

**Amherst School District  
FY27 Deliberative Session  
February 3, 2026**



*Engage - Challenge - Support*

**Matthew Comstock**  
**Amherst School District Moderator**



# Moderators Rules of Procedure

The Moderator will not follow Robert's Rules. The Moderator will use the following general rules of procedure, whose main purpose is to keep things moving, and not get bogged down in procedural quagmires.

1. Every resident who wishes to vote must have checked in with the Supervisors of the Checklist outside the auditorium door and have a colored dot visible on their clothing.
2. The Moderator will take Articles in the order they appear on Warrant unless the Moderator announces the intent to take Articles out of order.
3. Motions to amend must be made in writing and will be voted separately. Amendments will not be allowed to accumulate.
4. Each speaker shall state name and address and limit their time at the microphone to three minutes. No individual will be allowed to speak a second time until all others wishing to speak for the first time have done so.

# Moderators Rules of Procedure (Cont.)

5. Speakers wishing to address the meeting should form a line at the microphones. The moderator will attempt to alternate pro and con points.
6. The moderator will only accept a motion made at a microphone.
7. No motion to call the question shall be accepted by the moderator until there has been sufficient debate on the article.
8. A motion to restrict reconsideration in accordance with RSA 40 Section 10 should be made immediately following the announcement of the vote on that article.
9. The moderator will dispense with reading the warrant at this time; however, each warrant article will be read when it is moved to the floor for deliberation and action. The warrant is also printed in the Voters' Guide. The Annual Report and Voters' Guide to Official Ballot Voting will be sent to all residents prior to March 3rd.

# **SAU/School Board Introduction**



**Amherst School Board  
Opening Remarks  
Shannon Gascoyne, Chair**



# SAU 39

## PILLARS FOR SUCCESS



### **Student Learning**

**Goal:**  
Improve literacy, mathematics, and overall academic achievement.



### **Care for and Attention to the Whole Child**

**Goal:**  
To support students' positive social-emotional growth.



### **Support Administration, Faculty, and Staff**

**Goal:**  
Create and foster an environment where administration, faculty, and staff are supported, cared for, and successful.



### **Partnerships**

**Goal:**  
Build and strengthen partnerships throughout SAU 39.



### **Stewardship of Resources**

**Goal:**  
Utilize resources efficiently and effectively, with careful planning.

# Academic Growth & Whole-Child Development

## Strong Foundations & Rising Achievement

- Bridges Math → steady gains at CW; growth now visible at AMS
- Districtwide ELA alignment: foundational skills, knowledge building, writing
- New assessments strengthen MTSS and support responsive instruction

## Student Performance (NHSAS 2025)

- **ELA:** 68% (State 51%)
- **Math:** 69% (State 44%)
- **Science:** 48% (State 37%)
- Amherst exceeds state averages by **17**, **25**, and **11** points



# Academic Growth & Whole-Child Development

## **Amherst Middle School**

- 33 clubs (Robotics, Cooking, Mountain Biking, Drama, Rock Climbing)
- Strong athletics participation
- National Junior Honor Society
- Student leadership opportunities

## **Clark-Wilkins School**

- 25 clubs (French, Advanced Lego Robotics, Story Stretchers, Dodgeball)
- Early student leadership opportunities

## **Community-Connected Learning**

- Hands-on fieldwork and projects with local community partners



# SAU 39 Mission

*We engage, challenge, and support all learners.*

Balancing high academic expectations and care for students' social-emotional well-being.



# Citizen Petition Bond Warrant Articles

**Citizen Petition Bond #1**  
**\$19,300,000**

**Citizen Petition Bond #2**  
**\$54,000,000**



# Warrant Articles-Board Recommended

**Open Enrollment**

**Budget: \$35,603,094  
Default: \$34,953,983**

**AEA CBA  
AEA CBA Special  
Meeting**

**ASSA CBA  
ASSA CBA Special  
Meeting**

**Amherst and Mont  
Vernon Tuition  
Agreement**

**Portable Purchase  
(2 Classrooms)  
\$770,585**



# Warrant Articles-Board Recommended

**Capital Facilities Fund  
(Taxation)  
\$325,000**

**Capital Facilities Fund  
\$675,000**

**Technology Fund  
\$75,000**

**Vehicle Fund  
\$45,000**

**Capital Facilities-  
Donations Fund**



**Matthew Comstock**  
**Amherst School District Moderator**



# Article 11-Election of Officers

## Election of Officers (voting by official ballot March 10, 2026)

To the following school district offices:

- a. To choose two (2) School Board Members for the ensuing three (3) years.
- b. To choose the School District Moderator for the ensuing three (3) years.
- c. To choose the School District Clerk for the ensuing three (3) years.
- d. To choose the School District Treasurer for the ensuing three (3) years.



# Article 12 Citizen Petition Bond #1

**Article 12.**

To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nineteen million three hundred thousand (**\$19,300,000**) (gross budget) to finance the major addition and renovation project for the Wilkins Elementary School building, located at 80 Boston Post Road, Amherst, NH and to authorize the issuance of not more than Nineteen million three hundred thousand dollars (**\$19,300,000**) of bonds or notes under and in compliance with the Municipal Finance 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 XXX,XXX (\$XXX,XXX) for the first year's interest payment on the bond. **(3/5 ballot vote required).**

**TAX IMPACT - TO BE UPDATED**

- Year #1 xx/\$1,000
- Year #2 xx/\$1,000
- Year #3 xx/\$1,000
- Year #4 xx/\$1,000
- Year #5 xx/\$1,000

Not Recommended by the Amherst School Board (0-5)

Not Recommended by the Amherst School District Ways & Means (advisory budget committee) (0-6-1)



# **Article 12-Citizen Petition Bond #1**

## **Obadiah Dart**



**Matthew Comstock**  
**Amherst School District Moderator**



# **Article 12-Citizen Petition Bond #1**

## **Amherst School Board**



# **Article 12-Citizen Petition Bond #1**

## **Amherst Ways and Means**



# Article 13 Citizen Petition Bond #2

## Article 13.

To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty-four million dollars (**\$54,000,000**) (gross budget) for the purpose of financing the major addition, reconstruction and renovation of the Wilkins Elementary School, located at 80 Boston Post Road, Amherst, New Hampshire, and to authorize the issuance of not more than fifty-four million dollars (**\$54,000,000**) in bonds or notes under and in compliance with the Municipal Finance Act, RSA 33:1 et seq., as amended. Further, to authorize the School Board to apply for, obtain, and accept any federal, state, or other aid that may be available for said project; to comply with all laws applicable thereto; to issue, negotiate, sell, and deliver such bonds or notes; to determine the rate of interest, maturity, and other terms thereof; and to take any other action or pass any other vote relative thereto. And further, to raise and appropriate the additional sum of one million three hundred twenty-three thousand forty-five dollars (\$1,323,045) for the first year's interest payment on said bonds. **3/5 ballot vote required.**

Not Recommended by the Amherst School Board (0-5)

Recommended by the Amherst School District Ways & Means (advisory budget committee) (4-2-1)



**Article 13-Citizen Petition Bond #2**  
**Emily Gould**



**Matthew Comstock**  
**Amherst School District Moderator**



**Article 13-Citizen Petition Bond #2**  
**Amherst School Board**



# **Article 13-Citizen Petition Bond #2**

## **Amherst Ways & Means**



# Article 14-Open Enrollment

## **Article 14.**

Shall the Amherst School District vote to adopt an open enrollment school program, designating the Clark Wilkins School and the Amherst Middle School as open enrollment schools pursuant to NH RSA 194-D, for the purpose of enabling the district to admit non-resident students to Clark-Wilkins School and Amherst Middle School, with one hundred percent (**100%**) of its eligible resident pupils permitted to attend Clark Wilkins School and Amherst Middle School and zero percent (**0%**) of its resident pupils permitted to attend open enrollment schools located outside of the District, and further, to limit the number of non-resident pupils who may attend Clark Wilkins School and Amherst Middle School under the provisions of RSA 194-D to no more than zero percent (**0%**) of the total enrollment in the Amherst School District. **Majority vote required.**

Recommended by the Amherst School Board (5-0)

Recommended by the Amherst School District Ways & Means (advisory budget committee) (7-0)



# Article 14-Open Enrollment - Amendment

## **Article 14.**

Shall the Amherst School District vote to adopt an open enrollment school program, designating the Clark Wilkins School and the Amherst Middle School as open enrollment schools pursuant to NH RSA 194-D, for the purpose of enabling the district to admit non-resident students to Clark Wilkins School and Amherst Middle School, with one hundred percent (**100%**) of its eligible resident pupils permitted to attend Clark Wilkins School and Amherst Middle School and up to **zero percent (0%)** of its resident pupils permitted to attend open enrollment schools located outside of the District, and further, to limit the number of non-resident pupils who may attend Clark Wilkins School and Amherst Middle School under the provisions of RSA 194-D to **up to one (1) non resident student. Majority vote required.**

Recommended by the Amherst School Board \_\_\_\_\_

Recommended by the Amherst School District Ways & Means (advisory budget committee) \_\_\_\_\_



# **Article 14-Open Enrollment**

**Amherst School Board  
Brian Gould, Secretary**



# Open Enrollment State Law RSA 194-D

The State's Open Enrollment Law (RSA 194-D) allows students to transfer between SAUs unless local limits are set by voter action. Warrant article 14 protects the Amherst School District from unintended impacts of this new law by clearly defining how it will participate, and ensures that decisions about open enrollment remain under the control of Amherst voters rather than defaulting to broader state authority.

- Sets the percentage of ASD students allowed to enroll in other SAUs
- Sets the percentage of students in other SAUs allowed to enroll in ASD
- Preserves enrollment and budget stability
- Protects staffing and program continuity



# **Article 14-Open Enrollment Ways and Means Committee**



**Matthew Comstock**  
**Amherst School District Moderator**



# Article 15-Operating Budget

## **Article 15.**

Shall the Amherst 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 thirty-five million six hundred three thousand ninety four dollars (**\$35,603,094**)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be thirty four million nine hundred fifty three thousand nine hundred eighty three dollars (**\$34,953,983**) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Amherst 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 Amherst School Board (5-0)

Recommended by the Amherst School District Ways & Means (advisory budget committee) (7-0)

Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.17 per thousand.

Estimated tax impact of not passing this article is: -\$0.09 per thousand.

*\*NOTE: Warrant Article 15 (operating budget) does not include appropriations proposed in any other warrant articles.*



# **Article 15-Operating Budget**

**Amherst School Board  
Shannon Gascoyne, Chair**



# Major Stories-Budgetary Impact

- Major Cost Driver
  - Significant Increase in Health (11.6%-15.9%) and Dental Insurance (4.4%)
- Continue Support for School Community Needs
  - Staffing Changes Based on Student Need and Enrollment
  - Maintain Target Class Sizes
  - New Transportation Contract-Home to School, Athletics
  - Implement Technology Plan
  - Prioritize Zero Based Budgeting Approach
- Continue Strategic Investment in Facilities
  - AMS Roof, HVAC and Interior Renovation Project
  - Wilkins Capital Improvements Projects
  - Portable Classrooms to Relieve Space Constraints



# FY27 Proposed Operating Budget

FY26 Operating Budget*	\$35,141,808
FY27 Operating Budget	\$35,603,094
\$ Change	\$461,286
% Change	1.3%

*\*Excludes FY26 Special Warrant Articles*



# Proposed Budget-Change by Category

<b>FY26 Operating Budget</b>	<b>\$35,141,808</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Curriculum	\$214,641	0.6%
Capital/Misc.	\$194,785	0.5%
Transportation-Regular & Special Ed	\$152,056	0.4%
Administration	\$98,119	0.3%
Technology	\$32,227	0.1%
School Nutrition Services	\$20,881	0.1%
Facilities	(\$68,638)	(0.2%)
Student Services	(\$182,785)	(0.5%)
<b>Total Change</b>	<b><u>\$461,286</u></b>	<b><u>1.3%</u></b>
<b>FY27 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>\$35,603,094</b>	



# Proposed Staffing Changes

Position-Salary and Benefits	Cost
Decrease 5 CW Paraprofessionals ( <i>based on student need</i> )	(\$328,603)
Decrease 4 AMS Paraprofessionals ( <i>based on student need</i> )	(\$226,155)
Decrease 2 Professional Staff ( <i>managed through retirements</i> )	(\$253,804)
*Remove 1 Tradesperson from Amherst Budget to SAU Budget	(\$121,500)
Decrease 0.2 Occupational Therapist	(\$22,626)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(\$952,688)</b>

\*Included in SAU apportionment, Offsetting revenue from other districts removed.



# NH Ed. Minimum Standards Educator Ratios

## Ed 306.14 Student-Educator Ratios.

(a) The local school board shall establish student-educator ratios that promote student learning for each learning opportunity and learning level based upon school safety policies, content, instructional method, the characteristics of learners, and the following:

- (1) Kindergarten – grade 2, 25 students or fewer per educator, provided that each school shall strive to achieve the class size of 20 students or fewer per educator;
- (2) Grades 3-5, 30 students or fewer per educator, provided that each school shall strive to achieve the class size of 25 students or fewer per educator; and
- (3) Middle school and high school, 30 students or fewer per educator.

(b) Student-educator ratios may be exceeded for study halls, band and chorus, and other types of large group instruction, including but not limited to lectures and showing of educational television and films.

(c) In the interest of safety, the maximum number of students in laboratory classes in such areas as science and CTE shall be determined by the number of workstations and the size and design of the area.



# Enrollment & ASD Class Size Targets

Grade Level	Targets			FY26 Current - Oct 1			*FY 27 Projected		
	Min	Goal	Max	Enrollment	Teachers	Ratio	Enrollment	Teachers	Ratio
Kindergarten	15	17	19	120	7	17.1	131	7	18.7
Grade 1	16	18	20	138	8	17.3	127	7	18.1
Grade 2	16	18	20	117	6	19.5	142	8	17.8
Grade 3	18	20	22	139	7	19.9	116	6	19.3
Grade 4	18	20	22	137	6	22.8	142	6	23.7
<u>Sub-Total</u>				<u>651</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>19.1</u>	<u>658</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>19.4</u>
Grade 5	20	22	24	128	6	21.3	138	6	23
Grade 6	20	22	24	122	6	20.3	127	6	21.2
Grade 7	20	22	24	187	8	23.4	151	8	18.9
Grade 8	20	22	24	181	8	22.6	190	8	23.8
<u>Sub-Total</u>				<u>618</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>22.1</u>	<u>606</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>21.6</u>
<b>Total</b>				<b><u>1269</u></b>	<b><u>62</u></b>	<b><u>20.5</u></b>	<b><u>1264</u></b>	<b><u>62</u></b>	<b><u>20.4</u></b>

Minimum

Goal

Maximum



# Default Calculation



# FY27 Default Calculation

FY26 Voted Budget	\$36,321,808
Remove Special Warrant Articles	<u>(\$1,180,000)</u>
	\$35,141,808
Employer Paid Wages/Benefits	(\$428,482)
Debt Service Principal & Interest	(\$13,060)
School Nutrition Services (non-wage/benefits) - <i>offset by revenue</i>	\$1,920
Student Services -including Spec. Ed. Transportation	\$54,770
SAU 39 Assessment	\$197,027
<b>Total Change</b>	<b>(\$187,825)</b>
<b><u>FY27 Default Calculation</u></b>	<b><u>\$34,953,983</u></b>



# Proposed Items at Risk

<b><u>FY27 Default Calculation</u></b>	<b><u>\$34,953,983</u></b>	<b><u>%</u></b>
Non-Contractual Wages and Benefits	\$375,448	1.1%
Transportation	\$162,056	0.5%
Facilities	\$31,823	0.1%
Capital/Misc.	\$26,030	0.1%
Administration	\$24,052	0.1%
Curriculum	\$15,355	0.0%
Technology	\$14,347	0.0%
<b><u>Total Change:</u></b>	<b><u>\$649,111</u></b>	<b><u>1.9%</u></b>
<b><u>FY27 Proposed Budget</u></b>	<b><u>\$35,603,094</u></b>	



# Revenue Review



# Total Appropriation Comparison

	<u>FY26</u>	<u>FY27</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Operating Budget	\$35,141,808	\$35,603,094	\$461,286
Warrant Article (Taxation)	\$400,000	\$0	(\$400,000)
Warrant Articles (UFB)	\$780,000	\$795,000	\$15,000
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$36,321,808</b>	<b>\$36,398,094</b>	<b>\$76,286</b>



# Projected Revenue

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>FY26</u>	<u>FY27</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Food Service	\$738,207	\$759,088	\$20,881
Grants	\$332,000	\$332,000	\$0
Other Federal/State/Local	\$2,116,059	\$1,916,474	(\$199,585)
Voted from Fund Balance (warrant articles) <i>(Projected for FY27)</i>	\$780,000	\$795,000	\$15,000
Fund Balance to Offset Tax Rate <i>(Projected for FY27)</i>	\$481,930	\$250,000	(\$231,930)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,448,196</b>	<b>\$4,052,562</b>	<b>(\$395,634)</b>



# Projected Tax Rate Impact-Budget

	<b>FY26</b>	<b>FY27</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>FY26 Tax Rate</b>	<b>Est. FY27 Tax Rate</b>	<b>Est. Tax Impact</b>
Total Appropriation Budget & UFB Special Warrant Articles)	\$36,321,808	\$36,398,094	\$76,286			
Less: Revenue	\$4,448,196	\$4,052,562	(\$395,634)			
Less: Adequacy Aid	\$3,546,092	\$3,632,905	\$86,813			
Less: Statewide Property Tax (SWEPT)	\$2,367,672	\$2,346,709	(\$20,963)			
<b>Tax Effort</b>	<b>\$25,959,848</b>	<b>\$26,365,918</b>	<b>\$406,070</b>	<b>\$10.62</b>	<b>\$10.79</b>	<b>\$0.17</b>
Valuation	\$2,442,704,506					



# **Article 15-Operating Budget Ways and Means Committee**



**Matthew Comstock**  
**Amherst School District Moderator**



# Article 16-AEA Collective Bargaining Agreement

**Article 16.**

Shall the Amherst School District approve all cost items included in the Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the Amherst School Board and the Amherst Education Association (AEA) which calls for the following estimated increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>	<u>Estimated Tax Impact</u>
2027	\$655,017	\$0.27 per thousand

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$655,017** for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels? **Majority vote required.**

Recommended by the Amherst School Board (5-0)

Recommended by the Amherst School District Ways & Means (Advisory Budget Committee) (7-0)



# **Article 16-AEA Collective Bargaining Agreement**

**Amherst School Board  
Jason White, Vice Chair**



# Article 16-AEA CBA Highlights

- ▶ This contract covers **148** teachers who serve the Amherst School District.
- ▶ The Agreement is for **1** Year.
- ▶ Teachers receive a **3%** COLA (cost of living adjustment) plus step on the salary scale.
- ▶ Cost and **Estimated** Tax Impact for Agreement: **\$655,017, \$0.27/\$1,000** tax impact
- ▶ Health Insurance
  - ▶ The employee share of deductibles has increased.
- ▶ Increase in Instructional Time: The converting of a professional development day to a student day



# **Article 16-AEA Collective Bargaining Agreement Ways and Means Committee**



**Matthew Comstock**  
**Amherst School District Moderator**



# Article 17-AEA Special Meeting for Defeated/Amended CBA

## Article 17.

Shall the Amherst School District, if Article 16 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 16 cost items only? **Majority vote required.**

Recommended by the Amherst School Board (4-1)

Recommended by the Amherst School District Ways & Means (Advisory Budget Committee) (6-1)



# **Article 17-AEA Special Meeting for Defeated/Amended CBA**

**Amherst School Board  
Jason White, Vice Chair**



# **Article 17-AEA Special Meeting for Defeated/Amended CBA Ways and Means Committee**



**Matthew Comstock**  
**Amherst School District Moderator**



# Article 18-ASSA Collective Bargaining Agreement

**Article 18.**

Shall the Amherst School District approve all cost items included in the Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the Amherst School Board and the Amherst Support Staff Association (ASSA) which calls for the following estimated increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>	<u>Estimated Tax Impact</u>
2027	\$167,298	\$0.07 per thousand
2028	\$160,342	\$0.07 per thousand
2029	\$159,111	\$0.07 per thousand
2030	\$166,294	\$0.07 per thousand

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$167,298** for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels? **Majority vote required.**

Recommended by the Amherst School Board (5-0)  
Recommended by the Amherst School District Ways & Means (Advisory Budget Committee) (7-0)



# **Article 18-ASSA Collective Bargaining Agreement**

**Amherst School Board  
Jason White, Vice Chair**



# ASSA CBA Contract Highlights

- ▶ This contract covers 84 Support Staff who serve the Amherst School District.
- ▶ The Agreement is for 4 Years.
- ▶ Employees receive a COLA (cost of living adjustment) plus step on the salary scale.
  - ▶ Year 1: 3.25% COLA
  - ▶ Year 2: 3.50% COLA
  - ▶ Year 3: 3.25% COLA
  - ▶ Year 4: 3.25% COLA
- ▶ Cost and Estimated Tax Impact for each year of the Agreement
  - ▶ Year 1: \$167,298, \$.07/\$1,000 tax impact
  - ▶ Year 2: \$160,342, \$.07/\$1,000 tax impact
  - ▶ Year 3: \$159,111, \$.07/\$1,000 tax impact
  - ▶ Year 4: \$166,294, \$.07/\$1,000 tax impact
- ▶ Health Insurance
  - ▶ The employee/employer share of each plan separately stated in the agreement. The driver is eliminated.
  - ▶ The employer's share of the HMO Plan increased by 3%.
  - ▶ Enrollment in this HMO Plan (most expensive plan) will be closed July 1, 2026.



# **Article 18-ASSA Collective Bargaining Agreement**

## **Ways and Means Committee**



**Matthew Comstock**  
**Amherst School District Moderator**



# Article 19-ASSA Special Meeting for Defeated/Amended CBA

## **Article 19.**

Shall the Amherst School District, if Article 18 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 18 cost items only? **Majority vote required.**

Recommended by the Amherst School Board (4-1)

Recommended by the Amherst School District Ways & Means (Advisory Budget Committee) (6-1)



# **Article 19-ASSA Special Meeting for Defeated/Amended CBA**

**Amherst School Board  
Jason White, Vice Chair**



# **Article 19-ASSA Special Meeting for Defeated/Amended CBA Ways and Means Committee**



**Matthew Comstock**  
**Amherst School District Moderator**



# Article 20-Tuition Agreement with Mont Vernon School District

## **Article 20.**

Shall the Amherst School District ratify and approve a new four (4) year tuition agreement with the Mont Vernon School District to allow for continued education of Mont Vernon students at the Amherst Middle School beginning July 1, 2026 in accordance with the proposed Tuition Agreement on file with the School District Clerk? **Majority vote required.**

Recommended by the Amherst School Board (5-0)

Recommended by the Amherst School District Ways & Means (Advisory Budget Committee) (7-0)



# **Article 20-Tuition Agreement with Mont Vernon School District**

**Amherst School Board  
Jason White, Vice Chair**



# Article 20-Tuition Agreement with Mont Vernon

- This Agreement secures a significant revenue source for the Amherst School District.
- Continues the long term partnership with the Mont Vernon Community.
- Agreement is for 4 Years.
- Change in Tuition Calculation:
  - 60% AMS cost per pupil plus 40% MVVS cost per pupil for the fiscal year 2 years' prior to the current fiscal year. This sum is multiplied by the current school year enrollment of 7th and 8th grade Mont Vernon students at AMS.
  - For FY27, the FY25 cost per pupil amounts and the Oct.1, 2026 enrollment would be used to calculate the tuition rate.
  - The Mont Vernon Tuition increase is capped at not more than 4% of the prior year calculated tuition rate.
- A \$400 per pupil rental charge is included in the overall tuition cost
- There is language to exit the Agreement should the Amherst School Board remove grades from AMS.



# **Article 20-Tuition Agreement with Mont Vernon School District Ways and Means Committee**



**Matthew Comstock**  
**Amherst School District Moderator**



## Article 21-Portable Purchase (2 Classrooms)

### **Article 21.**

Shall the Amherst School District authorize the Amherst School Board to purchase and install a portable (2 classrooms) at the Clark/Wilkins Elementary School for the total amount of seven hundred seventy thousand five hundred eighty five dollars (**\$770,585**), and to raise and appropriate the sum of seven hundred seventy thousand five hundred eighty five dollars (**\$770,585**) for that purpose (purchase and installation of a portable (2 classrooms) at the Clark/Wilkins Elementary School)? This sum to come from new taxation. **Majority vote required.**

Recommended by the Amherst School Board (4-1)

Recommended by the Amherst School District Ways & Means (advisory budget committee) (7-0)

Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.32 per thousand.



# **Article 21-Portable Purchase (2 Classrooms)**

**Amherst School Board  
Terri Behm, Member**



# Unit Features

- ❖ 2 Classrooms
- ❖ Hallway Separating Classrooms
- ❖ ADA Compliant Bathrooms
- ❖ Steel Doors w/ADA Vision Panels
- ❖ Storage Closets
- ❖ Programmable Heating/Cooling Units

## 28' x 70' MODULAR CLASSROOM



### Measurements:

- 28' x 70'
- 66' Box Size
- Total 1848 Sq. Ft.
- 8' Ceiling Height
- E Coded

### Building Specs:

#### Electric

- LED Motion Sensor Lighting
- LED Exterior Lights
- 120/240V Single Phase
- (2) 125 AMP Breaker

#### Heating/Cooling

- (2) 3 Ton Wall Mounted Bard
- Thermostat- 7-Day Programmable

#### Interior Finish

- Vinyl Gypsum Walls
- Drop Ceiling
- VCT Flooring
- (2) ADA Compliant Restrooms
- (2) Storage Closets

#### Exterior Finish

- Smart Panel Siding
- R-21 Insulation

#### Windows/Doors

- 24"x53" Vinyl Windows
- Steel Doors with ADA Vision Panels

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
Call our Sales Team 1-800-257-2536



Ask your sales representative about our furniture and entry way solutions.

[www.TriumphModular.com](http://www.TriumphModular.com)



## Purchase Option Triumph Modular - Total Cost

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Installation	\$441,500
Modular Building	\$252,500
Contingency, site, low voltage	\$76,585
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>\$770,585</u></b>



**Article 21-Portable Purchase (2 Classrooms)**  
**Ways and Means Committee**



**Matthew Comstock**  
**Amherst School District Moderator**



# Article 22-Capital Facilities Expendable Trust Fund (Taxation)

## **Article 22.**

Shall the Amherst School District raise and appropriate the sum of three hundred twenty five thousand dollars (**\$325,000**) to be added to the Amherst School District Capital Facilities Repair, Maintenance and Improvement Expendable Trust Fund, previously established in March 2003? This sum to come from new taxation. **Majority vote required.**

Recommended by the Amherst School Board (5-0)

Recommended by the Amherst School District Ways & Means (advisory budget committee) (7-0)

Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.13 per thousand.



# **Article 22-Capital Facilities Expendable Trust Fund (Taxation)**

**Amherst School Board  
Terri Behm, Member**



# Capital Facilities Expendable Trust Fund

## Capital Facilities Fund Warrant Articles

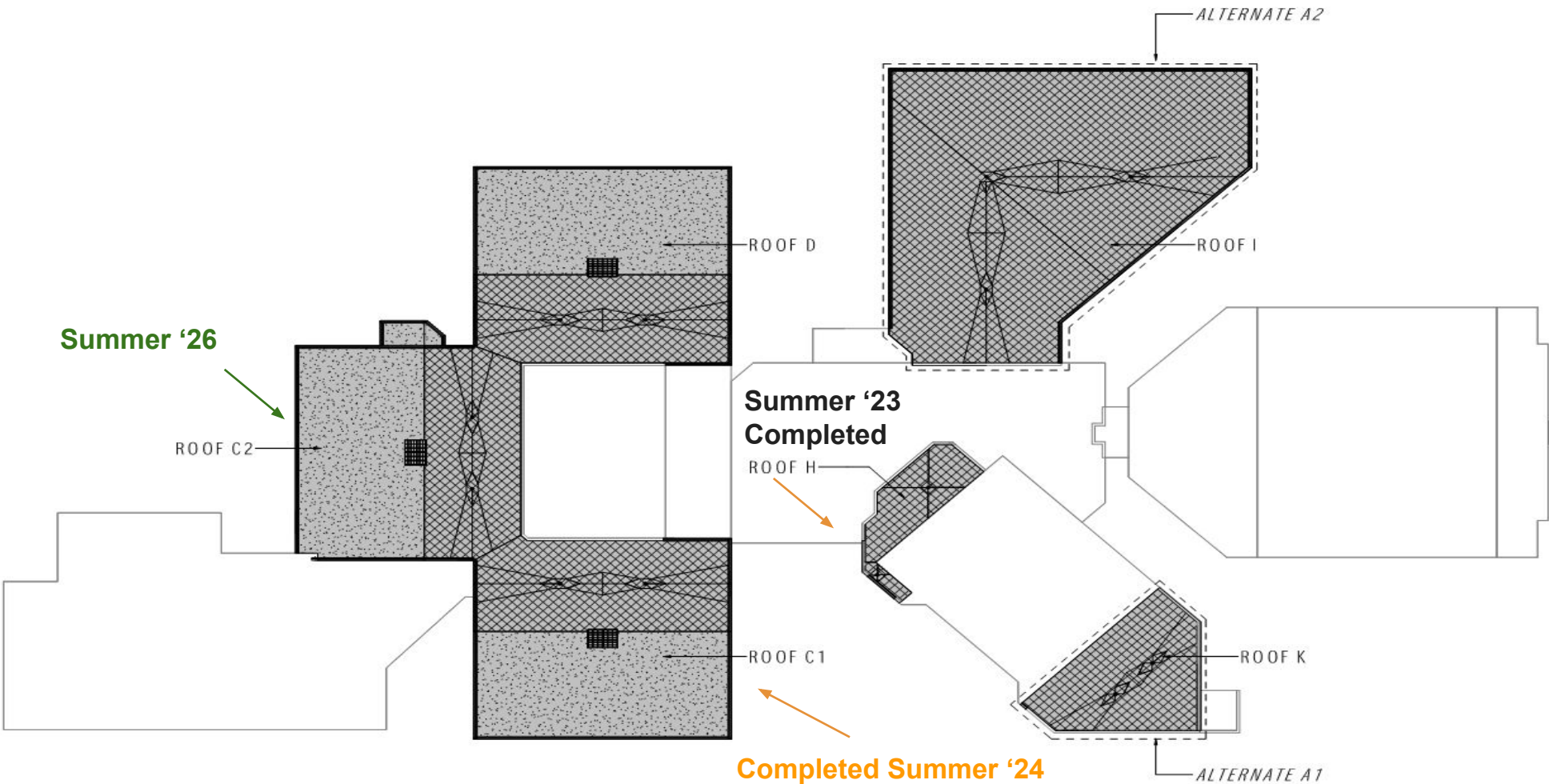
- Warrant Article 22 - \$325,000 from Taxation
- Warrant Article 23 - \$675,000 from Unassigned Fund Balance

## Year 7 of 20-Year Capital Needs Assessment Plan (CNA)

- Established: March 2003
- Current Balance: \$1,876,000
- FY27 - \$1,800,000 AMS Roof C2 and Interior Section C
- FY27/28 - Priority Wilkins CNA, Clark Boiler, Domestic HW Gen.
- FY29 - \$1,600,000 AMS Roof D and Interior Section C (cont.)
- Planned Minimum Balance - \$100,000/building (\$300,000 total)
- Will require adjustment based on Elementary School Project plan



# AMS Interior Reno/Roof/HVAC



# Article 22-Capital Facilities ETF from Taxation

**Priority** - Replenish Fund to sustainable levels for buildings' condition and infrastructure age.

- Wilkins Capital Needs Analysis Projects
  - Improve Safety and Accessibility
  - Building Envelope Projects
  - Building Interior Needs



# **Article 22-Capital Facilities Expendable Trust Fund (Taxation)**

## **Ways and Means Committee**



**Matthew Comstock**  
**Amherst School District Moderator**



# Article 23-Capital Facilities Expendable Trust Fund

## **Article 23.**

Shall the Amherst School District raise and appropriate the sum of up to six hundred seventy five thousand dollars (**\$675,000**) to be added to the Amherst School District Capital Facilities Repair, Maintenance and Improvement Expendable Trust Fund, previously established in March 2003? This sum to come from the June 30, 2026 unassigned fund balance (surplus) available for transfer on July 1, 2026. No amount to be raised from new taxation. **Majority vote required.**

Recommended by the Amherst School Board (5-0)

Recommended by the Amherst School District Ways & Means (advisory budget committee) (7-0)

Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.00 per thousand.

Estimated tax impact of not passing this article is:- \$0.28 per thousand.



# **Article 23-Capital Facilities Expendable Trust Fund**

**Amherst School Board  
Terri Behm, Member**



# Capital Needs Assessment Funding Plan

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Contribution</u>	<u>Withdrawal</u>	<u>Balance</u>
FY25			\$1,066,000
FY26	\$400,000 \$675,000 *\$20,000	\$135,000 \$150,000	\$1,876,000
FY27	\$675,000 \$325,000 *\$10,000	\$1,800,000 \$325,000	\$761,000
FY28	\$675,000 *\$10,000	\$222,000	\$1,224,000
FY29	\$675,000 *\$10,000	\$1,600,000	\$309,000
FY30	\$675,000 *\$10,000	\$200,000	\$794,000

- FY26-Crack-Fill & Sealcoat (AMS, Clark), AMS Elevator Cab, Clark MPR Roof, Clark Exterior Walls, Clark Emergency Lights; Clark Lead Abatement, Wilkins MPR Repair
- FY27-AMS Roof C2, Interior C Renovation Project, Wilkins CNA Projects
- FY28-Wilkins CNA Projects, AMS Transformer/Pump Upgrades, Clark Boiler Controls, Clark DHW Generation, AMS Movable Partitions
- FY29-AMS Roof D, Interior C Renovation Project (cont.)
- FY30-Bean House Grounds Building Project



*\*Projected Interest*

**Article 23-Capital Facilities Expendable Trust Fund  
Ways and Means Committee**



**Matthew Comstock**  
**Amherst School District Moderator**



# Article 24-Vehicle Expendable Trust Fund

## **Article 24.**

Shall the Amherst School District raise and appropriate the sum of up to forty five thousand dollars **(\$45,000)** to be added to the Vehicle Expendable Trust Fund previously established in March 2024? This sum to come from the June 30, 2026 unassigned fund balance (surplus) available for transfer on July 1, 2026. No amount to be raised from new taxation. **Majority vote required.**

Recommended by the Amherst School Board (5-0)

Recommended by the Amherst School District Ways & Means (advisory budget committee) (7-0)

Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.00 per thousand.

Estimated tax impact of not passing this article is: -\$0.02 per thousand.



# **Article 24-Vehicle Expendable Trust Fund**

**Amherst School Board  
Greg Fritz, Member**



# Vehicle Replacement Plan

## Current Fleet of Vehicles

### ➤ Facilities

- 2008 Truck (replace w/Truck & Salter FY26)
- 2002 Sedan (replace w/Transit Connect FY28)
- 2008 Minivan (replace w/Transit Connect FY29)
- 2012 Gator (replace FY30)

### ➤ Athletics

- 2024 10 Passenger Van (replace FY40)



# Vehicle Project and Funding Plan

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Contribution</u>	<u>Withdrawal</u>	<u>Balance</u>
FY25			\$32,000
FY26	\$30,000	\$60,000	\$2,000
FY27	\$45,000	\$0	\$47,000
FY28	\$35,000	\$40,000	\$42,000
FY29	\$30,000	\$40,000	\$32,000
FY30	\$30,000	\$33,000	\$29,000

- FY26 - Replace 2008 Truck w/Truck & Salter (Facilities)-\$60,000
- FY28-Replace 2002 Sedan w/Transit Connect (Facilities)-\$40,000
- FY29 - Replace 2008 Minivan w/Transit Connect (Facilities)-\$40,000
- FY30 - Replace 2012 Gator (Facilities)-\$33,000



# **Article 24-Vehicle Expendable Trust Fund Ways and Means Committee**



**Matthew Comstock**  
**Amherst School District Moderator**



# Article 25-Technology Expendable Trust Fund

## **Article 25.**

Shall the Amherst School District raise and appropriate the sum of up to seventy five thousand dollars (**\$75,000**) to be added to the Technology Expendable Trust Fund previously established in March 2024? This sum to come from the June 30, 2026 unassigned fund balance (surplus) available for transfer on July 1, 2026. No amount to be raised from new taxation. **Majority vote required.**

Recommended by the Amherst School Board (5-0)

Recommended by the Amherst School District Ways & Means (advisory budget committee) (7-0)

Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.00 per thousand.

Estimated tax impact of not passing this article is: -\$0.03 per thousand.



# **Article 25-Technology Expendable Trust Fund**

**Amherst School Board  
Greg Fritz, Member**



# Technology Plan

- SAU39 Technology Plan (FY25-FY28)
  - Supports vision and strategy for technology use in educational environment
  - Leverages technology as catalyst for innovation, collaboration, and student success
- Technology Fund supports long term savings for infrastructure
  - Telecommunications (telephones, alarms systems)
  - Network (Switches, Firewall, Access Points)
  - Wide Area Network (Interconnection between buildings)



# Technology Project and Funding Plan

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Contribution</u>	<u>Withdrawal</u>	<u>Balance</u>
FY25			\$80,000
FY26	\$75,000	\$45,255	\$109,745
FY27	\$75,000	\$16,700	\$168,045
FY28	\$75,000	\$74,260	\$168,785

- FY26-Extreme Wireless Access Point (AP) Upgrade Project (50% paid by eRate Funds)
- FY27-Network Infrastructure Upgrade - Network Switches
- FY28-Mitel Phone Replacement (Preliminary Estimate Cost)



# **Article 25-Technology Expendable Trust Fund Ways and Means Committee**



**Matthew Comstock**  
**Amherst School District Moderator**



# Article 26-Establish Capital Facilities-Donations ETF & Accept Donated Gifts, Legacies, Devises

## Article 26.

Shall the Amherst School District adopt the provisions of RSA 198:20-c, VI to authorize the acceptance of privately donated gifts, legacies, and devises, provided that such gifts, legacies or devises shall be invested and accounted for separately from, and not commingled with, amounts appropriated from taxation and further, any such privately donated gifts, legacies, and devises, shall be subject to the custody and investment provisions applicable to trust funds accepted under RSA 31:31, and further, shall the District establish a Capital Facilities-Donations Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 198:20-c, for the purpose of repairing, maintaining, and improving capital facilities in the Amherst School District, and to authorize the deposit of any privately donated gifts, legacies and devices into this fund, along with the use and expenditure of said funds, for this purpose, and further, to name the Amherst School Board as agents to expend from said fund? **Majority vote required.**

Recommended by the Amherst School Board (5-0)

Recommended by the Amherst School District Ways & Means (advisory budget committee) (7-0)



# **Article 26-Capital Facilities-Donations ETF & Accept Donated Gifts, Legacies, Devises**

**Amherst School Board  
Greg Fritz, Member**



# Capital Facilities Fund - Donations ETF

- The establishment of this fund enables residents, organizations, and estates to contribute directly to the District's capital facilities needs.
- Funds are able to accumulate over time and unexpended balances do not lapse at the end of fiscal years.
- All donated funds are legally restricted for the repair, maintenance, and improvement of capital facilities.
- The Trustees of Trust Funds will oversee and manage the fund in accordance with state law. **Establishing this fund does not require any new taxes.**
- A public hearing will be held pursuant to RSA 198:20-c prior to expending funds from this trust.



# **Article 26-Capital Facilities-Donations ETF & Accept Donated Gifts, Legacies, Devises**

## **Ways and Means Committee**



**Matthew Comstock**  
**Amherst School District Moderator**



# **Warrant Articles Summary**

## **Shannon Gascoyne, Chair**



# Summary of Warrant Articles

Article Number	Warrant Article	Amount
11	Election of Officers	Non-Monetary
12	Citizen Petition Bond #1	\$19,300,000
13	Citizen Petition Bond #2	\$54,000,000
14	Open Enrollment	Non-Monetary
15	Operating Budget Default Calculation	\$35,603,094 \$34,953,983
16	AEA Collective Bargaining Agreement	\$655,017
17	AEA Special Meeting for Defeated/Amended CBA	Non-Monetary
18	ASSA Collective Bargaining Agreement	\$167,298
19	ASSA Special Meeting for Defeated/Amended CBA	Non-Monetary
20	Tuition Agreement Amherst and Mont Vernon	Non-Monetary
21	Portable Purchase (2 Classrooms)	\$770,585
22	Capital Reserve ETF (Taxation)	\$325,000
23	Capital Reserve Expendable Trust Fund*	\$675,000
24	Vehicle Expendable Trust Fund*	\$45,000
25	Technology Expendable Trust Fund*	\$75,000
26	Establish Capital Facilities-Donations & Accept Donated Gifts, Legacies, Devises	Non-Monetary

\*Source of Funding-FY26 Unassigned Fund Balance



# Next Steps

**March 10, 2026: District Voting**

Location: Souhegan High School Gymnasium

Time: 6:00 am-8:00 pm

