

2026

ANNUAL REPORT

Merrimack Valley School District • SAU #46

“It’s a Matter of Pride!”

The MVSD seeks to...

INSPIRE

EDUCATE

EMPOWER



◦ **MVSD | SAU #46** ◦

*Proudly serving the communities of
Boscawen, Loudon, Penacook,
Salisbury, and Webster*



SAU #46

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VALLEY



2026 Annual Report

District Directory

Please visit www.mvsdpride.org for links to complete staff directories

School Board Members

Tracy Bricchi, Chair - Term Expires 2028
David Nesbitt - Term Expires 2028
Stacie Jarvis - Term Expires 2028
Lorna Carlisle - Term Expires 2028
Melissa Muzzy - Term Expires 2027
Julia Jones - Term Expires 2027
Laura Vincent - Term Expires 2027
Jessica Wheeler Russell - Term Expires 2026
Sally Hirsh-Dickinson - Term Expires 2026
Amanda York - Term Expires 2026
Thomas Laliberte - Term Expires 2026

Central Office Staff

Randy Wormald, Superintendent of Schools
Catherine Masterson, Assistant Superintendent
Julie Gaudette, Director of Student Services
Sam York, Business Administrator
Kathleen Boucher, Human Resources Director
Tina Reardon, Bookkeeper
Andrea Reagan, Bookkeeper
Katie Keyser, Executive Assistant to Superintendent
Rebecca Butt, Student Services Executive Assistant

District Officers

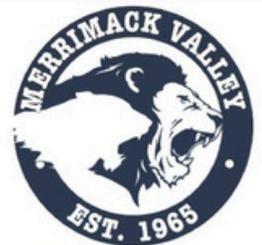
Louise Dupre, Treasurer
Charles Niebling, Moderator
Candy Lambert, Clerk

District Directors

Fred Reagan, Director of Operations and Maintenance
Becky Kennedy, Director of School Counseling
Karen Bailey, Technology Director
Noelle Panagopoulos, Transportation Director
Wendy LaClair, Food Service Director



INSPIRE. EDUCATE. EMPOWER.



**State of New Hampshire
Merrimack Valley School District
WARRANT for
Annual District Meeting
March 5, 2026**

To the inhabitants of the pre-existing School Districts of Boscawen, Loudon, Penacook, Salisbury, and Webster comprising the Merrimack Valley School District, qualified to vote in Merrimack Valley School District affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Merrimack Valley High School on Thursday the 5th day of March 2026 at seven o'clock in the evening to act on the following subjects. The polls will be open for balloting on Articles I and II from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. except as otherwise ordered at the meeting. All other articles will be acted upon commencing at 7:00 p.m.

ARTICLE I. To choose a moderator, by ballot, for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE II. To choose, by ballot, four school board members, one from the pre-existing District of Boscawen to serve for a term of three years; one from the pre-existing District of Loudon to serve for a term of three years; one from the pre-existing District of Penacook to serve for a term of three years; one At-Large member to serve for a term of three years. One elected candidate must be a resident of Boscawen, one elected candidate must be a resident of Loudon, one elected candidate must be a resident of Penacook, and the At-Large candidate may be from any of the five communities. All candidates will be elected at large.

ARTICLE III. Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB 2) to allow official ballot voting on all issues before the Merrimack Valley School District on the second Tuesday in March? (**By Petition**) (3/5 Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE IV. To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty-One Million, Eight Hundred Ninety-Three Thousand, Three Hundred Thirty dollars (\$51,893,330) for the support of schools, the salaries of school district officials and agents, and for the payment of statutory obligations of said District. This article does not include appropriations voted in other warrant articles. (Majority Vote Required) ***The School Board recommends this article.***

ARTICLE V. To see if the School District will approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Merrimack Valley School Board and the Merrimack Valley Education Association, which calls for the following estimated increases in salaries and benefits:

2026-2027	\$ 765,708
2027-2028	\$ 692,098
2028-2029	\$ 667,602

And further, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$765,708 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) ***The School Board recommends this article.***

ARTICLE VI. Shall the School District, if Article V is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article V cost items only? (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE VII. To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) to be added to the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund previously established for the purposes of supporting student services. (Majority Vote Required) ***The School Board recommends this article.***

ARTICLE VIII. To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) to be added to the Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund previously established for the purposes of maintaining school buildings and grounds. (Majority Vote Required) **The School Board recommends this article.**

ARTICLE IX. Shall the Merrimack Valley School District vote to adopt an open enrollment school program, designating the schools of Merrimack Valley School District as open enrollment schools pursuant to NH RSA 194-D, for the purpose of enabling the district to admit non-resident students to MVSD, with one hundred percent (100%) of its eligible resident pupils permitted to attend and 0 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 Merrimack Valley School District schools under the provisions of RSA 194-D to no more than 1 percent (1%) of the total enrollment in the Merrimack Valley School District. (Majority Vote Required) **The School Board recommends this article.**

ARTICLE X. To see if the district will vote to authorize the SAU #46 School Board to update the district charter to allow the merger of the elementary grades (K-5) of Salisbury and Webster into a single, consolidated elementary school facility; and to further authorize the School Board to enter into necessary agreements and take all other actions necessary to effectuate this consolidation, to commence with the 2027/2028 school year, for the purpose of creating operational efficiencies, enhancing educational programming and the student learning experience, reducing administrative overhead, and providing equitable resources for all students in both communities. **(By Petition)** (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE XI. To raise and appropriate \$00.00 for the expenses of maintenance, renovations, repairs and improvements to the property known as the Washington Street School located at 26 Washington Street, Penacook NH 03303. No Merrimack Valley School District monies appropriated in the 2026-2027 budget, nor any monies appropriated in the 2026 school district warrant articles, nor any or any monies in trust funds, nor monies by transfer r of funds, nor any monies received by any means such as gifts or grants will not be expended for used maintenance, renovations, repairs or improvements to the property known as the Washington Street School located at 26 Washington Street, Penacook NH 03303. **(By Petition)** (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE XII. To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Given under our hand at said Penacook this 9th day of February 2026.

Merrimack Valley School Board

Tracy-Anne Bricchi, Penacook (Chair)

Laura Vincent, Loudon

Lorna Carlisle, Salisbury

Jessica Wheeler Russell, At-Large

David Nesbitt, Webster

Amanda York, Loudon

Sally Hirsh-Dickinson, Penacook

Stacie Jarvis, Boscawen

Julia Jones, Salisbury

Thomas Laliberte, Boscawen

Melissa Muzzy, Webster (Vice-Chair)

MERRIMACK VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
OVERVIEW SHEET | 2026-2027 PROPOSED BUDGET

2025-2026 Approved Operating Budget & Approved MVSSA Contract	\$ 50,195,924
2026-27 Proposed Operating budget	\$ 51,893,330
<i>Net Change</i>	\$ 1,697,406

Function	Function Title	Areas of Change	
1100	Regular Education	Health/Dental Increase and Separations	\$ 308,047.01
1210	Special Education	Health/Dental Increase and Tuition Costs	\$ 98,443.30
1260	ELL Program	Health/Dental Increase	\$ 6,504.59
1290	Other Special Programs	Health/Dental Increase	\$ 61,012.75
1410	Co-Curricular Programs	Salary	\$ 19,000.00
1420	Athletics	Health/Dental Increase, Coaching and Referee Stipends	\$ 33,801.54
2120	School Counseling Services	Health/Dental Increase	\$ 65,904.65
2130	Health Services	Health/Dental Increase	\$ 33,298.91
2140	Special Education Services-Psychologist	Health/Dental Increase	\$ 14,064.82
2149	Special Education Services-Behavioral	Health/Dental Increase	\$ 7,337.85
2150	Special Education Services-Speech	Health/Dental Increase	\$ 29,413.76
2153	Special Education Services-Hearing & Vision	Health/Dental Increase	\$ 18,667.65
2163	Special Education Services-Occupational Therapy	Health/Dental Increase	\$ 44,256.93
2190	Student Support Services	Health/Dental Increase	\$ 37,438.06
2210/2211	Instructional Staff Mentoring	Health/Dental Increase	\$ 2,053.37
2212	Curriculum Development	Salary/Health/Dental Increase	\$ 29,878.00
2213	Staff Training	Restoring Lines	\$ 89,500.00
2222	Media/Library Services	Health/Dental Increase	\$ 70,536.28
2225	Information Technology	Supplies/Equipment/Licenses	\$ 147,560.60
2310/2311	School Board Purchased Services	Dues Increase	\$ 870.00
2313	Treasurer Services	Salary Increase	\$ 1,100.00
2321	SAU Assessment	Based on ADM Formula Share with ASD	\$ 49,961.00
2410	Office of the Principal	Health/Dental Increase	\$ 154,245.57
2490	Graduation Expenses	Increase in Supplies	\$ 11,880.00
2620	Operations & Maintenance	Facilities Mentor/Health/Dental Increase, Restoring Lines/Utilities	\$ 197,158.18
2700s	Transportation	Salary/Health/Dental Increase and Contracted Services/Vehicle Replacement Dec.	\$ (2,875.40)
2900	Previously Approved Collectively Bargain Agreements	CBAs Approved at Previous Annual Meetings	\$ 322,015.58
4200	Site Improvement	Restoring Lines	\$ 43,655.00
4600	Building Improvement	Restoring Lines	\$ 37,675.00
5220	Transfer to Federal	Removing for Clarity Purposes	\$ (709,999.00)
5221	Transfer to Food Service	New Approach to Food Service	\$ 475,000.00
Total Change			\$ 1,697,406

3.38%		2025-2026 Adjusted	2026-2027 Proposed	Difference
1100 Regular Education				
	Salaries	\$ 9,541,757.18	\$ 9,357,462.18	\$ (184,295.00)
	Benefits	\$ 5,143,814.00	\$ 5,516,616.01	\$ 372,802.01
	Conferences	\$ 6,785.00	\$ 15,960.00	\$ 9,175.00
	Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 7,590.00	\$ 7,590.00	\$ -
	Travel	\$ 1,875.00	\$ 1,875.00	\$ -
	Supplies	\$ 203,962.00	\$ 208,312.00	\$ 4,350.00
	Curriculum	\$ 47,642.00	\$ 142,456.00	\$ 94,814.00
	Software	\$ 33,890.00	\$ 43,090.00	\$ 9,200.00
	Equipment and Furniture	\$ 63,733.00	\$ 65,733.00	\$ 2,000.00
	Open Enrollment Tuition	\$ -	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00
	Total 1100 Function	\$ 15,051,048.18	\$ 15,359,095.19	\$ 308,047.01
1210 Special Education				
	Salaries	\$ 4,398,758.00	\$ 4,398,758.00	\$ -
	Benefits	\$ 2,453,730.00	\$ 2,719,463.30	\$ 265,733.30
	Tuition and Travel	\$ 2,452,702.00	\$ 2,285,412.00	\$ (167,290.00)
	Supplies and Curriculum	\$ 15,775.00	\$ 15,775.00	\$ (0.00)
	Equipment and Furniture	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -
	Total 1210 Function	\$ 9,323,465.00	\$ 9,421,908.30	\$ 98,443.30
1211 Extended School Year				
	Salaries	\$ 176,640.00	\$ 176,640.00	\$ -
	Benefits	\$ 28,036.00	\$ 28,036.00	\$ -
	Professional Services	\$ 158,000.00	\$ 158,000.00	\$ -
	Tuition and Travel	\$ 220,400.00	\$ 220,400.00	\$ -
	Supplies	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ -
	Total 1211 Function	\$ 583,676.00	\$ 583,676.00	\$ -
1260 ELL Program				
	Salaries	\$ 134,536.00	\$ 134,536.00	\$ -
	Benefits	\$ 76,329.00	\$ 82,833.59	\$ 6,504.59
	Travel	\$ 875.00	\$ 875.00	\$ -
	Supplies	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
	Total 1260 Function	\$ 212,740.00	\$ 219,244.59	\$ 6,504.59
1290 Other Special Programs				
	Salaries	\$ 667,474.70	\$ 686,674.70	\$ 19,200.00
	Benefits	\$ 453,055.00	\$ 494,655.75	\$ 41,600.75
	Professional Services	\$ 1,212.00	\$ 1,212.00	\$ -
	Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ -
	Travel	\$ 1,040.00	\$ 1,252.00	\$ 212.00
	Supplies and Curriculum	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 3,750.00	\$ -
	Equipment and Furniture	\$ 475.00	\$ 475.00	\$ -
	Total 1290 Function	\$ 1,127,606.70	\$ 1,188,619.45	\$ 61,012.75
1300 CTE Education (CRTC)				
	Tuition (CRTC)	\$ 407,179.00	\$ 407,179.00	\$ -
	Total 1300 Function	\$ 407,179.00	\$ 407,179.00	\$ -

3.38%		2025-2026 Adjusted	2026-2027 Proposed	Difference
1410 Co-Curricular Programs				
	Salaries	\$ 165,000.00	\$ 184,000.00	\$ 19,000.00
	Benefits	\$ 22,536.00	\$ 22,536.00	\$ -
	Travel	\$ 630.00	\$ 630.00	\$ -
	Uniform Replacement			\$ -
	Dues	\$ 1,580.00	\$ 1,580.00	\$ -
	Total 1410 Function	\$ 189,746.00	\$ 208,746.00	\$ 19,000.00
1420 Athletic Programs				
	Salaries	\$ 361,195.00	\$ 379,252.00	\$ 18,057.00
	Benefits	\$ 123,457.00	\$ 134,071.54	\$ 10,614.54
	Athletic Trainer			\$ -
	Uniform Replacement and Equipment	\$ 84,870.00	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 5,130.00
	Dues	\$ 6,300.00	\$ 6,300.00	\$ -
	Total 1420 Function	\$ 575,822.00	\$ 609,623.54	\$ 33,801.54
2110 School Resource Officers				
	Professional Services	\$ 113,307.00	\$ 113,307.00	\$ -
	Total 2110 Function	\$ 113,307.00	\$ 113,307.00	\$ -
2120 Counseling Services				
	Salaries	\$ 1,160,882.47	\$ 1,163,194.32	\$ 2,311.85
	Benefits	\$ 690,565.00	\$ 753,052.79	\$ 62,487.79
	Testing/Assessment	\$ 46,663.00	\$ 47,543.00	\$ 880.00
	Travel	\$ 475.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 225.00
	Supplies and Curriculum	\$ 9,395.00	\$ 9,395.00	\$ -
	Dues			\$ -
	Total 2120 Function	\$ 1,907,980.47	\$ 1,973,885.12	\$ 65,904.65
2122 Drug and Alcohol Counseling				
	Professional Services	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 42,000.00	\$ -
	Total 2122 Function	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 42,000.00	\$ -
2130 Health Services				
	Salaries	\$ 568,361.29	\$ 568,361.29	\$ -
	Benefits	\$ 344,583.00	\$ 377,881.91	\$ 33,298.91
	Professional Services	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
	Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -
	Insurance and Linens Service	\$ 6,275.00	\$ 6,275.00	\$ -
	Supplies, Curriculum and Software	\$ 24,350.00	\$ 24,350.00	\$ -
	Equipment and Furniture	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -
	Total 2130 Function	\$ 949,569.29	\$ 982,868.20	\$ 33,298.91
2140 Psychological Services				
	Salaries	\$ 191,021.50	\$ 191,021.50	\$ -
	Benefits	\$ 147,037.00	\$ 161,101.82	\$ 14,064.82
	Contracted Services	\$ 14,500.00	\$ 14,500.00	\$ -
	Total 2140 Function	\$ 352,558.50	\$ 366,623.32	\$ 14,064.82
2149 Behavioral Services				
	Salaries	\$ 133,637.00	\$ 133,637.00	\$ -

3.38%		2025-2026 Adjusted	2026-2027 Proposed	Difference
	Benefits	\$ 85,826.00	\$ 93,163.85	\$ 7,337.85
	Contracted Services	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 140,000.00	\$ -
	Total 2149 Function	\$ 359,463.00	\$ 366,800.85	\$ 7,337.85
	2150 Speech Services			
	Salaries	\$ 548,040.10	\$ 548,040.10	\$ -
	Benefits	\$ 340,198.00	\$ 369,611.76	\$ 29,413.76
	Contracted Services	\$ 106,700.00	\$ 106,700.00	\$ -
	Total 2150 Function	\$ 994,938.10	\$ 1,024,351.86	\$ 29,413.76
	2153 Hearing and Vision Services			
	Salaries	\$ 148,636.00	\$ 148,636.00	\$ -
	Benefits	\$ 139,172.00	\$ 157,839.65	\$ 18,667.65
	Contracted Services	\$ 34,800.00	\$ 34,800.00	\$ -
	Total 2153 Function	\$ 322,608.00	\$ 341,275.65	\$ 18,667.65
	2162 Physical Therapy Services			
	Contracted Services	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 110,000.00	\$ -
	Total 2162 Function	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 110,000.00	\$ -
	2163 Occupational Therapy Services			
	Salaries	\$ 392,153.71	\$ 406,153.00	\$ 13,999.29
	Benefits	\$ 283,169.00	\$ 313,426.64	\$ 30,257.64
	Contracted Services	\$ 88,500.00	\$ 88,500.00	\$ -
	Total 2163 Function	\$ 763,822.71	\$ 808,079.64	\$ 44,256.93
	2190 Student Support Services			
	Salaries	\$ 486,298.28	\$ 486,298.28	\$ -
	Benefits	\$ 414,648.00	\$ 452,086.06	\$ 37,438.06
	Evaluations and Medicaid	\$ 79,300.00	\$ 79,300.00	\$ -
	Travel and Postage	\$ 3,748.00	\$ 3,748.00	\$ -
	Supplies and Curriculum	\$ 480.00	\$ 480.00	\$ -
	Equipment and Furniture	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00	\$ -
	Dues	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 2,200.00	\$ -
	Total 2190 Function	\$ 987,574.28	\$ 1,025,012.34	\$ 37,438.06
	2210 and 2211 Instructional Staff Mentoring			
	Salaries	\$ 38,421.00	\$ 38,421.00	\$ -
	Benefits	\$ 21,218.00	\$ 22,671.37	\$ 1,453.37
	Travel	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 600.00
	Supplies and Curriculum	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ -
	Total 2210 and 2211 Functions	\$ 63,339.00	\$ 65,392.37	\$ 2,053.37
	2212 Curriculum Development			
	Salaries	\$ 24,476.00	\$ 46,524.00	\$ 22,048.00
	Benefits	\$ 8,332.41	\$ 8,332.41	\$ -
	Conferences	\$ -	\$ 7,830.00	\$ 7,830.00
	Total 2212 Function	\$ 32,808.41	\$ 62,686.41	\$ 29,878.00
	2213 Staff Training			
	Course Reimbursement	\$ -	\$ 89,500.00	\$ 89,500.00
	Professional Development	\$ 66,350.00	\$ 66,350.00	\$ -

3.38%		2025-2026 Adjusted	2026-2027 Proposed	Difference
	Total 2213 Function	\$ 66,350.00	\$ 155,850.00	\$ 89,500.00
	2222 Media/Library Services			
	Salaries	\$ 236,438.00	\$ 292,438.00	\$ 56,000.00
	Benefits	\$ 152,202.00	\$ 164,368.28	\$ 12,166.28
	Repairs and Maintenance	\$ -		\$ -
	Travel	\$ -		\$ -
	Supplies and Curriculum	\$ 34,720.00	\$ 36,220.00	\$ 1,500.00
	Equipment and Furniture	\$ 2,170.00	\$ 3,040.00	\$ 870.00
	Dues	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00	\$ -
	Total 2222 Function	\$ 425,550.00	\$ 496,086.28	\$ 70,536.28
	2225 Technology Services			
	Salaries	\$ 324,732.00	\$ 334,473.96	\$ 9,741.96
	Benefits	\$ 256,275.00	\$ 280,143.64	\$ 23,868.64
	Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 500.00
	Travel	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -
	Supplies and Information Access	\$ 288,550.00	\$ 367,500.00	\$ 78,950.00
	Equipment and Furniture	\$ 235,500.00	\$ 270,000.00	\$ 34,500.00
	Total 2225 Function	\$ 1,115,057.00	\$ 1,262,617.60	\$ 147,560.60
	2310 and 2311 School Board Expenses			
	Salaries	\$ 13,400.00	\$ 13,400.00	\$ -
	Benefits	\$ 130.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 870.00
	Workshops/Conferences	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
	Supplies and Curriculum	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
	Dues	\$ 6,700.00	\$ 6,700.00	\$ -
	Insurance and Printing	\$ 24,436.00	\$ 24,436.00	\$ -
	Total 2310 and 2311 Functions	\$ 50,666.00	\$ 51,536.00	\$ 870.00
	2312 Moderator and Clerk Services			
	Salaries	\$ 5,406.00	\$ 5,406.00	\$ -
	Benefits	\$ 295.00	\$ 295.00	\$ -
	Total 2312 Function	\$ 5,701.00	\$ 5,701.00	\$ -
	2313 Treasurer Services			
	Salaries	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 1,100.00
	Benefits	\$ 135.00	\$ 135.00	\$ -
	Bank Fees and Postage	2,790.00	2,790.00	- .00
	Total 2313 Function	\$ 8,325.00	\$ 9,425.00	\$ 1,100.00
	2317 Audit Services			
	Professional Services	\$ 46,700.00	\$ 46,700.00	\$ -
	Total 2317 Function	\$ 46,700.00	\$ 46,700.00	\$ -
	2318 Legal Services			
	Professional Services	\$ 62,000.00	\$ 62,000.00	\$ -
	Total 2318 Function	\$ 62,000.00	\$ 62,000.00	\$ -
	2319 Other School Services			
	Salaries and Benefits	\$ -		\$ -
	Fingerprinting	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ -

3.38%		2025-2026 Adjusted	2026-2027 Proposed	Difference
	Advertising	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -
	Total 2319 Function	\$ 45,500.00	\$ 45,500.00	\$ -
	2321 SAU Assessment			
	SAU Assessment	\$ 1,468,594.00	\$ 1,518,555.00	\$ 49,961.00
	Total 2321 Function	\$ 1,468,594.00	\$ 1,518,555.00	\$ 49,961.00
	2410 Administrative Services			
	Salaries	\$ 1,602,149.73	\$ 1,602,149.73	\$ -
	Benefits	\$ 927,994.00	\$ 1,082,239.57	\$ 154,245.57
	Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 43,300.00	\$ 43,300.00	\$ -
	Postage and Printing	\$ 19,968.00	\$ 19,968.00	\$ -
	Equipment and Furniture	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ -
	Dues	\$ 14,900.00	\$ 14,900.00	\$ -
	Total 2410 Function	\$ 2,683,311.73	\$ 2,837,557.30	\$ 154,245.57
	2490 Graduation Expense			
	Graduation Expense	\$ 16,120.00	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 11,880.00
	Total 2490 Function	\$ 16,120.00	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 11,880.00
	2620 Operations and Maintenance			
	Salaries	\$ 1,524,571.27	\$ 1,547,604.36	\$ 23,033.09
	Benefits	\$ 787,009.00	\$ 858,936.40	\$ 71,927.40
	Workshops	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -
	Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 341,205.00	\$ 354,995.00	\$ 13,790.00
	Purchased Services and Travel	\$ 267,562.00	\$ 257,470.00	\$ (10,092.00)
	Supplies and Utilities	\$ 903,673.00	\$ 965,700.00	\$ 62,027.00
	Equipment and Furniture	\$ 3,527.31	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 36,472.69
	Total 2620 Function	\$ 3,828,047.58	\$ 4,025,205.76	\$ 197,158.18
	2630 Grounds Maintenance			
	Snow Removal and Grounds Care	\$ 185,500.00	\$ 185,500.00	\$ -
	Supplies and Fuel	\$ 59,421.69	\$ 59,421.69	\$ -
	Field Improvements	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Equipment	\$ 31,000.00	\$ 31,000.00	\$ -
	Total 2630 Function	\$ 275,921.69	\$ 275,921.69	\$ -
	2660 Security Costs			
	Security	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ -
	Total 2660 Function	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ -
	2700s Transportation Services			
	Salaries	\$ 1,238,687.36	\$ 1,241,137.04	\$ 2,449.68
	Benefits	\$ 773,044.00	\$ 867,806.92	\$ 94,762.92
	Insurance	\$ 50,016.00	\$ 50,016.00	\$ -
	Contracted Services	\$ 842,000.00	\$ 791,887.00	\$ (50,113.00)
	Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 145,000.00	\$ 145,000.00	\$ -
	Supplies and Fuel	\$ 174,000.00	\$ 174,000.00	\$ -
	Tools, Vehicles, and Cameras	\$ 351,000.00	\$ 301,000.00	\$ (50,000.00)
	Dues	\$ 700.00	\$ 725.00	\$ 25.00
	Total 2700 Function	\$ 3,574,447.36	\$ 3,571,571.96	\$ (2,875.40)

3.38%		2025-2026 Adjusted	2026-2027 Proposed	Difference
2900 Collective Bargaining Costs				
	Negotiated Agreements	\$ 13,711.00	\$ 335,726.58	\$ 322,015.58
	Total 2900 Function	\$ 13,711.00	\$ 335,726.58	\$ 322,015.58
4200 Site Improvement				
	Site Improvement	\$ 206,345.00	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 43,655.00
	Total 4200 Function	\$ 206,345.00	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 43,655.00
4600 Building Improvement				
	Building Improvement	\$ 312,325.00	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 37,675.00
	Total 4600 Function	\$ 312,325.00	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 37,675.00
	Subtotal General Fund	\$ 48,735,924.00	\$ 50,668,329.00	\$ 1,932,405.00
5220 Transfer to Federal				
	Transfer to Federal	\$ 710,000.00	\$ 1.00	\$ (709,999.00)
	Total 5220 Function	\$ 710,000.00	\$ 1.00	\$ (709,999.00)
5221 Transfer to Food Services				
	Transfer to Food Service	\$ 750,000.00	\$ 1,225,000.00	\$ 475,000.00
	Total 5221 Function	\$ 750,000.00	\$ 1,225,000.00	\$ 475,000.00
5222 Transfer to Maintenance Expendable Trust				
	Transfer to MET	\$ -		\$ -
	Total 5222 Function	\$ -		\$ -
	Grand Total Operating Budget	\$ 50,195,924.00	\$ 51,893,330.00	\$ 1,697,406.00
				3.38%

MERRIMACK VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
REVENUE ESTIMATES | 2026-2027

	DRA Approved 2025-2026	Revenue Estimates 2026-2027	+/- Diff.
Unreserved Fund Balance	\$ -		\$ -
Transfer from Repair & Maint. Exp. Trust		\$ -	\$ -
Transfer from SpEd Trust Fund		\$ -	\$ -
Total Fund Balance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
STATE SOURCES			
Adequate Ed. Grant	\$ 12,328,468.00	\$ 11,610,417.40	\$ (718,050.60)
Statewide Educational Property Tax	\$ 3,106,937.00	\$ 3,389,653.00	\$ 282,716.00
Area Voc Transportation	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 24,000.00	\$ -
Special Education Aid	\$ 924,907.00	\$ 400,000.00	\$ (524,907.00)
Child Nutrition	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 13,000.00	\$ -
Phase Out Grants	\$ 11,828.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 33,172.00
Total State Sources	\$ 16,409,140.00	\$ 15,482,070.40	\$ (927,069.60)
FEDERAL SOURCES			
Title I & II	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Child Nutrition	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 350,000.00	\$ -
Medicaid Distributions	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 400,000.00	\$ -
Other Federal	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Federal	\$ 750,000.00	\$ 750,000.00	\$ -
LOCAL SOURCES OTHER THAN TAXES			
Tuition	\$ 1,027,648.00	\$ 1,172,681.00	\$ 145,033.00
Investment Income	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Other Income (Rent, etc.)		\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
Sale of Food	\$ 625,000.00	\$ 625,000.00	\$ -
Total Local Sources	\$ 1,653,648.00	\$ 1,828,681.00	\$ 175,033.00
GRAND TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 18,812,788.00	\$ 18,060,751.40	\$ (752,036.60)
TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 50,195,924	\$ 51,893,330	\$ 1,697,406
DISTRICT ASSESSMENT	\$ 31,383,136.00	\$ 33,832,578.60	\$ 2,449,442.60

*Estimated net
overall impact*



EST. 1965

merrimack
VALLEY



MVSD - Projected / Estimated School Tax Rates

Estimated tax rates (notes/caveats):

- > This scenario includes **conservative estimates** when it comes to revenues
- > Local property valuations impact the tax rate
- > This estimate does not include the \$766,305 for the MVEA CBA, the \$500k to the Special Ed Expendable Trust, and the \$200K to the Maintenance Expendable Trust. Estimates of the tax rate increases are available on the district website.

Town	2021 Actual Tax Rate (Local and SWEPT)	2022 Actual Tax Rate (Local and SWEPT)	2023 Actual Tax Rate (Local and SWEPT)	2024 Actual Tax Rate (Local and SWEPT)	2025 Actual Tax Rate (Local and SWEPT)	2026 ESTIMATE D Tax Rate (Local and SWEPT)	Estimated \$ Change (From Previous Year)
Boscawen	\$16.59	\$16.79	\$11.33	\$12.44	\$13.32	\$14.50	\$1.18
Loudon	\$12.46	\$12.28	\$12.71	\$14.38	\$15.62	\$16.55	\$0.93
Penacook	\$16.97	\$17.87	\$17.47	\$18.48	\$18.02	\$20.37	\$2.35
Salisbury	\$15.40	\$10.83	\$10.57	\$11.33	\$11.15	\$11.77	\$0.62
Webster	\$13.45	\$14.00	\$8.91	\$8.90	\$10.14	\$10.29	\$0.15

MVSD Town	2024-2025 MVSD ADM DOE October 2025	
Boscawen	485.41	22.15%
Loudon	628.18	28.66%
Penacook	725.67	33.11%
Salisbury	154.75	7.06%
Webster	197.57	9.01%
Totals	2,191.58	100.00%

**Merrimack Valley School District
October 1st Enrollment**

Boscawen	2023	2024	2025
K	28	36	21
1	36	29	34
2	50	36	31
3	30	52	33
4	42	31	53
5	33	40	30
Preschool	17	16	17
Total	236	240	219

Loudon	2023	2024	2025
K	53	33	35
1	40	48	34
2	46	40	52
3	40	41	40
4	44	40	41
5	51	41	41
Total	274	243	243

Penacook	2023	2024	2025
K	48	47	39
1	53	49	48
2	49	53	46
3	51	49	54
4	51	51	51
5	49	56	49
Preschool	14	19	14
Total	315	324	301

Salisbury	2023	2024	2025
K	13	7	11
1	11	13	7
2	9	10	14
3	9	11	10
4	13	9	11
5	12	14	9
Total	67	64	62

Webster	2023	2024	2025
K	16	13	10
1	16	15	13
2	11	16	17
3	15	13	14
4	18	14	15
5	12	17	15
Total	88	88	84

MVMS	2023	2024	2025
6	166	151	164
7	153	165	159
8	160	150	168
Total	479	466	491

MVHS	2023	2024	2025
9	180	187	156
10	198	165	192
11	212	190	159
12	166	200	190
Total	756	742	697

District Summary			
	2023	2024	2025
Elementary	980	959	909
Middle School	479	466	491
High School	756	742	697
Total	2215	2167	2097

Andover - High School Tuition Payments 2025-2026

\$16,047.05	2025-2026 Contracted cost for Andover students to attend MVHS
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Month	Total Students	Cost/day	Number of Days	Total	Special Ed Payments (Appendix A) - Invoiced Quarterly
Aug/Sept	66	\$90.66	23	\$137,621.88	
Aug/Sept	1	\$90.66	17	\$1,541.22	
October	65	\$90.66	21	\$123,750.90	
October	1	\$90.66	4	\$362.64	\$120,218.34
*October	1	\$90.66	-11	-\$997.26	
November	63	\$90.66	16	\$91,385.28	
November	1	\$90.66	5	\$453.30	
November	1	\$90.66	6	\$543.96	
December	63	\$90.66	14	\$79,962.12	
December	1	\$90.66	13	\$1,178.58	\$131,870.26
December	1	\$90.66	10	\$906.60	
January	64	\$90.66	18	\$104,440.32	
January	1	\$90.66	4	\$362.64	
Feb (Anticipated)	65	\$90.66	15	\$88,393.50	
Mar (Anticipated)	65	\$90.66	21	\$123,750.90	\$131,870.26
Apr (Anticipated)	65	\$90.66	18	\$106,072.20	
May (Anticipated)	65	\$90.66	19	\$111,965.10	
Jun (Anticipated)	65	\$90.66	12	\$70,714.80	\$131,870.26

*Withdrawn student billed for 11 days in Sept

2025-2026 Projected Total	\$1,042,408.68	\$515,829.12
2025-2026 Projected Grant Total		\$1,296,856.26

\$16,047.05	2025-2026 Contracted cost for Andover students to attend MVHS
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Chairpersons Report

In May 2025 the SAU board unanimously approved the appointment of **Catherine Masterson** as the next Superintendent of Merrimack Valley and Andover schools, beginning in July 2026. Catherine's deep roots in our community — as a Merrimack Valley High School graduate and longtime educator and administrator — bring continuity, institutional knowledge, and a grounded understanding of local needs to the district's leadership.

Following the narrow budget vote of last year, district leaders — including board members and administrators — embarked on a proactive **communication initiative** designed to strengthen transparency and community understanding of district finances and planning. These outreach efforts have included:

- visits to town boards and community groups across our five towns,
- creation of a new weekly information webpage with videos, infographics, and slide decks,
- and renewed direct dialogue with residents about budget priorities and constraints.

In late 2025 the board approved moving forward with a major renovation of the **former Washington Street School in Penacook** — home to the district's **Learning Center** — rather than selling the building. This long-awaited decision preserves and enhances a unique in-district program that provides vital support to students with special education and complex learning needs. The project is projected to take seven to ten years and will include accessibility upgrades such as a new elevator and modern heating and electrical systems. Notably, the Learning Center has attracted students from outside the district, generating revenue that supports programming and ultimately could fund many of the needed improvements.

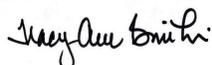
Our board continues to actively engage in key educational policy debates. At our most recent meeting, members thoughtfully considered the implications of open enrollment policy proposals. While approaches differed, the discussion highlighted a shared commitment to balancing financial responsibility with the best interests of students and families. These discussions are an important part of meaningful governance and reflect our role as thoughtful stewards of both educational quality and community values.

As we move on to the new year, the board remains focused on:

- Continuing open, transparent communication with residents and stakeholders.
- Preserving high-quality educational opportunities while navigating fiscal realities.
- Strengthening programs and facilities that directly support student well-being, academic progress, and long-term success.
- Ensuring that district policies reflect best practices and community expectations.

We are grateful for the continued engagement of parents, staff, town officials, and residents — and we look forward to productive conversations that advance our shared goals.

Tracy Bricchi



School Board Chairperson

Superintendent's Annual Report

As I complete my third year as Superintendent of Schools for the Merrimack Valley School District and my ninth year serving in the SAU 46 central office, I do so with deep gratitude and reflection. These years have been marked by both significant challenges and meaningful opportunities; each reinforcing the importance of steady leadership, thoughtful decision-making, and strong relationships across our school communities.

Public education is never static. It requires constant attention to people, systems, and purpose. Throughout my time in SAU 46, our work has focused on moving the district forward, strengthening practices, supporting students through change, and ensuring that decisions are grounded in what is best for learners today while remaining responsible to the communities we serve. Progress is rarely linear, but it is achieved when dedicated professionals remain committed to shared goals, even during difficult moments.

What I will carry with me most is the people. Merrimack Valley is home to some of the finest educators, support staff, administrators, and school board members I have come to know in my career. Their professionalism, care for students, and willingness to engage in honest, sometimes challenging conversations have defined this district's work and culture. It has been an honor to serve alongside them.

As I prepare for retirement and my next chapter, it is my sincere hope that my time as superintendent has helped position the Merrimack Valley School District for continued growth, stability, and success. I leave with confidence in the leadership, staff, and community partnerships that will carry this work forward.

I am grateful to the communities of Boscawen, Loudon, Penacook, Salisbury, and Webster for their trust and ongoing support of our schools. Serving as superintendent of SAU 46 during the final years of my career has been a privilege, and I will always value the relationships and experiences gained here.

Respectfully submitted,



Randy Wormald, EdD
Superintendent of Schools | SAU 46



2025-2026 Committee Reports

Committee Structure

Much of the work of the Merrimack Valley School Board is delegated to advisory subcommittees, which operate as policy review and recommendation committees. The various committees assess the needs of the District and make recommendations based upon those needs. Final decisions are made by the whole Board based on the hard work of the committees. The following is a brief report of each committee's major work during this past year.

Finance Committee

The primary purpose of the Finance Committee is to conduct a thorough and transparent review of the district's finances and develop a responsible budget proposal for the upcoming school year.

As demonstrated in their meetings, the committee's most important functions include detailed budget development, public engagement, and a formal recommendation of the proposed budget. With this purpose in mind, the committee spent six months addressing several key financial topics for the upcoming school year.

Engaging the Community

The Finance Committee demonstrated a strong commitment to transparency and public communication throughout the budget process. A key initiative was the creation of a new budget website, which features infographics, videos, and other media to make complex financial information easier to understand. To gather direct feedback, the committee also scheduled a series of public meetings across the district's towns.

Understanding Expendable Trusts

The Special Education Expendable Trust helps the district manage potentially high and unpredictable special education costs. The administration provided a fiscal health benchmark, recommending the trust hold approximately 10% of the overall special education budget.

The Maintenance Expendable Trust is designated for major building and grounds maintenance projects across the district that are outlined in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

Major Factors Driving the Budget

The committee identified several primary factors driving the increase in the proposed 2026-2027 budget. These include Healthcare Costs, School Lunch Costs, Utilities, Contractual & Statutory Obligations, and Restoring Funds cut from last year's operating budget.

Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee is responsible for the curriculum development process in the District including the development, monitoring, and assessment of the curriculum. The committee also oversees the District's staff

development program, monitors enrollment and class sizes, and makes recommendations for faculty staffing levels.

Key discussions and activities of the past year have included:

- Updating the MVHS Program of Studies to reflect changes in the NH Minimum Standards.
- A review of class sizes and the MVSD Class Size policy.
- A review of MVHS diploma pathways.
- Discussion, planning and then review of the new Elementary Unified Arts offering, Working on Wellness (WOW) as a replacement for World Language.

Facilities Committee

This committee deals with oversight of the current buildings and grounds, safety and security of our facilities, maintenance programs, custodial and maintenance issues, and plans for future facility needs.

Protecting, securing, maintaining, and improving our facilities and grounds is an enormous and important undertaking. Ensuring our students and adults are afforded safe, secure, and efficient learning environments is a non-negotiable priority. MVSD has approximately 500,000 square feet of buildings to maintain on a daily basis! Our facilities and infrastructures must allow for 21st century programming and flexible learning environments. Our buildings and grounds are tremendous assets to our educational efforts and communities. We take the responsibility of our stewardship and care of these assets very seriously.

Long-Range Planning Committee

This committee is responsible for the development of the District long range, strategic planning processes, and for fostering communications with the community.

The priority areas for the 2025-2026 school year consisted of:

- Transitions/Promotion/Community Engagement
 - Student Voice and Belonging
 - Parent/Caregiver and Community Transitions
 - Inter-Agency Collaboration
- Business Partnerships
 - Expanding Business Engagement and Connections
 - Increasing Experiential Learning Opportunities (ELOs)
- Merrimack Valley Learning Center
 - Establish a shared understanding of scope and urgency
 - Generalize the goals by identifying overarching areas of concern
 - Obtain quotes and/or timeline for key systems

Policy Committee

Policy making is a major function of the School Board. The responsibilities of this committee include the development, review, and revision of School District policies that clearly define the vision of the School District and often chart a specific course of action for how the District operates. The writing and revision of policies is initiated as a result of the need to comply with new laws or court decisions and changing needs of the school system.

Key discussions, policy writing, and policy revisions this year included:

- AB New Hampshire Parental Bill of rights

- ACAA R-1 Student Discrimination and Harassment Complaint Procedure
- ACAA R-2 Student Sex Discrimination/Harassment Complaint Procedure
- BBBC Board Member or District Officer Resignation
- BBBE Unexpired Term Fulfillment
- BDE MV School Board Committees and Delegates
- BEDH Public Comment and Participation at Board Meetings
- EBB School Safety
- EBBB Accident Reports
- EBBCA Use and Location of Automated External Defibrillators
- GBEBB Employee-Student Relations
- IMAH Daily Physical Activity
- JLCB Immunizations of Students
- JIC Student Conduct
- JICJ Communication and Recording Devices
- JLIA Supervision of Students

Transportation Committee

This committee is responsible for the overall monitoring of the transportation system, including transportation routes, bus stops, vehicle purchase, bus drivers, bus discipline, and transportation system needs. The committee focuses on ensuring that bus and student safety protocols are in place and are being followed. The continued focus on the fleet and the proactive approach to anticipating replacement needs continues to be very beneficial in keeping our services running daily and without issue. The Board understands the school day begins and ends for many of our students with our transportation services and the shared goal is to continue to make every trip safe and respectful for both students and staff.



BOSCAWEN elementary



About Boscawen Elementary

Boscawen Elementary School (BES) serves students in Pre-K through Fifth Grade. Our mission at BES is to build positive relationships and prepare students for success by supporting them in doing their best, demonstrating BES core values, and taking responsibility for their learning.

We are very fortunate to have wonderful collaborative partnerships with many local businesses, our Fire Department, our Police Department, our Parent Teacher Association (PTA), the Town Library and Office and many others. These partnerships play an essential role in our efforts to support the development of the whole child here at BES.



BES Year in Review

Great things are happening at Boscawen Elementary School this year:

- We had several well attended family engagement opportunities throughout the year including our Annual Welcome Back Barbecue and our Annual STEAM Night.
- Liv Crete-Sayer was selected to be the 2026 Kid Governor for New Hampshire.
- The Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF) selected BES as a 2025-2026 Year of the Book School.
- BES celebrated National Walk to School Day.
- The PTA held their Fourth Annual Color Run/Kiss the Cow.
- We had the Akwaaba Ensemble visit BES as our Artist and Residence.
- Capital City Subaru selected BES for the Adopt a Classroom Program.
- One student from each classroom was selected to be driven to school by Fire Chief Kenney in a Boscawen Fire Truck. A BIG THANK YOU to Chief Kenney for making this happen again this year for our students!

Did You Know?

- Our Parent Teacher Association (PTA) helps support our community in so many ways. If you're interested in helping you can contact them at thebestpta@gmail.com
- The Boscawen Fire Department does a terrific job of providing BES with Fire Safety activities and resources for our students and families.
- To learn more about BES please visit our website at bes.mvsdpride.org





LOUDON elementary



About Loudon Elementary

Loudon Elementary School serves students in Kindergarten to Grade 5. LES prides itself on being an inclusive learning community that is student-centered, compassionate, and welcoming. We believe it is important to personalize instruction to meet the diverse needs of all learners academically, socially, and emotionally. A shining example of this approach is our utilization of RTI (Response to Intervention) for reading. Time is dedicated daily to each student receiving data driven instruction targeted to a student's unique learning goals. LES continues to use Illustrative Math which promotes age appropriate instructional strategies delivered in a workshop model. Mystery Science provides an innovative hands-on approach that teaches students to think like scientists. LES has a dynamic Unified Arts program that offers students an introduction to Physical Education, Art, Media Center, and Music. All of this helps LES provide a well-rounded approach to education to all our learners.



LES Year in Review



- This year all LES students will be participating in Kids Vote. On March 10th, students will vote on the "I Voted Stickers" and the naming of the mascot at The New Hampshire Motor Speedway
- LES has added a new UA this year that includes First Aid & CPR, Team Building Activities, Social Skills Development, Home Management Activities, and various STEM Challenges. All students will participate in each activity for 6 weeks
- The LES Bike Bus continues to be a success in the fall and spring. LES averages 40 students each Friday ride their bikes to school with a variety of staff members
- LES students raised over \$500 during Making Strides Week which was donated to St. Jude's Children's Hospital to help fight cancer

Did You Know?

- The LES PTA is a dedicated group of parents that offer tremendous support to our students and staff which enriches academic experience to LES
- The Loudon Lions Club has been essential to our providing funding for assemblies and supported vision screenings for students each year
- Due to the generosity of the LES faculty, in the past two years, LES has granted over \$3,500 in scholarships to graduating MVHS seniors
- MVHS Boys and Girls Basketball team will coming to LES during I Love to Read Week to read with our students





PENACOOK elementary



About Penacook Elementary

Founded in 2002, Penacook Elementary School serves roughly 315 students in grades Pre-K through 5. Our committed staff works hard to cultivate a warm, inclusive atmosphere where every student feels welcomed, respected, and supported. At PES, we prioritize safety, responsibility, and mutual respect so that all learners can actively participate and thrive academically.

Learning at Penacook extends beyond the classroom. Students are encouraged to explore their interests through a variety of engaging extracurricular opportunities. Our unified arts program - featuring Art, Music, Working on Wellness (WOW), Physical Education, and Library - along with a range of clubs, allows students to discover new interests, build skills, and develop their individual strengths. Together, these experiences help create a balanced, enriching, and meaningful educational journey for every child.



PES Year in Review

Great things are happening at Penacook Elementary School this year:

- This year, we were excited to offer a variety of family engagement opportunities—including Harvest Fest, Santa’s Breakfast, Family Game Night, and our first-ever Run Through Reading event—bringing our school community together in fun and meaningful ways.
- We also introduced Working on Wellness, a new Unified Arts class that helps students build confidence, resilience, and healthy habits through engaging activities focused on emotions, kindness, friendships, and positive decision-making.
- Our Whole School Title I Program continues to support family engagement with the NHDI Residency for K–2 students in February, STEAM Night for grades 3–5, Escape the Zoo for K–2 families, a Spring Paint Night, and our Family Backpacks of Fun—week-long activity kits students can check out from our library and enjoy at home.

Did You Know?

- PES kindergarten students begin the school year by participating in Kindergarten Boot Camp, held the week prior to the start of school. This engaging and interactive program helps our newest learners feel confident, comfortable, and ready to jump into learning from the very first day.
- Clubs are off to a great start, including offerings such as Chorus, Student Actors Club, and Lego Club. Additional opportunities are being developed, more exciting options will be available soon.
- The PES Kindness Closet recently opened to all MVSD communities to offer new and gently used winter gear for students in grades K-5 in need. Thank you to everyone who donated!
- Our Parent Teacher Group (PTG) supports our community in so many ways. Want to help? Contact the PTG at pesptg@gmail.com
- Follow PES on Twitter @PenacookElem, on Facebook @penacookelementary, and on Class Dojo!!





SALISBURY elementary



About Salisbury Elementary

At Salisbury Elementary School, we foster a vibrant, nurturing learning environment where student well-being and academic excellence go hand in hand. Our mission is rooted in building a strong sense of community, ensuring that every child feels valued, supported, and inspired to reach their fullest potential. By focusing on the whole child, our dedicated educators support not only academic achievement but also the social and emotional development of each student. Schoolwide initiatives such as Responsive Classroom, Morning Exercise Time, and Neighborhood Meetings strengthen relationships, promote a positive school climate, and deepen connections across our K-5 community. Our engaging curriculum is designed to challenge and inspire students while cultivating a lifelong love of learning. Through intentional support of both intellectual and emotional growth, Salisbury Elementary School provides a strong foundation for future success and empowers students to thrive as well-rounded individuals.



SES Year in Review

Great things are happening at Salisbury Elementary School this year:

- SES launched Working on Wellness or WOW, a new Unified Arts class designed to help students develop confidence, resilience, and healthy habits through engaging activities centered on emotions, kindness, friendships, and positive decision-making.
- Neighborhoods at SES are teams, made up of students from all grade levels from kindergarten through fifth grade. The goal of Neighborhoods is to create strong connections across grade levels, help students feel a sense of belonging, and make school an even more joyful place for everyone.
- SES kicked off a new tradition with our 1st Annual Winter Concert Celebration. The concert showcased the hard work, talent, and enthusiasm of students across the school. We were thrilled to feature performances by our 5th grade band students, whose hard work truly shined.



Did You Know?

- About 70% of students at SES participate in one or more of our Clubs throughout the year.
- Thanks to the financial support of the SES PTG, Jeff Erwin from Trashcan Lid Productions spent a week at SES as our Artist in Residence. With an emphasis on kindness, cooperation and making music using instruments made from repurposed objects, Jeff encourages students to take healthy risks and work together to prepare a culminating night of rhythmic extravaganza for the entire SES community!
- SES is deeply grateful to be part of such a kind, caring community that generously supports our students, families and staff. Through donated services, materials, and financial contributions, this community continually lifts and strengthens SES. Thank you to the greater SES community!





WEBSTER elementary



About Webster Elementary

At Webster Elementary School, we foster a vibrant, nurturing learning environment where student well-being and academic excellence go hand in hand. Our mission is rooted in building a strong sense of community, ensuring that every child feels valued, supported, and inspired to reach their fullest potential. By focusing on the whole child, our dedicated educators support not only academic achievement but also the social and emotional development of each student. Schoolwide initiatives such as Responsive Classroom, Morning Exercise Time, and Neighborhood Meetings strengthen relationships, promote a positive school climate, and deepen connections across our K-5 community. Our engaging curriculum is designed to challenge and inspire students while cultivating a lifelong love of learning. Through intentional support of both intellectual and emotional growth, Webster Elementary School provides a strong foundation for future success and empowers students to thrive as well-rounded individuals.



WES Year in Review

- WES launched Working on Wellness or WOW, a new Unified Arts class designed to help students develop confidence, resilience, and healthy habits through engaging activities centered on emotions, kindness, friendships, and positive decision-making.
- Neighborhoods at WES are teams, made up of students from all grade levels from kindergarten through fifth grade. The goal of Neighborhoods is to create strong connections across grade levels, help students feel a sense of belonging, and make school an even more joyful place for everyone.
- WES kicked off a new tradition with our 1st Annual Winter Concert Celebration. The concert showcased the hard work, talent, and enthusiasm of students across the school. We were thrilled to feature performances by our 5th grade band students, whose hard work truly shined.

Did You Know?

- About 70% of students at WES participate in one or more of our Clubs throughout the year.
- Our 5th graders participated in the New Hampshire Kid Governor Program again this year. Through the program, students identified community issues, developed platforms, learned the importance of voting and civic engagement, and discovered how their own voices and ideas can make a meaningful impact in their schools and communities.
- WES is deeply grateful to be part of such a kind, caring community that so generously supports our students, families and staff. Through donated services, materials, and financial contributions, this community continually lifts and strengthens WES. Thank you to the greater WES community!





Merrimack Valley Learning Center

2026 Annual Report

About MVLC

Merrimack Valley Learning Center (MVLC) is an alternative middle/high school educating students in grades 6-12, who benefit from a smaller setting. Each classroom at the MVLC has both a teacher and paraeducator who provide consistent support to students throughout their school day. This allows for personalized instruction with an emphasis on applied learning experiences. Additionally, students have increased access to direct support in guiding their work toward academic and social/behavioral goals. Strong, positive relationships are the foundation on which all MVLC learning occurs and are critical in ensuring that each student has the opportunity to meet their full potential.



MVLC Year in Review

Great things are happening at the Learning Center this year:

- One new teacher and two new support staff members have joined the LC staff and are building strong student relationships.
- The Learning Center expanded its numbers, which has allowed us to connect with more students throughout the year. A lot of positive parent feedback has been received.
- We are working especially hard to build positive relationships with all of our students through weekly community meetings and activities.
- The Food Pantry at the Learning Center continues to see increased numbers this year. We have connected with the Friendly Kitchen and they provide cooked meals for us every Monday to give to families in need.

Did You Know?

- Two of our students are currently participating in vocational classes at CRTC and WICC.
- We had more applicants for CRTC as a school than we have ever had in the past.
- Several of our students participate in High School Athletics, including Varsity basketball, Unified Basketball, and Cheer.
- We currently have students who are taking classes at the High School in the mainstream setting and also in the Middle School setting.
- We have created a new class called High School Prep for our 8th graders to better prepare them for the high school setting.





Merrimack Valley Middle School 2026 Annual Report

MVMS Year in Review

Great things happened this year at MVMS as we continue to inspire, educate, and empower our school community:

Student Leadership & Voice

- **Student Leadership Opportunities:** Members from Student Voice, Student Ambassadors, and the Student Council presented updates on middle school leadership opportunities during the January Board Meeting.
- **Mental Health and Fitness Initiatives:** The Student Voice team organized the 2nd annual schoolwide Color Run to promote physical activity and raise awareness for mental health.

The Arts: A Thriving Community

- **Participation Rates:** Participation remains incredibly high with 112 students in Band (24% of the student body) and 81 in Chorus (17% of the student body).
- **State-Level Recognition:** Three students were accepted to the first-ever NH-ACDA (American Choral Directors Association) All-State Choir and represented MVMS with PRIDE! Also, a student flutist will represent MVMS at the New Hampshire Band Directors Association Middle Level Honors Festival in March.
- **Theatre Excellence:** The Theatre Club produced two standout performances: A Brief History of Interdimensional Heroism (42 students participated) and Seussical the Musical (64 students participated).



MVMS Year in Review Continued

Athletics: Champions on the Field

- **State Champions:** The MVMS Field Hockey team achieved the ultimate success this season, bringing home the State Championship title!

Community Service & Partnerships

- **Special Olympics:** The school achieved 2nd place in the state for fundraising during the "Winni Dip."
- **Local Partnerships:** We continued our community connections with the New England Barber School and the United Church of Penacook to provide free haircuts and school supplies for MVSD students.
- **Veterans Day:** We hosted our annual ceremony, honoring local veterans in what remains one of our most cherished community events.

Innovation & Student Support

- **Collaborative Innovation Lab Mini-Golf Course:** Students successfully designed and constructed a mobile Mini-Golf Course.
- **Meeting Needs:** The school community rallied together for a Tissue Drive as well as various fundraisers such as Christmas for the Kids to help support local families in need.
- **Capstone Excellence:** Last year's 8th-grade Community Projects were recognized as some of the highest quality in recent history.
- **Fostering a Love for the Outdoors:** We continue to connect students with nature through experiential learning. Highlights include a day hike up Welch-Dickey and an immersive overnight hike in the White Mountains.

Grant Funding & Resource Acquisition

- Teachers and staff have successfully secured over \$10,000 in external funding to enhance classroom experiences and support student well-being across 14 funded projects.



"MVMS Appreciation Note" Piper Tilton (8th-grade)

"My time at MVMS has been a truly wonderful experience that provided me with a second family and memories I will carry with me forever. Beyond academics, this school helped me discover my confidence and strengths through a welcoming community where I never felt afraid to ask for help. I've especially adored the freedom to dive into after-school activities and electives like Band, which allowed me to explore my interests in such a supportive environment. The teachers and staff are comforting faces who work tirelessly to ensure every student feels seen and successful. I am so incredibly grateful for the opportunities MVMS has given me, and I can't thank the lovely people here enough as I prepare for high school."

– Piper Tilton



Merrimack Valley High School

The Merrimack Valley High School community is dedicated to the pursuit of an education that will prepare all of its members for a successful future.

VERITAS EST POTENTIA

2026 Annual Report

About MVHS

Merrimack Valley High School (MVHS) is a public comprehensive high school educating students in grades 9-12, with an average enrollment of 750. MVHS is accredited through the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) and the state of New Hampshire. MVHS serves the communities of Andover, Boscawen, Loudon, Penacook, Salisbury, and Webster.

The school's Vision of the Graduate is firmly embedded within the culture and curriculum, as part of the assessment criteria for every summative evaluation and as a foundational element within Project PRIDE (senior project). The Vision of the Graduate is comprised of two elements: the six pillars that form the foundation and the four I CAN statements within each pillar that serve as learning targets.

Great things are happening at MVHS:



- Students may elect an honors option to pursue advanced academic rigor in several classes
- Project Lead the Way is a challenging and rigorous engineering program that emphasizes the use of math and science
- Project Running Start is a higher education initiative allowing students to enroll in college courses offered by NHTI
- Students have the opportunity to earn certifications and licensing in several fields at Concord Regional Technical Center
- Students have many opportunities to earn college credit through AP Courses, PLTW Courses, Project Running Start Courses, CRTC, and NHTI

Did You Know?



- Over 400 students participate in a variety of Athletics in NHIAA Division II
- MVHS offers 20+ Co-Curricular Activities and Clubs
- Upon entering 9th grade students are issued a Chromebook they will use throughout their high school experience
- The student-run help desk provides students with an opportunity to learn basic technology such as keyboard and screen replacement
- The Lions Den (a school store) is run by students participating in a Business Extended Learning Opportunity
- To further engage students in their unique passions Seniors must successfully complete Project Pride
- Seniors are required to present their Portfolio demonstrating how they have met individual Vision of the Graduate I CAN statements
- Students are required to complete, document, and submit 24 hours of community service





Merrimack Valley High School

The Merrimack Valley High School community is dedicated to the pursuit of an education that will prepare all of its members for a successful future.

VERITAS EST POTENTIA

2026 Annual Report

Class of 2025 Final College Choices

Landon Abbott - Southern New Hampshire University
Caydence Allberg - Military
Searra Andrews - University of New Hampshire
Gabrielle Andrews - Smith College
Isabelle Avery - Keene State College
Xavier Baca - New Hampshire Technical Institute
Sydney Bailey - New England College
Jayk Barnowski - New Hampshire Technical Institute
Kiah Beary - White Mountain Community College
Matilyn Bernard - New Hampshire Technical Institute
Kayleigh Bernard - New Hampshire Technical Institute
Mckenzie Borek - St. Michaels College
Nick Bowman - Plymouth State University
Boston Bradicich - University of New Hampshire
Alyssa Brodeur - Mercy University
Hannah Butler - New Hampshire Technical Institute
Addison Carlson - New Hampshire Technical Institute
Gage Carpenter - Military
Gage Caswell - Dartmouth College
Elyana Cefalo - New Hampshire Technical Institute
Brianna Chamberlin - Keene State College
Julianna Champagne - Plymouth State University
Eoin Chubb - New Hampshire Technical Institute
Abigail Ciarametaro - Salem State University
Reece Clermont - Southern New Hampshire University
Nora Cloutier - Manchester Community College
Genevieve Cobbina - Southern New Hampshire University
Alexis Colarusso - New Hampshire Technical Institute
Tristan Colby - Military
Nicole Conway - Lakes Region Community College
Grace Corliss - University of New Hampshire
Ryan Cremin - Military
Jasmine Davidson - Plymouth State University
Kendra Davidson - New Hampshire Technical Institute
Isaak Davis - UMass Amherst
Addison Dawson - New Hampshire Technical Institute
Christina DePalo - Lakes Region Community College
William Dewitte - University of New Hampshire
Jackson Deyermond - Southern Maine Community College
Alexander Dudek - Husson University
Keighen Duppong - Purdue University
Madisen Eno - Keene State College
Liam Erickson - Plymouth State University
Elisabeth Frenette - Keene State College
Marigold Gagne - Keene State College
Travis Garcia - Plymouth State University
Madison Geddes - Plymouth State University
Matthew Giguere - Santa Fe College
Taylor Gionet - New England College
Kathryn Glover - ME College of Art and Design
Aiden Gray - Liberty University
Brayden Harrington - New Hampshire Technical Institute
Michael Heine - Plymouth State University
Kimberly Hochreiter - Plymouth State University
Olivia James Bentzler - University of New England
Abby James Bentzler - Eckerd College
Katelynn Kenney - Manchester Community College
Addyson Kimball - St. John's University
Kadence Laclair - New Hampshire Technical Institute
Noah Lakhdari - Southern New Hampshire University
Alison Lamontagne - University of New Hampshire
Ellery Lamy - Western New England University
Matthew Lauren - Rivier University
Faith Lavallee - Roger Williams University
Katherine Lemay - New Hampshire Technical Institute
Lydia Likas - Keene State College
Samuel Lloyd - Keene State College
Nikola Longver - Western New England University
Ryder Markee - Manchester Community College
Ava Martinez - Southern New Hampshire University
Nafeeza McDonald - New England College
Julia Melanson - Plymouth State University
Kaiya Mercier - Southern Connecticut State University
Nathan Michel - Manchester Community College
Emmett Miller - Rochester Institute of Technology
Gavin Moody - University of New Hampshire
Andrew Morrisette - New Hampshire Technical Institute
Tyler Mounce - Johnson and Whales University
Grayson Noyes - Lakes Region Community College
Nicolas Oglesby - College of the Holy Cross
Corinne Palhof - Plymouth State University
Aiden Paquette - Plymouth state university
Chloe Pearl - Johnson and Whales University
Carsyn Perkins - Southern New Hampshire University
Gavin Pesula - New Hampshire Technical Institute
Ava Poirier - Plymouth State University
Emma Pomponio-Davis - New Hampshire Technical Institute
Cody Provost - New Hampshire Technical Institute
Lenna Quiter - New Hampshire Technical Institute
Logan Rackliff - University of Massachusetts-Boston
Elijah Raycraft - Manchester Community College
Kaydence Renzzulla - Lakes Region Community College
Mychal Reynolds - Colorado School of Mines
Abigael Sedgley - University of Vermont
Hailey Shapiro - Desales University
Maryn Sisk - Plymouth State University
Ellie Smith - Plymouth State University
Kayla Smith - Central Connecticut State University
Taylor Stinson - Saint Anselm College
Emerson Swislosky - Tarleton State University
Teresa "Felix" Thomas - Keene State College
Jessica Thompson-Weeks - Plymouth State University
Kora Thurber-Wells - Wheaton College
Kadence Tilton - New Hampshire Technical Institute
Ava Tuzzo - The University of Alabama
Samantha Upton - New Hampshire Technical Institute
Logan Vong - Colby-Sawyer College
Hannah Walden - Colby-Sawyer College
Sienna Watts - New Hampshire Technical Institute
Caroline Wheeler - University of New Hampshire
Allison White - St. Johns University (Queens)
Rachel Witham - University of Maine Farmington
Kinoa Witt - University of New Hampshire
Aleksander Witt - Purdue University
Molli Wojtkiewicz - New Hampshire Technical Institute
James Worrell - Keene State College
Brianna Young - The University of Southern Maine





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VALLEY



2025 Service Awards

A District goal is to attract, retain, and develop high quality and effective teachers, staff, and educational leaders. The following staff members were recognized in 2025 for their years of service to the MVSD.

5 Years of Service:

Lindsey Bennett
Diane Berman
Samuel Bowman
Rebecca Dunklee
Aliess John
Mikayla Kimball
Michael Lareau
Troy McKay
Kelly O'Brien
Jill Orndorff
Cassandra Rathbone
Jeanie Reynolds
Danielle Wiley
Shannon Yale
Jennifer York

10 Years of Service:

Melissa Cormier
John Davis
Ryan Jones
Elaine Kidd
Christine Locke
Karen Money-Parry
Mandy Tirrell
Heather Wunschel

15 Years of Service:

Samantha Anthony
Danielle Bell
Linda Boucher
Leeann Chapman
Jodi Dube
Amy Durrell
Kristen John
Tracy Koufos
Gloria Krzynowek
Melissa Lear
Kelly Lewis
Philip Ramsden
Richard Rathbone
Sonya Stevens
Kimberlee Tilton

20 Years of Service:

Jennifer Burritt
Brittany Clark
Sara Rogers
Marjorie Tucker

25 Years of Service:

Kristen Anderson
Kimberly Beatty
Daniel Diachenko
Kelli Herrick
David Irving
Lorieal Jordan-Foote
Jennifer Moore
Sean O'Brien
Wanda Robinson
Diane Ross
Kerri Smith
Jennifer Stevens
Gayle Sweeney

30 Years of Service:

Brett Smith

35 Years of Service:

Bob Mullen

45 Years of Service:

Deb Corey



Thank you for your Service!
We appreciate you and your dedication
to the District and our students!





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VALLEY



2026 Retiring Faculty & Staff



Fred Reagan



Joan Joseph



Margaret Heiderman



Bob Mullen



Janet Matteucci



Diane Ross

Thank you for spending your career serving Merrimack Valley School District. We appreciate your dedication to the District and our students.

Congratulations on your retirement!



**Merrimack Valley School District
Annual Meeting Minutes
March 6, 2025**

The polls held at Merrimack Valley High School for Articles I and II were opened by Moderator Charles Niebling at 10:39 a.m. Moderator Niebling asked the towns to designate one supervisor to count sections on the floor for the evening meeting. Moderator Niebling explained that voters throughout the day should receive a red card and white wrist band to verify registered voter status for the 7:00 p.m. meeting.

The following ballots clerks and supervisors were duly sworn in by Moderator Charles Niebling: Agnus Colby, Lynn Colby, Vernon John, John Keegan, Boscawen; Dennis Jakubowski, Andrew Parrella, Lucy Gordon, Deanna Tranfaglia, Loudon; John Glover, Elaine Leach, Marie Griffith, Penacook; Marcia Murphy, Salisbury; Paul King, Ben Nadeau, Nancy Webster, Jennifer Heath-Stilwell, Webster; Dottie Swenson, David Rapalyea, Gayle Landry, Salisbury.

Kristen Bean Warren, School District Clerk, and John Herbert, Assistant Moderator, were also sworn in by the Moderator. Moderator Niebling reviewed the process for the day and when to hand out wristbands and voting cards for this evening's voting.

At 11:00 a.m. Moderator Niebling inspected the ballot boxes, showed that they were empty, and announced they were ready to use. The supervisors verified that ballot boxes were empty. Moderator Niebling asked Assistant Moderator John Herbert to lock the ballot boxes. Moderator Niebling declared the polls open for Articles I and II and stated all other articles would be acted upon beginning at 7:00 p.m.

2:00 p.m. Moderator Niebling announced absentee ballots and verified the name and address with the Ballot Clerks of each town. A total of eleven absentee ballots were verified. Six from Salisbury, two from Webster, one from Loudon, and two from Penacook.

6:16 p.m. Moderator Niebling announced that anyone present intending to vote during the meeting should check in with ballot clerks and get a red voting card and wrist band. Once you have voted, if you intend to stay, please find a seat promptly.

6:27 p.m. Moderator Niebling reminded voters to check out with the ballot clerks after voting.

6:35 p.m. Moderator Niebling repeated the reminder for anyone present intending to vote to be sure they have checked in with ballot clerks and received a voting card and wrist band.

6:45 p.m. Moderator Niebling repeated the reminder to obtain a voter wrist band and voting card if intending to stay and vote on warrant articles and promptly find a seat in the bleachers or on the floor.

6:55 p.m. If you are arriving and voted earlier in the day and have a voting card and wrist band, please find a place to sit. If you are going through the voting process, please do so and promptly sit.

6:57 p.m. Moderator Niebling announced that we have a limited number of seats, please be sure to sit close with your neighbor and make space to accommodate everyone in line.

6:58 p.m. Moderator Niebling announced that the polls close at 7:00 p.m. However, anyone in line wishing to vote will be allowed to vote. The meeting will start after everyone has voted.

7:00 p.m. Moderator Niebling repeated the announcement to find seating and voters in line would continue to be allowed to vote before the start of the meeting.

7:12 p.m. Moderator Niebling asked the crowd to make room for neighbors by removing personal belongings from seats as we are well below seating capacity at this time.

At 7:00 p.m. Moderator Niebling declared the polls closed to any voter not currently in line. Once all ballots are in the box, they will be distributed to the ballot clerks for counting. The polls officially closed for voting on Articles I and II at

7:00 p.m. Moderator Niebling asked Assistant Moderator John Herbert to unlock the ballot box and distribute the ballots to the clerks and checklist supervisors to count the votes. Teams of two ballot clerks from each town will commence counting of the ballots on Article I and II.

7:22 p.m. Superintendent Randy Wormald shared that the MVHS vocal ensemble will present a song for entertainment while we wait.

7:27 p.m. Moderator Niebling shared restroom locations and access routes. Expecting another 15-20 minutes before starting the meeting.

7:34 p.m. Moderator Niebling pointed out empty seating in the bleachers and the line has made it to the doors.

7:41 p.m. Moderator Niebling confirmed that end of the line at the door and about 10 people that are completing the voting process.

7:44 p.m. Moderator Niebling confirmed the last person checking in with the keepers of the checklist and others checking out.

7:47 p.m. Moderator Niebling confirmed that everyone has voted that intends to and Moderator Niebling welcomed those present to the 2025 MVSD Annual Meeting. He declared that the Warrant Articles were open for action and the polls were closed for Articles I and II. Assistant Moderator John Herbert has opened the ballot boxes and will show they are empty. Ballots will be counted by the counting teams.

Moderator Niebling recognized Veteran Scott Mossy from the audience to lead the Pledge of Allegiance and members of the MVHS Vocal Ensemble performed the National Anthem. Moderator Niebling asked all veterans to stand and be recognized and thanked them for their service. Moderator Niebling thanked all present for making this meeting possible. Thank you to Assistant Moderator John Herbert and congratulations on retiring from this position.

Moderator Niebling reviewed the proposed rules of procedure for the meeting and noted that copies are available on a blue piece of paper. Moderator Niebling asked voters who wished to speak during the meeting to go to one of the microphones in the gym. When recognized, speakers should state their name and town of residence for the record. If a voter wishes to move the question it must be requested via microphone. Those still in line will be allowed to speak before the request to move the question would be addressed. Moderator Niebling explained that any decision of the moderator could be overruled by a majority vote. Moderator Niebling reviewed the secret ballot procedure. Voting will proceed by section and voters will receive a colored ballot at the entry of the voting area. Your wristband will be marked with a sharpie for each ballot vote so that no one can circle through and again. Each subsequent ballot vote will occur on a different color piece of paper. Moderator Niebling also advised that any action could be reconsidered later in the meeting unless a motion was made to apply the provisions of RSA 40:10.

Moderator Niebling stated he would accept a motion to dispense with the preliminary reading of the entire Warrant. He will read each article when it is introduced. Motion and second received from the floor to dispense the preliminary reading of the warrant articles. The motion carried.

Motion by Scott Mossy second by Heather Wunschel, to abide by the official rules of the meeting. The motion carried.

Moderator Niebling introduced Chairperson Tracy Bricchi. Tracy Bricchi welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting and thanked them for being there. She then introduced the Board and SAU Administration.

School Board members present: Tracy Bricchi, Sally Hirsh-Dickinson, Erik Hansen, Julia Jones, Melissa Muzzy, Jessica Wheeler Russell, Laura Vincent, Daniel York, Paula Dill, Gary Tillman. Absent: Peggy Jones-Blanchard.

Also present were Superintendent Randy Wormald, Assistant Superintendent Catherine Masterson, Human Resources Director Kathleen Boucher, Facilities Director Fred Reagan, Legal Counsel Jim O'Shaughnessy, and other MVSD administrators.

Moderator Niebling stated that votes on Articles I and II were still being counted. As soon as results are available and at the conclusion of a warrant article, the Moderator will interject and announce the results. Moderator Niebling proceeded to act on Article III. Motion by Tracy Bricchi, to move Article III, second from the floor.

ARTICLE III. To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty-One Million, Six Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand, One Hundred Fifty-One dollars (\$51,655,151) for the support of schools, the salaries of school district officials and agents, and for the payment of statutory obligations of said District. This article does not include appropriations voted in other warrant articles. **The School Board recommends this article.**

Motion by Tracy Bricchi to accept Article III, second by Daniel York.

Superintendent Wormald stated that the overage of the 2023-2024 budget is unacceptable and it happened on our watch. The SAU is addressing the shortcomings in internal systems. We are projecting to absorb a million dollar deficit this year.

Catherine Masterson spoke of reflecting on first year as Assistant Superintendent and the challenges faced and the plan to become more fiscally responsible.

Tracy Bricchi gave an overview of the proposed budget increases. Tracy Bricchi asked folks to look at graphs in the packets that provide information on the budget. Two main drivers of increases are special education and benefits. The district is in the final process of changing health care plans which can reduce the budget. The MV cost per student is well below the state average. The proposed budget is up \$3,357,043.50 which is 6.59%. The increase in Special Education is 34.6% of the overall net increase. 28.7% of the total increase is due to benefits increase. The collectively bargained agreements represent a 7.2% increase. Increases on the function lines of the budget included in the packet on page 4 were noted by Tracy Bricchi. Revenues are presented on page 11. We see an increase of 521,957.00 and a decrease in statewide property taxes.

Terese Bastarache, Loudon, moves to amend Article III to see if the district will raise 47,898,107.00. second Josee Cambrils. Teresa shared information to support this amendment. Terese stated she has a petition for a secret ballot on this amendment.

Charles Niebling recognized the floor for public comment.

David Hemenway, Webster, asked the numbers of current teacher positions budgeted and the number of positions filled. Also asked why the percent of Special Education services has changed over the past years and the future of special education services within the district. Randy Wormald responded that there are 242 teachers, the results of tonight will impact the number of teacher's salaries maintained in the budget.

Julie Gaudette said special education is mandated and we must provide a free and appropriate education for all students. IDEA entitlement grant funds are received to offset the special education cost. Yearly approximately \$600,000.00 is received by MV. There is also preschool funding of \$25,000.00. Special education aid is received when the District spends 3.5 times the state average per pupil cost on one student. Approximately \$75,000 is the cap that must be met to apply for the reimbursement. The district currently has a population of 29.3% receiving special education and there are 1% out of district placements.

Shawn Kitson, Loudon, competence and caring is lacking with the Board, with regard to the over spending. Also the District missed target goals in math, science and ELA. Failing or declining academics and he supports the amendment.

Liam Jewell, Penacook, supports the original budget as proposed to the Board, not about luxuries but keeping the schools operating. State funding in NH is the lowest. Regards to special education costs that are mandated, transportation and maintenance that is necessary. Cutting the budget only puts the burden on students

Jen Mercier, Loudon, not in support of the budget. MV is 113th the bottom 30th percentile. 40-50% means failing, students being educated are not proficient. I do support the amended budget. Shared supporting reasons to make this amended budget work.

David Nesbitt, Webster, in support of the budget, with regard to the complication within the budget and test scores down nationally. The impact of technology and cell phones. The issue will never go away until the state lives up to the obligation to support an adequate cost of education.

Adam Russell, Penacook, is not in favor of the adoption of the amendment, he stated that one of the reasons given for the amendment was lack of RFPs and he asked for Randy Wormald to respond to that. Randy Wormald asked Fred Reagan to speak to the question. Fred stated every 5 years an RPF is requested for plowing. Fred did not bid out the track project because of the lack of companies that perform this work. Roof projects at Boscawen and Penacook Elementary schools were put out to bid in the last two years. Randy stated Transportation has a sealed bid process.

Scott McPherson, Penacook moved the question on the amendment. Charles Niebling is not recognizing this at this time and will allow all members on the floor in line to speak.

Lisa Laughlin, Loudon, asking if costs typically go down in future. Lisa asked what the goal of leaving the cost of the teaching positions in the budget that will not be filled. Catherine Masterson spoke of the benefits of a healthy fund balance and that is the reason for leaving the teacher salaries in the budget. The state is not meeting the said amount of money to fund education.

Ellie Andrews, Loudon, offering current student perspective she is in favor of the original budget. Unfair representation of the student test scores and student outlook on state testing. Students also have to want to be successful. Catherine Masterson shared that test scores referred to is the state wide test, performance measured on one day, once a year. 25% of students are socio-economically disadvantaged, and have additional challenges. Also parents opt students out of the tests and when we have less than 95% percent of participation in the testing it negatively affects the average.

Terese Bastarache, Loudon, there are 162 school districts in the state of NH. Administrative costs are out of control. Suggesting one district per county. Second to the motion to move the question.

David Hemenway, Webster, asked what are the average class sizes at each school. Superintendent Wormald stated it varies by school and grade level and that intent is a class size of 25 or less.

Moderator Niebling recognized Randy Wormald to speak to the budget amendment. Randy stated that the amendment would result in cutting 35 teaching positions and 20 support staff positions and 8 programs.

Moderator Niebling accepted the petition to secret ballot vote on Article III. Moderator Niebling read the names and asked the public to stand. The secret ballot is recognized. A blue paper ballot will be used.

Point of order from the floor, David Hemmingway, clarification on the secret ballot. Niebling clarified it is on the amendment to Article III. Clarification, a yes vote will reduce the bottom line figure in Article III to 47,898,107.00.

If you vote no, you are opposed to the amended article. Secret ballot vote began at 8:57 p.m. Moderator Niebling asked John Hebert to confirm all voters had moved through the voting area; it was confirmed at 9:21 p.m. Moderator Niebling is hesitant to proceed on further articles until the results of Article I and II have been tabulated. Moderator Niebling explained the process of further procedure. There was procedural discussion from the floor.

Moderator Niebling read the results of the yes no vote on Article III at 9:34 p.m. 603 total votes cast.

Yes votes: 283

No votes: 321

Amendment to Article III is defeated.

Scott McPherson, Penacook moved the question on Article III, second Lisa Loughlin.

Terese Bastarache, Loudon: amendment to Article III to amend the budget to last year's budget plus 3%, \$49,747,050.

Motion to move the question was received before Terese spoke. Moderator Niebling accepted the secret ballot on the motion to move the question. Seconded by Lisa Loughlin.

Motion to override the decision of the Moderator to make the secret ballot vote, intended to move the question, second Julie Nudd. The motion has been withdrawn.

Moderator Niebling is bringing the motion to move the question on Article III a majority vote motion requiring a 2/3rds votes.

Lisa Loughlin, point of order, asked to clarify what a yes and no vote mean. Moderator Niebling stated if you vote yes, you are in favor of suspending any further debate on Article III.

Group 1: 74 affirmative, opposed 32.

Group 2: 74 affirmative, opposed 48.

Group 3: 67 affirmative, opposed 52.

Group 4: 43 affirmative, opposed 55.

Group 5: 42 affirmative, opposed 83.

300 yes votes, 270 no votes and the motion is defeated. 380 votes needed to pass.

We move to further discussion and amendment on Article III. Teresa Bastarache, Loudon, the amendment is last year's budget to \$49,747,050.

Elizabeth Duclos, Penacook, with regard as a teacher in a neighboring district that just cut budgets. Motion to move the question.

Adam Russell, Penacook, motion to restrict consideration of the amendment that proposed a reduction of the budget to 47,898,107 of Article III. Second from the floor. The motion carried.

Adam is asking Dr. Wormald what the approximate 2 million dollar budget cut would look like. Randy states, cutting 18 teachers, meaning 1 per grade level, sports, clubs and others.

Sheila, Boscawen, asked if we could look for cheaper health care. We need to cut the things we can.

Shawn Kitson, Loudon, many comments about the State funding and we can't control what the state does. Regarding what we are speaking to. Motion to secret ballot on the motion of the amendment from Teresa.

David Collins, Webster: Questions the cost of the health insurance that the district pays. Concern with the transparency of the Board. Kathleen responded, 90% for single plan, 86%two person plan, 80%for family plan. Kathleen states the district is working with a new carrier to find savings.

Liam Jewell, Penacook: with regard to inflation. Mandates do not change even if the budget is cut. This will take away from programming.

Heather Wunschel, Boscawen, question regarding the special education transportation and keeping students within the district.

Moderator Niebling moved to the secret ballot on the Amendment to Article III.

Terese Bastarache presented the names to move to a secret ballot. Vote yes on the pink ballot, you are in favor of amending the budget to \$49,747,050.

10:30 p.m. Moderator Niebling asked John Hebert for the tabulation of votes for Article I and II.

Article I results: 796 ballots cast, 500 under votes, 252 Charles Niebling, 44 others write in votes for a total of 30 different people. Charles Niebling is elected Moderator.

ARTICLE II. To choose, by ballot, five school board members, one from the pre-existing District of Boscawen to serve for a term of three years; one from the pre-existing District of Boscawen to serve for a term of one year; one from the

pre-existing District of Penacook to serve for a term of three years; one from the pre-existing District of Salisbury to serve for a term of three years; one from the pre-existing District of Webster to serve for a term of three years. Two elected candidates must be residents of Boscawen, one elected candidate must be a resident of Penacook, one elected candidate must be a resident of Salisbury, and one elected candidate must be a resident of Webster. All candidates will be elected at large.

Boscawen term of 3 years: 814 cast, 104 under

Stacie Jarvis - 440 votes, and is elected to the 3 year term.

Patrick Sadlemire - 73 votes

Bill Heinz - 195 votes

Karen Barry - 1 vote

Marty Smith - 1 vote

Boscawen term of 1 year: 838 cast, 51 under, 2 over

Ryan Gunn - 47 votes

Thomas Laliberte - 521 votes

Gary Tillman - 210 votes

4 individuals with 7 write in votes.

Penacook term of 3 years: 841 cast, 331 under votes.

Tracy Bricchi - 497 votes, Tracy is elected.

6 individuals with a total of 8 write in votes.

Webster term of 3 years:

David Nesbitt - 543 votes, David is elected.

Salisbury term of 3 years: 846 cast, 76 undervotes

Louise Andrus - 361 votes

Lorna Carlisle - 409 votes, Lorna is elected.

Waiting on the tabulation to the amendment of Article III and recognizing Julie Gaudette to speak to some of the programming that the district is working on to offset Special Education costs. Julie referenced the Merrimack Valley Learning center and the fact that MVLC has 5 students from other districts this year paying \$65,000.00 tuition. Next year the tuition rate will be \$70,000

Jen, Penacook, asked Moderator Niebling to read rule 15 of the meeting rules. Moderator Niebling read: Each speaker may only speak once until everyone who wishes to speak for a first time has spoken.

Annette Kualsic, with regard to the special education cost and education.

Secret ballot vote results for the amended Article III, 549 votes cast, 294 affirmative 255 opposed. Amendment to article III is adopted.

Terese Bastarache, motion to restrict reconsideration of Article III as amended.

Spencer Dickinson moved to amend Article III to 50,713,012.

The moderator will allow those in line to speak.

Jen, motion to move the question on Article III.

No name stated, regard to homelessness, education and the quality of personal education that allowed me to rise to be successful and an educator at a university.

No name stated, With regard to finances, and what the expendable trust fund balances currently are. Randy Wormald explained the fund balances.

Kelly B. Loudon, asked the average student to teacher ratio and then presented the numbers found from the DOE.

Catherine Masterson, clarified the actual student to teacher ratio in the actual classroom. The School Board does have a policy that recommends 20 or fewer students in the classroom.

Niebling is going to try to complete business on Article III. Then ask to reconvene for the further articles.

Motion to move the question with the amended Article III. The motion carried. Adoption of Article III as amended. Goes to a card vote.

Group 1: 37 affirmative, 69 opposed.

Group 2: 37 affirmative, 56 opposed.

Group 3: 54 affirmative, 54 opposed.

Group 4: 54 affirmative, 40 opposed.

Group 5: 85 affirmative, 31 opposed.

517 votes cast, 267 in the affirmative and Article III is adopted.

Motion to restrict reconsideration of Article III, second from the floor. The motion passes on a voice vote.

Point of order, should we suspend the meeting at 11:17 p.m. Moderator Niebling would like to come to a conclusion on Article III.

Moderator Niebling explained the motion to majority vote. Moderator stated the affirmative vote on Article III.

Moderator Niebling proposed recessing the meeting to Friday, March 7th, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. Motion moved and seconded from the floor. The motion carried. Recessed at 11:25 p.m.

**Merrimack Valley School District
Reconvened Annual Meeting Minutes
March 7th, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.**

6:48 p.m. District Clerk Kristen Bean Warren swore in Assistant Moderator Rodney Phillips and one new keeper of the checklist for Penacook.

6:50 p.m. Moderator Niebling announced the meeting would begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. Please get yourself checked in and make your way to a seat.

7:00 p.m. Moderator Niebling asked the public to take their seats and announced that we will commence action of the Warrant at this reconvened meeting of the Merrimack Valley School District. Thank you for those that attended last night and have returned this evening. Moderator Niebling reviewed the rules printed on the blue page that were adopted last night, the rules will remain in place tonight. Voters should have checked in and received a blue voting card.

Moderator Niebling introduced Rodney Phillips, Assistant Moderator for this evening.

School Board members present: Tracy Bricchi, Sally Hirsh-Dickinson, Erik Hansen, Julia Jones, Melissa Muzzy, Jessica Wheeler Russell, Laura Vincent, Daniel York, Paula Dill, Gary Tillman, Peggy Jones-Blanchard.

Moderator Niebling asked Superintendent Wormald or Chairperson Bricchi for any comments before commencing action on the Warrant.

Moderator Niebling stated we completed action through Article III last night and we are resuming with Article IV.

ARTICLE IV. To see if the School District will approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Merrimack Valley School Board and the Merrimack Valley Support Staff Association, which calls for the following estimated increases in salaries and benefits:

2025-2026 \$ 448,874

2026-2027 \$ 277,424

2027-2028 \$ 200,318

The School Board recommends this article.

Motion by Jessica Wheeler Russell, second by Tracy Bricchi.

Moderator Niebling introduced Jessica Wheeler Russell, who spoke in support of the proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) for support staff. She emphasized the critical role these employees play in student success, highlighting the diverse group covered under the agreement: Paraprofessionals, Tutors, Program Assistants, Office Managers, Administrative Assistants, Food Service Employees, Custodians, Bus Drivers, Bus Monitors, and Mechanics. Russell underscored the importance of offering competitive wages to retain these essential workers and prevent them from leaving for neighboring districts. She also provided an overview of the key changes outlined in the updated contract.

Adam Russell, Penacook, thank you to the negotiation team for coming up with a plan for support staff and the benefits that the negotiations represent. Motion to move the question. Moderator Niebling is not recognizing that motion at this time as there are public in line to speak.

Lee Laughlin, Loudon, spoke of positive experiences with bus drivers, support staff at Loudon Elementary, the Middle School, and High School. Please support the people that do the hard work day to day. Teachers are the bricks of our school system and support staff are the mortar that holds it all together. We already have a hard time finding and keeping support staff.

David Hemmenway, Webster, asked for the number of support staff and what kind of positions the CBA covered. He supported the negotiations team and questioned the way that the article is written with an estimated increase.

Randy Wormald covered some of the tiers of work performed by support staff covered in the CBA. It is a wide span of individuals and people that everyone in the district relies on. Randy stated the dollar amounts in the article would be budgeted if passed. Estimates are used as the number of support staff is a moving target. The CBA is a 3-year contract. Kathleen Boucher stated there are 265 support staff members at this time.

Liam Jewel, Penacook, with regard to the voting process of the article in question. The secret ballot process creates delays and limits participation from many taxpayers. What steps can be taken next year to provide fair access to the microphone. He asked the Moderator to share what steps will be taken to ensure voting and access to the microphone will be equal next year.

Point of order from the floor regarding the content relevance to Article IV. Moderator Niebling allowed Liam to continue.

Moderator Niebling addresses the concerns. Tonight and in the future meetings there will be only one microphone. The individual's right to request the secret ballot requires the signature of five people and will be recognized if duly requested.

Liam feels the agreement is not extravagant and he supports the contract.

Kevin D., Penacook, stated he is a teacher at Franklin High School and the secretary of teacher's union for SAU 18. He has done negotiations in the past and feels this District is not transparent. He is in favor of the article.

Terese Bastarache, Loudon, asked how much of the dollar amount is a salary increase for the support staff. Randy Wormald said it was 15.8% over 3 years. The first year percentage is 8.6. Terese asked for clarification on if the health insurance buy back would be \$3,000.00. Randy Wormald stated that was correct.

Moderator Niebling stated he would recognize the next two speakers at the microphone and then accept Adam's prior motion to move the question.

Les Seward, Loudon, with regard to the 15.8% on the salary increase in 3 years. Stated the private sector is not receiving increases like this over the next three years. Public service is all necessary, but the people fund the increases. The schools need to function on a tighter tax base.

Lisa Renauld, Penacook, spoke of the importance of supportive and trusting adults being available to students in the schools. We have that in this district. Many of the support staff here are also community members who come with a vested interest in our students. It can be challenging for support staff members to remain in these positions. They hear students speak of part-time jobs that pay more money.

Adam Russell, motion to move the question, second Lisa Loughlin. This is a non-debatable motion. The motion passes on a voice vote.

Julie Nudd, Webster, motion to restrict reconsideration, second Adam Russell. The motion to restrict reconsideration is adopted.

Moderator Niebling introduced Article V.

ARTICLE V. Shall the School District, if Article IV is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article IV cost items only? (Majority vote).

Motion by Bill Heinz to pass over Article V, second by Heather Wunschel. No debate. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Moderator Niebling introduced Article VI.

ARTICLE VI. To see if the school district will vote to authorize, indefinitely until rescinded, to retain year-end unassigned general funds in an amount not to exceed, in any fiscal year, 5 percent of the current fiscal year's net assessment, in accordance with RSA 198:4-b, II. (Majority vote required). **The School Board recommends this article.**

Motion by Sally Hirsh-Dickinson, second Jessica Wheeler Russell.

Sally Hirsh-Dickinson was recognized to speak to Article VI.

Heather Spears, Boscawen, the article as written does not explain how large the fund can grow. Jim O'Shaughnessy, said a 5% surplus can be retained and stays in a contingency fund. If there is a fund balance, up to 5% can be carried into the contingency fund and used for unanticipated expenses. The warrant article is statutorily prescribed and this is the language that's recommended by the DRA. Mr. O'Shaughnessy read section II of the law which states 5% is the maximum that can be kept.

Louise Andrus, Salisbury, feels this article allows for a slush fund. She feels the School District needs to learn to live within its means. There was a two million dollar deficit that nobody has taken responsibility for. She does not support the Article.

Jen Mercer, Loudon, not in support of Article IV. The SAU and School Board are unable to manage the budget and the board cannot manage any extra funds.

Jesse Schmidt, Penacook, asked for clarification that the 5% would come from the general fund? Jim O'Shaughnessy clarifies that this is correct. Jesse questions how much money would have been put in the fund if it was in place last year. Randy Wormald responded the average fund balance has been 1% and it is recommended to have at least a 10% balance, which is something we have been talking about putting in place.

David Hemingway, Webster, asked what the balance of the unassigned fund is currently. Randy Wormald responded we are trying to absorb the million dollar deficit and probably will not see much of a balance. David, clarifying that several different funds are being discussed, the unassigned fund balance, contingency fund, and general fund. He will not vote in favor of this article this year, but would like to see it brought back next year. Randy Wormald and Jim O'Shaughnessy followed up with clarification to the different funds and the language used to explain the different funds.

Terese Basterache, Loudon, said that 5% of the District budget passed last night is 2.4 million dollars. She does not support the article, she believes any surplus should go back to the taxpayers. Randy clarified it is 5% of the district assessment not the budget which is the revenue subtracted from the budget. In this case the projected assessment is 32 million so it would be 1.6 million. These are articles that were recommended by DRA in order to become more fiscally responsible. We've been trying to lay out a path for financial well-being.

Les Seward, Loudon, asked what the average fund balance over the last 5 years has been. Randy said it has been 1% over the last 10 years. Les asked if the 1% has been cumulative back to the general fund. Randy said it has gone back to the communities to off-set taxes. Les is not in favor of the article and will vote against it.

Liam Jewel, Penacook, stated the district is operating on a razor thin margin. This article allows us to set aside a small reserve to handle the emergency issues, such as special education. A yes vote ensures we are not set up for future failure.

Adam Russell, Penacook, he is in favor of the article and would like to move the question, second by Lisa Laughlin. Moderator Niebling will recognize the motion after allowing the three people already in line to speak.

Shawn Kitson, Loudon, asked the average amount of money returned to the towns the past few years. Randy Wormald said it has been a 1% average. Randy stated there is a formula used to divy up the surplus that goes back to the towns to off-set taxes. This isn't a slush fund it's like having an emergency fund. Establishing this fund is part of the financial well-being the Board is working on. The Board would decide the percentage each year to assign to the fund.

Natalie Laflamme, Boscawen, asked what the cons of not passing this article would be. Randy Wormald explained retaining 5% would allow for the district to have an emergency fund for unanticipated expenses.

Joel Eugendis, Salisbury, asked if there any limitations on what the money can be spent on. Jim O'Shaughnessy said funds can only be used for unanticipated expenses that have not been budgeted for. Joel fears the money will be used as a way to bypass the voting process and he is against the article.

Moderator Niebling accepts the motion to move the question.

Point of order from Jeff Leonard requesting a standing card vote.

Moderator Niebling stated the sections of the gym and floor and how the card vote will proceed. Point of Order by David Nesbitt. There have been several acronyms used by the Board and he is not sure everyone understands them. Moderator Niebling asked the Board to refrain from using acronyms. Moderator Niebling proceed with the card vote.

Group 1: 63 affirmative, 21 opposed
Group 2: 60 affirmative, 8 opposed
Group 3: 43 affirmative, 18 opposed
Group 4: 18 affirmative, 39 opposed
Group 5: 9 affirmative, 67 opposed

346 votes made, 193 affirmative votes and 153. Article VI is adopted.

Lisa Louglin, Loudon, motion to restrict reconsideration of Article VI, second by Adam Russell. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Tom Lalibert asked Moderator Niebling to conduct future card votes not by sections of the gym due to fewer people in attendance vs last night. Moderator Niebling agrees.

Moderator Niebling read Article VII.

ARTICLE VII. To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) to be added to the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund previously established for the purposes of supporting student services, with said funds to come from unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2025. No additional amount to be raised from taxation. **The School Board recommends this article.**

Motion by Julie Jones, second by Tracy Bricchi.

Julia Jones speaks to Article VII.

Shawn Kiston, Loudon, asked Laura Vincent to justify the amount of the request. Laura stated earlier in the year we had to take 500,000 out of the fund this year. Shawn spoke to the Board meeting when this was discussed and feels just a random number was given for the article. Shawn motions to amend Article VII from \$300,000 of \$175,000, second by Louise Andrus. Moderator Niebling opens comments to the amended article.

Louise Andrus, Salisbury, asked for the total amount spent on special education in the 2023-2024 fiscal year and what the special education trust fund balance was in October after funds were removed. Julie Gaudette stated the total amount spent on special education will need to be shared at a later date, this requires going back to each line of last year's budget.

Randy Wormald responded the trust fund balance was zero.

Lisa Loughlin, Loudon, feels it is fiscally responsible to build this fund. Special education student numbers are constantly changing and not predictable.

Bill Heinz, Boscawen, does not feel there will be a fund balance this year to fund the remaining articles.

Moderator Niebling invited individuals that have not spoken at all this evening to the microphone first.

Brennan Bourque, Penacook, spoke to his experience as a special education student. He feels MV has a great program and he supports the original amount of the article.

Jen Bodwin, Penacook, with regard to \$300,000 not being an impact to tax payers, why lower it. Money left over will offset the budget for the following year. She is not for the amendment.

Elgie Goodwin, Loudon, asking for clarification of 5%, and trust funds and how they are funded.

Randy Wormald stated funds could only be put into the funds if there was a fund balance at the end of the year.

Moderator Niebling recognised Mr. Leonard to speak.

Jeff Leonard, Loudon, asked what was in both of the trust funds before they went to zero. Randy Wormald stated somewhere north of \$500,000 for Special Education and \$716,900 for the Maintenance Expendable Trust fund. Jeff asked where the other million dollars we are trying to absorb this year will come from. Randy said the budget has been frozen and tightening on spending will hopefully allow us to absorb that impact. Jeff does not agree with the wording of the Article as it does have tax impact. Jim O'Shaughnessy explained the recommended language from the Division of Revenue Administration.

Les Seward, Loudon, with regard to special education budget increase for fiscal year 2025-2026. He asked how many students this would impact. Julie Gaudette stated we have a 29% population of special education students which is about 600 students. He is in support of the amendment for \$175,000. Questioning the actual cost to support special education students.

Julie Gaudette responded to the programming and needs and of education for all students, including a variety of related services. Approximately 1% of these students move through the continuum of service to residential and day programs with costs that have increased astronomically. Placements are decided by the Special Education teams and include everything from programming to transportation. The district continues to work on additional programming to provide services within the district.

Moderator announced the pending motion on the floor is the amendment to Article VII for \$175,000.

Jesse Schmdit, Penacook, does not trust that the money will be used wisely or appropriately, feels the public should have more than one night a year to have questions answered and the Board lacks transparency.

Brian Lesslee, Salisbury, asking how \$175,000 arrived for the amendment. Moderator Niebling stated the gentlemen who made the amendment was in line to speak and he could respond when he came to the microphone.

Ryan Gunn, Boscawen, with regard to how fund balances transfer. He feels it is unlikely we hit over the 5% or 1.6 million plus \$175,000, plus the \$300,000, and whatever is left for the contingency fund.

Adam Russell, Penacook, asked for the reason the \$500,000 was pulled from the special education trust fund. Point of order on the floor, that has nothing to do with the amended amount, pending motion. Not recognized. Randy stated the funds were used to cover overages on special education in the 23-24 school year. Adam said he is not in favor of the amendment.

Shawn Kitson, Loudon, this does not take away any funding from special education. He explained his amendment makes the Board more accountable financially. It is close to the original amount the Board drafted for the article.

Jeff Leonard, Loudon, asked why the special education trust was used for maintenance. Randy Wormald stated that it was used for special education overages in the 23-24 school year, the maintenance trust was used for maintenance overages in the 23-24 school year. Randy responded that the district should have been putting money into these funds in previous years and the articles like this are how we get money into these funds.

Shawn Kitson presented a petition for a secret ballot on the amendment.

Jessica Wheeler Russell, asked if 2/3rds of the body could overrule the secret ballot request. Moderator Niebling explained it is state law and can not be overruled.

Moderator Nebling, pending motion to reduce the \$300,000 to \$175,000.

Moderator Niebling, announced the voting is complete. Assistant Moderatory Rodney Phillips showed the empty ballot box.

330 total ballots were cast, 152 in the affirmative, 178 opposed. The motion to amend Article VII is defeated. Article VII is now open to further discussion and amendment.

Adam Russell, Penacook, motion to move the question, second Lisa Loughlin.

Moderator Niebling will not recognize any amendments at this time as the motion to move the question stands.

David Hemingway, Webster, states there are ways to be fiscally responsible without using warrant articles.

Moderator states the question and proceeds to a voice vote. Moderator Neilbing announces the motion passes. There was a request from the floor for a card count.

Group 1: 65 affirmative votes, 20 opposed
Group 2: 55 affirmative votes, 5 opposed
Group 3: 35 affirmative votes, 13 opposed
Group 4: 24 affirmative votes, 37 opposed
Group 5: 9 affirmative votes, 60 opposed
188 affirmative, to 135 opposed Article VII is adopted.

Julie Nudd, motion to restrict reconsideration, second by Lisa Loughlin. The motion carried.

Moderator Niebling moved to Article VIII.

ARTICLE VIII. To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) to be added to the Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund previously established for the purposes of maintaining school buildings and grounds, with said funds to come from unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2025. No additional amount to be raised from taxation. **The School Board recommends this article.**

Motion by Melissa Muzzy, second by Ray Fisher.

Melissa Muzzy spoke to Article VIII.

Jen, Penacook, moves to restrict reconsideration of the article. Moderator Niebling stated a decision on the article had to be made first.

Shawn Kitson, Loudon, asked for the current balance of the trust fund. He moves to amend Article VIII to the amount of \$175,000, second from the floor.

Elissa Lahar, Loudon, the amendment and the prior Article are very similar, please let's keep comments concise and move forward to vote tonight as the outcome will likely be the same as the previous article.

Julie Nudd, Webster, motion to move the question, second Adam Russell. Moderator Niebling recognizes the motion and will allow those in line to speak.

Steven Del Deo, Loudon, could this include function 4200 and 4600 and where is the cut-off point. Randy Wormald stated the smaller projects are what could fit into the budget lines, and this would be for major projects. Steve asked what the basis of the \$300,000 was. Fred Reagan stated we have been asked to be consistent over the last few years to keep the number the same.

Louise Andrus, Salisbury, stated she started asking questions when the Business Administrator resigned and money was drained from the funds. She is in favor of only adding \$175,000 to the Maintenance Trust Fund. She is concerned with the track project and lack of RFP.

Point of order from Lisa Laughlin, this was addressed last night.

Fred Reagan, addressed the question from Louise with the same response given last night and the process that brought him to using GMI.

David Hemmenway, Webster, pointing out transparency and lack of trust in the board has been a consistent topic, he feels one person that can be trusted is Fred. The Capital Improvement Plan is a clear explanation of how the money would be spent. He is not in favor of the amendment.

Point of order, time is up.

Motion to move the question on the amendment of Article VIII. Motion passes on a voice vote.

Card vote has been requested on the amendment of Article VIII.

Group 1: 12 Affirmative, opposed 70
Group 2: 5 Affirmative, opposed 55
Group 3: 13 Affirmative, opposed 32
Group 4: 31 Affirmative, opposed 24
Group 5: 51 Affirmative, opposed 7
Total of 300 votes, 112 affirmative, 188 opposed.

Adam Russell, motion to move the question, and requests a card vote on Article VIII as introduced.

Group 1: 73 Affirmative, 7 opposed
Group 2: 57 Affirmative, 4 opposed
Group 3: 34 Affirmative, 3 opposed
Group 4: 32 Affirmative, 19 opposed
Group 5: 8 Affirmative, 46 opposed
Total of 283 votes, 204 affirmative, 79 opposed.
The motion to move the question is on the floor. The motion passes.

Article VIII is passed on a voice vote.

Dan Nudd motion to restrict reconsideration, second by Lisa Laughlin. The motion passes on a voice vote.

ARTICLE IX. To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting. Given under our hand at said Penacook this 7th day of February 2025.

Moderator Niebling states that anything can be brought up. Anything that happens in this part of the agenda is not binding in any way.

Dan Nudd, Webster, requested that the School Board provide answers to public comment at Board meetings.

Ray Fisher, Boscawen, stated the meeting night and times work as the gym was packed on both Thursday and Friday night.

David Collins, Webster, with regard to the long meetings last night and tonight. Rating the meetings as C and D-. He feels that information is not presented, it must be asked for and it is not transparent, the report is fluff.

Point of order, move on, times up.

Carissa Corrow, Penacook, spoke about accountability, and asked that Superintendent bonuses be published next year. She feels Randy Wormald should forgo his bonus due the overages last year.

Julie Nudd, Webster, motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded Lisa Laughlin. The motion passed on a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Bean Warren, District Clerk