

INTER-LAKES SCHOOL DISTRICT
Center Harbor, Meredith, Sandwich
INTER-LAKES SCHOOL BOARD ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING
MARCH 7, 2007

The Annual Meeting of the Inter-Lakes School District was held on Wednesday, March 7, 2007 at the Robert F. Pottle Memorial Auditorium of Inter-Lakes High School.

At 7:00 p.m., Moderator Lee Quimby called the meeting to order.

The Moderator stated that he will be bringing a couple of firsts to the meeting and the first, first will be the Invocation. He stated that it was not his Invocation, but an Invocation of an educator, the Director of Philosophy Studies at Boston University, a dear friend and neighbor that passed away last year, but he left us this. The Moderator went on to give the Invocation. Following the Invocation, Gracia Woodman and Eliot Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Moderator then recognized Dr. Steven T. Kelley as Elementary School Principal of the Year and Ms. Christina A. Gribben as Guidance Counselor of the Year. He also recognized Mrs. Paula Adriance who served on the Board for many years.

The Moderator asked that we all join in and sing the *Star Spangled Banner* as Christopher Hoefs leads us playing the trumpet.

The Moderator stated the Agenda for the meeting is on Page 3 and he went over some of the general rules of the meeting. The meeting is not conducted under ROBERTS' RULES.

The Moderator read the rules of the meeting. They are as follows:

- a. Anyone wishing to make a motion, second a motion or wishing to speak on an Article must first be recognized by the Moderator. 40:7
- b. All speakers must address the Moderator; there will be no cross-floor debates.
- c. When recognized, please stand and state name when making or seconding a motion.
- d. Voting will be done by a show of hands.
- e. Seven voters may challenge the declared vote on any Article, before the next Article is brought up, then a secret ballot must be held. 40:4b
- f. If a secret ballot is desired on any Article, a written request signed by five voters (in attendance at the meeting) is required and presented to the Moderator. 40:4a
- g. Any Article may be legally amended, each amendment will be discussed independently and acted upon before the Article is called.
- h. Motion to reconsider an Article may be made at any time prior to final adjournment and the Article would be taken up again immediately unless protected by a vote to restrict reconsideration. 40:10
- i. Five voters (in attendance at the meeting) may request a recount of a secret ballot before the next Article is taken up. (The vote margin must be less than 10% of total vote cast.) 40:4a
- j. Only registered voters may vote.
- k. Only registered voters may speak to questions, unless the meeting votes to allow non-voters to speak.
- l. Moderator can be overruled by a simple majority vote. Any challenger will be recognized and no second is required. The challenger has the right to state his or her reasons for the challenge. RSA's cannot be overruled by the town meeting.

Peter Brothers, Meredith, made a motion to change the rules in order to include school officials, administrators and the District's Attorney to address this assembly in order to help clarify issues or provide further explanation, if necessary. Carolyn Schoenbauer, Center Harbor, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ARTICLE 1

The Moderator read Article 1.

It was moved Jack Carty, Meredith, and seconded by Carl Johnson, Meredith, to see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,450,000 (one million, four hundred fifty thousand dollars) (Gross Budget) for the construction/renovation of the track and field, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$1,450,000 (one million, four hundred and fifty thousand dollars) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Chapter 33) and to authorize the School Board to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. Furthermore, to see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$359,372 (three hundred fifty nine thousand, three hundred and seventy two dollars) for the first year's principal and interest payment for said bond. The Inter-Lakes School Board recommends this article.

Jack Carty, Meredith, stated that there was a drawing of the proposed reconstruction of the field and the gentleman sitting there is John Amato, he's the designer the District has hired to design this reconstruction. This article addresses the complete restoration of the District's largest and most valuable outdoor athletic complex; the track facilities and the athletic field behind the high school. There are four components, main components of this project; rebuild the athletic field using synthetic turf. When completed, the field will be able to accommodate all present activities, as well as potential uses in the future. Rebuild the track and field facilities with a new all-weather track and rework the jump pits, javelin area and discus area, correct a long-standing drainage problem and, finally, install fencing both to protect the track and the athletic field areas and to facilitate athlete and spectator control during events. The Facilities Committee has been working on this since the summer of 2006. We've had the full participation of the Meredith Town Recreation Director, Vint Choiniere, who has been very, very helpful. We share facilities with Meredith and our athletic fields support community youth programs. And incidentally, this proposal is part of the Town of Meredith's Capitol Improvement Program and is recommended by the Capitol Improvement Program. The present condition of the track and field is deplorable. The track has rocks emerging in three lanes. This is where you have high school athletes running full tilt and there's a kind of dangerous dip. The athletic field is rock hard due to compaction. I understand the track coach is quipped that it is the only javelin area in the state where the javelin doesn't stick, but instead it ricochets. The athletic field poses a real danger to athletes because it is very hard and the drainage is very unsatisfactory. As part of this charge, Dr. McCormack began investigating options on field reconstruction by visiting and talking to facilities managers, superintendents throughout the state and other users of synthetic turf. The question comes up, why are we recommending synthetic turf? Synthetic turf, and there's a sample over there with John, synthetic turf is superior to grass for safety, wearability and it's superior all-weather playing surface. If you play on a muddy natural grass field very long, you will destroy it. That's not the case with synthetic turf. If this warrant article passes, the intent is to begin construction this summer and the complex and the athletic field could be ready for play in the fall, the fall sports schedule. If we had recommended natural grass, we would literally be spending next fall watching the grass grow because the field would not be playable. Synthetic surface can accommodate a rate of usage three times greater than grass. By that I mean, suppose on a rainy day you have three games scheduled, you can play those three games back-to-back on a synthetic surface. On a grass field, depending upon what the weather is like, you certainly begin to destroy at the beginning of the play and by the end of three events taking place; you've probably pretty well will have created some permanent long-term damage. The other way of looking at it is, a synthetic field, because you can use it again and again and again, is the equivalent of three natural grass fields in terms of the ability to sustain play and sustain activity. The difference between synthetic grass and natural grass is about \$300,000, with 45% state aid, our share of the cost would be about \$165,000. A couple additional components of the project, it will provide ADA American with Disabilities Act compliant parking, spectator access and field access

which is going to be a requirement in any case if we do a reconstruction. It will install infrastructure for future expanded use of the field facility. By that I mean, electrical conduits for lighting, storage and restroom facilities and a concession area. These are not part of the plan, but when the field is being torn up, it makes very good sense to plan for future requirements. We didn't with the present facility and that's one reason why we have a dip in the track. When they had to run something, they ripped it up and then had to go back and replace it and it settled at a different rate. Last fall, Dr. McCormack invited a representative from the State Department of Education to walk the site. Based upon his review of the site, he suggested we apply for a waiver to get state aid. We did and it was granted and the state will provide 45% of the total construction cost or \$652,000. Our share will be \$987,321 which includes principal and interest. When the facility is completed, we will have a safe New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association and ADA-compliant facility for interscholastic sports, physical education and community sports and recreation programs. We will upgrade and protect a major school asset and it will meet our present and future program needs. Since we have paid off all existing bonds, we will have no other outstanding debt. We are not piggy-backing bond issue on bond issue. That is pretty much a summary of the project. While we're voting, you may want to stop by and review the drawing with John. He will show you examples of the grass and track surface and answer any of your questions on the project. Thank you.

Steve Olafsen, Sandwich, I have been the track coach here for ten years. I've had some successful teams. I'd like to think it was my coaching, but it might not be. We have a great group of athletes and they've worked really well. Along with myself, they have seen the track go from one of the top tracks, about 12 years ago, and deteriorate to where teams are now refusing to come to our races. Some racers are also refusing to race certain events because they have seen kids run and trip on the lumps in the track. We have had sprained ankles because of the uneven surface and it's getting to be a liability issue. In the spring when the snow disappears, we may have to reschedule our home track meets elsewhere and are prepared to do that. I have seen this become a dangerous situation. I think it's due. It was due about three years ago and it was a quick fix at that time and now it's ready to have a real facility. I've seen the Town of Meredith step forward and build the upper Prescott Field parks, beautiful soccer fields, baseball facility; the Town of Sandwich, when Meredith was being rebuilt the Town of Sandwich was being used as a tennis competition area for the Inter-Lakes District. They rebuilt their tennis courts. I'm now looking, this is a time for the cooperative school district to take a step forward also and rebuild these facilities that will be in good shape for years to come.

Jim Durkee, Meredith, I have two questions. I would like to know if, in fact, this site is going to accommodate such things as javelin, discus and shot put or will they still have to relocate on the upper field, and number 2, does this plan require blasting at all coming into the banking which was required before when they were unable to relocate the straight away on this side of the field as opposed to the other side of the field? Thank you.

Dr. McCormack responded, your first question, if you get a chance while the voting is going on you can actually see the schematic as to where the different throwing events will take place. The javelin and discus will be, maybe if Mr. Amato will point out, will be on the upper field, that's where they would be. But the shot put would be down right off the corner of that track area.

Jim Durkee, Meredith, stated that the reason why he asked it, I think Mr. Carty said they would be redoing those areas for the discus, the shot put and javelin, which I think he said that that was going to be redone and the area that they've been doing that is on the upper field and the lower field somewhat with the discus.

Dr. McCormack stated that we would not be throwing a javelin into the synthetic grass because that would put a hole in it.

Jim Durkee, Meredith, that's what I thought. Will that require, I can relate, years ago, when Mr. Torr's son and Mr. Heffernan and myself were down there working on that field originally when it was done, the District did not have enough money so we put sawdust down and then we were laying the hay. This was years ago. Actually, it was on the present field that's there now. And others wanted to have

the straight away where the coaches have proposed it to be now. I guess that's the appropriate place for it, but they were unable to do that for two reasons, one was because the amount of water which we get even in July and August coming off this banking down here. You cannot mow that banking without going down sideways down the banking. And the reasons they said this was that because there was blasting that was needed, they could not relocate and put the, and I think it was the same thing with Mr. Kenney, Ed Kenney, found out the same thing, they could not do that because they needed blasting and going into ledge here on this corner in order to accommodate the straight away so I was just wondering, through the surveys, have you found out, in fact, we do or do not have to do blasting as part of the plan?

Dr. McCormack, stated that part of the plan would be, one, to make sure that we do install adequate drainage because, as you've heard Mr. Carty say, that is one of the contributing factors to the situation we have now. I do not believe the work that has been done to date, although there is plan, if we get approval, to test for those very things that you're talking of, so we can address those so that it can be properly drained.

Jim Durkee, Meredith, stated that the original cost was prohibitive for us to go to blasting, so we did it the easiest way and we tilted the track. The original plan of the track was even tilted away, it was supposed to have been further into the banking, even way back when Mr. Heffernan was superintendent, having do it that way, but they found out they could not do that because they needed to blast into the bank.

Geoff Cunningham, Meredith, boys track coach, stated that he's been coaching for six years and I actually ran on the track in high school, graduated in 1995. I just wanted to say that I hope people support this because the track is deteriorated to a point where it can't be used for much longer. We started off as like a leader in terms of track facilities with a rubberized track to a degree and, over the years, all of the schools around us have gotten rubberized track. We sort of started to fall behind so, hopefully, we can get this approved. If you go down there and look, it's really bad right now. Instead of sharing the soccer field with soccer players like we used to, we now share the soccer field with ducks because there's water in the first three lanes because of the drainage problems. There's a frost heave in lane 2 and the start of the 200 that kids from other schools joke that they start down hill. It's really time to do it. I hope people support it. We're getting the state aid. It sounds like a pretty good deal to me and, hopefully, people will give it the support it needs because the kids deserve it. Thank you.

Richard Gerken, Meredith, can someone explain exactly the timing of the state portion? How do the two play together and how does it come timing-wise? In other words, raising the funds – how long do you have to wait for the state to chip in and so forth?

Ms. Temperino stated that the state aid will come over five years. It will be in increments of \$130,500 per year for five years after the project is completed.

The Moderator restated Article 1 and stated that the polls need to be open for at least one hour.

ARTICLE 2

The Moderator read Article 2.

It was moved by Richard Hanson, Center Harbor, and seconded by Carl Johnson, Meredith, to see what action the District will vote relative to the reports of Agents, Committees, or Officers chosen.

The Moderator restated Article 2 and called for the vote.

Article 2 carried in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 3

The Moderator read Article 3.

It was moved by Howard Cunningham, Sandwich, and seconded by Richard Hanson, to see if the District will set the salaries of district officers for the coming year as follows:

Moderator	\$ 100.00
District Clerk	\$ 20.00 per hour
School Board Chairperson	\$1,200.00
School Board Members (6) each	\$ 900.00
District Treasurer	\$1,500.00

The Moderator restated Article 3 and called for the vote.

Article 3 carried in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 4

The Moderator read Article 4.

It was moved Howard Cunningham, Sandwich, and seconded by Diane Drenkhahn, Center Harbor, to see if the District will vote to approve costs items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Inter-Lakes School Board and the Inter-Lakes Support Staff Association which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2007/2008	\$92,076
2008/2009	\$89,337
2009/2010	\$92,214

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$92,076 (ninety two thousand and seventy six dollars) for the 2007/2008 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increases in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year. The Inter-Lakes School Board recommends this article.

The Moderator restated Article 4 and called for the vote.

Article 4 carried in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 5

It was moved by Howard Cunningham, Sandwich, and seconded by Diane Drenkhahn, Center Harbor, shall the District, if article 4 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address article 4 cost items only? The Inter-Lakes School Board recommends this article.

The Moderator added that you wonder why we bother to deal with this article, but there is always the possibility that even if article 4 is approved, it might be reconsidered, so we will address the question of article 5.

The Moderator restated Article 5 and called for the vote.

Article 5 carried in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 6

It was moved by Jack Carty, Meredith, and seconded by Dan Cunningham, Sandwich, to see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of \$17,753,534 (seventeen million, seven hundred fifty three thousand, five hundred and thirty four dollars) for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for the School District officials and agents, and for the payment of statutory obligations of the District. This article does NOT include appropriations voted in the other warrant articles. The Inter-Lakes School Board recommends this appropriation.

Jack Carty, Meredith, stated that you have an information packet in the handout which shows the staffing impacts on the budget which is salmon page, cost impacts which are the grey page and 3 pie charts showing percentages of budget by respective function, by object and by cost center, those are the white pages. This proposed operating budget represents an increase of 1.93% or \$336,422 over this years' budget. If the warrant articles for the athletic fields and the ILSSA contract are approved, the total increase in the budget for all cost items will be 4.5% or \$787,870. The total budget will be \$18,204,982. That's before reimbursement for state aid which will be approximately \$130,000. The grey page shows the major increases in costs and some of the decreases in costs. I'll be happy to discuss them, but I think you can read them as well as I can so I'll give you a moment to take a look at them. One item of note, you may have read this, there's a major increase in withholding rates for the NH Retirement System. The reason is the retirement system took major hits on its return on investment during the reduced interest rates for the past several years in the depressed stock and bond market. There's a deficit in the retirement system. This needs to be made up if the system is to remain solvent. The total increase in withholding is \$187,000 of which \$100,000 is an increase of withholding for the regular education staff, teachers essentially, and the additional \$87,000 for all the other employees. The bottom line, the tax impact of this budget inclusive, including the athletic field and the warrant article for the ILSSA is roughly \$80/year on a property valued at \$250,000, that's 22 cents a day.

Lobin Frizzell, Sandwich, I move to amend the proposed budget figure by increasing the bottom line by \$28,329.30 for the purpose of reinstating the Sandwich Central School Administrative Assistant to a full-time position. Reed Goewey, Sandwich, seconded the motion.

Jack Carty, Meredith, stated that in working the budget, each principal had to submit their budget for whatever activity they were responsible for. The principal for Sandwich Central School, John Hansen, somewhat reluctantly suggested this reduction because it reflects the decreased number of students in Sandwich Central School. We need to manage the budget as efficiently as we possibly can.

Reed Goewey, Sandwich, read a prepared statement but it's from my heart, she's the first person we see in the morning when we bring our children into school and she's the last person we see when the school days comes to an end and our children come home. She's there throughout the day fielding the needs of concerned parents and children alike. Each time I've needed to reach the school for one reason or another, her voice is always the one that's answered the phone and provided the conduit between parent and child, teacher or principal. How tangible is that compared to an answering machine? The school needs a living, breathing and caring individual at the front steps of our school. Alex is all of that and more. Our school secretary is the guardian and watchful eye that sees all who come and go. I cannot imagine, in today's world, leaving that position less than it is today. I have seen her stop a wayward child heading for the door, comfort one with a skinned knee and a bruised ego, not to mention all she does on the daily basis to support our teachers and principal. She is Sandwich Central School and Sandwich Central is her. To not find what it takes to keep her there full-time would be a huge loss to the whole that is this school. And a safety issue in our hectic world, at the very least, even in Sandwich. Sandwich has gone through extreme measures in the last several years to meet the needs of this school district and our children are already paying a price to keep our school viable. From multi-age classrooms that cover the range of grades in our school, to loss of full-time and part-time teachers' positions, I urge the board to support keeping our school secretary as a full-time employee of the school. The children of Sandwich need her to be. Please reallocate full funding for this position. Thank you.

Lobin Frizzell, Sandwich, and a member of the Inter-Lakes School District. I would like to speak in support of the increase to this budget to keep the administrative assistant position at Sandwich Central School. I would like to note that the policy written by the school board, number 5128, is designed to by the District that states that all authorities will promote a safe and protected educational environment. This position is more than a secretarial position. This is a person that represents a presence at the front door, the activity of parents, staff, students and strangers coming into contact with children. This position is vital and the biggest support for the safety of our children. This position is our nurse. This is where the children find comfort, band aids, crackers, ice packs and moments of quiet. This position protects those children. This position acts as a support staff to lunchroom monitors looking out for the welfare and supporting the teaching staff. This position is where parents have direct access to a person in case of an emergency situation. This position is a support to all teachers, parents and children which allow for the teachers to create the environment into which to teach effectively. Under the policy number 5128, "All school authorities will promote a safe, protected education environment." By reducing the administrative assistant position, the District is, in effect, not living up to the policy that they created.

The Moderator stated that he could be overruled, but this amendment would be the only one that talks about a particular position, so it would be my desire to cover the proposed budget figure bottom line and then underneath that, in parentheses indicate why it is what it is. Does anyone have any problem with that? In other words, throughout the warrant, there is no specific position talked about. We're talking about \$17,753,534 in the original article, but we're not specifying what an individual is being paid.

Jack Carty, Meredith, stated it is just a suggestion that we modify the operating budget. Something that you need to be aware of, any changes to the budget that can be voted by this meeting with the implementation of those changes is at the discretion of the school board. The school board has the ultimate authority to allocate those changes.

The Moderator stated that that is why he was making his suggestion.

Bob Flanders, Meredith, commented that it seems to me when an amendment is on the floor, that the amendment is dealt with first. If the amendment is successful, then you go on or if it's defeated you go on, but to wait until the end would be backwards of any normal practice I've ever been exposed to. I think you need to deal with the amendment; either vote it up or down and then go on to discuss the budget number. Thank you.

The Moderator restated the amendment and called for the vote.

The Amendment carried in the affirmative.

The Moderator stated that now we go back to the original article and I would welcome any thoughts of my proposal for its implementation. Hearing what Mr. Carty had to say and what I had to say about no specific job being mentioned throughout the warrant, but in this case, there would be.

Anne Lloyd, Sandwich Central School, stated that seeing how the board voted versus what the amendment was for, I suggest that we do put the line on the bottom for what the additional amount is for.

Peter Brothers, Meredith, just a little bit on process, if you will. I believe the only way you can amend is by virtue of a number, then that number for an amendment then would be acted on and depending on whether it was approved or not, it would adjust the bottom number. But I don't think you can specify the dollars as to where they'll be allocated. I think Mr. Carty spoke to that. Maybe we can get counsel to validate that, so we can proceed correctly. Thank you.

Barbara Loughman, Attorney for the School District, stated basically the amendment is, the amount has been changed so if the operating budget is included at this new figure the school board will have the additional roughly \$29,000 in the operating budget. How that \$29,000 is to be spent however, is going to be up to the school board. In other words, the article or the purpose of the expenditure being

to increase that administrative assistant position to full-time is advisory only. The school board is going to be free to spend that money elsewhere if it chooses to do so. The District Meeting can't bind the school board to spend that money for any particular purpose. It can be used for anything in the operating budget. Thank you.

The Moderator stated that it was just his desire to go on record as to what the voters did at this meeting and that's why it be put in parentheses in the minutes of the meeting, so the school board can reflect on what the voters thought should happen in this case. I would like to see it in the minutes of the meeting is what I'm saying.

Barbara Loughman, Attorney for the School District, stated that the minutes will reflect the exact language of the motion, so I don't think you need to incorporate that language on the final vote on this warrant article. The minutes will indicate that the voters approved a motion to amend the operating budget in order to pay for this position.

Lynn Montana, Meredith, asked if it would be possible to make an amendment that if the board decides not to do this position full-time that the money can go back to the taxpayers, you don't go spending it on something else? I mean that's what the people wanted; they wanted this position to become full-time. If it doesn't become full-time, can we have our money back? I'll make an amendment to that if you'd like, sir.

Mr. Carty, Meredith, stated that, as it stands right now, we're voting on the amended article which is for \$17,781,863 which includes the \$28,000 that we just added, so that's the motion. We're back to the original article.

Lynn Montana, Meredith, stated that that motion was on the table when this lady came up and made her amendment. Why can't I make an amendment while that motion is still on the table?

Barbara Loughman, Attorney for the School Board, stated that I think that the problem with your amendment is that when the Department of Revenue Administration sets the tax rate in the fall, they need to have a definite figure for the operating budget. We can't give them a figure that is provided that we employ this person, otherwise we have less because there would be nothing to prevent the school board from changing the position after the tax rate is set, so I think the best thing you can do is here is what you have done, you've told the school board this is how we want you spend the money. It's going to up to them to decide whether that is how they spend the money but you as the voters do have the, you're the ones that elect the board members, so whether the board members choose to do what you want or not, certainly there are consequences for that decision. I do not know of any way that you can change this motion so that if the school board doesn't employ that person full-time, the money has to be given back. The way to accomplish that purpose would have been to submit a petition warrant article. That was not done.

Lynn Montana, Meredith, stated that so basically our vote really doesn't count here tonight on anything because they could technically do anything with any of the money, right?

Barbara Loughman, Attorney for School District, stated that if it's money in the budget, operating budget, yes, that's correct. They can move that money around within the operating budget wherever that want, that's correct. That's why you elect them, to do that.

Brian Flanders, Meredith, was wondering if we can get a feel from anybody on the board. I imagine at least a couple of you might have known that this amendment was coming tonight. I do want to put you on the spot a little bit, say, obviously this money is in the budget, are you going to do it or not and if you're not, maybe some people want to change their vote from giving you an extra \$28,000 for just the heck of it.

Howard Cunningham, Sandwich, stated, I think the Board, in it's recent history, at least during my tenure and prior experience, has always been sensitive to the input of the taxpayers. I cannot speak for the board because the board has not met and discussed this issue, but I can say is what I just did say; the board has always been sensitive to the issues brought by taxpayers.

Diane Mega, Meredith, stated that she just learned two days ago that a part of what's being cut is the foreign language in 7th grade and at a time when we should be introducing a foreign language in elementary grades, we're actually cutting it out and introducing it even later? And I have nothing prepared about it because I just learned about it. I was wondering if you could clarify your reasoning for cutting foreign language out of 7th grade and far do you expect to cut foreign language?

Dan Cunningham, Sandwich, stated that this position is a 1/6th position for the 7th grade foreign language special is to be cut for this year. The NELMS report had a lot to speak about concerning specials in general. They will be reformulated, ideas will be put forward after looking at the report to see what we can do with all the specials, including language, but this one special is proposed to be cancelled for this year and guidance will take its place.

Diane Mega, Meredith, I don't recall every detail for the NELSM report. I did look at it over. I don't recall anything specifically being said about cutting foreign language, so I am wondering what led to the decision that that is what we should be cutting.

Everett Bennett, Center Harbor, Principal at Inter-Lakes Middle Tier, stated currently 7th grade students have a special every day. It lasts for 90 minutes. They have ten specialty periods throughout the course of the year. So they go to 18 consecutive days of 90 minutes of that special. Those specials include such things as art, music, physical education, technical education, health, foreign language, family and consumer sciences. We also do the same thing in 8th grade for the first half of the year. In 8th grade for the second half of the year, they have a choice of three 30-day mini-courses for the 90 minutes around some of the same topics – we have mixed media which is an art course around art related to media, we have an animation course around computer animation or they can take a full foreign language course which is really a freshman course, a 1A entry course in 8th grade and take that course. The reasoning behind doing what we're doing with the foreign language is that we do not think it's the most effective model for delivery of foreign language instruction for a student to take 18 days for 90 minutes each day. It allows them to explore that language a little bit, but at the same time we're only allowing them to explore one language, Spanish. We have another language in our high school, which they should have the opportunity to explore. It doesn't allow them to gain mastery of a language. This isn't a decision about whether we should have foreign language in our schools or not, it's a decision about is it an effective use of student time? The NELMS report that was talked about, we had the New England League of Middle Schools come in and do a comprehensive look at our 5-8 program, and they have issued a series of recommendations and also they've noted strengths of the program. One of those recommendations was to take a comprehensive look at the specials we do with grades 7 and 8. This is only the first step in that. There is a committee that's in place and foreign language being one of those areas being looked very carefully because I agree with Mrs. Mega and some people said, if you're going to teach foreign language effectively, it really can't even start in 7th grade, it has to start sooner than that. So I think it deserves a comprehensive look. The decision is for next year and next year only. Where that goes based on what we call the Focus Area B Committee that's working on the NELMS recommendations, that's to be seen.

Phyllis Hamlett, Meredith, moved the question.

The Moderator restated the amended motion and called for a vote.

The amended article carried in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 7

Howard Cunningham, Sandwich, moved and Diane Drenkhahn, Center Harbor, seconded, to see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$25,000 (twenty five thousand dollars) to be placed in the previously established Special Education Expendable Trust Fund, with such amount to be funded from the June 30 unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 1. The Inter-Lakes School Board recommends this appropriation.

The Moderator restated Article 7 and called for the vote.

Article 7 carried in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 8

Carl Johnson, Meredith, moved and Richard Hanson, Center Harbor, seconded, to see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$50,000 (fifty thousand dollars) to be placed in the previously established Facilities Expendable Trust Fund, with such amount to be funded from the June 30 unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 1. The Inter-Lakes School Board recommends this appropriation.

Susan Bryant-Kimball, Sandwich, point of clarification please. Could you explain how the “up to” \$50,000 works? Can we do less? Who decides what amount is going in? I don’t understand how the language there, when you say “up to” \$50,000.

Barbara Loughman, Attorney for the School Board, stated that the appropriation that is sought is an appropriation from surplus. The reason that the appropriation says “up to” is that the article will not be funded if the surplus does not materialize. We’re talking about money that will be left over as of June 30th. The reasons we have to use the “up to” language, for example, if you end of with a surplus of \$40,000, without that “up to” language, the entire appropriation would be lost. The effect of the “up to” language is you can put “up to” \$50,000, what ever you have from surplus. If you have a \$50,000 surplus, that has to go into this article.

The Moderator restated Article 8 and called for the vote.

Article 8 carried in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 9

Carl Johnson, Meredith, moved and Dan Cunningham, Sandwich, seconded, to see if the District will vote to authorize the School Board to enter into a multi-year lease of the second floor of the Humiston Building on such terms and conditions as the School Board determines are in the best interest of the District.

The Moderator restated Article 9 and called for the vote.

Article 9 carried in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 10

It was moved and seconded from the floor, to see if the District will vote to approve the following resolutions to be forwarded to our elected officials at the local and state levels:

Resolve: We the citizens of Sandwich, NH believe in a New Hampshire that is just and fair. The property tax has become unjust and unfair. "The Pledge" perpetuates a burdensome property tax. We urge our elected officials to reject "The Pledge", have an open discussion covering all options, and to adopt a revenue system that relieves the local property tax burden (This article was submitted by petition).

Amendment to Article 10 moved and seconded from the floor to change, "We the citizens of Sandwich, NH" to "We the citizens of the Inter-Lakes Cooperative School District".

Dale Mayer, Sandwich, this warrant article is by petition. The signers of the petition want our political leaders to talk openly about the problems of our current reliance on the property tax and they can't do this if they continue to take "The Pledge" to veto any new broad based tax. A democratic, small, tax system is one based on the ability to pay and believe that citizens earning more should contribute more to the costs of government. You may not realize it, but our founding fathers wanted a tax system based on ability to pay when they instituted the property tax. Back then, the more land you had, the more income you had. They even saw fit to have different tax rates for pasture and woodlands, recognizing the different kinds of land would produce different amounts of income. The property tax was a fair tax then. Those days are gone forever. Few of us earn our living off the land. The property tax brings in 62% of all tax revenues raised in this state. Over reliance on this tax is hurting unfairly on low income citizens, our elderly, our schools and now the middle class as well. The Granite State Fair Tax Coalition is a non-partisan organization which started in a public policy committee of the New Hampshire Council of Churches. The Coalition wants to get our government officials and representatives to stop being stubborn about our tax systems, to stop being stubborn and give up "The Pledge". To participate in open discussion looking for ways to make New Hampshire's tax system fair, become a system we can all be proud of. This petition is on the warrants in 14 towns this year. We hope you will give it your support tonight.

Carolyn Schoenbauer, Center Harbor, stated I believe this is something that should be handled at the community level, not at the school district level. We all represent different communities and they want this on the warrant articles of a particular town. I don't have a problem with that, but I do not think it is something that should be handled through the school district. It's repeating itself and I don't think it's appropriate.

Richard Gerken, Meredith, I agree with Mrs. Carolyn Schoenbauer. I believe it is inappropriate. But let me give you a piece of historical background because I have not lived here my whole life. I've lived her for five years. I lived in the State of Illinois for 25 years. We had a high property tax in Illinois. We had an income tax in Illinois of 3.5% and we had sales tax in Page County where I lived of 6 ¾% and that's the point I want to make. We had a county government that one year, okay, we're going to reduce the property tax burden so people don't suffer and we're going to increase the sales tax, okay. The sales tax went up 1/4%, the property tax stayed even and went down a little bit for one year and then it was back to where it was the year before. You give government officials at any level and Illinois has more levels of government officials than most states, the ability to tax, they'll exercise it and I think this is a matter that the legislature should handle. It is not the appropriate for the school board and as a member of the Inter-Lakes School District, without anyone in school, I object.

Bob Flanders, Meredith, I question if this is even constitutional because it seeks to place restrictions on elected officials and I'd like to remind people that this is the "Live Free or Die" state and I don't think this is appropriate and I think we should vote it down.

Bill Bayard, Meredith, I just wanted to agree with the prior speaker. I have lived in New Jersey and in Connecticut and those states instituted an income tax shortly before I left. They have had bigger and bigger government, poorer and poorer results from their government. New Hampshire's advantage has been that we are a relatively low tax state in a high tax area. That is one of the reasons why we have one of the highest, we have the highest growth in New England almost every single year for the last 15 to 20 years. The tax is not the greatest one, perhaps, but I don't think any tax gets resounding cheers from anyone. If we have, I think, a very good state government in New Hampshire and I, just to use the New Jersey example, they have sales tax, they have income tax, they have very high property tax also, they've got casinos, they've got this and that, and they have a huge debt right now that they're trying to deal with and are crying poverty in what is a relatively wealthy state.

Brian Flanders, Meredith, moved the question.

The Moderator restated the amended motion and called for the vote.

The amended motion was defeated.

The Moderator restated the original article.

Article 10 was defeated.

ARTICLE 11

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

The Moderator stated that before we do that, if having been an hour since we dealt with Article 1, if we might have the results.

The Moderator restated Article 11.

Carl Johnson, Meredith, invited Mrs. Drenkhahn to come to the platform. It is my pleasure and honor as a senior member of the Inter-Lakes School Board to take this opportunity to recognize and thank Mrs. Diane Drenkhahn for her years of dedicated service to the Inter-Lakes School District. Diane has served on the Inter-Lakes School Board for ten years and in this capacity she has served as secretary of the board, vice chair of the SAU#2 school board, and delegate to the NHSBA. She has also served on numerous school board committees such as teacher and para-professional negotiations, the sick bank committee and the CoRe Executive Board. Diane has consistently demonstrated her support for student activities, especially the student banking program, CoRe activities such as after school programs, the fall festival and the lock in and student drama and music performances. Diane, please accept this expression of our recognition of your passion for a gourmet level of cooking and dining and we also appreciate all that you have done to promote the well-being of our students and improvement of our schools.

Mrs. Drenkhahn stated that about eleven years ago Jean Shlager caught me in the hallways of the elementary school and said there is a position open on the school board for a Center Harbor person; it's only two nights a month. There are a lot of evenings my family ate tray dinners at home and did without me being there, but I wouldn't have given it up for anything and I don't think they would have either. I enjoyed everything I've done for this school system and I'm not done. I'm still around. I'm just going to let somebody else have a hand at it. Thank you very much for all your support in all the years that I've been here.

Richard Juve, Meredith, there was a lady who spoke earlier in the evening and asked a question of a board member and I believe Mr. Dan Cunningham responded. I was not clear on your answer to that lady's question but I would encourage the board to give consideration to the teaching of a foreign language commencing in the first grade and that those languages include the following Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, Russian and Spanish. The Spanish portion could be taught by satellite television and that that language be carried on for 12 full years for the time they're in the school system.

ARTICLE 1

The Moderator stated that we're returning to Article 1. He restated the article and announced the secret ballot vote. Article 1 passed 151-18.

The Moderator entertained a motion to adjourn.

At 8:45 p.m., it was moved by Carl Johnson, Meredith, and seconded by Howard Cunningham, Sandwich, to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Karla J. Cashman
School District Clerk

I hereby attest that this is a true copy.

Karla J. Cashman, School District Clerk