

1 **Minutes**
2 **Deliberative Session Meeting for the Souhegan Cooperative School District**
3 **February 3, 2020**
4 **Souhegan High School Theater**
5 **Amherst, New Hampshire**
6

7 Attendance:

8 Moderator: George Bower

9 Souhegan Cooperative School Board Members: From Amherst: Jim Manning- Chair, Laura
10 Taylor- Secretary, Amy Facey, Steve Coughlan, and David Chen; From Mont Vernon: Pim
11 Grondstra- Vice-Chair, and George Torres

12 Administration: Adam Steel- Superintendent, Christine Landwehrle- Assistant Superintendent;
13 and Michele Croteau- SAU 39 Business Administrator.

14 SHS Technology Department: Bruce Chakrin- Director of Technology, Brad Freeman- Network
15 Administrator, Stan St. Onge- SHS Theatre Manager, and Shannon Hargraves- SHS Student
16 Videographer.

17 Attorney for the District: Dean Eggert Esq. Wadleigh Starr & Peters PLLC, 95 Market St,
18 Manchester, NH 03101

19 School District Treasurer: Catherine Jo Butler

20 Clerk: Christine Janson

21 Meeting Minutes: Danae A. Marotta

22 Souhegan Cooperative School District Advisory Finance Committee: Howard Brown, Joel
23 Gordon, Peggy Harris, Jeanne Ludt, John Stover, Charles York, Mark Vincent- Alternate and
24 John Bowkett- Alternate. (Not Present: Martin Goulet, Dan Veilleux-Alternate)

25 Public: (speakers or commenters) Robin Julian, 9 Georgetown Drive, Amherst, Bob Julian, 9
26 Georgetown Drive, Amherst, Dwayne Purvis, 145 Hollis Road, Amherst, Margaret McCabe, 9
27 Brighams Way, Amherst, Paul Mancini, 6 Potter Way, Amherst, Stephanie Grund, 5 Colonel
28 Wilkins Road, Amherst, Jeanne Ludt, 3 Church Street, Amherst, Mark Vincent, 2 Nathaniel
29 Drive, Amherst, Howard Brown, 2 Blood Road, Mont Vernon, Joel Gordon, 7 Steeple Lane,
30 Amherst, and Anne Dodd, 36 Mason Road, Mont Vernon.

31 The number of voting attendees: 64 from Amherst and 8 from Mont Vernon for a total of 72
32 checked-in voters.

33 **Moderator of the Souhegan Cooperative School District, Mr. George Bower, called the**
34 **2020 Souhegan Cooperative School District Deliberative Session to order at 7:00 PM.**

35 The Moderator stated that typically, at this juncture he would recognize a student to lead the
36 Pledge of Allegiance. There is a deserving student to do that, but right now SHS Senior Ms.

37 Georgia Jones is up in Concord N.H. receiving her appointment to the U.S. Military Academy
38 from Congresswoman Kuster. Ms. Jones is a resident of Mont Vernon N.H. and the entire
39 community should be delighted that she has this accomplishment.

40 The Moderator then asked the Board of Selectman representatives to lead the meeting in the
41 Pledge of Allegiance.

42 The Moderator welcomed those watching on Cable TV, live or on one of the replays that will be
43 available on Comcast Channel 20 between this Friday, February 7th and election day, March 10th.
44 It is also available through video on demand through the SAU 39 website. There are copies of
45 the Warrant near the entrance to the Theater.

46 The Moderator began the Deliberative Session for the 2020 Souhegan Cooperative School
47 District Meeting. He noted that the meeting would be governed by RSA 40:13, also known as
48 Senate Bill 2. On Tuesday, March 10th, voters shall vote via paper ballot on the warrant, as those
49 present at the meeting agree to its wording this evening. Voting will be from 6:00AM to 8:00PM
50 in Amherst at Souhegan High School and voting in Mont Vernon on March 10th will be from
51 7:00AM to 7:00PM at the Mont Vernon Village School. The Moderator then recognized
52 Souhegan Cooperative School Board Chair, Mr. Jim Manning, to introduce the Board Members
53 and Administration.

54 Mr. Manning then introduced Board Members, Mr. George Torres from Mont Vernon, Ms.
55 Laura Taylor, Mr. David Chen, Mr. Pim Grondstra from Mont Vernon, Ms. Amy Facey and Mr.
56 Steve Coughlan. He then introduced Superintendent, Mr. Adam Steel, Mr. Dean Eggert, Legal
57 Counsel from Wadleigh Starr & Peters, SAU 39 Business Administrator, Ms. Michele Croteau
58 and Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Christine Landwehrle.

59 The Moderator noted that one of his duties is to appoint the members of the Souhegan Advisory
60 Finance Committee (AFC). The AFC consists of seven community members whose job is to
61 review the budget as proposed by the school board, to evaluate the proposed spending, and make
62 recommendations to the voters. For the past several years, the Chair has been Mr. Martin
63 Goulet, who was not present due to a business trip. The Moderator then asked Mr. Joel Gordon
64 to speak on behalf of the Committee.

65 Mr. Gordon noted that this is his first year on the AFC. He then introduced AFC members Mr.
66 Howard Brown, Ms. Peggy Harris, Ms. Jeanne Ludt, Mr. John Stover, Mr. Charles York, Mr.
67 Dan Veilleux (Alternate – not present), Mr. Mark Vincent (Alternate), and Mr. John Bowkett
68 (Alternate). He stated that they have reviewed the budget and made recommendations and
69 findings.

70 The Moderator thanked all members of the Advisory Finance Committee and asked the meeting
71 attendees to recognize the AFC with a round of applause. He said that each year they seek
72 members of the communities of Amherst and Mont Vernon to serve on the AFC. He then
73 encouraged the public to consider serving the District with their time on this committee. The
74 terms are three years and the work is typically done from September to February. He then asked
75 those interested to see him after the meeting, on election day, or through email via the SAU 39
76 website to find out more. The Moderator said that assisting him as Assistant Moderators in case

77 they are needed to count votes or to maintain order, will be long time Amherst NH residents, Mr.
78 Bob Julian and Ms. Robin Julian. Their children are no longer in the schools, but they have
79 maintained a high level of involvement.

80 The Moderator thanked the SHS Technology and Theater Staff for all of their work. He
81 recognized SHS Theater Manager, Mr. Stan St. Onge, SHS Student, Ms. Shannon Hargraves,
82 SAU 39 Network Administrator, Brad Freeman and SAU 39 Director of Technology, Mr. Bruce
83 Chakrin.

84 The Moderator said that voters at tonight's deliberative session, under SB2 rules, are empowered
85 to do two things. First, they will discuss and deliberate each of the three of four warrant articles,
86 one of which is non-debatable. He stated that this is a chance to ask questions. The meeting
87 attendees can take one of two courses of action on each warrant article. They can maintain the
88 original wording of the warrant article. Original warrant article's wording will then be placed on
89 the March 10th official ballot. Or, they can amend the original wording of warrant article within
90 certain limits. If the amendment is approved, the amended warrant is placed on the March 10th
91 Official Ballot.

92 The Moderator noted that he will not go through all the Rules of Order but displayed them on the
93 screen. He stated that as voters checked in for the meeting, they should have received a blue card
94 and blue dot. These two elements are necessary for voting at the meeting. He stated that the
95 meeting is subject to the state Right to Know law under RSA 91:A, as such, a record of the
96 meeting and its actions need to be kept. To make sure that the minutes are accurate, speakers are
97 required to give their name and address each and every time they step up to the microphone. It is
98 one of the things that you are required to do, if you forget, you will be gently reminded. This will
99 give the Clerk accurate information.

100 The Moderator stated that if voters wish to make a motion to amend a warrant article, they are
101 certainly entitled to do so. The amendment must be in writing and presented to the Moderator.
102 That amendment will be reviewed by the Moderator and if necessary legal counsel to make sure
103 that it is appropriate before they proceed on it. It also must include the name and address of the
104 voter making the motion. The Moderator stated that those who speak will be subject to a three-
105 minute time limit at the microphone. Speakers may speak again as long as other members of the
106 community wishing to speak have done so.

107 The Moderator reminded attendees that if there is a motion on the floor to amend the warrant
108 article, the Moderator will not accept other motions to amend until we have disposed of the first
109 motion. The Moderator also said that if the meeting goes late into the evening, he will ask if the
110 voters want to continue to complete the work of the meeting or adjourn. He did not suspect that
111 will happen as there are not a lot of warrant articles.

112 The Moderator asked the public if they were in support of these rules please raise your blue card.

113 The public was in support.

114 **The Moderator introduced Article 1.**

115 The Moderator noted that Warrant Article 1 is voting for Souhegan Cooperative School Board
116 members. There are two Amherst seats and one Mont Vernon seat. This is not a debatable article.
117 For the two Amherst seats there are four candidates, Ms. Amy Facey, Ms. Stephanie Grund, Mr.
118 Tony Labranche and Ms. Christine Peters. For the one Mont Vernon seat there is one declared
119 candidate, Mr. Pim Grondstra. These will be voted on at the March 10 meeting.

120

121 The Moderator stated that before moving on to Article 2, he was inviting the Chair of the School
122 Board and Superintendent of Schools to provide a briefing on the state of the schools. He turned
123 the microphone to Jim Manning, School Board Chair who deferred his time to Superintendent
124 Steel.

125 Superintendent Steel began his presentation by stating that SAU 39 is a top-notch school system.
126 He explained the NEASC Accreditation results which included a glowing report. He shared, via
127 a slide, some quotations from the report and provided a URL to the full report. This accreditation
128 happens every 10 years. Mr. Steel noted that recognition like this is primarily due to the teachers
129 at Souhegan High School who receive awards and recognition at the state and national level as
130 well as from visiting educators. He noted that what we hear in the news is that the U.S. is failing
131 in education and lagging behind many other countries around the world. SHS took the OECD
132 PISA exam and in Reading, Souhegan students had an average scored 535 which tied them with
133 Singapore, the top scoring country. In Math, they scored an average of 544, just behind the top
134 two, Singapore and Hong Kong. In Science, they scored 562 which would have been the best if
135 Souhegan was a country.

136 Superintendent Steel reviewed the SAT Reading results compared against several comparative
137 districts. He stated that Souhegan is about in the middle of those comparable schools and has
138 some work to do. They are very proud of their trend with the SAT scores. The SAT is aligned to
139 the standards and their scores are showing improvement. In Math, Souhegan ranks fourth among
140 comparable NH districts. They have subscribed to a service that measures what students do after
141 high school. He added that the first-year persistence rate, which is how many students return to
142 college after the first year, is well above 86% for Souhegan and about 70% nationally. He then
143 reviewed what they do six years out of Souhegan for the class of 2012. Nationally, 51% of
144 students have completed college compared to 68% of Souhegan students. He noted that these are
145 comparable school districts; that they are low minority, high income. He then displayed
146 persistence and college completion rates over the six years for the class of 2012. He then
147 showed data for every graduating class over the past six years. The data will be used to make
148 sure Souhegan is providing a competitive advantage for its students.

149 Superintendent Steel then covered financials. He stated that there has only been a 1.3% budget
150 increase since 2011 and while there are fewer students than in 2011, nothing has gotten less
151 expensive. This includes busing, textbooks, electricity, and personnel costs. Last year, the
152 District returned \$1.2M in surplus, primarily due to Special Education funds that were unspent.
153 Additionally, they have saved \$6.1M since 2016 by starting special education programs in the
154 District. He stated that this means that special education students who were previously sent out

155 of district can now remain in District. This is better for students and a lot cheaper. These funds
156 are included in the calculation for cost per pupil, which artificially inflates that metric.

157 The Superintendent explored where the school district is going. First, they believe that they need
158 to create a personalized learning pathway for every student to maximize their success. The world
159 is changing and the skills that are needed are also changing. He then reviewed the jobs landscape
160 in 2022 with the top 10 emerging jobs and the top 10 declining jobs.

161 Superintendent Steel displayed a slide of what school looked like in the past. He spoke about
162 how math was taught at a time when there were no calculators and computers. These are thinking
163 skills that are not solving novel problems. But those skills taught matched the job market at the
164 time. He then showed the public a math problem from today's third grade, demonstrating that
165 there are still calculations to be done, but we are also asking the students to do higher level
166 thinking and problem solving.

167 Superintendent Steel explained how they are going to achieve their goals. First, mastery learning,
168 which means students leave the school system demonstrating that they have learned what they
169 have been asked to learn. In a mastery learning system, students are given very specific
170 guidelines about what skills they must acquire, what knowledge they have to be able to use, and
171 what that looks like when they have mastered those skills. Second, they are working on building
172 relationships with their students, in the form of an Anchoring Adult for each student. Next, with
173 a mastery learning system every student can be challenged. He stated that in our school system,
174 the data shows that students that fall behind their peers in terms of academic performance are
175 growing the fastest while those at the other end of the spectrum; students who excel above their
176 peers on standardized testing, are not showing the same growth. Last, all students need an
177 affordable next step after they leave SHS. They will explore all avenues to provide a competitive
178 advantage to students when they leave SHS.

179 Mr. Steel finalized his comments by stating that Souhegan High School is an exceptional school
180 and there is nowhere else he would want his children to attend. He stated that he is very proud of
181 Souhegan.

182 **The Moderator read Warrant Article 2.**

183 *Article 2. Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District raise and appropriate as an*
184 *operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other*
185 *appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant*
186 *or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling eighteen*
187 *million, three hundred and seventy-seven thousand, four hundred and seven dollars*
188 *(\$18,377,407)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be eighteen million,*
189 *three hundred and seventy-one thousand, six hundred and fifty-one dollars (\$18,371,651),*
190 *which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the*
191 *Souhegan Cooperative School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special*
192 *meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating*
193 *budget only? Majority vote required.*

194 *Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School Board (6-0)*

195 *Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School District Advisory Finance Committee (7-*
196 *0)*

197 *Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.58 per thousand for Amherst and \$0.00 per*
198 *thousand for Mont Vernon.*

199 *Estimated tax impact of not passing this article is: \$0.58 per thousand for Amherst and \$0.00*
200 *per thousand for Mont Vernon.*

201 **The Moderator recognized Ms. Robin Julian to move Article 2, the Operating Budget. Ms.**
202 **Julian moved Article 2. Mr. Bob Julian seconded the motion.**

203 Chairman Jim Manning stated that SHS is an exceptional place. What you will see in this budget
204 is that they are walking a fine line with the budget. He stated that it is difficult to have ambitious
205 goals and at the same time, making budget decisions that can be perceived as under-investing in
206 the school. At some point they are going to need to make greater investments in this high school
207 however, it is not this year. It is important to say that they will not be able to make the changes
208 that they want to make without investment. He stated that enrollment is stabilizing, but as
209 enrollment declines the budget does not come down as quickly. With enrollment stabilizing, the
210 Board felt they could make some additional cuts. That is why they made the decisions that they
211 did this year. The Board's budget goals were to: first, pass a budget that supports continued
212 strategic efforts, demonstrated by Article 2. The second goal was to support 4-year teacher
213 agreement that solves competitive imbalances. They are asking a lot from their teachers now.
214 Mr. Manning said that Mr. Steve Coughlan will cover that topic. PPC Agreement: \$299,102.
215 This request is in Article 3. He again stated that the teachers are being asked to do a lot and most
216 are putting in extra hours and working on mastery learning. The third goal was to pass the first
217 year of a 20-year plan to support a Capital Maintenance plan. He noted that the school is
218 showing wear and tear and needs attention, so there is a request for \$100K for maintenance.

219 Chairman Manning displayed a chart showing the enrollment. He explained that school is a
220 people enterprise. The costs are in your people and the inputs are little people who come through.
221 He noted that Souhegan enrollment peaked in FY06 at close to 1100 students. Since then,
222 enrollment has dropped quite a bit. Starting out in FY19, they see the enrollment start to plateau
223 and stabilization in enrollment. That is how they start to build the budget. He then thanked Board
224 Member, Mr. David Chen, for bringing up the concept of cross-board budget collaboration.
225 Every month there is a Four School Board Chairs Meeting, mainly for agenda setting. During
226 those meetings they looked at the timing of staffing agreements. They also reviewed facility
227 planning and resource allocation which speaks to the request for the Capital Maintenance Plan.
228 Mr. Manning stated that Superintendent Steel had put together a master project plan and a
229 funding plan. Looking at all the school districts' needs which will give a better sense of how this
230 will impact the taxpayer. Lastly, student programs and support. Mastery learning has been rolled
231 out into other schools and is just beginning at Souhegan.

232 Mr. Manning noted some budget highlights. The proposed budget includes \$485K in staffing
233 reductions. This is partially in response to catch-up with previous enrollment declines and
234 partially to cover the cost of the PPC agreement (Article 3). Overall, the budget has increased by

235 1.54% from FY20. The budget would have been reduced by 2.05% if not for increases in Special
236 Education. Mr. Manning emphasized that he supports Special Education. He noted that the
237 overall budget is going up because the students at Amherst Middle School who are out of district
238 for Special Education services will be at Souhegan, but in district at a lower cost but are included
239 in the FY21 budget, thus the 1.54% increase.

240 Mr. Manning noted that Board Member, Mr. George Torres was out of town after the Public
241 Hearing when the Board voted its support for Article 2, which is why it why the slide shows a 6-
242 0 vote and the Moderator noted a 6-0 vote when reading the article. Mr. Manning noted that the
243 Board met before the February 3 meeting and voted with all seven members, and the vote is 7-0
244 in favor of Article 2, Article 3, and Article 4. Mr. Manning noted that AFC is in support (7-0) as
245 well, even though the slides indicate a vote of 6-0-1. Mr. Manning noted the tax impact of
246 Article 2. It is the same if the budget passes or not, \$0.58 for Amherst and \$0.00 for Mont
247 Vernon. He noted that the fund balance last year was \$1,251,000 and this year it is \$400K. It
248 matters because when the fund balance goes down the difference gets kicked up as a line item.

249 Mr. Manning clarified how the Souhegan Advisory Finance Committee reviewed the budget by
250 category: Special Education, Athletics, Food/Transportation, Facilities, Administration,
251 Curriculum, and Technology. He showed a slide comparing FY20 budget, FY21 proposed
252 budget, percentage change and \$ change for each category. One of the biggest line items is
253 Curriculum which is decreasing 2.58%. The second biggest line item, Special Education, is
254 going up 16.34%. This is due to repatriating some of the Special Education students from out of
255 district back into district. This is a lower cost overall but now included in the budget. This is
256 Budget by Fund: General Fund, Food Services Fund, and Grants Fund. It is the General Fund
257 that impacts the tax rate.

258 The Moderator asked Mr. Joel Gordon from the Souhegan Advisory Finance Committee to
259 present the AFC's findings.

260 Mr. Gordon noted that the findings of the committee were in the packet available as attendees
261 entered the meeting. He stated that there were four primary findings from the AFC after
262 reviewing the budget in the sections outlined by Chairman Manning. Overall, the AFC believes
263 that this a responsible budget. The changes seem to reflect the priorities that were stated by the
264 Board and the Administration. They also feel that it would be helpful and appropriate to consider
265 a multi-year plan. They know that there is a Strategic Vision and suggested putting together a
266 plan to know what the financial impact will be over time. Last, the AFC unanimously supports
267 Warrant Article 4 regarding the funding of a School Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund. He
268 noted that the universe of projects included in the long-term plan may not include all items that
269 need to be addressed in the coming years (e.g. Turf Field lifespan and replacement funding plans,
270 other capital replacement needs). He concluded his statement by adding that the AFC had
271 originally had a (6-0-1) vote. The AFC met earlier today and are unanimously (7-0) in support of
272 all the articles.

273 The Moderator noted that the default budget will be in place should Article 2 be defeated. He
274 invited Board members, David Chen, to present the default budget.

275 Mr. Chen reiterated that the good news is that the enrollment numbers have stabilized.
276 Projections show the same enrollments, 730-740 students, even three or four years out. It is
277 important to look at the enrollment when you build the budget. Mr. Chen noted that Amherst
278 resident, Mr. Steve Frades, has also created enrollment projections using a variety of data. The
279 Board previously used the Cohort Method of enrollment projections. This method simply used
280 the current year's enrollments from K-11 and moved them up to the next year.

281 The Moderator requested that Mr. Chen stay on the topic of the default budget and then come
282 back to the other issues.

283 Mr. Chen noted the budget changes included adding five full time Special Education
284 Paraprofessionals. These are for students moving from Amherst Middle School into Souhegan.
285 These paraprofessionals are Amherst School District employees and will have to be hired by the
286 Souhegan District. Some options are being considered to reduce the expenses include reviewing
287 the Master Schedule, and they will finalize reductions in the Spring.

288 Mr. Chen showed a slide with the budget calculations. In terms of the budget calculation, they
289 look at the current year's budget \$18,098,289 add in Special Education, benefits, facilities, and
290 Food and Transportation. Also included are reductions in the SAU 39 assessment, everything
291 else, technology and curriculum. This makes the default budget \$18,371,651. The difference
292 between the default and the proposed budgets is \$5,756.

293 The Moderator noted that he wants to focus on Article 2 and then have an open session. Since it
294 is broadcasted, he wants the people at home to understand so maintaining the order of discussion
295 is important.

296 Mr. Coughlan commented that the material that Mr. Chen wants to present is part of the overall
297 presentation and relevant to Article 2.

298 The Moderator replied that unless there is objection from the public, he will allow Mr. Chen to
299 continue.

300 Mr. Chen discussed that the Board looked at the state average of Cost Per Pupil (CPP) as a
301 means of comparing costs versus other districts. The state average for CPP is rising faster than
302 Souhegan's, which is stabilizing. The CPP is the only state regulated measure of educational
303 efficiency and is required by the NH DOE for all schools. It is the only efficient measurement
304 used to compare year to year measurements and/or school to school comparisons. It is built on
305 specific commonly reported and regulated financial metrics, the DOE-25. The CPP has been
306 measured consistently for the past 20 years. CPP calculation removes some costs such as
307 transportation, food service, bonding for construction, outside tuition (SPED and vocational
308 training and summer school). This makes the comparison of operating costs feasible.

309 Mr. Chen explained the Board's tactical goals. One goal was to reduce and make operations
310 more efficient. He noted that CPP can work counter to the mission in some cases. If a district
311 pays outside Special Education tuition, costs are dramatically increased. One way to decrease
312 costs is to bring students back in district for services. But that requires hiring staff who can meet
313 those needs. Last year, the district hired two special needs professionals: a BCBA (Board

314 Certified Behavioral Analyst) at a cost of \$102K and a social/emotional administrator at a cost of
315 \$80K. These were costs that went into the budget last year. That meant a cost reduction of
316 approximately \$300K - \$400K. This increases CPP by increasing staff but provides better
317 services and reduces overall cost. In addition, we can derive extra revenue when we sell our
318 special education services to other school district if we have excess capacity, which would offset
319 the costs. He then explained the issues with CPP. First, they must be compared with like grade
320 ranges. There are too many variations in shared costs issues for the state to make applicable
321 rules, hence there is a warning about its use. Additionally, they cannot compare mega schools
322 with micro schools because of economies of scale. Finally, one has to understand the exclusions
323 from CPP calculations and override when necessary which is basically what Board tried to do
324 with the proposed budget and in making good, sound staffing decisions.

325 The Moderator opened the floor to members of the public. He noted if someone has a question or
326 comment to please introduce themselves.

327 Mr. Dwayne Purvis, 145 Hollis Road, Amherst asked about the projected enrollment numbers for
328 FY21 and FY22.

329 SAU 39 Business Administrator, Ms. Michele Croteau, replied for FY21 they worked with 734
330 and the enrollment is 752 for actual FY20.

331 Mr. Purvis commented that would suggest that as of October 1, when enrollment is official, you
332 have 750 and the cohort method would have suggested you had a net negative of 37 students.
333 This is a delta of 20 students. He then asked about the \$485K that the Board noted that they were
334 going to remove. He then asked where it is and if anyone explain the large reduction since he
335 does not see it in the default calculations.

336 Superintendent Steel replied that the default budget calculation law had changed a few years ago
337 and the proposed positions that were reduced in the proposed budget are also reduced in the
338 default budget calculation.

339 Mr. Purvis commented that he is trying to find the reduction of \$485K based on what they have
340 there.

341 Mr. Steel remarked that all of the changes are listed on the slide, including the reductions in
342 staffing that comes out of both proposed and default.

343 Mr. Purvis remarked that he knows that there are additions, but he would like to see the
344 subtractions and it is not clear.

345 Ms. Margaret McCabe, 9 Brighams Way, Amherst, noted that she has several comments. First,
346 last year's actual budget was \$17.3M and this FY21 proposed budget is \$18.3M. That is an
347 increase of \$1M. She stated that the Board is doing what they always do which is budgeting to
348 budget not budgeting from actuals. Second, the all-in per pupil cost if all if the warrant articles
349 pass, using 750 students, is \$25,033. That is a big number. Third, Souhegan's CPP is higher than
350 other towns with better SAT scores and their Special Education costs are also included. She then
351 questioned the \$485K reduction, that should have come out of the default budget. She stated that
352 the Board is adding the five special educators to the default budget even though RSA 40:110 C

353 defines a contract as a previously approved in either the operating budget authorized for a
354 previous year or in a separate warrant article for the previous year. These staff were not in the
355 Souhegan district, but the Amherst district and they were not the same voters. Amherst district
356 voters are Amherst only and Souhegan voters are Amherst and Mont Vernon. She last noted that
357 she is questioning the default budget calculation.

358 Mr. Coughlan responded that there are students with special needs, and they are coming up from
359 the Amherst School District and they need to hire five new positions to support those students.
360 These students' current special educators are not coming with them to Souhegan but the federally
361 mandated need to spend to support the students will be. It is not the labor that is moving but the
362 dollar cost a need that the district must fill.

363 Superintendent Steel asked Ms. McCabe if she was questioning why the five special educators
364 were included in the default budget.

365 Ms. McCabe replied, yes, that is correct.

366 Superintendent Steel then asked Mr. Dean Eggert, Esq. for clarification.

367 Mr. Dean Eggert, Esq., Wadleigh, Starr and Peters, remarked that they spend a lot of their time
368 dealing with the Federal and State Special Education Mandates. There are a few components to
369 the default budget you must adjust up or down based on obligations that are mandated by law. It
370 is the mandated by law category, and not contractual category, that is driving the necessity to
371 include that within the default budget. The citation is NH RSA 40:13 paragraph 9, subpart (b).

372 Mr. Paul Mancini, 6 Potter Way, Amherst, commented that he recalled that Chairman Manning
373 mentioned last year that they had a maintenance budget. He then asked if it is still a maintenance
374 budget or is mastery learning the way ahead that they were trying to find a year ago.

375 The Moderator asked Mr. Manning to respond.

376 Mr. Manning replied that Article 2 is a maintenance budget.

377 Ms. Stephanie Grund, 5 Colonel Wilkins Road, Amherst, noted that she was at 9/10th grade
378 presentation the other day and heard that they are canceling the CTE busing. If so, how much
379 was the decrease?

380 Superintendent Steel replied that with Career and Technical Education (CTE), one of the
381 requirements in the educational regulations of the administrative rules says that the districts are
382 required to provide transportation to those centers that they partner with. Souhegan partners with
383 Nashua, Milford, and Alvirne, however, the administrative rules state "when budget funds are
384 available". The district is still going to maintain offering the program but are trying to be more
385 selective about which ones they will provide bus transportation for and which ones will they ask
386 the students to drive themselves or find an alternative way of getting there. The district is not
387 eliminating the busing but being more strategic to avoid the cost of sending out a bus for one
388 student at a cost of \$200 per day.

389 Ms. Grund stated that on reading January Board minutes, it was noted that the district is paying
390 for 13 teachers to get a Master's in Competency Based Education. Ms. Grund asked if the district

391 is providing teachers professional development money for a Master's in their content area as
392 well.

393 Superintendent Steel replied, yes.

394 The Moderator requested that when referring to someone, to please use his or her full name so
395 that everyone knows who that person is.

396 **Ms. McCabe, 9 Brighams Way, Amherst, stated she wanted to make a motion to amend**
397 **Article 2.** The Moderator said that she could make that motion but then needed to provide the
398 motion in writing. Ms. McCabe stated that the reason she was making the motion to amend is
399 because \$1.2M was returned to the voters at the end of last year. The Moderator asked her to
400 read her amendment first and then if there is a second, there will be a discussion.

401 **Ms. McCabe then read her amendment to Article 2: Shall the Souhegan Cooperative**
402 **School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations**
403 **by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set**
404 **forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for**
405 **the purposes set forth therein, totaling seventeen million, eight hundred and seventy-seven**
406 **thousand, four hundred and seven dollars (\$17,877,407)? Should this article be defeated,**
407 **the default budget shall be seventeen million, eight hundred and seventy-one thousand, six**
408 **hundred and fifty-one dollars (\$17,871,651), which is the same as last year, with certain**
409 **adjustments required by previous action of the Souhegan Cooperative School District or by**
410 **law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X**
411 **and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only? Majority vote required.**

412 The Moderator requested Superintendent Steel to verify the calculations in that motion.

413 Ms. McCabe remarked that she wants to reduce the proposed budget and the default by \$500K.

414 Superintendent Steel replied that as a point of order, he does not believe that the default budget
415 can be amended by the body at the first session.

416 The Moderator remarked that he believes that he is correct. He then told Ms. McCabe her
417 withdraw her motion and then restate to the change in the numbers.

418 **Ms. McCabe withdrew her prior motion.**

419 **The Moderator requested that she not reread the entire motion but just the changed**
420 **numbers.**

421 **Ms. McCabe motioned to amend Article 2 Operating Budget to seventeen million, eight**
422 **hundred and seventy-seven thousand, four hundred and seven dollars (\$17,877,407)?**
423 **Should the article be defeated the default budget shall be eighteen million, three hundred**
424 **and seventy-one thousand, six hundred and fifty-one dollars (\$18,371,651).**

425 **The Moderator clarified that Ms. McCabe would like to reduce the operating budget by**
426 **\$500K.**

427 **Ms. McCabe replied, yes.**

428 **The Moderator added that he is looking for a second on the amendment.**

429 **Mr. Dwayne Purvis, 145 Hollis Road, Amherst, seconded the motion.**

430 The Moderator asked Ms. McCabe if she would like to address her motion.

431 Ms. McCabe noted that the reason she put the motion forward is because at the end of last year
432 \$1.2M had been returned to the taxpayers. She stated that \$800K was expense-related and asked
433 Superintendent Steel to correct her if she is wrong. The budget was done as a budget to budget
434 comparison even though the actual was \$17.3M. Now, they are budgeting for \$18.3M which is
435 \$1M difference. She stated that the budgeting process is faulted in that they are not using
436 actuals. Given that the Board returned \$1.2M, reducing the budget by \$500K is reasonable.

437 The Moderator asked the Board if they would like to speak to the amendment.

438 Mr. Coughlan replied that he believes that the majority of unexpended funds were mostly
439 unexpended special education funds. Special Education budgeting is done on a zero-based basis.
440 Every year the Student Services Department looks at all of the students that require services and
441 builds from scratch the costs of services into the budget. They are working with the best
442 information that they have. They are talking about students that may not be here yet, some are
443 here, and they know current needs but not future needs. It would be irresponsible to take \$500K
444 out of the Special Education Budget just because the needs that they thought that they would
445 need did not materialize.

446 The Moderator asked Ms. McCabe if her motion was to remove \$500K from the operating
447 budget and not the Special Education budget.

448 Mr. Coughlan replied that while that was true, the justification was around Special Education
449 costs.

450 The Moderator recognized Superintendent Steel for comments.

451 Superintendent Steel replied that last year's Unassigned Fund Balance (UFB) was \$1,283,300.
452 Of that, \$348K came from excess revenues which cannot be spent by law. They received more
453 revenue from the State or other places that they did not anticipate and that went directly to offset
454 the tax rate for this past fall. Additionally, they had \$590K that was under expended from their
455 expenditure side of the budget that was related to Special Education. Of that, \$277K was for out
456 of district tuition, that they expected to spend but did not have to. Support Services for Special
457 Education was under spent by \$168K and Special Education Transportation was underspent by
458 \$145K. He does not remember the exact circumstances around the under spending, but
459 sometimes students move in or out of the district and that cannot be predicted. Sometimes
460 students move in and out of town and they have no way of predicting that. The balance of that is
461 an Unassigned Find Balance of about \$345K or about 2%. Typically, Mr. Steel prefers a UFB of
462 between 1 and 2% not because he wants padding but for things that are unexpected. The budget
463 is a fixed ceiling; the district cannot spend one dollar more than is approved by the voters. If
464 there is something unexpected that happens, there has to be something available to pay for it. He
465 stated that the only other places to take money from are things like sports or other elective things

466 that we want to do. Mr. Steel said that he appreciates Ms. McCabe back in the budgeting
467 process, however, the UFB was much tighter than it was appeared.

468 The Moderator then asked the Souhegan Advisory Finance Committee for comments on the
469 amendment.

470 Mr. Gordon stated that the AFC had lots of discussion around the reduction in staff and being
471 able to deliver the services outlined as mission for the school. Without knowing where that
472 money comes from, noting that they pushed back hard on the Board thinking that there were too
473 many cuts, they are not in a position to support this amendment. They have reviewed the budget
474 as it is and believes that it does a good job balancing the mission of the school with the funds that
475 are requested.

476 The Moderator asked for public comments or questions on the amendment.

477 Ms. McCabe commented that Special Education has been used a lot tonight as the reason CPP is
478 high. She then suggested that the District use a contingency budget for Special Education and
479 have a reserve fund like the Amherst School District does instead of embedding it in the budget
480 and using it as the excuse for increasing budgets with declining enrollment. She stated that she
481 would still like to propose her amendment. She delivered the motion in writing to the Moderator.

482 The Moderator stated that the motion was duly made and seconded. He asked for other
483 comments or questions. He saw no one else who wanted to speak and closed the discussion. He
484 then clarified that the effect of the amendment is to reduce the operating budget by \$500K. The
485 Moderator called for a vote. He noted that a yea vote is to reduce the operating budget by \$500K
486 and a nay vote is to have the article remain as written.

487 **A vote was taken on Ms. McCabe's motion to amend Article 2, by voters raising their blue**
488 **cards. The Moderator noted the amendment was defeated. He then asked for other**
489 **comments or questions on Article 2. No one from the public wanted to speak.**

490 **The Moderator then took a motion to restrict reconsideration.**

491 **Ms. Jeanne Ludt, 3 Church Street, Amherst moved to restrict reconsideration. Motion was**
492 **seconded by Ms. Robin Julian, 9 Georgetown Drive, Amherst. A vote was taken by voters**
493 **holding up their blue cards. Motion passed.**

494 **The Moderator instructed the Clerk to place Article 2, in its original form, on the ballot.**

495 **The Moderator then read Article 3.**

496 *Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District vote to approve the costs included in the*
497 *agreement between the Souhegan Cooperative School Board and the professional and support*
498 *staff of Souhegan Cooperative High School which calls for the following increases in salaries*
499 *and benefits at current staffing levels:*

	<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Estimated Increase</i>
500		
501	<i>2020-2021</i>	<i>\$299,102</i>

502	<i>2021-2022</i>	<i>\$298,994</i>
503	<i>2022-2023</i>	<i>\$298,133</i>
504	<i>2023-2024</i>	<i>\$298,656</i>

505 *and further to raise and appropriate the sum two hundred and ninety-nine thousand, one*
506 *hundred and two dollars (\$299,102) for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, such sum representing the*
507 *additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those that would be*
508 *paid at current staffing levels? Majority vote required*

509 *Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School Board (7-0)*

510 *Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School District Advisory Finance Committee (7-*
511 *0)*

512 *Estimated tax impact of passing this article is:*

513 *\$0.15 per thousand for Amherst and*

514 *\$0.15 per thousand for Mont Vernon.*

515 The Moderator recognized Board Member, Mr. Steve Coughlan, to present Warrant Article 3.

516 Mr. Coughlan commented that the Board met earlier to support Warrant Article 3 (7-0) and the
517 Advisory Finance Committee also gave their support (7-0). He noted that it is 4-year agreement,
518 and in sync with other contracts throughout the SAU. Only one agreement will come before the
519 voters at a time. The agreement also balances out discrepancies between Souhegan teacher pay
520 and competitive districts. Souhegan's starting teacher pay is currently about \$4,800 higher than
521 average and will not change over the four-year agreement. Souhegan's 10-year teacher pay is
522 \$5,900 below average and that gap will be tightened during the agreement. Additionally, there is
523 no change to health insurance contributions which are higher than Amherst. He stated that other
524 things to note include: support staff will receive an increase as well, and the District is creating a
525 new class of paraprofessional. In terms of supporting the strategic initiative, they have also added
526 an incentive with professional development. He also noted that there was one position that was
527 poorly compensated, so they have increased the compensation for the lead facilities technician.

528 The Moderator asked the Souhegan Advisory Finance Committee for their comments.

529 **Mr. Joel Gordon replied that the Souhegan Advisory Finance Committee recommends**
530 **Article 3 as proposed by the Board and the Administration (7-0). It was unanimous.**

531 The Moderator asked for questions or comments from the public. There were no questions or
532 comments from the public.

533 **The Moderator instructed the Clerk to place Article 3 on the ballot.**

534 **The Moderator took a motion to restrict reconsideration.**

535 **Mr. Mark Vincent, 2 Nathaniel Drive, Amherst moved to restrict reconsideration. Motion**
536 **was seconded by Mr. Howard Brown, 2 Blood Road, Mont Vernon. A vote was taken by**
537 **voters holding up their blue cards. Motion passed.**

538 **The Moderator then read warrant Article 4 Capital Maintenance Plan.**

539 *Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one*
540 *hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to be added to the School Maintenance Expendable*
541 *Trust Fund previously established in March 2005? Majority vote required*

542 *Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School Board (7-0)*

543 *Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School District Advisory Finance Committee (7-*
544 *0)*

545 *Estimated tax impact of passing this article is:*

546 *\$0.05 per thousand for Amherst and*

547 *\$0.05 per thousand for Mont Vernon*

548 **The Moderator then requested a motion to accept the article.**

549 **Mr. Joel Gordon, 7 Steeple Lane, Amherst, moved to accept Article 4 as presented.**

550 **Seconded by Mr. Bob Julian, 9 Georgetown Drive, Amherst.**

551 The Moderator recognized Board Member, Ms. Amy Facey, to present warrant Article 4 Capital
552 Maintenance Plan.

553 Ms. Facey stated that the Board voted again, and their amended vote is (7-0). To determine their
554 Capital Maintenance Plan, a comprehensive Capital Needs Assessment was completed by the
555 firm OnSight Insight that fully examined all the physical elements of the buildings and detailed
556 all of capital needs over the next 20 years. This work was done for both the Amherst and
557 Souhegan Cooperative School District. She displayed a slide showing an example of the
558 inventory of physical elements of our facilities. The Capital Needs Assessment also provided the
559 Boards with the estimated annual expenditures required to meet future capital actions, based on
560 useful life expectations and assuming continued effective maintenance and physical
561 management. She displayed a chart showing extreme variations in the funding required year over
562 year. Coupled with similar variations in the Amherst School District funding required, it makes
563 for a less than desirable impact on Amherst taxpayers in terms of predictability. While as a
564 District we need to know the funds required each year, we also need to normalize the tax impact
565 on an annual basis. Using the Capital Needs Assessment, the Boards created a 20 year by year
566 plan to determine the funds required to complete the necessary projects and how much we need
567 to set aside each year to accomplish this goal. To demonstrate this Ms. Facey showed a slide
568 listing the projects planned to be completed at Souhegan over the next five years which total
569 approximately \$385K. Some of the projects planned over the next years include Pavement
570 refurbishment, stadium seating, replacement of some air conditioning units, emergency lighting
571 battery replacements, smoke and fire detector replacements, brick repointing on the exterior of
572 the building, and some roof work.

573 Ms. Facey then showed the 5-year funding plan required to complete these projects, but with a
574 normalized tax impact on both the Amherst and Souhegan school Districts. She stated that this is
575 a snapshot of the total 20-year plan and shows that total funds required are approximately \$400K
576 for the next 5 years. For this first year, Souhegan is requesting \$100K be added to the
577 Expendable Trust Fund and Amherst is requesting \$400,000 for their Expendable Trust Fund.
578 Going forward both districts plan to request a total of approximately \$650,000 to be put into their
579 respective Expendable Trust Funds, which provides a more predicable method of funding than
580 what was provided in the Capital Needs Assessment.

581 Ms. Facey then reviewed what they have done: completed a comprehensive Capital Needs
582 Assessment for both the Souhegan and Amherst School Districts, established a Year-by-Year
583 Plan for Capital Needs projects over the next 20 years, and determined the annual funding
584 required to execute these projects, while creating a consistent tax impact. Amherst and Souhegan
585 coordinating annual tax impact of approximately \$650K total increasing with the CPI starting
586 next year. The Districts also established a Joint Facilities Advisory Committee (Amherst and
587 Souhegan) to coordinate Capital Maintenance and Facilities Efforts. She then highlighted this
588 important additional work that is happening as a coordinated effort between the Amherst School
589 District and the Souhegan Cooperative District as well as representation from Mont Vernon. The
590 SAU Board agreed to establish a Joint Facilities Advisory Committee to coordinate capital
591 maintenance and facilities efforts in both Districts. This Committee is made up of community
592 members, parents, a SHS student, Administration and Board Members. It is charged with
593 conducting an extensive analysis of the state of our educational facilities in the Amherst and
594 Souhegan school districts, weighing options for potential repairs, remodel, or replacement and
595 making recommendations for both short- and long-term solutions. This analysis will include the
596 capital needs assessments required to maintain our current facilities, Souhegan 2.0 which
597 identifies possible renovation projects, and potentially the results of the Amherst Facilities Study
598 should it pass this year's budget. This work is ongoing and will be reported out at upcoming
599 Board meetings.

600 Ms. Facey clarified what they are proposing is an annual warrant article to fund the Expendable
601 Trust Fund for capital needs projects to complete projects each year in accordance with the
602 Capital Needs Assessment and Year-by-Year Plan. This year's specific request is for \$100K.

603 The Moderator then asked the Souhegan Advisory Finance Committee for their comments.

604 **Mr. Joel Gordon replied that the Souhegan Advisory Finance Committee supports Article**
605 **4 unanimously (7-0).**

606 The Moderator asked for questions or comments from the public.

607 Ms. Anne Dodd, 36 Mason Road, Mont Vernon, inquired about the balance of the School
608 Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund previously established in March 2005.

609 SAU 39 Business Administrator, Ms. Michele Croteau, replied that the balance is approximately
610 \$249K.

611 Ms. Dodd then complimented the Board on this forward-thinking proposal.

612 Mr. Reed Panasiti, 11 Mack Hill Road, Amherst, commented that Mr. Gordon had mentioned
613 previously that some of this money would be used be for the maintenance or repair of the turf
614 field and said that it was not a true statement.

615 Mr. Gordon stated that when they looked at the Capital Maintenance Plan over the next 20-years
616 one of the projects that was missing was the replacement of the turf field. The AFC felt that turf
617 field replacement was something the District needs to be prepared for.

618 Mr. Panasiti mentioned that they have an agreement that no taxpayer funds will used for the turf
619 field.

620 The Moderator recognized Board Chair, Jim Manning, for comments.

621 Chairman Manning commented that when the turf field was proposed it was recognized that it
622 would pay for itself through user fees. That has not happened to the extent that they want it to.
623 Board Member, Mr. Pim Grondstra, is the Athletics Committee point person and he is working
624 with the Athletic Department to determine a plan. He then reiterated that there is a commitment
625 that the funds will not come from the taxpayer.

626 The Moderator asked for further comments.

627 Ms. Stephanie Grund, 5 Colonel Wilkins Rd., Amherst, questioned the 5-year plan, noting that
628 there is nothing in the budget for science and chemistry teachers to help their strongest students,
629 e.g. renovation of science labs. She then asked how long in the future will that happen, since
630 there is nothing in the 5-year plan for that.

631 The Moderator recognized Superintendent Steel for comments.

632 Superintendent Steel responded that this is a Capital Maintenance Plan which means that they are
633 maintaining the facilities that they have. The Capital Improvement Plan which would be for
634 science labs would be something different and funded in a different way. He has been tasked by
635 the School Board to have projects at the ready in case there is a surplus. The renovation of the
636 science labs is the top priority.

637 The Moderator then asked for public questions or comments. There were no public questions or
638 comments.

639 **The Moderator instructed the Clerk to place Article 4 on the ballot as currently worded.**

640 **The Moderator requested a motion to restrict reconsideration.**

641 **Mr. Howard Brown, 2 Blood Road, Mont Vernon, moved to restrict reconsideration.**

642 **Motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Vincent, 2 Nathaniel Drive, Amherst. A vote was taken**
643 **by voters holding up their blue cards. Motion passed.**

644 The Moderator recognized Chairman Manning to cover the tax impact of the warrant articles.

645 Chairman Manning discussed that he wanted to review the revenue, tax impact and what will be
646 on the ballot. He displayed a chart of the FY21 revenue. He mentioned earlier that the
647 Unrestricted Fund Balance (UFB) last year was \$1.2M and this year is \$400K. When the UFB

648 drops like that the \$800K migrates to the “raised in taxes” line item. He displayed a chart
649 showing the 10-year tax rate history. He stated that if you run a regression line between the two
650 tax rates you can see that the overall tax rates have dropped between FY12 and FY21. Mr.
651 Manning also showed total appropriations over the last 10 years which have remained steady. He
652 then displayed a chart, total tax impact of all three warrant articles. \$0.77 for Amherst and \$0.20
653 for Mont Vernon. He then summarized what would be on the ballot: budget of \$18,377,407; the
654 PPC Agreement of \$299,102; and the Facility Reserve of \$100,000 for a total of \$18,776,509.

655 The Moderator asked for questions or comments from the public.

656 Mr. Howard Brown, 2 Blood Road, Mont Vernon NH commented that the original AFC
657 abstentions on Articles 2 and 3 were his and he has changed his vote to in favor of the articles.
658 He wanted to explain. He was more frustrated than against the articles. He read a prepared
659 statement. Having spent the last fourteen years working on school budgets, 12 on school boards
660 and 2 on budget committees, he will not argue the budget. He completely understands that once
661 the budget is passed, or they use the default budget, the Administration has total say on how to
662 use this budget. However, he would be remiss if he did not speak up and comment on what they
663 plan to do after the budget passes. While he was a Board Member, on this Board, they spent the
664 last several years attempting to make this campus a safer place for its students. They have
665 overloaded the campus with security cameras, replaced and added to the lighting for darken areas
666 and added security emergency boxes to several areas around the campus. It has in fact become a
667 safer environment, but no amount of physical security will help if it is not used as intended. To
668 his point, while attending the Public Hearing he observed that two out the four emergency boxes
669 were not easily accessible due to ice and snow buildup around the pole. Along with these added
670 security measures the school has always had a 6:45 – 3:15 campus monitor for staff and student
671 parking, visitors arriving and students who have off campus privileges. This year the hours were
672 shortened to 8:00 to 2:30 and does not include the critical morning traffic hours. This monitor
673 would assist the buses coming into the school and help with drivers who were lost or those who
674 just disregarded the traffic patterns. Because students recognize the monitor’s vehicle, having
675 him sit strategically around the school entrances has had the same effect that a police vehicle has
676 on road traffic. Since the SRO does not arrive until approximately 7:20 and the Dean of Students
677 does not arrive until close to 8:30, he feels having a monitor around in the morning is needed.
678 He stated that there is a problem with some teachers allowing their students to leave school early
679 and those that drive try to race out of the campus between busses and other vehicles. Having this
680 monitor, who knows who is allowed to leave campus early is essential to controlling the traffic
681 pattern. One of the Board initiatives in the last couple of years was to have all staff park in the
682 staff parking lot for better security and campus accountability. Since there are still several staff
683 members who refuse to park in the staff parking lot having a monitor who is familiar with those
684 staff vehicles is essential for accountability.

685 Mr. Brown concluded his statement by stating as mentioned before he knows that the cuts this
686 Board made, to achieve this budget, will allow the Administration the latitude for where those
687 cuts will happen. It is his wish that those cuts do not diminish the security initiatives that this
688 Board, and the Boards before this one, have worked so hard to accomplish. He concluded by

689 saying that going forward, there is a need to maintain, and if possible, improve the level of
690 security on this campus.

691 The Moderator reminded the residents that the ballot vote is March 10th, 2020 6:00AM – 8:00PM
692 in the SHS Gymnasium for Amherst voters and 7:00AM - 7:00PM at the Mont Vernon Village
693 School for Mont Vernon voters. He thanked everyone for their participation.

694 **Mr. Bob Julian, 9 Georgetown Drive, Amherst, moved to close the meeting at 9:16PM. Ms.**
695 **Robin Julian, 9 Georgetown Drive, Amherst, seconded the motion. A vote was taken by**
696 **voters holding up their blue cards. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.**

697

698 Respectfully Submitted,

699

700

701 Christine A. Janson

702 Souhegan Cooperative School District Clerk

703

Christine A. Janson *March 13, 2020*