



- 44 • **Ms. Leonard** explained it would be helpful for the School Board to be very clear on the  
45 reason for replacing windows in a building that is only 15 years old. **Chair LeFebvre**  
46 suggested including this in the School Board’s flyer.
- 47 • **Mr. Donohoe** how trust fund has been tracking over the last 5 years. **Mr. Hill** explained  
48 based on the knowledge of upcoming projects, the Facilities Committee’s position is to  
49 keep building the funds. **Chair LeFebvre** suggested the School Board consider using the  
50 trust fund monies. **Mr. Richard** noted there are several big expenses forthcoming.  
51 **Mr. Colbath** inquired if the school district is solely responsible for Eagles Way. **Mr.**  
52 **Richard** explained the school owns the road and there is a portion that is used by an  
53 outside entity and they can contribute to the road maintenance. **Mr. Hill** further explained  
54 the current condition and upcoming maintenance of Eagles Way. Additionally, **Mr.**  
55 **Corbett** inquired when maintenance fund was last used. **Mr. Richard** advised KHS has  
56 not been used. Elementary funds were used at 10 years ago for CES to replace the  
57 underground storage tank and 6 years ago at PTS to replace hot water pipping. A history  
58 will can be provided.
- 59 \* **Article 3, 4, & 5** are the expendable trust funds which are offset by sending towns per  
60 contract.
- 61 \* **Article 6** is the AFSCME CBA 3-year agreement (custodians, bus drivers, & maintenance).  
62 As previously explained the biggest component of this agreement is the movement health  
63 insurance with a consumer driven \$1,500 deductible and the phasing out of the benefit card.  
64 Another important component for both sides was the raising of the starting salary for the  
65 custodians, bus drivers, and maintenance staff, which was significantly low.
- 66 \* **Article 7** is the operating budget in the amount of \$38,653,496 (not including warrant  
67 articles) which will be offset \$10,645,378 through tuition agreements and \$1,588,000  
68 through grant funding.
- 69 • **Chair LeFebvre** clarified \$38,414,646 is the proposed default budget, which is \$238,850  
70 less than the operating budget.
- 71 • **Mr. Donohoe** asked for information related to how the sending town percentage has  
72 tracked over the past 3 years.
- 73 \* **Article 8** ask for \$74,000 as supplemental funding for Project SUCCEED. These monies are  
74 necessary to apply for and receive \$215,000 in federal monies, as local support must be  
75 shown. Additionally, Ms. DellaValla has secured \$100,000 + in grant funding and  
76 anonymous donations.
- 77 \* **Article 9** asks for \$250,000 for the Equipment and/or School Bus capital reserve fund.
- 78 • **Mr. Colbath** clarified the plan is to put \$250,000 into the reserve fund each year. **Mr.**  
79 **Richard** confirmed. **Ms Gilligan** advised \$97,020 reduced out of account for a new bus.
- 80 • **Mr. Donohoe** commented in his opinion taxpayers should see spending request annually.
- 81 • **Mr. Donohoe** inquired of the possibility of outsourcing the excess routes, decreasing the  
82 bus fleet from 18 to 14, and extend the purchase cycle from 1 to 3 years. **Mr. Richard**  
83 noted the school board looked at outsourcing and more efficient processes. A  
84 transportation study was done 10 years ago, however, the geography is the problem and  
85 to date there has not been a recommendation to the school board to outsource  
86 transportation. **Mr. Hill** noted if this is about field trips and sporting events it is not cost  
87 effective, keep in mind the district is already paying 40% of the driver’s benefits.  
88 Additionally, the board increased the replacement time from 15 to 20 years and 150,000  
89 miles to 200,000. The buses are maintained by the town maintenance crew.

- **Mr. Colbath** inquired if sp. ed. needs are outsourced. **Mr. Richard** advised if a student requires services outside of the district transportation is arranged for the student and would be noted under the sp. ed. budget. Additionally, there is a modified bus in the fleet for special services.

\* **Article 10** is a special article asking for \$110,000 to resurface the track and tennis courts.

REVIEW AND ANSWER TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS:

1. BC member Mike Laracy would like information on all interest-bearing debt/bonds issued by the District. Specifically, the dates of issue, each bonds amount at the time of issue, the principal remaining on each bond, the maturity date, interest rate, and the tax-exempt status of the bonds. As interest rates are currently so low, it might make sense to explore refinancing older bonds (with higher interest rates?) to save taxpayer money. If this attempt would result in new origination fees, would those fees negate any savings?

- **Mr. Richard** advised each school has a bond totaling \$2,090,000 with total interest of \$363,069. **Mr. Hill** noted he reached out to the bond bank today for information related to the ability to refinance along with the pros and cons of refinancing the current bonds and will provide an update through email once the information is received.
- **Mr. Edgerton** asked for an individual break down for each bond including the termination date. **Mr. Hill** noted the individual bond schedule is listed in the town report annually.

2. In the same arena, during the SB session on the new bond for the KHS windows, was any discussion held about the possibility of "offsetting" some of the bond's "cost" by utilizing monies from the KHS Maintenance Fund and/or funds retained by the board annually. If, as an example, the bond could be offset by 300K from the maintenance fund and the retained SB funds, this would the net cost to approximately one million dollars in new debt. This would reduce interest costs further.

- **\*\*Previously discussed\*\***

3. Several folks have requested a detailed breakdown of School District expenditures charged against Cares, SPRF, and SPRF2 since the start of these programs.

- **Mr. Richard** provided Appendix A to the budget that provides a breakdown of the allocations and detailed expenditures/encumbrances from each fund. Additionally, he reviewed each allocation and the expenditures and encumbrances.
- **Mr. Donohoe** clarified between the SPRF1 & 2 and budgeted funds that filled the gap. **Mr. Richard** the budget request would have been higher if it weren't for the additional grant funding.

4. On Unit 8 - Dale was asked about the total number of Chrome Books on the property book. Answer was not available at the time. Please provide that answer as soon as feasible. Additionally, it was mentioned that some number of Chrome Books at CES were 8 years old and well past license expiration. How many CB are past license expiration across the district?

**Mr. Richard advised** the district has 1881 Chromebooks from Pre-K – 12. There are 905 Chromebooks that have licenses set to expire this year. There are 53 out of date Chromebooks in the district.

5. Dale also mentioned that he believed that the new CB being purchased came with a four-year license agreement. Could that belief be confirmed?

- **Mr. Richard** noted licensing is for the life of the device. Google says the license is good for 4 years, however, the Chromebooks purchased last year have a 5-year warranty.

- 137 • **Mr. Dziezic** clarified the 1881 Chromebooks provides one for each student. Mr.  
138 Richard advised it brings everyone up to date and on track for an obsolescence schedule.  
139 Further noting, he saw Bartlett was fundraising for Chromebooks and he found it odd  
140 since there are so many in Conway. **Mr. Richard** noted Bartlett is behind on their  
141 technology and their SPRF funds were utilized for technology.
- 142 • **Mr. Jensen** inquired if the revenue and expenditures for the CARES and SPRF monies  
143 are in this budget. **Ms. Gilligan** advised the monies are unanticipated so they will not be  
144 in the budget and the expenditures will show up in next year's budget. Further explaining  
145 the process for reporting the monies to the DRA. **Mr. Jensen** sought clarification  
146 regarding which number is better to use in Article 7, so the taxpayers know exactly what  
147 Conway is paying. **Ms. Gilligan** advised the revenue is anticipated and the \$10 million  
148 plus that is listed is to show the voters the cost of running the school is supported by  
149 sending towns. The total amount of revenue can not be added to the warrant article;  
150 however, a footnote could be used. **Mr. Jensen** asked what amount the tax rates are set  
151 with. **Mr. Richard** advised as noted on page 77, it is the \$22 million +.
- 152 • **Mr. Colbath** commented on the unanticipated expenditures related to COVID which is  
153 offset by the unanticipated revenues from the federal funds as the monies could not be  
154 used for operating expenses.
- 155 • **Chair LeFebvre** inquired if an audit of the expenditure of the funds has been conducted.  
156 **Ms. Gilligan** advised an audit will take place in the spring.

157  
158 **Mr. Edgerton** proposed moving the middle school into the high school and close the middle  
159 school to save money. **Chair LeFebvre and Mr. Richard** advised the previous studies are  
160 available on the SAU 9 website and can also be copied and provided to the board members.

161  
162 **Mr Drinkhall** asked for an updated total that includes the operating budget and warrant  
163 articles minus revenue. **Ms. Gilligan** advised the total is \$21,318,845.

164  
165 **OLD BUSINESS:**

166 Upcoming meetings:

- 167 ➤ January 25, 2021 at 6:30 in the Marshall Gymnasium; nonprofit presentations, joint meeting  
168 with the select board. (Chair LeFebvre will not be present)  
169 ➤ February 1, 2021 at 6:30 in the Marshall Gymnasium; final town session to include the  
170 default budget.  
171 ➤ February 10, 2021 at 6:00 at the Loynd Auditorium; public hearing and voting on articles.

172  
173 **NEW BUSINESS:** None

174  
175 **PUBLIC /MEDIA QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:** None

176  
177 **ADJOURN:**

178 **Mr. Edgerton moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 PM.**

179  
180 Respectfully Submitted,  
181 *Lisa E. Towle,*  
182 Recording Secretary