

2022 New Boston School District Voter Guide

New Boston Central School

15 Central School Road New Boston, NH 03070

On behalf of the New Boston School Board, we are pleased to provide you with this year's School District Voter's Guide for your reference. The Board has worked together to develop explanations for each of the articles that will appear on the School District ballot on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 in the Tom Mansfield Gymnasium at the New Boston Central School. It is our continued goal to maintain open lines of communication with the public. We encourage you to reach out to us so that we can answer or clarify any questions you might have, nbcboard@sau19.org. We also encourage you to look at our website: <https://www.nbc.k12.nh.us/> for all budget related documents and presentations.

New Boston School Board 2021-2022

Kary Jencks (Chair)	Term Expires	2023
Wendy Lambert (Vice Chair)	Term Expires	2022
Sam Perron	Term Expires	2023
William (Bill) Schmidt	Term Expires	2024
Robert Witt	Term Expires	2022

Keith Diaz (School District Moderator)	Term Expires	2023
William Gould (School District Treasurer)	Term Expires	2023
Maralyn Segien (School District Clerk)	Term Expires	2023

NBCS Administration

Tori Underwood	NBCS Principal
John Bridle	NBCS Assistant Principal
Jennifer Gilliland	NBCS Special Education Facilitator

SAU Administration

Brian Balke	Superintendent of Schools
MaryClaire Barry	Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Scott Gross	Business Administrator
Dr. Jennifer Dolloff	Director of Special Education
Kate Magrath	Director of Human Resources

To the Inhabitants of the School District in the Town of New Boston qualified to vote in District affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 in the Tom Mansfield Gym at New Boston Central School, at 7:00 P.M. for the first session of the School District Annual Meeting, also known as the first Deliberative Session, to act on the following subjects and determine matters which will then be voted upon by official ballot on Tuesday, March 8, 2022.

You are further notified to meet on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, also known as the second session, to vote on all matters by official ballot. The polls are open on March 8, 2022 at 7:00 AM until 7:00 PM in the Tom Mansfield Gym at New Boston Central School.

School Deliberative Ballot Determination Meeting
February 8, 2022

ARTICLE 1: Election of Officers

To choose two member of the School Board for the ensuing three years

ARTICLE 2: Operating Budget

Shall the School District raise and appropriate as an Operating Budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling Seventeen Million, Four Hundred Eighteen Thousand, Five Hundred Twenty-Nine Dollars (\$17,418,529). Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Seventeen Million, Three Hundred Forty Thousand, Five Hundred Forty-Eight Dollars, (\$17,340,548) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.” This warrant article (the Operating Budget Article) does not include appropriations in ANY other warrant articles. (Majority vote required)

The School Board Voted 5-0 To Recommend

The Finance Committee Voted 7-0 To Recommend

EXPLANATION: The FY 2022-2023 Total Operating Budget of \$17,418,529 is recommended unanimously by the New Boston School Board and Finance Committee.

The school district’s total operating budget is comprised of three major funds: general, special revenue/grants and food service. *Only the general fund budget is supported by tax dollars.*

The proposed General Fund Operating Budget of \$17,039,552 is \$(42,366) or 0.2% less than last year’s general fund budget, and \$77,981 more than the proposed FY 2022-2023 general fund default budget of \$16,961,571. (see below)

	2021-2022	2022-2023	Difference
General Fund	\$ 17,081,918	\$ 17,039,552	\$ (42,366)
Special Revenue/Grants	\$ 111,273	\$ 200,000	\$ 88,727
Food Service	\$ 167,535	\$ 178,977	\$ 11,442
Total Operating Budget	\$ 17,360,726	\$ 17,418,529	\$ 57,803

General Fund: The proposed general fund operating budget increases are driven by a few factors: 1) increased wage and benefit costs at NBCS based on previously approved contracts, 2) slight increases in the teacher substitute, equipment rental, and curriculum materials 3) a 3% increased cost of student transportation, 4) increases in tuition charges to Goffstown and 5) increased costs of oil and propane.

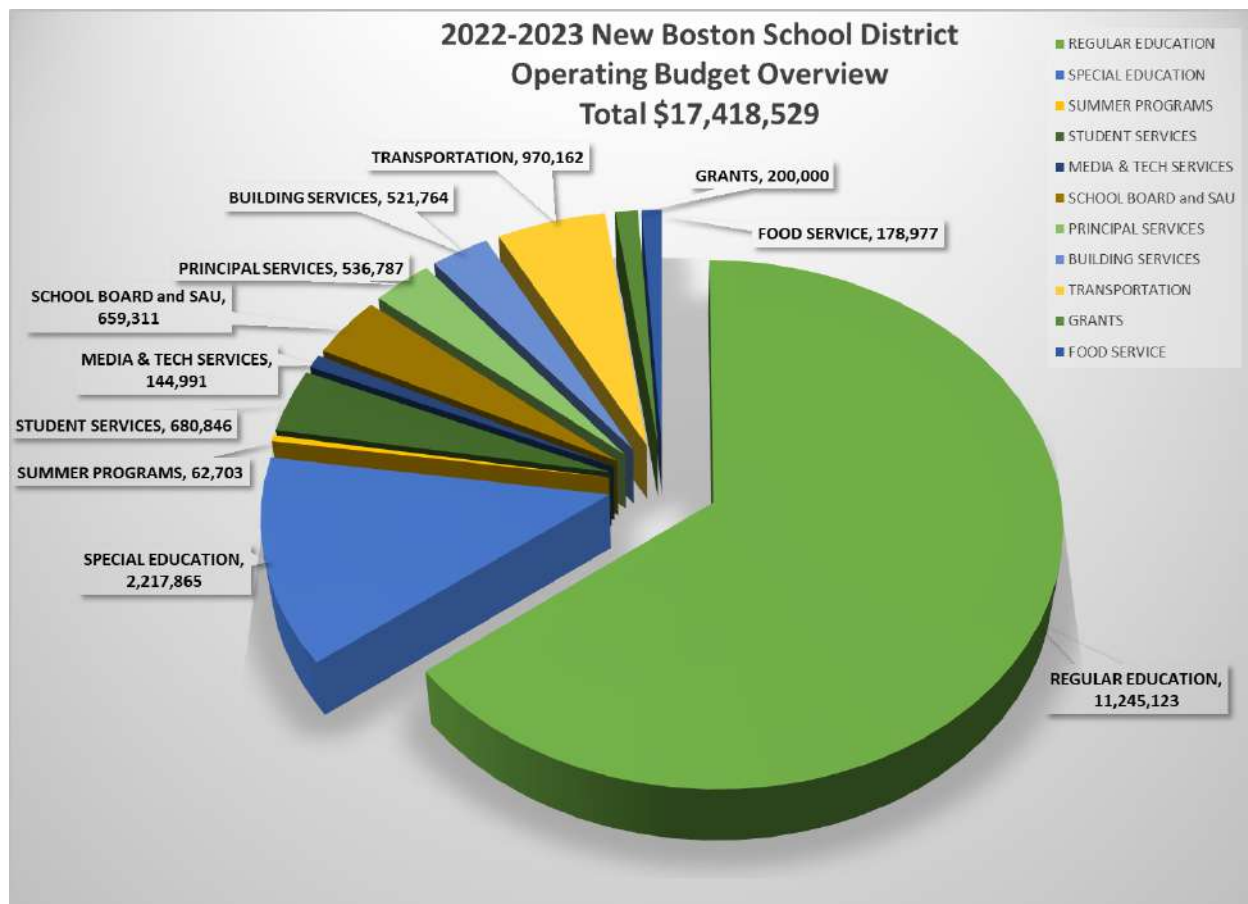
School Deliberative Ballot Determination Meeting
February 8, 2022

The New Boston Central School portion of the budget decreased by 0.7% or a \$58,295 decrease. There are currently 507 elementary school students attending New Boston Central School (including pre-school). This portion of the budget is managed locally and includes administration, teachers, staff, programming and service cost for the school district's pre-k, kindergarten, and elementary school operations.

The proposed operating budget also includes the cost of tuition for New Boston to send 143 students to Mountain View Middle School and 352 students to Goffstown High School. The tuition payments to the Goffstown School District are calculated using a formula from the contract that applies to this arrangement (the AREA). The formula calculates New Boston's allocated share of the expense for our students attending Goffstown's schools and is based on the percentage of the total student population at those schools comprised of New Boston students, and the total budget appropriations required for Goffstown to operate those schools. The proposed operating budget also supports specialized in-district and out-of-district programs for all of our students, no matter what their educational needs might entail, and no matter what school(s) they attend.

Federal Special Revenue Grant Funding for New Boston has increased from the previous year. This total is \$200,000. This is a direct result of additional federal grant funds that we anticipate the school district will spend in FY 2022-2023.

There is also a slight increase of \$11,442 in the Food Service Fund for a new total of \$178,977. Both the Federal Grant Funds and Food Service Operations are self-funding; revenues are used to offset expenses.



School Deliberative Ballot Determination Meeting
February 8, 2022

Per Pupil Spending:

The state elementary school average for per pupil expenses in 2020-2021 was \$19,332. New Boston Central School per pupil expenses for the 2020-2021 school year was \$14,437, the 3rd lowest in the state out of 155 elementary schools. Despite this low spending, we exceed the state average in SAS testing.

The state middle school average for per pupil expenses in 2020-2021 was \$17,263. Mountain View Middle School per pupil expense for this same year was \$13,879 per pupil, the 4th lowest in the state out of 62 middle schools.

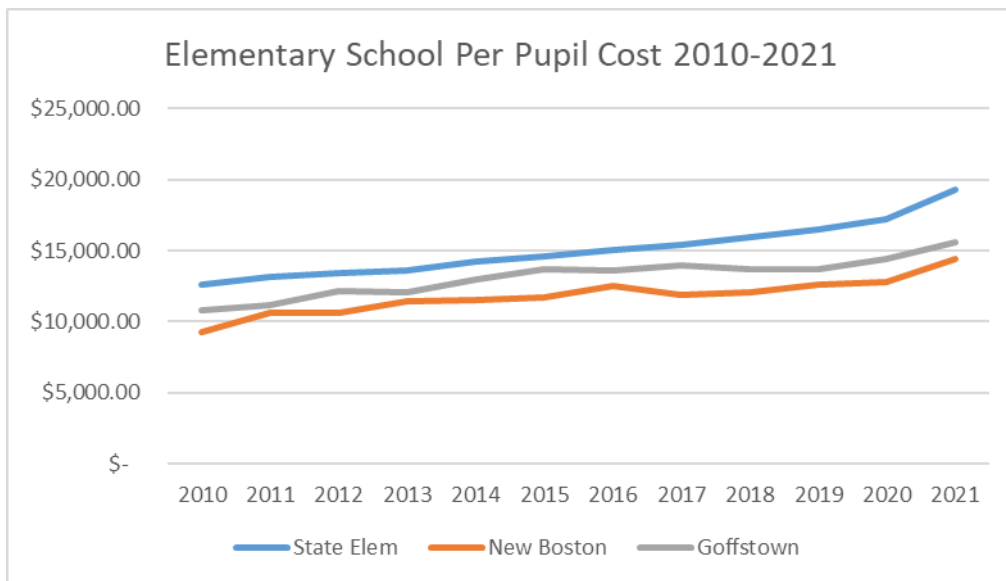
The state high school average for per pupil expenses in 2020-2021 was \$17,758. The per pupil expense for Goffstown High School in 2020-2021 was \$15,371, the 5th lowest in the state out of 73 high schools.

This budget does not include the costs associated with any other special warrant article.

Overall, the New Boston School District has a long history of providing an excellent education to our students, at a responsible cost to taxpayers. The commitment of the NBCS staff to student achievement has yielded higher than average state assessments, and reflects a strong return on the community's investments in our schools.

For more detailed information about the proposed budget, please visit the New Boston Central School website at: <https://www.nbcs.k12.nh.us/>

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
State Elementary Per Pupil Cost	\$ 15,397.60	\$ 15,981.46	\$ 16,519.77	\$ 17,188.49	\$ 19,331.82
New Boston	\$ 11,919.21	\$ 12,079.65	\$ 12,585.21	\$ 12,791.44	\$ 14,436.64
Amount Less than State Average	\$ 3,478.39	\$ 3,901.81	\$ 3,934.56	\$ 4,397.05	\$ 4,895.18
% Less than State Average	23%	24%	24%	26%	25%



ARTICLE 3 Teachers Collective Bargaining Agreement

To see if the New Boston School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the New Boston Education Association Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the New Boston School Board and the New Boston Education Association, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

Year	Estimated Increase
2022-2023	\$217,843
2023-2024	\$160,488
2024-2025	\$170,765

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$217,843 for the 2022-2023 fiscal year; this amount to be offset by \$2,909 from the Special Revenue Fund with the remaining amount of \$214,934 to be raised by taxation for the purpose of funding 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. This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article #2 the Operating Budget. (Majority vote required.)

The School Board voted 5-0 to recommend

The Finance Committee voted 7-0 to recommend

EXPLANATION: This article asks voters to approve the cost items associated with the Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the New Boston Education Association (NBEA) (Teachers) and the New Boston School District.

As part of the negotiations process, the school district benchmarked the compensation of comparable school districts with the goal of attracting and retaining quality educators for the students of New Boston.

Two categories of benchmarked towns are taken into consideration during this process; geographical competitors and towns that are comparable to the single school district model. Efforts were made during this negotiation process to ensure that we would be at the 50th percentile of single school districts and working towards the 50th for geographically competitive districts. The proposed contract moves us in this direction.

Major highlights of the agreement are as follows:

- The agreement provides for salary increases during the three-year agreement. The salary grid will be adjusted as follows:
 - Year 1 – Step plus 4% to the grid
 - Year 2 – Step plus 3% to the grid
 - Year 3 – Step plus 3% to the grid
- Summer program compensation will increase from \$35 an hour to the teacher hourly per diem rate
- The Retirement and Sick payouts at the end of employment have been combined into one stipend
 - The 20 – 24-year stipend amount was increased by \$1,000
 - The 25+ year stipend amount was increased by \$2,000
- A formal mentor program is being added and stipends will be payable to teachers serving as mentors

ARTICLE 4 AREA Agreement Renewal

Shall the school district vote to approve the negotiated renewal and amendment of the Authorized Regional Enrollment Agreement (AREA Agreement) between the New Boston and Goffstown School Districts which provides for the continued maintenance of AREA schools located in Goffstown to serve grades seven through twelve from the school districts of Goffstown and New Boston for a term of ten (10) years commencing on July 1, 2024 and terminating on June 30, 2034 in accordance with the proposed AREA Agreement as approved by the State Board of Education and on file with District Clerk and the administrative offices at SAU No. 19.

The School Board Voted 5-0 To Recommend

This warrant article does not involve an appropriation. The Finance Committee does not vote to recommend/not recommend non-appropriation warrant articles

EXPLANATION:

The New Boston School District educates our pre-k through 6th grade students in New Boston and then sends our 7th and 8th graders to Mountain View Middle School and our 9th through 12th graders to Goffstown High School through what is called an AREA agreement pursuant to RSA 195-A, with Goffstown.

New Boston has worked with Goffstown through this AREA Agreement since 1971. Before that, New Boston sent their students to Goffstown since 1965. This has been a long-standing arrangement with our neighboring community and has worked well over the years as this agreement has given a collective assurance to both communities with a well-rounded education at a very affordable cost while meeting the needs for both district students.

A committee was formed early in 2021 between New Boston and Goffstown to review the AREA Agreement and concluded this past fall. The new agreement outlines the provisions of educational services for grades 7 through 12. The changes to the agreement were minor and the NH State Board of Education unanimously approved the new agreement on December 9th, 2021.

Voters from New Boston and Goffstown are being asked to vote on March 8th to approve the new AREA Agreement. If approved by both communities, the new agreement will start on July 1st, 2024, for a term of 10 years.

A majority vote is required.

ARTICLE 5 Capital Reserve Fund Deposit:

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate up to FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$50,000) for deposit into the existing New Boston Central School Facilities Renovation and Repair Fund and to authorize the use of that amount from the June 30, 2022 Unreserved Fund balance (surplus) available for transfer on July 1, 2022. This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article #2, the Operating Budget Article. (Majority vote required.)

The School Board Voted 5-0 To Recommend

The Finance Committee Voted 7-0 To Recommend

EXPLANATION:

The New Boston School District Facilities Renovation and Repair Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) has been an invaluable planning and budgeting tool for the school district. The CRF provides the school district the opportunity to repair and replace school infrastructure that is both planned and unexpected. In addition, the CRF is a valuable funding source in competing for competitive grants that require matching funds.

Over the past couple of years, the New Boston Central School completed a series of improvements and renovations at no cost to local taxpayers. These projects totaling in excess of \$750,000 included: new windows, new supplemental HVAC units, and a lighting retrofit project were paid for using one-time state aid, energy rebates, and the acceptance of a competitive energy grant.

The School Board remains committed to the upkeep and maintenance of New Boston Central School. This \$50,000 CRF deposit from the unassigned fund balance does not require an appropriation of new funds.

The existing capital will provide a funding source for future NBCS projects such as: septic system replacement, parking lot repavement, drainage, boiler replacement, and other future building infrastructure projects.

ARTICLE 6 5% Contingency Fund Adoption

Shall the School District adopt the revisions to RSA 198:4-b, II enacted in 2020, and authorize, indefinitely until specific rescission, the District to retain year-end unassigned general funds in an amount not to exceed, in any fiscal year, 5% of the District's current fiscal year's net assessment, allows for the expenditure of the retained general funds after the School Board first holds a public hearing on the action to be taken with such funds, and further requires that an annual accounting and report of the activities of the retained general funds be presented to the School Board and published in the annual report to the District?

The School Board voted 5-0 To Recommend

This warrant article does not involve an appropriation. The Finance Committee does not vote to recommend/not recommend non-appropriation warrant articles

EXPLANATION:

The school board is requesting that the voters in New Boston approve the 5% contingency fund being proposed in warrant article 6. The voters of New Boston approved the 2.5% contingency fund in 2013. In 2020, the state increased the permitted amount to be retained from 2.5% to 5% of its net assessment of the districts unassigned fund balance (RSA 198:4-b). There are restrictions to what this money can be spent on, specifically for unanticipated expenses or tax rate reduction. The school board must hold a public hearing prior to disbursement from the fund. All unspent monies from this fund do not automatically carry over at the end of the fiscal year unless the school board approves the money authorized to be kept in the fund for the subsequent year. Another requirement is that there be a detailed report of how these funds were used and will be published in the district's annual report.

This fund would give the district a greater ability to address unexpected expenses including the offsetting of the tax rate, if needed. **This warrant article does not involve an appropriation.**

Polls are open on Tuesday, March 8, 2022

7:00 am to 7:00 pm

In the Tom Mansfield Gym at the New Boston Central School

If you have any questions about the enclosed information, please contact:

Brian Balke
SAU 19 Superintendent
brian.balke@sau19.org
SAU #19 at 603-497-4818

Kary Jencks
School Board Chairperson
nbcboard@sau19.org