Six huge tracking towers were installed during the summer. These trackers will follow the sun across the sky to maximize the ability to create electricity from solar. Only backorders for certain transistors not available in the United States has held us up. We hope to be converting the sun's rays into electricity very soon.
- We also persisted in addressing the physical aspects of the inside of the school. We were able to continue to remove more of the old asbestos by having professionals pull up outdated carpet in the kindergarten, preschool, and teachers' rooms and replace it with contemporary tiling, this summer. The building is old, but we are consistently chipping away at the long-overdue needs without bankrupting the town.
- Middle school student Saige Greene created a beautiful mural on the wall of the school's cafeteria, depicting a pleasant beach scene. The mural was overwhelming approved by students, staff members, and visitors. We are proud of Saige and appreciate the talent she shares with her school. I hope you can come by and see how this mural adds to the positive atmosphere of the school.
- Also, during the summer, the school received a "Beyond School Enrichment" grant. We used the funds to provide additional activities for students during our summer school programming. We even provided a culminating event by taking the students to Boston for a historical tour on the Duck Boats! Many students on the trip indicated they had never been to Manchester, so Boston was an experience they will likely not forget! We maintain: "The purpose of a school (or any successful society) is to provide opportunities for students to make the most of their abilities." We believe the Lempster School is doing exactly that!
- We began the 2023-2024 school year with our second annual Welcome Back Barbecue! All students and their families were invited to the gathering for freshly grilled summer fare. Nothing bonds families and teachers like a summer food gathering. It was the perfect way to build an ethos of expectations for the school year. We hope you may visit us for the next barbecue in the late summer of 2024. You can check the date and time in my weekly newsletter.

- Our webpage has been update to compete with all other school websites. With the help of Mr. Tim McNicholas we have incorporated video and ease-of-navigation aspects into the site. As we continue to populate it with information, we plan to use it as an up-to-the-minute source of information. Please take a look at www.SAU71.org.
- Communication is an imperative component to the Lempster School philosophy. Since the month of September, 2020, parents, families, and friends of the Lempster School have received an emailed weekly newsletter (now sent on "Take Home Tuesday") for the entirety of the school year(s). For you to receive an ongoing update to the school's activities and plans, please just send a quick email to JLewis@SAU71.org, and I'll be happy to add you to the blind-copy-only distribution list. You should also know, we have three cell phones for even more access. To reach the SAU feel free to call or text, 603.504.9017; the office cell is 603.504.9018, and the cell phone to our special education department is 603.504.9019.
- We welcomed Sarah Clancy to the SAU office this fall as our new Business Manager. Sarah comes to us with a plethora of business management experience in the private sector and has been a very welcomed addition to the Lempster School District SAU! Please know you are free to come by to welcome Sarah and experience her positive "can-do" attitude.
- Back in the spring, our budget passed easily, likely due to the fact we try our best to keep the bottom line from increasing very much. However, some reality is now upon us. Considering the price increases in just about every aspect of our lives, including insurance and special education costs, coupled with the fact the ESSER money is no longer available, creating a budget that maintains the focus on students learning is no easy task. We have made several cuts to noninstructional areas and hope to secure as much grant funding as possible in FY25.

If you have never been to the Lempster Community School, please know you have a standing invitation. There is little doubt you will agree the Lempster School is creative in its approach to provide the best possible education for the students of Lempster. We hope you know you are always welcome to being part of this worthy institution.

Respectfully,

JLewis

Jim Lewis
Superintendent

**Children may not always listen to our advice, but they will
always imitate our actions.**

Principal's Report

Over the course of recent years the Lempster Community School staff and students have been working hard to be one of the highest achieving schools in our area. We are extremely pleased that the most recent (2023) NH State testing results have placed LCS in the top third of elementary schools in the state. Well-known national school rating website School Digger.com rates the Lempster Community School as a 4 out of 5 star school. Only one other school in our area rated higher. Additionally, the Eagle Times placed LCS in the category "*Scores Rebound at Seven Elementary School*" We are really proud of our students and staff!

We welcome a number of new staff members this year. Candace MaGurk in First Grade, Monica Lizzote in Guidance & Physical Education and Tim McNicholas is our new music teacher. We also welcome new Paraprofessional Danielle Wilson in Pre-School. We are very pleased that our school has been able to attract such a talented group of educators.

Perhaps our most significant educational change this year was a kind of "Back to the Future" change. Based on recent research it has been shown that a significant aspect of improved student academic achievement is when a student has the same teacher or teachers for multiple years. Combining this research with being able to have teachers teach in a single content area of particular strength; LCS has re-instituted the Middle School concept for grades five through eight - something we had lost when the Goshen-Lempster Cooperative was dissolved.

As I stated in a previous year's report, the LCS educational experience mixes the traditional and modern for our students. From a focus on quality instruction in the classroom, the daily Pledge of Allegiance and two years of U.S. History in Middle school as well as annual events like our Memorial Day Concert, where we honor our local veterans with patriotic music performed by our students – our school ensures that the education we provide our students is comprehensive and challenging. We are very proud of the many students who have the opportunity to participate, experience and explore in ways only a small school can offer.

Our students experience a wide range of enriching educational offerings with a large array of academic, artistic and athletic offerings. One very popular new initiative at our school has been in music performing arts. Our new Rock Band program, led by Mr. McNicholas has engaged dozens of students in learning a variety of instruments such as guitar, bass guitar, drums and keyboard. Many students have also had the opportunity to sing solos, duets, trios and quartets at public events such as the Pumpkin Walk and Christmas Concerts, as well as school day performances during lunch in the cafeteria for fellow students.

We continue to expand student educational experiences in programs such as the primarily grant funded Hulbert Outdoor Center in Vermont and the grades 4 through 8 field trip to the Palace Theater in December to see Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" brought to life on the stage. These are just two examples of the ways our staff seeks to expand the all-around experiences of our students.

Our school continues to use technology in ways that supplement our classroom instruction. LCS is fully wireless with a high speed fiber optic connection. Through our internet connection we feature a number of web-based educational tools such as the IXL programs for math, ELA and Social Studies and Google Classroom. Our school website (<http://www.sau71.org/index.html>) has been updated! The website is an important source for academic resources, information, videos, pictures and communication about the many varied school events and functions. Parents of middle school students also have the ability to access grades online on the school's gradebook program Thinkwave.

Our school staff is very appreciative of the support our school has received from a variety of Lempster organizations such as the PTO, Minor Memorial Library, the Lempster Fire and Highway Departments, the Lempster Town Office, the Lempster Historical Society and the Lempster Conservation Committee.

At our school every child is known by name and parents can be assured of a responsive educational team. The superb LCS staff is rightly proud of our school and is deeply appreciative of the support we have received through the years from the community of Lempster - ***we feel that we are a small school with a BIG community.*** Thank you Lempster!

2023 Lempster School District Meeting Minutes

The inhabitants of the Lempster School District, in the County of Sullivan, in the State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in district affairs. You are hereby notified to meet at the Lempster Community School in Lempster on the 4th day of March 2023, at seven o'clock (7:00) P. M. to act upon the articles set forth in the Warrant. Articles 1-4 of the Warrant covering the election of Moderator, School Board, School District Clerk and Treasurer will be acted upon at four (4:00) P. M. until seven thirty (7:30) P.M.

The polls were opened at 4:00PM by Moderator Michael Shklar.

Salute to the American Flag

Article 01 School Board Member

To choose two School Board Members for a three-year term beginning upon qualification at the close of the annual meeting.

Elected-Bruce Cragin – 30 votes

Elected-Jessica Hooper-28 votes

Selena Leite-16 votes

Article 02 Reports

To hear reports of agents, auditors, committees, or officers chosen, and pass any vote relating thereto.

Motion made by Jillian Thomas, second by Norma Proper

Mr. Champness asked questions regarding parliamentary procedures, which Mr. Shklar explained.

The motion passed unanimously

Article 03 Operating Budget

To see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of THREE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED EIGHTEEN THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED TWO DOLLARS (\$3,818,102.00) for the statutory obligations of the district. This article does not include appropriations contained in other warrant articles. The School Board recommends this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

any student. One special education, out of district, student can cost, up to a couple of hundred thousand dollars and we have more than one in our community.

Motion to call the question was made by Jim Grenier, second by Jon Thomas.

The motion passed.

Article 04 School Buses

To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$75,000.00) for the purpose of purchasing school buses. The School Board recommends this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Motion was made by Norma Proper, second by Bruce Cragin

Ms. Thomas explained that currently our buses are leased, we have two and the cost of the lease program is going up and buses are becoming more difficult to obtain, so we are looking to put funds away to purchase one bus.

The motion passed unanimously.

Article 05 Building and Grounds Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$75,000.00) to be added to the Building and Grounds Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The School Board recommends this appropriation. (Majority vote required.)

Motion made by Kelly Caron, second by Norma Proper.

Ms. Caron spoke to the need for repairs and maintenance of an aging building, including the final stages of asbestos remediation and subsequent tiling of those floors. Also exterior painting, window and door replacement. The impact on the tax rate for this article would be 58cents per thousand.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Shklar stated that it was 7:30 and voting is now closed.

Article 06 Special Education Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$20,000.00) to be added to the Special Education

Motion made by Kelly Caron, second by Rachel Tirrell

Mr. Jim Lewis introduced himself as the Superintendent of SAU#71 and went on to explain that he and Ms. Cross worked very hard to keep the budget increase at a minimum. The increases this year were due to high school tuition (more students next year) and the high costs associated with healthcare insurance. All line items were reviewed meticulously to keep the budget increase below 3%.

Mr. Champness asked about the level of the scores at the school and why they were low.

Mr. Lewis responded that the school has some excellent programs for students. With a new math program and a focus on math facts we are making progress. He said we need students to be better readers and better in math. He said we are obligated to help all students in the school. If a child doesn't get reinforcement anywhere else we are obliged to provide that reinforcement. Students need someone to help with this and we need parents to be more involved in their child's education. Mr. Lewis explained that some wealthier districts do better on the scores, not because of the money but because of the time adults are available to help students review what they learned in school. Children are with their parents more than at school so there is a greater influence. Mr. Lewis said that the school would be happy to provide materials parents may need. Mr. Lewis quoted an old saying that if we want our taxes to go down; we need to find time to read with our children.

Mr. Champness asked about high school tuition costs and average spending per student and asked why we can't keep our costs as low as other schools?

Ms. Caron went on to explain, that you have to remember where we are, we are a rural community, we have an obligation to develop a curriculum for all of our students and we have to educate everybody. There are students in our community who have a significant need for additional services, which skews the numbers. If you are tuitioning a regular education student to another district there are not the add ons that come along with OT, PT, speech and also one on one services. Those services really drive the numbers and change our average. Every year we evaluate what our students need and what we can deliver. We evaluate, is it better to educate this child within our district or would they be better served and would it be more cost effective to send them out of district. It is not cut and dry, there are a number of factors that come into play including transportation. We have an agreement with Fall Mountain, for our high school students and they will accept

Capital Reserve Fund previously established, with such amount to be funded from the June 30 unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 1. No amount to be raised from taxation. The School Board recommends this appropriation.
(Majority vote required)

Motion made by Kelly Caron, second by Norma Proper.

Ms. Proper stated that as was said earlier, we have no control over who moves into our community, we have to provide an education for them. Some of the children who move here might have needs that must be provided with no ability for the district to budget this amount beforehand. This article provides the funding should the need arise.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Caron thanked the audience for coming and took the time to thank Norma Proper for her 8 years volunteering on the board. She is moving on to focus on other areas of her life and to be with her family. She joined in 2015 and brought to the board a unique perspective as a resident taxpayer, a parent of two children in our district and also as an elementary teacher for Unity School. Her insights and suggestions over the years really were invaluable and helped shape the direction of our board, not only when reviewing policies, diving into our budgets but she particularly shined when we discussed curriculum and programs on how to best educate our Lempster students. She served on many subcommittees and spent a lot of time volunteering her time for all of us. She was always fair and thoughtful and she will be missed.

Thunderous applause!

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:40 by Rachel Tirrell, second by Norma Proper. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted by,

Susan Lichty

School District Clerk

Student Census Trend

For the Lempster School District

SAU # 71

School Year	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Subtotal	H.S. Tuition	Total
2017-2018		10	13	7	10	17	14	12	6	12	101	38	139
2018-2019		10	8	14	8	10	16	16	11	8	100	42	142
2019-2020		9	12	11	15	7	10	16	15	10	105	38	143
2020-2021		10	11	10	12	15	8	11	17	15	109	36	145
2021-2022		15	14	9	11	15	15	7	13	14	113	39	159
2022-2023	6	8	17	13	9	11	13	13	9	13	114	49	163
2023-2024*	8	14	13	18	16	11	12	15	14	10	131	45	176

*current
year

Lempster Community School

29 School Road

Lempster, New Hampshire 03605

Webpage: www.sau71.org

Phone: 603.863.1080

Instagram: *LempsterCommunitySchool*

To the Citizens of the Town of Lempster, NH;

The financial statements of the Lempster School District are not available at this time as our audit reports from Roberge & Company, PC, for the year ending June 30, 2023 have not been received at the time of this publication.

Upon receipt, the financial statements will be available in the SAU office, 29 School Road, Lempster, NH 03229.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Lewis". The "J" is large and stylized, and the "Lewis" is written in a cursive script.

Jim Lewis
Superintendent
JLewis@SAU71.org

APPRECIATION

The staff at the Lempster School would like to thank all the influential persons in each student's life who have encouraged and supported education in our town.

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