Amherst School Board 1 Bond Hearing- Souhegan High School Theater 2 Monday, January 8th, 2024 3 Meeting Minutes- Approved 02 22 2024 4 5 Attendance: Mike Berry- Superintendent, Steven Chamberlin- Assistant Superintendent, 6 Christine Landwehrle- Assistant Superintendent, Amy Facey-SAU #39 Business Administrator 7 8 and Brian Miller- SAU #39 Director of Technology. 9 Amherst School Board Members: Tom Gauthier- Chair, Jason White-Vice Chair, Terri Behm, Shannon Gascoyne, and Tim Theberge. 10 11 Meeting Minutes: Danae A. Marotta 12 Public: Brad Prescott- Banwell Architects, and Matt Wheaton- DEW Construction, Jeanne Ludt 13 3 School Street, Amherst NH, Kelly Schmidt, 11 Patricia Lane, Amherst NH, Dwayne Purvis, 145 Hollis Road, Amherst NH, Ellen Gruzdien, 18 Buckridge Dr, Amherst NH, Mozammel 14 Husainy, 33 Eagle Rock Road, Amherst NH, and Brian Coogan, 121 Mack Hill Road, Amherst 15 NH. 16 17 I. Call to Order Chair of Amherst School Board, Mr. Tom Gauthier, called the Bond Hearing to order at 18 6:24PM. 19 20 He noted that this is our official bond hearing for the proposed elementary school project for the 2024 March ballot, for the FY 25 fiscal year. We will talk about the elementary school project 21 revisions that we've made the way that we've looked at that comparatively to what has was done 22 the last couple of years what we have presented. 23 24 He introduced Mr. Mike Berry, Superintendent, Mr. Steven Chamberlin, Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Christine Landwehrle, Assistant Superintendent, and Ms. Amy Facey-SAU 25 #39 Business Administrator. 26 Mr. Gauthier introduced board members, Mr. Jason White (Vice Chair), Mr. Tim Theberge 27 28 (Secretary), Ms. Terri Behm, and Ms. Shannon Gascoyne. 29 He added that they will have their Public Session tomorrow night in the Souhegan High School Learning Commons to go over the rest of the warrant articles that they will be looking at for the 30 Deliberative Session and on the ballot on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024. 31 He noted that Mr. Brad Prescott from Banwell Architects, and Matt Wheaton from DEW 32 33 Construction are also in attendance. Mr. Gauthier turned it over to board member, Ms. Shannon Gascoyne. 34

- 35 Ms. Gascoyne thanked the audience for their attendance. Public Hearings provide an important
- opportunity for your elected officials to share with you proposed budgets and articles that will be
- up for discussion and deliberation, at Deliberative Session (Feb 5<sup>th</sup>) next month with the intent of
- moving to the ballot in March. The time this evening is designed for you to ask questions and
- 39 provide feedback and for the board to respond. Your questions and feedback guide the next steps
- 40 in this process, and we look forward to a robust session as we present and discuss a potential
- 41 bond request in the Amherst School District. You may be familiar with this process from the
- 42 past several years.
- 43 We will spend a brief portion of our presentation, providing some historical context for those
- 44 who may be newer to town or tuning in for the first time and then we will work our way through
- the details of the last several months' worth of work culminating in the proposed request for
- 46 FY25.
- 47 Our aim is to provide a comprehensive look at the overall proposal and to answer as many of
- 48 your questions as possible. When we arrive at the public comment portion of the evening, we
- 49 will draw on the expertise of our fellow Board Members, SAU Leadership, and representatives
- 50 from Banwell Architects and DEW Construction. Before we dig in, I would like to take a
- 51 moment to thank the members of this year's Amherst Building and Grounds Committee. This
- 52 group offered invaluable input and gave generously of their time, meeting multiples a month to
- 53 pour over multiple iterations of floor plans and designs and costs. They are an indispensable part
- of the process, and we are grateful for their participation.
- 55 Ms. Gascoyne continued; the Amherst School District has grappled with capacity issues for
- 56 decades. The 20-year-old temporary portables still housing students in the back of Wilkins are
- 57 testament to this. Wilkins opened its doors in 1967 and according to A Sleeping Town Awakens
- a History of Amherst, NH -a 14 room addition was needed almost immediately. We have
- 59 struggled with the need for space essentially from day one. Fifty-seven years later, we continue
- to operate and maintain an elementary school building that is not appropriately sized for our
- student population, requiring portables, and office trailers to augment our space needs. An
  elementary school building whose mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems have been well
- 63 maintained but are now at the end of their useful life, with many grandfathered in to meet current
- 64 codes and standards. As we approach and plan for FY 25, the Amherst School Board remains
- steadfastly committed to addressing the infrastructure issues in our district for the long term.
- 66 Ms. Behm added the work being presented this evening is the result and evolution of a multi-
- year process which began in 2017. We have made significant strides in planning for our
   facilities.
- 69 Last summer we completed a small section of the roof at AMS utilizing Unassigned Fund
- 70 Balance and thanks to your continued support of our Capital Maintenance Reserve Fund, we will
- be completing a larger phase of the roof/hvac at AMS (PHASE II) this Summer 2024. Tonight,
- 72 we are presenting a revised plan to address our elementary school.
- 73 Ms. Gascoyne discussed that the last two years have seen defeated bond requests for a new pre-K
- to Grade 5 Clark-Wilkins School on the existing Wilkins site. Following post-election resident
- surveys and resident feedback sessions, the Amherst school board spent time in retreat during the

- summer of 2023 focused on facilities. While community support for a bond request has received
- slight gains year over year, the overwhelming response from you, our community, has been that
- you understand that while the need is very real, the size of the requests have been too great. You
- asked to see a fully costed renovation/addition and the majority of you responding to our surveys
- 80 indicated you would like to see a smaller project brought forward if possible. Additionally, you
- shared your concerns regarding the future of the Clark School and your wonders about utilization
  of the Souhegan High School. Thank you for your feedback. The Warrant Article being
- presented and proposed this evening seeks to strike a balance between what you have told us and
- 84 what best meets the needs of our students and educators.
- Following our summer retreat, we explored the possibility with the Souhegan Cooperative
- 86 School Board of relocating the Preschool program to the SHS Annex, with the idea of perhaps
- offering a CTE program to HS students. After a lengthy discussion, it was determined not to
- 88 move forward with this idea. Additionally, it is worth noting, that the SCSB undertook an
- 89 updated and exhaustive space utilization analysis of current square footage use at Souhegan High
- 90 School. The Amherst School Board is appreciative of the Souhegan Cooperative School Board
- and all of their work in this area. Their work and discussion revealed that the existing structure
- is not adequate to fully house an additional grade or grades of students outside of grades 9-12,
- 93 without creating significant crowding and constraint or without requiring a funding request for
- additional construction on the site. The Amherst School Board does not find this to be a viable,
- 95 solution to address the many needs across our district.
- 96 The Amherst School Board directed the SAU Leadership, along with the Building and Grounds
- 97 Committee and the Building Administration at Clark- Wilkins School to work with our architect
- 98 and construction manager to develop two, fully costed proposals, a reno/addition and a build to
- suit with cost breakdowns for a Grade 1-5 Wilkins School configuration on the existing site.
- 100 Bringing Grade 5 to the elementary school remains a critical component of the plan to alleviate a
- bit of the space constraints that exist at Amherst Middle School. This plan also maintains the
- 102 Clark School for pre-K and Kindergarten, where we will continue to maintain and plan for
- 103 program needs.
- 104 Ms. Behm mentioned numerous design iterations of a reno/addition option and a build to suit
- 105 option were workshopped with Building and Grounds Committee and administration. Lengthy
- 106 discussions took place to refine spaces to ensure the most efficient design in both scenarios. The
- 107 options we will walk you through illustrate the final results of their efforts.
- 108 We will begin with the renovation/addition option.
- 109 Ms. Behm displayed the existing footprint of the building.
- 110 The initial concept for an addition involved a 3-story addition on the back, to meet the space
- 111 requirements. However, over several meetings, with feedback from the B&G committee, our
- architects arrived at an option that built several small additions off the existing space and a two-
- story addition in the back. This design includes a rework of the front entrance to create a more
- secure front entrance sequence. This design maintains many of our existing classrooms.

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- 115 Ms. Behm displayed a view of the second floor, with grade 5 and associated supports. This
- design represents a 21% reduction in gross sq footage from last year's proposal. Again, this does
- 117 not include grades PK-K or their associated services.
- 118 She displayed a view of the site.
- 119 Ms. Behm displayed some of the advantages and disadvantages of this option and the full cost
- project amount of \$46,066,363. It retains as much of the existing structure as possible; it
- relocates the main office to a more secure front area; we would still have PODS of class grades
- which would be able to bring their services close to each other and their teachers next to each
- 123 other to collaborate. There is improved energy efficiency with roofs, windows, HVAC and
- electrical. Finally, it's potentially slightly shorter of a construction period by a couple of months.
- 125 The disadvantages are we would still have some of the challenges we face now with undersized
- instructional spaces. For the rooms that are going to be refurbished in some way their overall
- 127 footprint would not be changing so if it's already a small classroom it would continue to be a
- small classroom. There's a long walk from the classrooms to the shared services, there's
- inefficient instructional and support locations, the gym and a cafeteria are not together, there are
- 130 multiple additions while operating school, and extensive repair of existing elements and systems
- 131 while retaining older walls. Lastly, there is a smaller play field, the spaces below existing
- 132 foundation remains untouched and then this would push it closer to the wetlands in the back.
- 133 Ms. Gascoyne commented this build to suit design maintains and renovates the existing multi-
- 134 purpose room for use as a cafeteria. The design represents an 18.5% reduction in overall square
- 135 footage to last year's plan. This was achieved by removing two grades from the plan and
- 136 working through each space in detail to ensure the final floor plan design was appropriately
- 137 sized. Additionally, adjustments were made to the design for improved value for example
- 138 Masonry exterior walls are concentrated to higher visibility and locations of resilience and
- 139 Masonry interior walls are limited to corridors, toilets, and gyms. This design represents a
- 140 classic elementary school structure. You enter the building into a secure vestibule with an
- admin. window. Grades 1-2 are located on the first floor with educational support servicesadjacent to grade pods. The second-floor houses grades 3, 4 and 5 and their associated
- 143 educational supports and administrative offices.
- 144 The site design takes up a smaller footprint than the option the option Ms. Behm just shared with
- and is 18% smaller than last year's footprint. It offers an efficient drop/off and pick up loop
- along with ample parking for staff and school events. The advantages and disadvantages of this
- design are listed here along with the total fully cost price of \$49.9 million dollars.
- Ms. Gascoyne remarked although the costs were slightly higher, the Build to Suit Option was
  favored unanimously by the Amherst B&G Committee and by the Amherst School Board. This
  option represents a reasonable design that is based on the needs of students and our educational
- 151 program. This is a functional design that meets our present need and is built to carry us into the
- 152 future for decades to come. While the reno/addition option was slightly less expensive, it created
- a building that was not efficient in form or function. Additionally, it required extensive repair of
- existing elements and systems while retaining older walls, it also did nothing for anything below

- the existing foundation and several existing classroom spaces remain in this design which are smaller than desired and suboptimal.
- 157 Ms. Behm presented a conceptual rendering of the exterior of the school from Boston Post Road.
- 158 You'll note that this is a very familiar look and profile to what we have been accustomed to in
- town for the last 57 years.
- 160 She noted another angle, an overhead view, and a side view. Again, the footprint of this design 161 is smaller on the site compared to previous versions.
- She commented on the high-level anticipated construction schedule. They would have agroundbreaking in summer of 2025 and then 2027 spring/summer have construction complete.
- 164 Ms. Gascoyne reviewed some of the project features. We have grouped the features of this
- 165 project into four categories. This plan offers functional spaces that will endure the test of time.
- 166 It will offer enhanced and present-day safety and security features, new mechanical, electrical
- 167 and plumbing systems and improved traffic flow.
- 168 When we looked at creating simple and functional spaces we began with a re-review of our
- 169 programs and how they interplay with space. By removing preschool and Kindergarten from the
- program, and by reviewing and adjusting spaces like the gym, we were able to reduce the
- 171 building footprint 18.5% over previous years.
- 172 We reviewed the NESDEC projections to arrive at a conservative and appropriately sized
- structure. This plan has a design Capacity of 756 students or 7 classrooms per grade with 3
- 174 flexible classroom spaces built in to be used for programming or classroom space as needed to
- serve bubble years, student services and programs needs a and Core Enrollment capacity of 864
- 176 (referring to our core spaces such as the cafeteria, media center, and gym).
- 177 The following are aspirational, conceptual design photos. We intend to complete a full inventory
- and audit of our existing FF&E (furnishes, fixtures, and equipment) and utilize as much of our
- existing equipment as possible. The spaces we are creating are simple, classic spaces with
- 180 natural light and improved ventilation and space.
- 181 She noted an example of an art room with the essentials a sink and project/supply storage.
- 182 Ms. Gascoyne added that currently Individual instruction spaces are woefully lacking. This
- 183 design provides quiet spaces for educators to work with students in smaller group or individual
- 184 settings, free of distraction and noise.
- 185 She showed an example of a corridor with cubbies. Moving cubbies into the hallway allows for 186 the most efficient use of classroom square footage and keeps those muddy boots and jackets out
- 187 of the workspace.
- 188 She displayed an example of a music classroom, again very simple and flexible and an example
- of the gym. The gym will be dedicated to the physical education program, after school clubs and
- 190 offerings and available for community use on the evenings and weekends. The gym will be
- 191 accessible through the main entrance while the remainder of the school may be locked down.

- 192 Ms. Behm commented on the safety and security features. I know this topic is of special interest
- to many parents. As an active member of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) in
- 194 Amherst, I also believe in being proactive and prepared.
- 195 A new building will feature present day safety and security features, including: Front Entrance
- 196 Designed to Meet Homeland Security Emergency Management Specifications and Improved fire
- 197 safety system (voice evacuation system) in compliance with current codes.
- 198 Ms. Gascoyne added that Yeaton Associates out of Bedford, NH conducted an additional and
- 199 updated review of our MEP systems and designed the specifications for this option. Some of the
- 200 features of a new building with new systems (and I won't read them all) include energy efficient
- systems, systems that meet present day codes and standards, Improved ventilation systems,
- temperature control, automatic lighting controls, and a new switchboard and panel, to name a
   few. Some of the items that Yeaton and Associates highlighted during their most recent
- few. Some of the items that Yeaton and Associates highlighted during their most recent
   assessment, and which will be addressed in this plan are highlighted on the next few slides.
- assessment, and which will be addressed in this plan are highlighted on the fiext lew sides.
- Ms. Behm noted that the site design pulls 75 cars off the road for parent pick-up/drop-off. This
- is 45 additional cars more than what we have capacity for today. Additionally, the parking lot is
- 207 increased for school and community events. Currently, at every school event and class party the
- fire lane is repeatedly blocked by parked cars and overflow is into the street along BPR.
- 209 Ms. Gascoyne added for those of you who appreciate a variety of comparisons and
- 210 considerations we have attempted to provide you a high-level overview on the next few slides.
- 211 We appreciate the feedback we received from our B&G committee suggesting we include this
- type of information. As we move forward, we will continue to seek ways to present this and
- additional data in a variety of formats.
- 214 When the Amherst School Board first brought the project to the 2021 Bond Hearing, there were
- very rough cost estimates from Lavallee Brensinger for the Elementary portion of the project
- 216 (remember we were looking at a comprehensive solution to address AMS and CW at the time).
- That is what you see in the first column. The ASB did not move this project to the Deliberative
- and Ballot. Instead, they hired a new firm. With feedback from the community, further
  assessing the programming, and going back to the drawing board, Banwell Architects was able to
- present us with a 2-story elementary school building at a lower cost. That was the cost presented
- in the 2022 warrant article as \$52.2 million dollars. While further confirming the programming
- needs and analyzing the costs, including construction escalation, the 2023 warrant article was
- presented for just the elementary school for \$54,250,179. That brings us to this year and the
- 224 further revisions.
- 225 This slide illustrates a high-level comparison between last year's request and this year. The SAU
- administration has engaged NHMBB (NH Municipal Bond Bank) to assist with financing. The
- advantage of NHMBB is that it pools smaller bonds to reduce cost, increase efficiencies, and has
- proven record supporting NH school districts. The current proposal is Level Principal 25-year
- term calculated using a conservative rate of 5.5%
- 230 The Bond Bank has their next sale tomorrow and we will have a better idea of possible rates.
- 231 This is a very conservative estimate. The NH Municipal Bond Bank is different than a regular

- bank. The rate is unknown until the time of sale on the open market, which is why an extremely
- conservative estimate is applied for planning purposes. We will be able to provide a tax impact
- based on the January 2024 sale rate along with the conservative estimate at the deliberative
- hearing, potentially tomorrow, at the budget public hearing if the information is received in time.
- Ms. Gascoyne explained this slide represents the tax burden over time. You'll notice with levelprincipal the payment will decrease throughout the life of the bond.
- Our mission is to engage, challenge and support all learners. We can't talk about our buildings without discussing their impact on student learning. Research and evidence based instructional practices drive the Amherst School District. The project being proposed is a classic design that will serve the district for decades, as educational best practices and curriculums evolve. There are no pie shepherd classrooms, movable walls, or oddly shaped nooks and crannies. Just a
- 243 classic New England structure built to endure. Our goal is to create an environment where
- educators can teach to the best of their ability and students can learn to the best of theirs.
- Right now, our buildings hinder those things. In our building, we lose instructional time when
- 246 we place educators on carts traveling from room to room (such as our technology teacher) or
- 247 when we move programs to areas of the school for which they are not designed, like music,
- 248 which is currently on the stage which is in the cafeteria and also shared with the gym.
- 249 Classrooms with adequate space to spread out allow teachers to reconfigure seating arrangements
- and allow for a variety of teaching methods. They also make it possible to create private study
- areas and smaller learning centers that reduce visual and auditory interruptions. The MPR is
- currently our lunchroom, PE space, and Music Room. Our programming schedule is driven by
- the lunch schedule.
- 254 Temperature fluctuations and a lack of consistent temperature control are also an issue. The
- temperature in a room affects engagement levels and overall productivity, this is true no matter
- what age you are. Loud noises are distracting and even stressful. Noise impairs the ability of
- teachers to teach and students to learn. According to the EPA there is evidence that modest
- changes in room temperature affect student's abilities to perform in tasks requiring mental
- concentration. Schools without a major maintenance backlog have a higher average daily
- attendance (ADA) by an average of 4 to 5 students per 1,000. Children in classrooms with high
- 261 outdoor air ventilation rates tend to achieve higher scores on standardized tests in math and
- reading than children in poorly ventilated classrooms.
- 263 Ms. Behm commented on a personal experience In conclusion, this project offers functional
- spaces with a timeless design allowing for the implementation of a variety of teaching methods
- and styles. The design allows for future additions to be built onto the site, should an
- unanticipated boom occur in town. It addresses present-day safety and security concerns,
- 267 replaces MEP systems with energy efficient systems, and provides optimal indoor air quality and
- ventilation. Finally, this design improves the traffic flow through the village by maintaining a
- smaller footprint while increasing the number of cars that are taken from the road during the
- drop/off pick up hours. It is a structure that has been designed to serve the present needs of our
- 271 student population and generations to follow.
- 272 Should the board move this article to the Deliberative, this is how it will appear.

## 273 <u>Article 12- Bond Warrant Article</u>

- 274 To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty nine million nine hundred
- and ninety seven thousand two hundred fourteen dollars (\$49,997,214) (gross budget) to finance
- 276 *the major addition, reconstruction and renovation project for the Wilkins Elementary School*
- 277 building, located at 80 Boston Post Road, Amherst, NH and to authorize the issuance of not
- 278 more than forty nine million nine hundred and ninety seven thousand two hundred fourteen
- 279 *dollars (\$49,997,214) of bonds or notes under and in compliance with the Municipal Finance*
- 280 Act, RSA 33:1 et seq., as amended; to authorize the School Board to apply for, obtain and accept
- federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all
- laws applicable to said project; to authorize the School Board to issue, negotiate, sell and
- deliver said bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and
- other terms thereof; and to authorize the School Board to take any action or to pass any other
- vote relative thereto, and further to raise and appropriate an additional sum of one million two
- hundred forty nine thousand nine hundred thirty dollars (\$1,249,930) for the first year's interest
  payment on the bond. 3/5 ballot vote required.
- 1 7 1
- 288 Ms. Behm thanked the audience for their time and please mark your calendars.
- 289 The next steps are the following:
- Amherst School Board to vote on warrant articles.
- Amherst Ways and Means Committee to vote on warrant articles.
- Deliberative Session- February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Souhegan High School Auditorium 6:00PM
- District Voting- March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Souhegan High School Gym, 6:00 AM-8:00PM
- 294
- 295 II. Public Comments/Questions
- 296 Mr. Gauthier asked for Public Comments.
- A Representative from the Ways and Means Committee noted that they are taking in information
  tonight and will be voting on Monday, January 15th, 5pm at Brick School.
- Ms. Jeanne Ludt, 3 School Street, Amherst NH, noted her apologies for not being there in person as she came down with covid. She appreciated the presentation and is more excited than ever. The Board has hit every single problem that could possibly be fixed efficiently. She is especially excited to see the portables gone as they are a security and academic nightmare that we have had
- to endure for 20 years.
- 304
- 305 She inquired if there are going to be any renovations to the Clark School.
- 306
- 307 Ms. Gascoyne replied that the Board identified over the summer that Clark School will have
- 308 ongoing maintenance needs to plan for along with a need to address the program space. The
- project that they will be voting on, if it goes on the ballot, would not include funds for any sort of
- 310 renovations at Clark in the near term. We do know and have recognized and noted that long term
- 311 there will be needs to address.
- 312

- 313 Mr. Gauthier added that the simple way to put it is that it is going to be handled much like AMS.
- It will be handled under longer term planning and phased into our overall facilities strategy.
- 315
- Ms. Ludt replied that sounds good and she sincerely hopes that the board can educate the public about this proposal and get it passed this year.
- 318
- 319 Ms. Kelly Schmidt, 11 Patricia Lane, Amherst NH, commented about previous Board attempts.
- She implored the Board to put the bond on the warrant. Under the current proposal, no studentsin the current building will benefit from this proposal. The more we delay, the more students are
- impacted by that delay. Please don't wait another year.
- 323
- Mr. Drew Eramo, 21 Mosswood Circle, Amherst NH, commented that his oldest is a firstgrader. He hopes his youngest will benefit from this.
- 326327 He inquired if this requires a supermajority.
- 328
- 329 Ms. Gascoyne replied yes.
- 330
- Ms. Behm added if you believe in this, please show up and spread the word to your neighborsand friends.
- 333

Mr. Dwayne Purvis, 145 Hollis Road, Amherst NH, commented that this is the third time brought forward, twice failed. You need 60% to pass. He noted that they have to represent the needs of the entire community not just a handful. There is sufficient room in other facilities in this District to solve this problem. The number one focus for him and the entire community is educational outcomes. You cannot dismiss educational outcomes. He suggested that we could do better.

340

Ms. Ellen Gruzdien, 18 Buckridge Dr, Amherst NH, inquired what has changed at Wilkins in the 341 last 6 years. The environment has changed significantly. Special education is now part of the 342 community at Wilkins. It did cost money, and it did take space, that is a big factor. The multi-343 purpose room can only meet so many needs and they will not be able to have Music and Art 344 345 anymore. We have to know those things are going to have to be taken away because we are not 346 putting portable in the backyard that someone could easily walk into. Portables are not cheap. We are back at this place because the problem has not been solved. Mr. Purvis would like us to 347 put third graders in the Annex at Souhegan. The Souhegan Cooperative School Board wasn't 348 even willing to talk about running a preschool program in there. That would be three classrooms 349 and would be incredible asset to the community, that is unfortunate. We tried to go to the SCSB, 350 she sent them letters and thought it was a phenomenal idea. You guys have listened to the 351 community, and the work you have done has been incredible. I would encourage you to move 352 this on. Every single year there are kids who are missing out. I have done a lot of educational 353 research, the environment is third teacher, where the children are in a healthy well-lit 354 355 environment where they can move their bodies, where space is bright and light where plants can grow and where they can wash their hands in their own classrooms. Thank you. 356

357	Mr. Gauthier reminded the audience to please make sure to address comments to the Board.
358 359	Mr. Purvis commented that there is lots of research from prior years. This year we are 60
360	students under projection. You turn out this year to be actually 65 students less than what you
361	projected. Last year, you were 35 students over but the year prior to that you were 60 students
362	over, so the trend is downward. What you're doing with the space and how you choose to
363	configure it are the questions that will continue to be asked. Again, I appreciate it. Tom going
364	forward I can speak you haven't figured out quite well. For myself, if I had to do anything with
365	the Annex, I would move seventh and eighth and expand the Cooperative, I would move fourth grade to the middle school creating then a lower elementary at Wilkins and an upper
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367	elementary at the current middle school and then a seventh and eighth which will be junior high
368	as well as the high school. Thank you.
369	Mr. Magammal Ilyaniny 22 Eagle Deals Dead Ambarat NIL in guinad de you have a
370	Mr. Mozammel Husainy, 33 Eagle Rock Road, Amherst NH, inquired do you have a
371	comparison of numbers of rooms today versus now. He has been asking for this.
372 373	Mr. Gauthier replied that we've shown that before and we can provide it for you. If not, we can
373 374	get that to you.
375	get that to you.
376	Ms. Gascoyne added that they can show him a side-by-side comparison.
377	wis. Gasebyne added that they can show him a side-by-side comparison.
378	Mr. Brian Coogan, 121 Mack Hill Road, Amherst NH, commented that for the last 30 years, the
379	community, after building SHS, stopped investing in structures. SHS is the only "new" facility in
380	town and it's 30 years old. We have not reinvested in the other schools. The Boards have
381	repeatedly put forward proposals over the years and the community has continued to vote them
382	down. The community has an accountability to reinvest in these facilities. People won't stay
383	without investment in education.
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385	Mr. Gauthier asked for additional public comment.
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387	There was no other public comment.
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389	Mr. Gauthier noted that tomorrow January 9 <sup>th</sup> they will have their Public Hearing at 5:00 in the
390	SHS Learning Commons to review the other warrant articles.
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392	He thanked Ms. Gascoyne, Ms. Behm and Mr. Prescott and Mr. Wheaton.
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394	III. Close Public Hearing
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396	Mr. Gauthier closed the Bond Hearing at 6:56PM
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