

Souhegan Cooperative School District

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Annual Report & Guide to Official Ballot Voting

March 8, 2022

Souhegan High School

6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Mont Vernon Village School

7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.



PLEASE BRING THIS GUIDE
WITH YOU TO BALLOT
VOTING ON MARCH 8, 2022

THE VOTERS' GUIDE HAS BEEN PAID FOR BY THE
SOUHEGAN COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
C/O SAU 39, PO BOX 849, AMHERST, NH 03031

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Officers and Agents of the School District

**Souhegan Cooperative
School Board**

Stephanie Grund - Interim Chair (Amherst)

Laura Taylor - Secretary (Amherst)

Steve Coughlan (Amherst)

John Glover (Amherst)

Pim Grondstra (Mont Vernon)

Christine Peters (Amherst)

George Torres (Mont Vernon)

Souhegan Advisory Finance Committee

Dan Veilleux - Chair

John Bowkett

Howard Brown

Joel Gordon

Christine Grayson

Peggy Harris

Jeanne Ludt

School Board Moderator

C. George Bower

School District Treasurer

Catherine Jo Butler

School District Clerk

Christine Janson

Office of the Superintendent

Adam Steel, Superintendent of Schools

Christine Landwehrle, Asst. Superintendent of Elementary Education

Steven Chamberlin, Asst. Superintendent of Secondary Education

Meg Beauchamp, Director of Student Services

Amy Facey, Business Administrator

Souhegan High School Administration

Mike Berry, Principal

Dana Curran, Dean of Faculty

Jon Barry, Dean of Students

Letter from the Souhegan Cooperative School Board

The SAU Strategic Vision was developed to identify the essential elements in our school system that need to be supported in order for our students to be successful. These include:

1. Develop a plan for every student that builds on their unique strengths and provides them the highest potential for future success.
2. Ensure every student has an anchoring adult who will guide them as individuals and as part of a community of learners.
3. Leverage our advanced academic programming to give students an advantage over their peers academically and financially.
4. Develop a school system that allows students to progress upon mastery through their unique pathway to success.

The Souhegan Cooperative School District budget was built to support each of these elements.

The Souhegan Administration has consistently worked these past few years to develop plans to address each of these elements. Some of these items utilize resources we already have, and others require an investment. During the FY22 school year, our 9th Grade Guidance Counselor has been meeting with every Freshman to review their interests, goals, and potential plans for after high school. This will help the students, Guidance Counselors, and Advisors to help the students achieve their goals and help Administration plan on course offerings for each year. This is the beginning step to help our students realize success.

Souhegan has always had an Advisory system where every staff member in the school is involved. The staff members take the time to connect with the students in their Advisory in order to help them grow as students and as community members. Due to the disruptions over the past few years in education due to Covid, Advisors have been working with the students on their social emotional health. We support that one of the foundations of learning requires a student to feel safe and secure. Our community was fortunate to have had a strong Advisory system in place prior to Covid that allowed our students to be supported.

One of the modest budgetary impacts includes reviewing our Program of Studies and providing the classes students want and give them success in the future when they graduate from Souhegan Cooperative High School. The Program of Studies includes classes to address all students needs from core curriculum, Career Technical Education programs, and AP and Dual Enrollment Classes. We have supported our teachers through Professional Development to gain credentials to teach AP and Dual Enrollment classes in prior years. In addition, we continually look for ways to provide additional classes that provide opportunities for students to graduate with college credit that will help them achieve an affordable next step. As we support our students who are gaining experience in Career Technical programs by paying for tuition to their education programs, we are adding support for the AP and Dual Enrollment students by helping to pay for the AP tests and Dual Enrollment classes. The impact adds \$30,000 to the budget for FY23.

Another budgetary impact that is supported by the School Board is the addition of one Domain Leader. As we strive for instructional excellence and build on what we learned and gained from Coaches, we realized the need for a fresh approach to improve instructional practices. During FY22, the School Board supported adding two Domain Leaders in the areas of Math/Science and Humanities. The coaching and instruction provided by these two Domain Leaders was well received by the faculty. As the Science Department has expanded their class

offerings, we support adding a Domain Leader. The goal of the Domain Leader is to improve instructional practice in all of our faculty that leads to greater outcomes of education for our students. A requirement of the Domain Leader position is to continue to teach as part of their role. Each Domain Leader will be teaching at least two classes in their department as well as coaching. The Administration will not be asking for another headcount to be added. Instead, a current teaching position will be adjusted to a Domain Leader position.

The overall increase to the Souhegan Operating Budget for FY23 compared to FY22 is 2.7%. Included in the budget is an additional Facilities Groundskeeper, and Facilities Technician to maintain the cleanliness and infrastructure in our buildings, additional expenses for replacement furniture and equipment which is aging, an Athletic Trainer position which was previously contracted, as well as the items discussed above.

Operating Budget Comparison FY22 to FY23

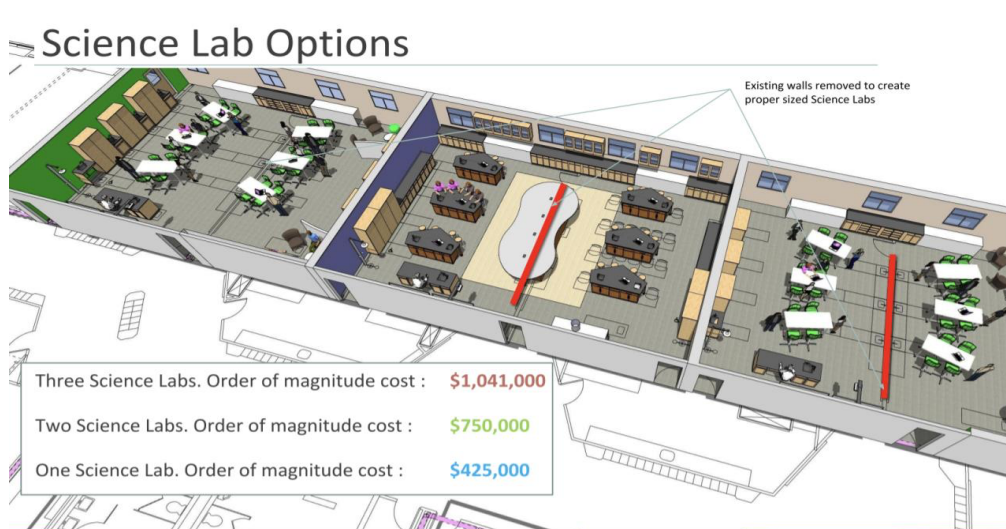
SAFC Sub-Committee	FY22 Budget (Excluding Special Warrant Articles)	FY23 Proposed	\$ Change from FY22 to FY23	% Change from FY22 to FY23
Special Education	\$4,899,644	\$5,294,395	\$394,751	8.0%
Administration	\$2,813,620	\$3,018,689	\$205,069	7.3%
Athletics	\$754,355	\$773,752	\$19,397	2.6%
Curriculum	\$7,610,497	\$7,686,855	\$76,358	1.0%
Food/Transportation	\$1,219,698	\$1,216,191	-\$3,507	-0.3%
Facilities	\$1,683,508	\$1,599,988	-\$83,520	-5.0%
Technology	\$790,781	\$724,638	-\$66,143	-8.4%
TOTAL	\$19,772,103	\$20,314,508	\$542,405	2.7%

FY23 Operating Budget to Default Comparison

FY23 Operating Budget	\$20,314,508	%
Furniture/Equipment	-\$128,150	0.6%
Business Teacher (new)	-\$ 90,549	0.5%
Facilities Groundskeeper (new)	-\$ 88,877	0.4%
Facilities Technician (new)	-\$ 88,877	0.4%
Athletic Trainer (previously contracted)	-\$ 74,811	0.4%
AP Testing and Dual Enrollment Tuition	-\$ 30,000	0.2%
Head Groundskeeper (salary/benefits difference)	-\$ 16,565	0.1%
Science Domain Leader (salary/benefits difference)	-\$ 6,475	0.0%
Everything Else	\$ 22,596	-0.1%
TOTAL CHANGE	\$ 501,708	2.5%
FY23 Default Calculation	\$19,812,800	

There are two additional warrant articles on the ballot to support our Science programs and the Turf Field.

The Science classrooms in the Annex were built as flexible classroom space that are not only too small but have various safety concerns. As our science programs have expanded, the need for laboratory space has become essential to support the full programs. Architects and Engineers have worked with Administration, Faculty, and the School Board to design space that ensures the safety of our students and faculty as well as provide the requirements to support our programs. This Science Lab Renovation Fund Warrant Article is asking for \$500,000 which is only part of the funding needed to support the renovation. The SAU Facilities Director is working at reviewing all costs of the project in order to provide a final amount of funding needed.



Finally, the Turf Field Replacement Warrant Article is the same as last year. We are asking for \$85,000 to come from the unassigned fund balance to build the balance over the next 5 years in order to replace the Turf Field when it reaches the end of its useful life. The Turf Field was installed in 2016 and has an estimated useful life of 10 years. Unfortunately, the plans to raise the money through rental fees has fallen short of estimates made in 2016. One of the main factors is other turf fields were installed by other school systems which decreased the need to rent from other school districts.

Turf Field Funding Plan

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Contribution</u>	<u>Withdrawal</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Balance Forward			\$ 78,000
FY22	\$85,000	\$0	\$163,000
FY23	\$85,000	\$0	\$248,000
FY24	\$85,000	\$0	\$333,000
FY25	\$85,000	\$0	\$418,000
FY26	\$85,000	\$0	\$503,000

The School Board worked closely with Administration, SAU staff, and the Souhegan Advisory Finance Committee to present a budget that continues to support our school and the community. We realize that your vote matters, and that without the support from the communities of Amherst and Mont Vernon, the Souhegan Cooperative High School and the young people it serves, cannot thrive. Souhegan has served as a distinctive point of pride in our communities for almost 30 years and represents one of our biggest investments. We believe this budget supports the Strategic Vision responsibly.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Grund, Interim Chair

Laura Taylor, Secretary

Steve Coughlan

John Glover

Pim Grondstra

Christine Peters

George Torres

Souhegan Cooperative School District Voting

Souhegan Cooperative School District follows the guidelines of Senate Bill 2 (SB2) which are outlined in RSA 40:13. Voting on budgets, appropriations, and other articles culminates with ballot voting. However, prior to the March ballot vote is the Deliberative Session, which was held on February 7, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at Souhegan High School.

The Deliberative Session is the first session of the annual meeting and consists of explanation, discussion, and debate of each article on the warrant. Only voters registered in Amherst or Mont Vernon can amend wording and dollar amounts and vote on approving the warrant articles.

All warrant articles that are presented at the Deliberative Session, including articles that are amended, are then placed on the official ballot and moved to the second session of the annual meeting for a final vote by ballot on March 8, 2022.

Voting in the Souhegan Cooperative School District is a Two-Step Process:

Deliberative Session:

February 7, 2022: 7:00 p.m., SHS Auditorium

Ballot Vote:

March 8, 2022: 6:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m., SHS Gymnasium (*for Amherst Voters*)
7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., MVVS (*for Mont Vernon Voters*)

In many ways the Deliberative Session resembles District Meetings of years past, but with one fundamental difference. Discussion and voting at this meeting focused on the wording of the questions to be placed on the March 8th ballot, not on voting whether the budget, bond, or other warrant articles pass or fail.

The wording of a warrant article can be amended to change the dollar amount and/or the wording. In recent years towns and school districts have seen warrant articles amended at the Deliberative Session to \$0.00, thereby defeating the original intent of the article. In other instances, the wording of an article has been amended to completely reverse the petitioner's intent. Simply stated, it is important to attend the Deliberative Session and vote on Election Day for the full effect of your vote to be felt.

Warrant Articles

The following pages contain the wording of the warrant articles. School Board commentary is found in the Chairperson's message. A detailed report of recommendations by the Souhegan Advisory Finance Committee is also included in this document.

**Souhegan Cooperative School District
Annual Meeting Warrant
February 7, 2022 and March 8, 2022
Amherst and Mont Vernon, New Hampshire**

To the inhabitants of the Souhegan Cooperative School District consisting of the towns of Amherst and Mont Vernon, in the County of Hillsborough, and State of New Hampshire qualified to vote in District affairs:

You are hereby notified of the following Annual School District Meeting schedule:

First Session of Annual Meeting (Deliberative)

You are hereby notified to meet at Souhegan High School, 412 Boston Post Rd., Amherst, NH in said District on the 7th day of February 2022 at 7:00 p.m. This session shall consist of explanation, discussion, and debate of warrant articles numbered 2 through 4. Warrant articles may be amended subject to the following limitations: (a) warrant articles whose wording is prescribed by law shall not be amended, (b) warrant articles that are amended shall be placed on the official ballot for a final vote on the main motion, as amended, and (c) no warrant article shall be amended to eliminate the subject matter of the article.

Second Session of Annual Meeting (Official Ballot Voting)

You are hereby notified to meet on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, for official ballot voting on warrant articles numbered 1 through 4. The polls for official ballot voting will be open as follows:

Voting for Amherst residents: Souhegan High School from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Voting for Mont Vernon residents: Mont Vernon Village School from 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Article 1. Election of Officers (voting by official ballot March 8, 2022)

To the following school district offices:

- a. To choose two (2) School Board Members from Amherst for the ensuing three (3) years
- b. To choose one (1) School Board Member from Amherst for the ensuing one (1) year
- c. To choose one (1) School Board Member from Mont Vernon for the ensuing three (3) years
- d. To choose one (1) School District Moderator for the ensuing three (3) years

Article 2. Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling twenty million three hundred fourteen thousand five hundred eight dollars (\$20,314,508.00)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be nineteen million eight hundred twelve thousand eight hundred dollars (\$19,812,800.00), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Souhegan Cooperative School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only?" **Majority vote required.**

Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School Board (6-1)

**Souhegan Cooperative School District
Annual Meeting Warrant
February 7, 2022 and March 8, 2022
Amherst and Mont Vernon, New Hampshire**

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

Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.54 per thousand for Amherst and \$1.36 per thousand for Mont Vernon.

Estimated tax impact of not passing this article is: \$0.35 per thousand for Amherst and \$1.11 per thousand for Mont Vernon.

***NOTE: Warrant Article 2 (operating budget) does not include appropriations proposed in any other warrant articles.**

Article 3. Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District vote to establish a Science Lab Renovation Capital Reserve Fund per RSA 35:1 for the purpose of renovating the science labs at Souhegan High School and to raise and appropriate the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) to be placed in this fund; further to name the Souhegan Cooperative School Board as agents to expend from said fund? **Majority vote required.**

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

Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School District Advisory Finance Committee (6-0-1)

Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.18 per thousand for Amherst and \$0.25 per thousand for Mont Vernon.

Article 4. Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District raise and appropriate the sum of up to eighty-five thousand dollars (\$85,000.00) to be added to the Souhegan Recreation Revolving Fund previously established in March 2016. This sum to come from the June 30, 2022 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2022. No amount to be raised from new taxation. **Majority vote required.**

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

Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School District Advisory Finance Committee (6-0-1)

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

Estimated tax impact of not passing this article is: -\$0.03 per thousand for Amherst and -\$0.04 per thousand for Mont Vernon.

Given under our hands as said Amherst, New Hampshire, on the 21st day of January, 2022.

Souhegan Cooperative School District
Annual Meeting Warrant
February 7, 2022 and March 8, 2022
Amherst and Mont Vernon, New Hampshire

Stephanie Grund

Stephanie Grund, Interim Chair

Steve W. Coughlan

Steve Coughlan

John Glover

John Glover

Pim Grondstra

Pim Grondstra

Christine Peters

Christine Peters

Laura Taylor, Secretary

Laura Taylor, Secretary

George Torres

George Torres

Signature Certificate

Reference number: UEDSH-WSCJN-77MTF-EWYJE

Signer	Timestamp	Signature
Steve Coughlan Email: scoughlan@sau39.org Sent: 21 Jan 2022 22:33:45 UTC Viewed: 21 Jan 2022 22:50:09 UTC Signed: 21 Jan 2022 22:51:07 UTC		 IP address: [REDACTED] Location: Amherst, United States
Pim Grondstra Email: pgrondstra@sprise.com Sent: 21 Jan 2022 22:33:45 UTC Viewed: 22 Jan 2022 18:28:43 UTC Signed: 22 Jan 2022 18:29:24 UTC		 IP address: [REDACTED] Location: Mont Vernon, United States
Stephanie Grund Email: sgrund@sau39.org Sent: 21 Jan 2022 22:33:45 UTC Viewed: 22 Jan 2022 21:11:03 UTC Signed: 22 Jan 2022 21:12:08 UTC		 IP address: [REDACTED] Location: Amherst, United States
George Torres Email: gtorres@sau39.org Sent: 21 Jan 2022 22:33:45 UTC Viewed: 23 Jan 2022 15:02:53 UTC Signed: 23 Jan 2022 15:03:46 UTC		 IP address: [REDACTED] Location: Mont Vernon, United States

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Signer	Timestamp	Signature
Christine Peters Email: cpeters@sau39.org Sent: 21 Jan 2022 22:33:45 UTC Viewed: 24 Jan 2022 11:08:50 UTC Signed: 24 Jan 2022 11:09:21 UTC		 IP address: [REDACTED] Location: Dorchester, United States [REDACTED]
John Glover Email: jglover@sau39.org Sent: 21 Jan 2022 22:33:45 UTC Viewed: 24 Jan 2022 16:48:57 UTC Signed: 24 Jan 2022 16:49:30 UTC		 IP address: [REDACTED] Location: Amherst, United States [REDACTED]
Laura Taylor Email: ltaylor@sau39.org Sent: 21 Jan 2022 22:33:45 UTC Viewed: 22 Jan 2022 20:26:55 UTC Signed: 24 Jan 2022 18:27:38 UTC		 IP address: [REDACTED] Location: Nashua, United States [REDACTED]

Document completed by all parties on:
24 Jan 2022 18:27:38 UTC

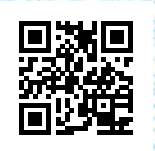
Page 2 of 2

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Souhegan Advisory Finance Committee **FY2023 Budget Review Summary – Voter Guide**

The Souhegan Advisory Finance Committee (SAFC) worked especially hard this year to both scrutinize the proposed budget line by line but also to look beyond the surface to understand any new initiatives. We were committed to not only vet the proposed budget numbers but also to look deeper at what those dollars were being spent on and whether they were an efficient use of tax dollars toward improving teaching and learning.

We found the increase in the budget to be minimal and justified and agreed that we could support the budget as a whole. However, when we dug deeper, the one sticking point that kept us from giving the budget our wholehearted support was the request for 3 additional Domain Leaders to the 2 already functioning DLs that had been approved in last year's budget. It was clear that in order to determine if this was a wise investment, we needed to take the time to learn more. We needed to understand the origins of this model, whether this program was going to work as described in helping to improve instructional practice and to determine if this was a good fit within the context of a Souhegan education. We ended up having multiple meetings and asking countless questions of the administration; all designed to help the SAFC feel confident in supporting the addition of 3 more DLs.

Following discussions during the review process the administration reduced the request from 3 additional positions to 1, and more importantly, removed the supervisory/evaluation responsibility from the job description, alleviating most of the SAFC's concerns regarding these positions.

While the committee supports the overall budget, the following were identified as areas of concern:

- 1) The rate of change (turnover) – The school has seen what seems to be a high rate of change in personnel, including a changeover in every leadership position in building administration, many teacher retirements, and other attrition in faculty and staff. High turnover rates can have potentially detrimental impacts on overall instructional proficiency, faculty morale, and instructional outcomes and should be carefully scrutinized.
- 2) The administration pointed out that there has been a decline in instructional proficiency over the past few years, resulting in inconsistent student outcomes.
- 3) Despite an existing formal teacher evaluation policy, summative teacher evaluations have not been conducted in several years, which was suggested as one potential causal factor for the decline in instructional proficiency and inconsistent student outcomes. Having a plan stating how evaluations will be conducted and by whom would be an important piece of any future strategic plan.
- 4) The governing structure of the school appears to have drifted away from the principles enumerated in the constitution and may no longer be categorized as part of the Coalition of Essential Schools. Without such a comprehensive roadmap for the future of the school, it is becoming more and more difficult to assess whether the spending priorities objectively advance a cohesive educational philosophy or are a composite of loosely related programs.
- 5) The addition of Domain Leaders could create a top-heavy administrative structure. It has been the contention of the Souhegan Advisory Finance Committee for the last few budget cycles that the administration should create a comprehensive plan to improve the

transparency of the goals of the proposed budgets and facilitate a faithful budget review process. We reiterate that suggestion here and suggest the plan include: 1) a survey of teachers, students, and parent, 2) a plan for the roll out the domain leaders and how their responsibilities will be distributed to include other districts, and 3) a way to measure the effectiveness of the new domain leader program.

Respectfully submitted:

Dan Veilleux – Amherst, Chair SAFC FY23

Joel Gordon – Amherst

Jeanne Ludt – Amherst

Howard Brown – Mont Vernon

Christine Grayson – Amherst

John Bowkett – Amherst

Peggy Harris – Amherst

SAMPLE BALLOT

**ABSENTEE
OFFICIAL BALLOT
SOUHEGAN COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
AMHERST, NEW HAMPSHIRE
MARCH 8, 2022**

Christine G. Jensen
SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

- A. TO VOTE, completely fill in the OVAL to the RIGHT of your choice(s) like this:
- B. Follow directions as to the number of candidates to be marked for each office.
- C. To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the candidate's name on the line provided and completely fill in the OVAL.

FOR SCHOOL BOARD

for 3 Years Vote for NOT
MORE THAN TWO

DANIEL T. VEILLEUX

ANNA GOULET ZIMMERMAN

ELIZABETH KUZSMA

JACOB MACEDO

(Write-in)

(Write-in)

FOR SCHOOL BOARD

for 1 Year Vote for NOT
MORE THAN ONE

KENNETH D'AMBROSIO

CHRISTINE PETERS

(Write-in)

FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT MODERATOR

for 3 Years Vote for NOT
MORE THAN ONE

GEORGE BOWER

(Write-in)

ARTICLES

Article 2.

Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling twenty million three hundred fourteen thousand five hundred eight dollars (\$20,314,508.00)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be nineteen million eight hundred twelve thousand eight hundred dollars (\$19,812,800.00), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Souhegan Cooperative School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only?.

YES
NO

Majority vote required

Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School Board (6-1)

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

Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.54 per thousand for Amherst and \$1.36 per thousand for Mont Vernon.

Estimated tax impact of not passing this article is: \$0.35 per thousand for Amherst and \$1.11 per thousand for Mont Vernon.

*NOTE: Warrant Article 2 (operating budget) does not include appropriations proposed in any other warrant articles.

VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT

SAMPLE BALLOT

ARTICLES CONTINUED

Article 3.

Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District vote to establish a Science Lab Renovation Capital Reserve Fund per RSA 35:1 for the purpose of renovating the science labs at Souhegan High School and to raise and appropriate the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) to be placed in this fund; further to name the Souhegan Cooperative School Board as agents to expend from said fund? **Majority vote required.**

YES

NO

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

Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School District Advisory Finance Committee (6-0- 1)

Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.18 per thousand for Amherst and \$0.25 per thousand for Mont Vernon.

Article 4.

Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District raise and appropriate the sum of up to eighty-five thousand dollars (\$85,000.00) to be added to the Souhegan Recreation Revolving Fund previously established in March 2016. This sum to come from the June 30, 2022 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2022. No amount to be raised from new taxation. **Majority vote required.**

YES

NO

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

Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School District Advisory Finance Committee (6-0- 1)

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

Estimated tax impact of not passing this article is: -\$0.03 per thousand for Amherst and -\$0.04 per thousand for Mont Vernon.

VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT

SAMPLE BALLOT

**ABSENTEE
OFFICIAL BALLOT
SOUHEGAN COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
TOWN OF MONT VERNON, NEW HAMPSHIRE
MARCH 8, 2022**

Christine J. Jensen
SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

- A. TO VOTE, completely fill in the OVAL to the RIGHT of your choice(s) like this: ●
- B. Follow directions as to the number of candidates to be marked for each office.
- C. To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the candidate's name on the line provided and completely fill in the OVAL.

FOR SCHOOL BOARD

(For 3 Years) Vote for not
more than one

STEPHEN O'KEEFE

(Write-in)

FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT MODERATOR

(For 3 Years) Vote for not
more than one

GEORGE BOWER

(Write-in)

ARTICLES

ARTICLE 2. Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling twenty million three hundred fourteen thousand five hundred eight dollars (\$20,314,508.00)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be nineteen million eight hundred twelve thousand eight hundred dollars (\$19,812,800.00), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Souhegan Cooperative School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only?

Majority vote required.

YES

NO

Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School Board (6-1)

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

Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.54 per thousand for Amherst and \$1.36 per thousand for Mont Vernon.

Estimated tax impact of not passing this article is: \$0.35 per thousand for Amherst and \$1.11 per thousand for Mont Vernon.

*NOTE: Warrant Article 2 (operating budget) does not include appropriations proposed in any other warrant articles.

VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT

SAMPLE BALLOT

ARTICLES CONTINUED

ARTICLE 3. Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District vote to establish a Science Lab Renovation Capital Reserve Fund per RSA 35:1 for the purpose of renovating the science labs at Souhegan High School and to raise and appropriate the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) to be placed in this fund; further to name the Souhegan Cooperative School Board as agents to expend from said fund?
Majority vote required.

YES

NO

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

Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School District Advisory Finance Committee (6-0-1)

Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.18 per thousand for Amherst and \$0.25 per thousand for Mont Vernon.

ARTICLE 4. Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District raise and appropriate the sum of up to eighty-five thousand dollars (\$85,000.00) to be added to the Souhegan Recreation Revolving Fund previously established in March 2016. This sum to come from the June 30, 2022 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2022. No amount to be raised from new taxation. **Majority vote required.**

YES

NO

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

Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School District Advisory Finance Committee (6-0-1)

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

Estimated tax impact of not passing this article is: -\$0.03 per thousand for Amherst and -\$0.04 per thousand for Mont Vernon.

VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT

**Superintendent's FY23 Annual Report – Souhegan
Cooperative School District**

As we continue through the second half of the 21-22 school year, I would like to extend my thanks to the students, parents, guardians, teachers, school administration, and community members who have carried us through the last several months of this academic year. I'm especially proud of the students and teachers who show up every day, ready to teach and learn with enthusiasm. I appreciate the parents, guardians, and community, who have gone above and beyond to help us keep schools safe during another extraordinary year.

I would like to point out our incredible achievements for the 21-22 school year, thus far. In a year when COVID-19 infections reached their highest since the pandemic began in 2020, we successfully kept our schools open. We have worked through numerous challenges. We created a modality to serve the students who are still unable to join us in person. We began the work of closing learning gaps that resulted from months of remote school and disrupted learning. These are tremendous gains that showcase the commitment our community has made to excellence in education.

We had the privilege of welcoming several new staff into the Souhegan family. In the summer of 2021, Steven Chamberlin joined SAU 39 as Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education. We are thrilled with the passion, expertise, and enthusiasm he brings to our districts. In addition, Dana Curran (Dean of Faculty), Jon Barry (Dean of Students) also joined the leadership at Souhegan High School. I'm confident that the team of educators at our high school will help our students prepare for the challenges they face in the future of academia and the working world.

I am impressed with the strides we make to continually raise the standard of excellence in the Souhegan Cooperative School District. Our students are learning and achieving great things, despite all the challenges they face in today's world. They are adapting and choosing to excel. They are resilient and hopeful for what their futures hold. I encourage myself and my fellow community members to take a page from their playbooks. Commitment to excellence, kindness, and flexibility will help us meet our goals for our students as we venture forward in these ever-changing times.

Sincerely,
Adam Steel
Superintendent of Schools
@superintendetsteel
asteel@sau39.org

Principal's Report – Souhegan High School

There is an urgency descending on education that is both inspiring and challenging. To provide vibrant, engaging learning environments that truly prepare students to be college and career ready, educators must re-examine curriculum, instruction, resources and methodology. The next generation classroom encourages student voice, promotes student choice, as well as provides opportunity for innovation, critical thinking and problem solving. In the next generation classroom, students engage in authentic learning opportunities demanding real life application of content and skills. The student experience is personalized and realized beyond the classroom walls.

Souhegan High School in Amherst, New Hampshire opened its doors to students from the towns of Amherst and Mont Vernon in September of 1992. Now in its twenty-eighth year, Souhegan draws 704 students to its award winning programs. Souhegan High School is accredited by the New England Association of schools and colleges. The Commission on Public Secondary Schools cited significant strengths in the statement of purpose; media services; administration, faculty and staff; community support and involvement; school climate; and assessment of student learning and school performance. Souhegan High School is a lead school in the state of New Hampshire in the areas of competency based education, performance assessments and student centered learning.

In 2022 at Souhegan High School, we honor diversity by grouping our students heterogeneously. We support personal drive and aspiration by providing Advanced Placement and college credit courses to students willing to take on the challenge. In addition to the standard curricular offerings in English, math, science, social studies, and classical and modern languages, elective courses are available in art, technology, performing arts and physical education. Education in economics and civics is embedded in the three required social studies classes; similarly, health education is integrated with freshman wellness classes.

Curriculum at Souhegan is designed to be interdisciplinary, involve authentic work, and provide assessments for students to demonstrate their new knowledge, skills and learning. Each full year course administers a common performance assessment in the fall and spring. These tasks are aligned to standards, cognitively rigorous, engaging for students, and integral to the discipline. For instance, social studies' task is research writing, science's is inquiry, English is critical analysis, math is extended problem solving. The performance data from these tasks is analyzed to inform instruction and benchmark progress.

The school's mission, vision, beliefs and values guide our daily practices. The learning environment is intellectually challenging and personalized, encouraging students to be active learners immersed in interdisciplinary curriculum, heterogeneous classes, and a global perspective that shapes a sense of stewardship and community service. These founding ideals are a unifying force for the entire school community.

Designed to allow students to take ownership of their learning, the academic program at Souhegan is driven by students creating pathways that open up possibilities beyond high school. As a school that values authentic learning, student understanding and skill development are demonstrated through a variety of exhibition requirements including Division I Exhibition, Junior Research Paper, Post Graduate Plan, and Senior Project.

Mission:

Souhegan High School aspires to be a community of learners born of respect, trust and courage.

Values:

We consciously commit ourselves:

To support and engage an individual's unique gifts, passions, and intentions.

To develop and empower the mind, body, and heart.

To challenge and expand the comfortable limits of thought, tolerance, and performance. To inspire and honor the active stewardship of family, nation, and globe.

Metrics:

The scores below, reported by College Board, are based on senior student participation. Highlighted below are the scores of Souhegan High School students in two areas: SAT and Advanced Placement participation.

SAT Scores:

Mean Score	Class of 2017	Class of 2018	Class of 2019	Class of 2020	Class of 2021	NH State AVG 2021
ERW	571	565	557	560	580	540
Math	546	546	542	546	564	526
Overall	1117	1111	1099	1106	1144	1066

Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Enrollment scores and enrollment:

Courses are two indicators of how Souhegan High School students challenge themselves academically.

The following outlines information regarding student participation and score percentages in AP exams over the past five years.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total AP Students taking exam	131	115	94	102	102
Number of Exams	210	195	140	151	146
AP Students with Scores 3+	93	85	74	82	79

% of Total AP Exams with Scores 3+	71.0	73.9	78.7	80.4	65
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	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of AP Courses	13	15	15	15	15
Dual Enrollment Courses	2	5	7	8	12

Student Services:

While there are some students who choose to go to work or join the military after high school, most of our students do go on to post-secondary education. The following information shows what our graduates have done once leaving Souhegan for the past six years.

Post Secondary Plans	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
College/University (4 yr.)	77%	81%	82%	81%	83%	76%
Community College/Technical School	13%	11%	8%	6%	6%	7%
Work	7%	2%	4%	10%	6%	7%
Other (prep school, service, undecided)	3%	6%	6%	3%	5%	
Apprenticeship						2%
Gap Year						6%
Military Service						1%
Other						1%

Athletics and Activities:

Souhegan High School was able to return to full seasons of play in the 2021-2022 school year. In the fall of 2021, 7 of our 10 teams qualified for the State Tournament. Girls cross country earned the runner up title for DII, field hockey went to the Final Four, bass fishing finished 6th, boys soccer and football made it to the first round of their tournaments. For the winter season of 2021-2022 boys basketball is poised for a deep playoff run currently sitting as the top seed in the division. Indoor track, though not having an NHIAA season, is making the best of things by creating a mini league of the teams at the New Hampshire Dome. Swimming and Bowling teams will both have individuals competing in the tournament as well. The spring season of 2022 is set to be the first full season for these teams since 2019. Many have been hard at work in the off season to prepare.

As of January 10, 2022, Souhegan High School became part of the Unified Champion Schools Program. We will begin to offer unified sports in the spring of 2022 with Track and

Field, with the help of senior Cari Mastergeorge, who has undertaken this topic as her senior project. For the 2022-2023 school year, we will expand offerings to include unified soccer and unified basketball as well. Alice Serbin, class of 2022 and president of Souhegan Best Buddies, is leading the charge for unified basketball. We are very excited to help create a more inclusive school community.

In its 37th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Chloe Trudel of Souhegan High School is the 2021-22 Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Trudel is the first Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Souhegan High School. The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Trudel as New Hampshire's best high school girls cross country player. Chloe is now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Cross Country Player of the Year award.

The following student-athletes express their commitment to continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level:

Colin Burke, class of 2022 - St. Michael's College, baseball
Finnley Casey, class of 2022 - College of Wooster, lacrosse
Nolan Dickinson, class of 2022 - Merrimack College, cross country/track and field
Wil Jaques, class of 2022 - Lehigh University, track and field
Sierra Kimball, class of 2022 - St. Michael's College, lacrosse
Caroline Mastergeorge, class of 2022 - Assumption College, field hockey
Elle Stevenson, class of 2022 - Boston University, lacrosse
Chloe Trudel, class of 2022 - University of Connecticut, cross country

Community Service

Many of our teams and greater school community have participated in several outreach and community service projects. Here is a brief list of some examples:

- Over 300lbs of food was collected through the NH Tackles Hunger Campaign this fall. Members of all of our fall athletic teams were featured on WMUR as they shopped at Hannaford in Bedford to kick off the campaign.
- Our Football team once again helped unload Christmas Trees for the Milford Rotary.
- Girls Volleyball raised just over \$700 for Pink Revolution Breast Cancer Alliance of NH during their "DIG Pink" game this fall.

Activities

- Robotics was featured this fall on WMUR with their "MadBot" field goal kicking robot. They continue to work at Monarch Industries through the school year.
- Ethics Forum is returning to offering full programming this year, which began with the annual Hope for Gus Football Game. This year, the forum was able to raise over \$17,000 towards research for the Hope for Gus Foundation and Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. Their next big event is the 10 year anniversary of HYPE to be held at the University of New Hampshire in March. This event, aimed at promoting philosophical inquiry and civil discourse, is projected to see 1,000 participants from high schools all over the Granite State.

- Souhegan Friendships for Peace collected baskets of needed supplies to aid Afghan refugees in collaboration with the International Institute of New England.
- Interact Club ran their annual coat drive with great success.
- The first Jazz Night of the year was held on December 3rd with Souhegan Students Cole Biedrzycki, Zealand Broadley, Matthew Cobleigh, Andrew Colman, Ethan Harrison, Adam Horrocks, Jeremy Klapka, Andrew Rosse, William Upton, Izzy Van-Bibber, Franklin Weiss, and Merlyn Zimmerman showcasing their talents.
- The Fall performance of “Murder on the 518” was a big hit!
The Spring Musical will be “Chicago-Teen Edition” with shows on March 17 (7 p.m.), 18th (7 p.m.), and 19th (2:00 p.m. and 7 p.m.).

Report from the Director of Student Services

It is a pleasure to address the Amherst and Mont Vernon communities in my role as the Director of Student Services for the Souhegan Cooperative School District. These past few years have created a unique challenge for us all. We have found ourselves in uncharted territory in terms of how we respond to these challenges, and it has taken unprecedented collaboration and cooperation among our students, staff, school board and community. I am increasingly proud and impressed to be a part of a community that has such a strong support for the educational system and has been so willing to “think outside the box” with us as we navigate.

We are currently working with approximately 113 students who require special education supports and related services. Our case managers are dedicated to providing individualized support and specialized instruction to our students who seek to maximize their potential and work towards post-secondary goals.

Throughout the time they are with us, we work closely with our students and their families on transition planning to ensure we have helped to create a clear pathway in realizing those goals.

Our Transitions Program at Souhegan has completed approval process and is now a fully approved program option for students who are our most challenged learners. The program continues to grow and expand to meet the needs of students who otherwise would need specialized placements outside of our district. The high school program approval completes a continuum of specialized programming that begins with our youngest learners at the preschool/kindergarten level.

The Student Services Department remains dedicated to SAU #39’s vision and mission to “engage, challenge and support all learners”. We work collaboratively and diligently to ensure that individual needs are met, and our students reach their full potential.

Respectfully,
Meg Beauchamp
Director of Student Services

Souhegan Cooperative School District
Annual Report of the Treasurer
as of 6/30/2021

	Starting Balance	Deposits	AP-PR Expenses	Ending Balance
July-2020	\$1,037,411.19	\$1,347,030.96	(\$1,316,396.40)	\$1,068,045.75
August-2020	\$1,068,045.75	\$2,473,490.50	(\$1,126,408.04)	\$2,415,128.21
September-2020	\$2,415,128.21	\$606,724.32	(\$1,581,997.86)	\$1,439,854.67
October-2020	\$1,439,854.67	\$2,485,158.74	(\$1,813,566.29)	\$2,111,447.12
November-2020	\$2,111,447.12	\$839,260.54	(\$1,461,485.03)	\$1,489,222.63
December-2020	\$1,489,222.63	\$3,424,897.41	(\$1,387,434.73)	\$3,526,685.31
January-2021	\$3,526,685.31	\$255,230.98	(\$1,497,883.24)	\$2,284,033.05
February-2021	\$2,284,033.05	\$1,423,612.90	(\$1,306,472.95)	\$2,401,173.00
March-2021	\$2,401,173.00	\$1,431,256.98	(\$1,729,461.46)	\$2,102,968.52
April-2021	\$2,102,968.52	\$3,155,333.82	(\$1,478,586.02)	\$3,779,716.32
May-2021	\$3,779,716.32	\$250,968.90	(\$1,344,445.42)	\$2,686,239.80
June-2021	\$2,686,239.80	\$1,384,152.14	(\$2,174,529.34)	\$1,895,862.60
Total	\$1,037,411.19	\$19,077,118.19	(\$18,218,666.78)	\$1,895,862.60

Bank Accounts	Peoples United	Peoples United	Peoples United	Outstanding
	*1925	*9527	*5661	
	Cash Management	Municipal NOW	Municipal Savings	Checks/Debits
7/1/2020	\$150,978.93	\$68,000.00	\$1,547,975.62	(\$729,543.36)
6/30/2021	\$140,833.30	\$68,000.00	\$2,301,545.25	(\$614,515.95)
				Total
				\$1,037,411.19
				\$1,895,862.60