

OYSTER RIVER COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
**2015**  
**SCHOOL WARRANT**

To the Inhabitants of the Oyster River Cooperative School District of Durham, Lee, and Madbury qualified to vote upon District affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Oyster River High School in said district on the 3rd day of February 2015, at 7:00 o'clock in the evening for Session I of the Annual School District Meeting for discussion of Articles 3 through 7 and for any amendments thereto. Warrant articles whose wording is prescribed by law shall not be amended and no warrant article shall be amended to eliminate the subject matter of the article at Session I.

Official ballot voting for school district officers (articles 1 and 2) and on articles 3-7 will occur at town polling locations on Tuesday, March 10, 2015:

Town of Durham	Oyster River High School	7:00 am to 7:00 pm
Town of Lee	Lee Safety Complex	7:00 am to 7:00 pm
Town of Madbury	Madbury Town Hall	11:00 am to 7:30 pm

ARTICLE 1: To choose a Moderator for the coming year.

ARTICLE 2: To choose three School Board members, one each from Durham, Lee and Madbury for the ensuing three years.

ARTICLE 3: Shall the District raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000,000 for the renovation and construction of athletic fields and a track at Oyster River High School, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$1,700,000 of bonds or notes to be paid over a 10 year period in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Chapter 33) and to authorize the School Board to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes; and in addition to raise and appropriate the sum of \$36,833 for the first year's principal and interest payment on the bonds or notes, and \$300,000 to come from an expendable trust fund for this purpose, *The School Board recommends this appropriation. (A three-fifths (3/5) ballot vote required.)*

Explanation: Warrant article 3 asks Oyster River taxpayers to approve a bond of up to \$1.7M over a (10) year period to fund the costs for an athletic facility upgrade project at the high school. This project will include an all-weather track, an artificial turf rectangular playing field and reconfigured baseball and softball fields. The estimated total cost of the project is \$2 million. An artificial turf field will improve drainage and allow for much greater utilization of the field. The reconfiguration of our baseball and softball fields will provide for multi-use play. Assuming the \$1.7 million bond is approved by the voters, the remaining \$300,000 for the project has been privately fundraised by the Friends of Oyster River Track (FORT) and will be used to fund the construction of the all-weather track. The Board anticipates that additional fundraising will make possible enhancements to the project, to include field lights and dugouts.

ARTICLE 4: Shall the District vote to approve within the provisions of New Hampshire RSA 273-A:3 the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Oyster River Bus Driver's Association (ORBDA) and the Oyster River School Board which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

2015-2016	\$	69,147
2016-2017	\$	21,726
2017-2018	\$	21,274

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$69,147 for the 2015-2016 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increases in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels? *The School Board recommends this appropriation. (Majority vote required)*

ARTICLE 5: Shall the District vote to approve within the provisions of New Hampshire RSA 273-A:3 the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Oyster River Paraprofessionals and Support Staff (ORPaSS) and the Oyster River School Board which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

2015-2016	\$	135,624
2016-2017	\$	121,343
2017-2018	\$	84,600

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$135,624 for the 2015-2016 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increases in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels? *The School Board recommends this appropriation. (Majority vote required)*

ARTICLE 6: Shall the District vote to create an expendable trust fund under the provisions of RSA 198:20-c, to be known as the benefit stabilization fund, for the purpose of offsetting unexpected increases in various benefits in which the principal and interest may be appropriated and expended. Furthermore, to raise and appropriate a sum up to \$ 200,000 to be added to the benefit stabilization expendable trust fund, with such amount to be funded from the year-end undesignated fund balance and to name the School Board as agents to expend from this fund. *The School Board recommends this appropriation. (Majority vote required)*

Explanation: This fund if established would be a reserve fund to be used in the event of major or unexpected increases in benefit costs. In recent years New Hampshire has shifted nearly 1 million to fund state retirement which had a direct impact on local taxpayers. The unpredictability of health insurance increases, sometimes over 10% also impacts local taxpayers. This reserve fund if approved, would help lower these unanticipated costs. The funds to support this would come from the current year end undesignated fund balance. The School Board would be agents of this fund so any expenditure would need prior approval from the School Board.

ARTICLE 7: Shall the District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant article and other appropriations voted separately, the amount 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 \$ 40,759,297 distributed as follows: Fund 10 = \$ 39,454,621 (regular operating budget); Fund 21 = \$ 643,676 (expenditures from food service revenues); Fund 22 = \$ 600,000 (expenditures from federal/special revenues); Fund 23 = \$ 61,000 (expenditures from pass through funds)? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$ 38,858,410 (Default Budget) which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the district or by law; or the district may hold one special meeting in accordance with RSA 40:13, X, and XVI to take up the issue of the revised operating budget only. *The School Board recommends this appropriation. (Majority vote required)*

Given under our hands at said Durham NH this \_\_\_\_ day of January 2015:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas Newkirk, Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Allan Howland, Vice-chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kenneth Rotner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Maria Barth

\_\_\_\_\_  
Edwin Charle

\_\_\_\_\_  
Denise Day

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sarah Farwell