

# Amherst School District

Annual Report & Guide to  
Official Ballot Voting

March 12, 2024

Souhegan High School  
6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.



PLEASE BRING THIS GUIDE  
WITH YOU TO BALLOT  
VOTING ON MARCH 12, 2024

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN PAID FOR BY  
THE AMHERST SCHOOL DISTRICT  
C/O SAU 39, PO BOX 849, AMHERST, NH 03031

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## **Amherst School District – Officers & Agents**

### **School Board**

Tom Gauthier – Chair  
Jason White – Vice Chair  
Terri Behm – Secretary  
Shannon Gascoyne  
Timothy Theberge

### **Office of the Superintendent**

Michael Berry – Superintendent  
Steven Chamberlin – Assistant Superintendent  
Christine Landwehrle – Assistant Superintendent  
Amy Facey – Business Administrator  
Meg Beauchamp – Director of Student Services

### **Moderator**

Ellen Grudzien

### **Clark-Wilkins Elementary School**

Kathleen Murphy – Principal

### **Clerk**

Tony Ortiz

### **Amherst Middle School**

Kristen Gauthier – Principal

### **Treasurer**

Margaret Bennett

### **Ways & Means Finance Committee**

Caleb Baird – Chair  
Matthew Comstock – Secretary  
Matthew Borden  
Brittany Donovan

Christopher Goodrich  
Peter Maresco  
Caitlin Thompson

## **Voting in Amherst**

Amherst School District follows the guidelines of Senate Bill 2 (SB2) which are outlined in RSA 40:13. Voting on budgets, appropriations, and other articles culminates with ballot voting; however, prior to the March ballot vote is the Deliberative Session, which was held February 5, 2024 and the Public Hearing, which took place in January.

All warrant articles that were presented at the Deliberative Session, including articles that were amended, are then placed on the official ballot and moved to the second session (ballot voting) of the annual meeting for a final vote.

### **Voting in Amherst is a Two-Step Process:**

Deliberative Session: February 5, 2024, 6:00 p.m. Souhegan High School Theater

Ballot Vote: March 12, 2024, 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Souhegan High School Gymnasium

Please contact the Amherst Town Clerk for voter registration information and for absentee ballots: <https://www.amherstnh.gov/town-clerk>

## **Amherst School Board Report**

### *Message from the Amherst School Board Chair - Tom Gauthier*

Thank you for taking the time to review the articles up for your vote in this year's school elections. Much like last year, there are several items that will determine the immediate and long-term future of the Amherst School District. Please review the articles (12-16) and know that this board has full belief that they are important pieces to allowing the students of this district to flourish over the coming years. We look forward to seeing you at the polls Tuesday, March 12.

## **Article 12 – Wilkins Elementary School Project Bond - \$49,997,214**

### **Review of 2023**

Following a defeated bond request for a PK-5 elementary school in March 2023, the Amherst School Board surveyed the community and held community feedback sessions (March-May 2023). These surveys and sessions revealed three main areas that taxpayers wished to see addressed:

1. Reduction in cost and scope
2. Alternative options fully designed and estimated
3. The future of the Clark School building

With this in mind, the Amherst School Board directed the SAU Leadership, along with the Building and Grounds Committee and the Building administration at Clark-Wilkins School to work with Banwell Architects and DEW Construction to develop two fully costed proposals - a renovation/addition and a build to suit with cost breakdowns for a Grade 1-5 Wilkins School configuration on the existing site. Moving Grade 5 to the Elementary remains a critical component of the plan to alleviate space constraints at the Amherst Middle School. This plan also maintains the Clark School for pre-K and Kindergarten, which we will continue to maintain and plan for program needs through our operating budget and capital reserve funding.

Warrant Article 12 seeks to strike a balance between taxpayer response to previous proposals and what best meets the needs of our students and educators.

Numerous design iterations of a renovation/addition option and a build to suit option were reviewed and refined by the SAU Administration and the Amherst Building and Grounds Committee. Ultimately, the build to suit option was favored unanimously by the committee and Amherst School Board. This option represents a reasonable and conservative design based on the needs of students and our educational program. It is a timeless and functional design that meets present needs and is built to carry the town into the future for decades to come.

### **Facility Project Goals**

1. Right-size the elementary school to match current student enrollment and programming
2. Alleviate space constraints at Amherst Middle School and provide a developmentally appropriate environment by moving Grade 5 to the Elementary School
3. Create learning spaces that are code compliant to present day standards
4. Create spaces that provide the highest levels of safety and security for staff and students
5. Address aging and end of life mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### Q. HOW DOES THIS DIFFER FROM PREVIOUS REQUESTS?

2023 Proposal (FY24)	2024 Proposal (FY25)
Bond Amount: \$54,250,179 (\$56.3M 4% escalation)	Bond Amount: \$49,997,214
Total Cost (25 year level debt): \$103,384,725	Total Cost (25 year level principal): \$76,247,088
Grades PK-5	Grades 1-5
146,229 sq.ft	119,248 sq. ft
Eliminates need for Clark School	Maintains Clark School PK & K
Larger footprint on site	Smaller footprint on site

### Q. WHAT ABOUT CLASS SIZE & STUDENT ENROLLMENT?

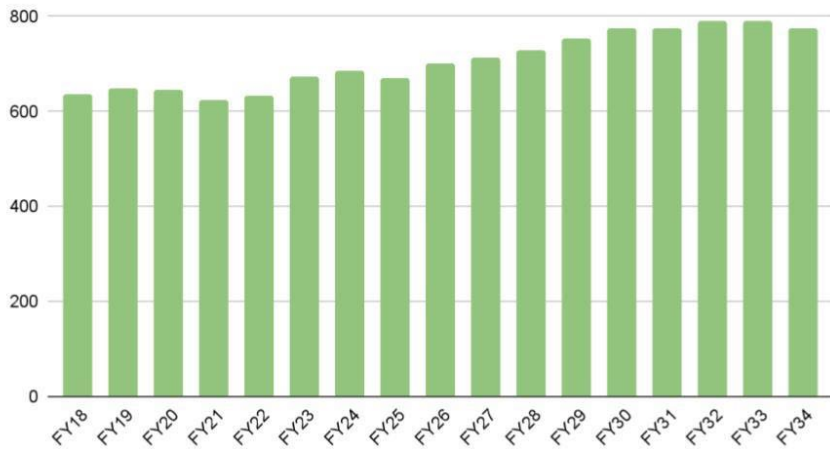
Keeping class sizes reasonable to allow for better interaction between students and teachers continues to be a priority.

The Amherst School District has addressed staffing to meet the desired student-teacher ratio over the last five years. Class sizes are presently within a reasonable range but this exacerbates the sacrifices to educational space. For example, when an additional classroom is needed to maintain manageable and appropriate class size targets, the result is integrated arts teachers move from a dedicated space to a push-in model in individual classrooms or another shared location in the building. This is inefficient, leads to a loss of instruction time, and can be highly disruptive.

Since class size ratios have been addressed, additional teachers are not projected as a result of the building project. The addition or reduction of staff will be driven by enrollment demands. Enrollment projections are steady and allow the Board to feel confident in the size of the proposed project. The following graphic highlights our enrollment projections for the next 10 years. The plan has a design Capacity of 756 students or 7 classrooms per grade with 3 flexible classroom spaces built in to be used for programming or classroom space as needed to serve bubble years, student services and programs needs.

# Supports Current and Future Enrollment

Enrollment Grades 1-5 Current and Projected



\*Based on Fall 2023 NESDEC Projections



Should a need arise for additional space in the future, the building is designed to accommodate an addition with a core enrollment capacity of 864 (referring to core spaces such as the cafeteria, media center, and gym).

## Q. HOW DO BONDS WORK?

NH RSA 33 describes the bond process in NH.

In general, the District sells municipal tax-free bonds either directly on the bond market or through an intermediary like the NH Municipal Bond Bank. Once the bonds are sold, the District is obligated to pay them back when they mature just like corporate bonds. The interest rate, coupon rate, par value, etc. are determined at the time the bonds are sold. The most recent interest rate estimate is 4%.

For additional information: <https://www.nhmunicipal.org/town-city-article/abcs-borrowing-municipalities>

## Q. WHAT IS THE TOTAL COST OF THE PROJECT?

Bond Requirements: Placing a dollar amount on the ballot for voters requires the formation of a cost estimate that becomes the legal high-water mark for district borrowing and spending on the project. The cost of the project is \$49,997,214. This cost includes all design work, system upgrades, renovations, additions, and sitework. As a result of the necessary high-water mark figure, when deciding what amount to put forward to voters, the board has chosen to be conservative in selecting a number that includes contingencies for unknown costs that may arise.

To assure residents that every possible step will be taken to keep costs down, a construction manager (CM) will oversee construction of the project and coordinate subcontractors. When the project is fully designed, the CM bids the entire project to subcontractors and works with the district to select the best bid for the community. Once that process concludes, the CM agrees to a guaranteed maximum price (GMP) to complete the project and is bound to deliver the project at that GMP. The district and community have full transparency into the bidding and costs of the project from start to finish.

By working with the New Hampshire Municipal Bond Bank (NHMBB), the taxpayers are granted a level of oversight that remains steady despite inevitable change in board members or administrators. The NHMBB will review our investments and refinance, if appropriate, throughout the life of the loan.

The board plans to structure the bond repayment over a 25-year period. The board is focused on level-principal repayment of the bond. Based on the assumptions, a \$482,000 home will see a tax impact decreasing over time from \$798-\$653 per year, or roughly \$67-\$54 per month over the next 10 years.

## Tax Impact and Total Cost-Level Principal 25 Years



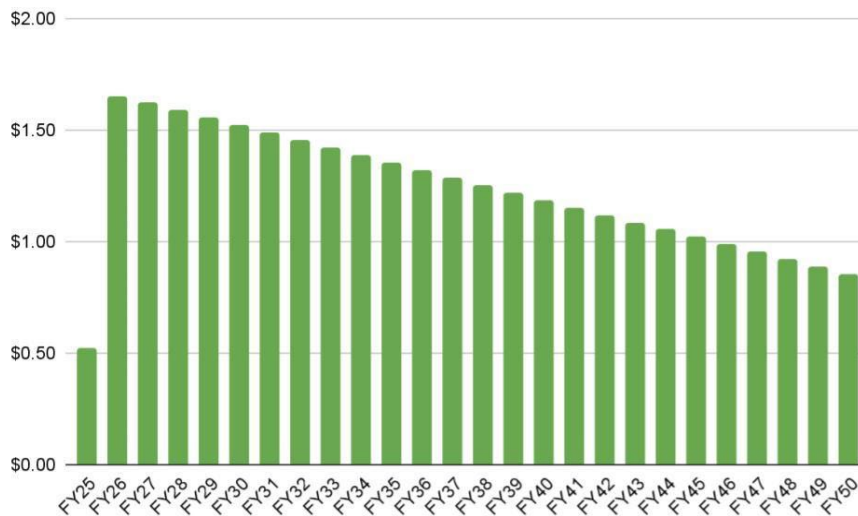
Tax Impact and Cost Assumptions	
Payment Type	Level Principal
Assessed Valuation	\$2,390,811,306
Average Home	\$482,000

Total Cost	\$76,247,088
Bond Amount	\$49,997,214
Term *	25 Years
Interest Rate *	4.0%

Year**	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31	FY32	FY33	FY34	FY35
Est. Tax Impact	\$0.52	\$1.66	\$1.62	\$1.59	\$1.56	\$1.52	\$1.49	\$1.46	\$1.42	\$1.39	\$1.36
Est. Cost/Ave Home	\$252	\$798	\$782	\$766	\$750	\$734	\$718	\$702	\$685	\$669	\$653

*\*NHMBB using 4.0% for 25-year term bonds for budgeting purposes  
 \*\*This is the first 11 years of the 25-year-term*

## Bond Financing - Level Principal



### Q. HOW WILL THE NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BENEFIT THE BROADER COMMUNITY?

Town and community groups will be able to utilize the core spaces of the building after school hours. The new Wilkins building offers several common use spaces at the front of the building accessible and separate from classroom spaces. These include a full-size gym for recreation programming, library/media center, and

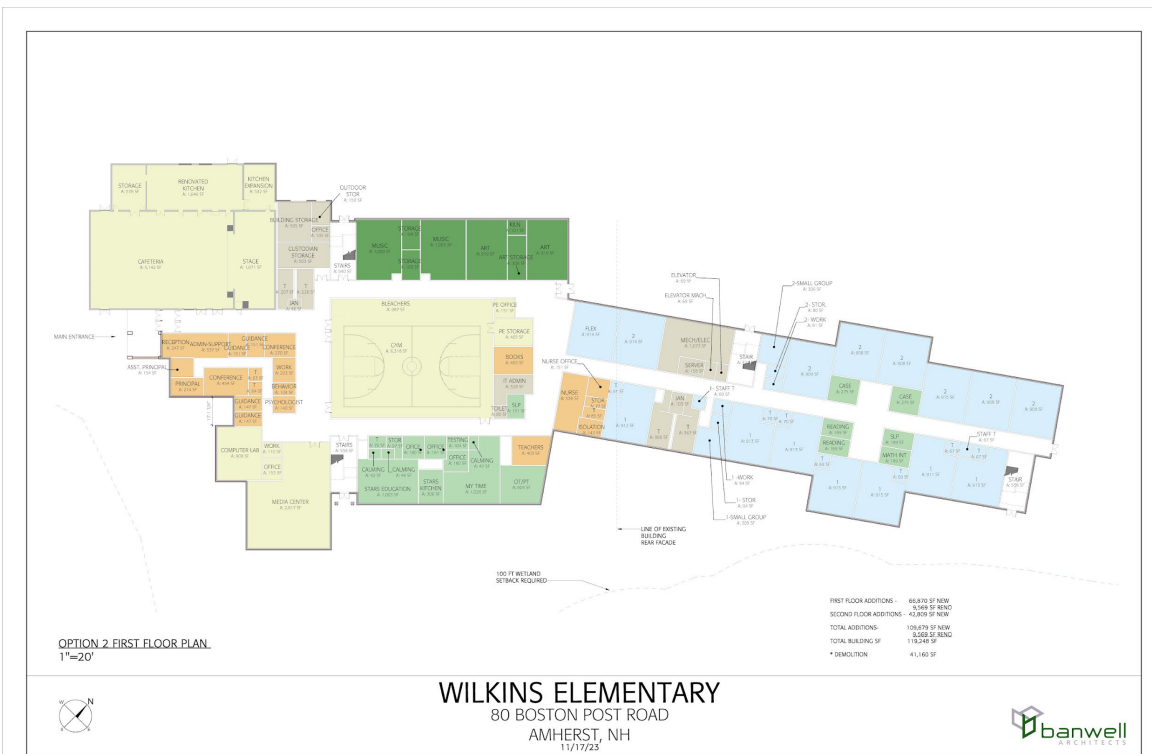
the renovated multi-purpose room with stage and mini-gym. The new site plan also offers improved traffic flow through the village during school drop-off and pick-up and increased parking for school and community events.

### Q. WHAT WILL THE BUILDING LOOK LIKE?



The conceptual renderings take on a look, feel, and profile similar to what has existed in the village for the last 57 years. A classic Amherst, N. H., school building appearance with a functional and right-sized design.

### First floor

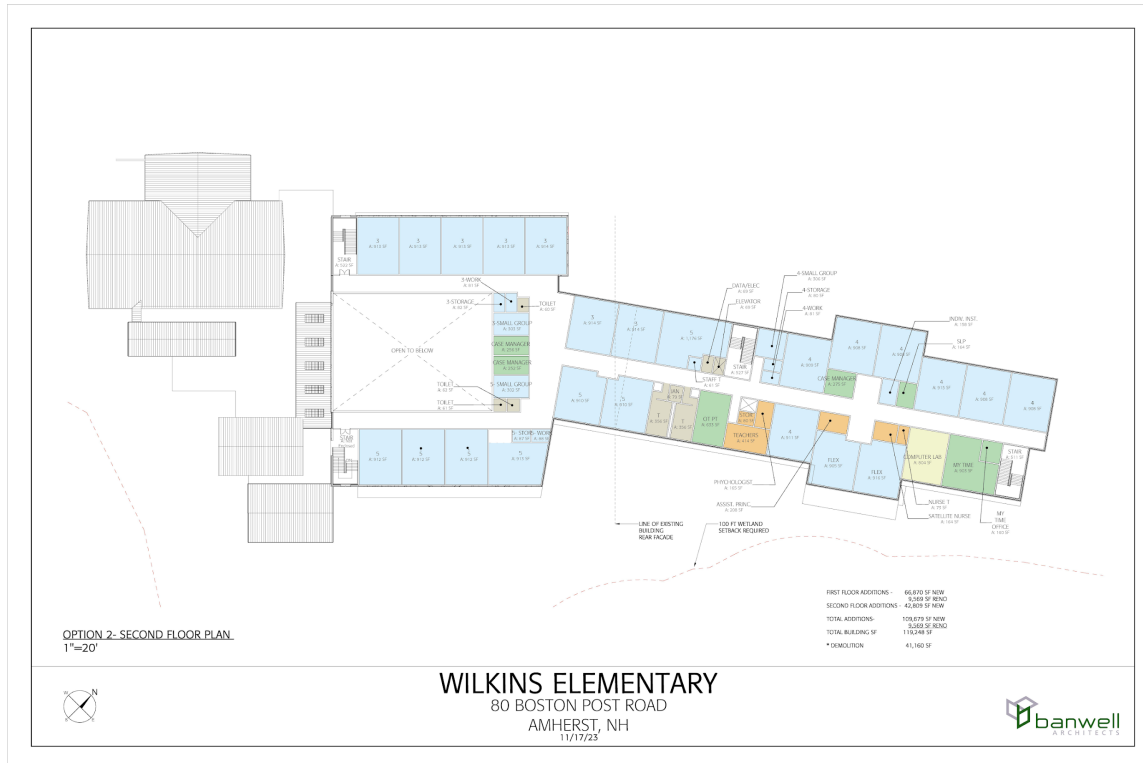


- The first floor will renovate the existing multi-purpose room into a full-size cafeteria that will provide the school and community with a stage and recreation space. Asbestos will be remediated from this space during renovation.
- The first floor includes a secure entrance in line with Homeland Security Emergency Management specifications, offices, library/media center, and integrated arts at the front of the building.



- The center of the building will include a proper gymnasium, which will serve students and the community. The community will be able to reserve and access community spaces in the building after school hours. Currently, our recreation department utilizes the multi-purpose room as a gym for after-hours programming once the after-school care has closed for the day. The addition of this gym will add recreational opportunities.
- During non-school hours, the interior of the building will be accessible through the front entrance, while the back of the building will be secure and closed to the public.
- Classrooms for grades 1-3 along with associated supports and student services will be located on the first floor.

## Second floor



The second floor will house grades 4 & 5 and associated educational supports.

### Q. WHEN WILL THE PROJECT BEGIN AND END?

Should Article 12 pass, construction is expected to begin in summer of 2025 with completion projected in time for the 2027-2028 school year. During construction, all schools will remain open, utilizing current space to avoid rental costs of portable classrooms where possible.

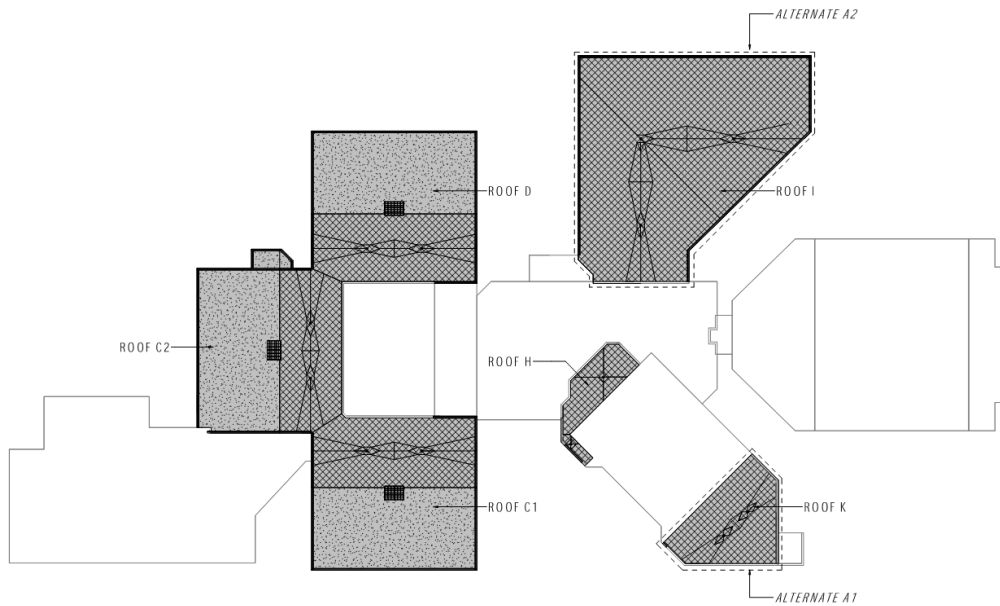
### Q. WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS FOR AMHERST MIDDLE SCHOOL AND CLARK BUILDING?

Article 12 includes plans for grades 1-5. Maintaining Clark School and Amherst Middle School will continue through the Capital Maintenance Reserve Fund and Operating Budget.

Through targeted savings over the last five years into the capital reserve fund and paying close attention to the capital needs assessment, we have identified maintenance requirements and a long term funding plan to take necessary steps in facility improvement at AMS and Clark.

In recent years, AMS has experienced water damage from roof leaks and unit ventilator floods. These items were identified as part of the 2017 capital needs assessment and are part of the list of projects to be funded through the capital reserve funding.

Last summer (2023) we completed a small section (Roof H) of the roof at AMS utilizing Capital Maintenance Reserve Fund and thanks to continued voter support of this fund, we will be completing a larger phase of the roof/hvac at AMS (Roof C1) this Summer 2024, as we laid out in last year’s deliberative session. We anticipate phasing over 10 years, dependent on voter support and funding of capital reserve funds and operating budgets.



The space constraints at AMS will be lessened by moving fifth grade to the elementary school while not requiring an addition to AMS.

Should Article 12 pass, a new elementary school building would allow the capital maintenance reserve funding to focus on the projects at the Amherst Middle School and Clark School.

**Q. WHAT ARE THE OVERALL ADVANTAGES:**

**Functional spaces with a classic design**

- Developmentally appropriate educational space Grades 1-5
- Spaces designed to meet curriculum and student needs
- Aligned tightly with current and projected enrollment

**Enhanced Safety & Security**

- Removes need for detached portables
- Front entrance designed to meet homeland security emergency management specifications
- Comprehensive camera, alarm, phone, and improved fire safety systems

**New Systems**

- Addresses aging, out of compliance, end of life systems with energy efficient systems
- Provides excellent indoor air quality and temperature control

**Improved Traffic Flow**

- Addresses Boston Post Road traffic concerns by utilizing driveway around building to hold 75 cars
- Expands parking capacity

This is an important moment in the trajectory of our community school buildings. The Amherst School Board encourages in-depth review of this article. If you have questions, please contact us at [asb@sau39.org](mailto:asb@sau39.org). For a full review of the proposed project please visit <https://wilkins-school-project.sau39.org/>

## ARTICLE 13 - FY25 Proposed Budget - \$34,055,985

The proposed budget for FY25 is \$34,055,985, an increase of 3.8% of the current operating budget. That FY24 budget is the result of a second straight failed budget vote, leaving the district operating in a default two years running.

With the desire to avoid a third consecutive default, the board and administration went back and forth to ensure there was a small set of priorities funded in order to make room for key line items that are part of the default budget.

The priorities for this budget include:

- Increased focus on literacy competency and achievement.
- Capture and expand instructional time.
- Supervision and evaluation of teachers.

Major budget drivers:

- **Health Insurance.** The largest impact on the budget is a 21.8% increase in health insurance premiums. By comparison, last year's health insurance increase was roughly four percent.
- **New contracts.** There are two years of the new collective bargaining agreements in the default budget after last year's successful vote in support of Amherst Education Association and Amherst Support Staff Association. These contracts were overwhelmingly approved by voters, providing increased educational time for students (a continued goal of the board as mentioned above), financial and developmental gains for teachers, and stability for the district.

Beyond these increases, we are proposing the following items, which total roughly \$900,000 but are not built into the default budget. If we end up in a default, the board and administration will need to fund some of these objects (such as bussing), which means reducing further in other areas. Others could be left out altogether.

- Non-union wage and benefits increases.
- long and short-term nurse substitutes.
- 0.6 FTE LEA representative to monitor and implement IEPs for students at Amherst Middle School. This will allow building administrators to spend more time observing students and teachers in classrooms, helping meet our teacher evaluation goals.
- Kindergarten paraprofessional to meet a seventh K cohort.
- 0.4 FTE library assistant to assist in building the literacy building blocks.
- Other wages/benefits including stipends for extracurricular activities.
- Facilities - utility increases, preventative maintenance, security, etc.
- Technology - equipment replacement, network supplies
- Bus contract increases, fuel, and a 16th bus to help students arrive to school on time more consistently
- St. Anselm College reading fellows
- Miscellaneous furniture, equipment, phones, supplies, printing, etc.

We are eliminating a teaching position at AMS due to class size demand, and we expect anticipated revenue growth in food service and grants, which help to keep this increase to a modest 3.8%.

Much like last year, our focus is on gaining voter approval for a budget. Should this fail, it would leave us in a third straight default, which is all based on an FY22 budget. This means that it's increasingly difficult to meet the district's everyday needs, and it would continue to restrict the opportunity to pursue our goals, including the educational building block of literacy achievement for all students.

## **ARTICLE 14 - Facilities Capital Reserve Fund - \$675,000**

Our current buildings continue to need maintenance and repairs. The school district has a long-term plan to fund major capital projects and this capital reserve fund is key to fulfilling those plans. In particular, this summer, we are withdrawing approximately \$1.7 million to conduct phase two of the Amherst Middle School roof and HVAC project. The construction will begin Monday, June 17 in order to have the building functional again before school restarts in September.

This withdrawal will leave the fund with approximately \$300,000 - roughly \$100,000 set aside for each Amherst school building in case of emergency. We are proposing another contribution of \$675,000 this year. The money raised by this warrant will not come through added taxes but from surplus funds at the end of the current school year.

## **ARTICLE 15 - Technology Capital Reserve Fund - \$75,000**

In order to stabilize the yearly impact to the budget, the board is proposing the creation of and first deposit to a new technology capital reserve fund. Functioning in much the same way as the facilities fund, this new reserve vehicle will allow us to plan for yearly technology expenses that can have major impacts to the budget on an uneven basis. The funds would be used to replace equipment - such as new grade-wide computers for students, projectors, cables, etc. - and software needed to keep district technology modern, safe, and secure. These funds would be expended on a yearly basis based on the long-term planning of the SAU information technology team. No new taxes would be raised as this funding would come from year-end surplus.

## **ARTICLE 16 - Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund - \$30,000**

Another new capital reserve fund would be used to make purchases of vehicles to supplement district transportation needs, particularly extracurricular activities. For myriad reasons, bus transportation for after-school activities (athletics, clubs, etc.) has been hard to provide on a consistent basis for students and families. To provide a more stable alternative, the district would like to purchase large passenger vans that can be used for smaller athletics teams, field trips, and other extracurricular activities. The district is already looking at the purchase of a large passenger van later this year, should funds be available. This fund would give the district flexibility to add to the fleet in later years as needs arise. No new taxes would be raised as this funding would come from year-end surplus.

**Please note** - the order of the articles for the capital reserve funds is important. They will be funded in order of their appearance on the ballot. Surplus will be directed to the facilities fund first, followed by technology and then vehicles if enough funds are available at the end of the year.

We are grateful for your continued support of our schools and we look forward to seeing you on voting day, Tuesday, March 12, 2024. If you have questions, please email [ASB@sau39.org](mailto:ASB@sau39.org) or attend one of our monthly meetings. The board meeting schedule is available on [www.SAU39.org](http://www.SAU39.org).

## **Amherst School District Ways & Means Committee Report**

### **Introduction:**

The Amherst School District (ASD) Ways & Means Committee is a group of community members appointed to objectively review and comment on the school budget and related fiscal requests while considering the needs of the schools and community it serves. It is the responsibility of the committee to review the proposed budgets, provide recommendations to the ASD, and vote on the associated warrant articles.

This year's Way & Means (W&M) Committee consisted of Caleb Baird (chair), Matt Comstock (secretary), Matt Borden, Brittany Donovan, Chris Goodrich, Peter Maresco, and Caitlin Thompson, appointed by ASD Moderator Ellen Grudzien. Among others, W&M worked with Superintendent Michael Berry, the leadership team, various department heads, staff at Clark-Wilkins Elementary School and Amherst Middle School, the Amherst School Board (ASB), and Amy Facey, Business Administrator for SAU 39.

W&M would like to thank the SAU 39 administration for a smooth and transparent process of information sharing throughout the budget process. All W&M members had access to the entire ASD budget for FY25. The W&M reviewed the budget by breaking it into sub-categories. A W&M member was assigned to each category and met with members of the ASB and SAU staff. Meeting recaps were then shared with the entire W&M group for each category and discussion followed at our W&M meetings. All meeting agendas and minutes are posted on the SAU 39 website ([www.sau39.org](http://www.sau39.org)). ASB members and Business Administrator Amy Facey attended the majority of these meetings. Any follow up questions were submitted to Mrs. Facey. All questions were answered, and there are currently no information requests outstanding.

**Accordingly, W&M respectfully submits this report:**

### **Article 12 – Wilkins Elementary School Project Bond**

The Ways and Means committee unanimously supports Article 12 with a 7-0 vote.

This warrant article to see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty nine million nine hundred and ninety seven thousand two hundred fourteen dollars (\$49,997,214) (gross budget) to finance the major addition, reconstruction and renovation project for the Wilkins Elementary School building.

Members of the Ways and Means committee are confident that an exhaustive effort was undertaken by the School Board and the SAU administration to bring forward this article that strikes a balance between addressing school facility needs while maintaining a high level of fiscal prudence. Approving this article will create a facility that would meet the current and future space needs for the district, provide a learning environment for students and staff to facilitate high academic achievement, and deliver the highest standards for student and staff safety. Taking into account the fiscal concerns of the residents of Amherst, this plan minimizes the tax impacts as much as possible while still fulfilling needs of the district. Were this article not approved, it is estimated that Wilkins School would still require maintenance throughout the next decade which would create a similar tax liability to the town but only address structural and mechanical issues (HVAC, roof etc.) without resolving any space constraints or address sub optimal learning environments and high safety concerns. Considering all this plus construction costs likely will continue to rise in the coming years, the Ways and Means committee unanimously agrees that this project is in the best fiscal interest of the town at this time.

### **ARTICLE 13 – FY25 Proposed Budget**

The Ways and Means committee unanimously supports Article 13 with a 7-0 vote.

This warrant article seeks approval of a district operating budget of \$34,055,095. During the process of developing this budget, a Ways and Means member took part in the working group meetings for each subsection of the budget. Each member came away with similar responses - the use of Zero-Based Budgeting led to the development of the most efficient budget. Given the budget pressures from the voter approved teacher's salary increase as well as the tremendous increase in medical costs, the staff was able to develop a budget that minimized the impact on taxpayers while maintaining the focus on student performance. The Ways and Means members asked many detailed questions which led to many trade-offs which maintained focus on the students but minimized cost. The Ways and Means committee strongly supports this Warrant Article.

### **ARTICLE 14 – Facilities Capital Reserve Fund**

The Ways and Means committee unanimously supports Article 14 with a 7-0 vote.

This warrant article allows for the district to allocate up to \$675,000 of existing funds towards capital improvements identified by the Amherst School Board as necessary to maintain our schools. For example, these funds will be used to continue the Amherst Middle School roof project that is already underway. This warrant article has a \$0.00 tax impact to the Amherst taxpayers and enables the Board to continue to plan for needed updates and maintenance of the buildings. The capital reserve fund is fiscally responsible and is in line with the goals of the Board for capital improvements, while not increasing taxes for the community.

### **ARTICLE 15 – Technology Capital Reserve Fund**

The Ways and Means committee unanimously supports Article 15 with a 7-0 vote.

This warrant article allows for the district to allocate up to \$75,000 of existing funds towards maintaining and updating services and equipment related to technology. Currently the school district relies on various technological services and equipment to run not only the day-to-day operations of the district, but also to maximize student outcomes and communicate with students, families, and staff. This warrant article ensures that our students, family, and staff can have consistent access to all available technological resources while also not increasing the tax burden to the citizens of Amherst.

### **ARTICLE 16 – Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund**

The Ways and Means committee unanimously supports Article 16 with a 7-0 vote.

This warrant article allows for the district to save money towards the purchase of vehicles to be used by the schools for transportation including interscholastic sports transportation. Over the last three years, this line item has been included in the budget at a cost of \$13,000 to \$22,000. This cost is driven mainly by the rental of buses and drivers. Owning vehicles will decrease this cost in the future. The Souhegan district has previously purchased vehicles for the high school and has realized a \$9,000 savings in the first year after purchase. Given that this warrant article will have no additional tax impact to the Amherst taxpayers, it makes logical and financial sense to support this warrant article.

**Amherst School District  
Annual Meeting Warrant  
February 5, 2024 and March 12, 2024  
Amherst, New Hampshire**

To the inhabitants of the Amherst School District in the Town of Amherst, in the County of Hillsborough, and State of New Hampshire qualified to vote in District affairs:

You are hereby notified of the following Annual School District Meeting schedule:

**First Session of Annual Meeting (Deliberative)**

You are hereby notified to meet at Souhegan High School, 412 Boston Post Rd., Amherst, NH in said District on the 5th day of February 2024 at 6:00 p.m. This session shall consist of explanation, discussion, and debate of warrant articles numbered 12 through 16. Warrant articles may be amended subject to the following limitations: (a) warrant articles whose wording is prescribed by law shall not be amended, (b) warrant articles that are amended shall be placed on the official ballot for a final vote on the main motion, as amended, and (c) no warrant article shall be amended to eliminate the subject matter of the article. An amendment that changes the dollar amount of an appropriation in a warrant article shall not be deemed to eliminate the subject matter of the article.

**Second Session of Annual Meeting (Official Ballot Voting)**

You are hereby notified to meet on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. to vote by official ballot on warrant articles numbered 11 through 16.

*IMPORTANT NOTE ON WARRANT ARTICLE NUMBERS: To avoid confusion caused by warrant articles with the same number, Souhegan Cooperative School District warrant articles are numbered one (1) through ten (10), Amherst School District warrant articles are numbered eleven (11) through nineteen (19), and Town of Amherst warrant articles are numbered twenty-one (21) and above.*

**Article 11. Election of Officers** (voting by official ballot March 12, 2024)

To the following school district offices:

- a. To choose one (1) School Board Member for the ensuing three (3) years.

**Article 12.**

To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty nine million nine hundred and ninety seven thousand two hundred fourteen dollars (\$49,997,214) (gross budget) to finance the major addition, reconstruction and renovation project for the Wilkins Elementary School building, located at 80 Boston Post Road, Amherst, NH and to authorize the issuance of not more than forty nine million nine hundred and ninety seven thousand two hundred fourteen dollars (\$49,997,214) of bonds or notes under and in compliance with the Municipal Finance Act, RSA 33:1 et seq., as amended; to authorize the School Board to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; to authorize the School Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver said bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and to authorize the School Board to take any action or to pass any other vote relative thereto, and further to raise and appropriate an additional sum of one million two hundred forty nine thousand nine hundred thirty dollars (\$1,249,930) for the first year's interest payment on the bond. **3/5 ballot vote required.**

Recommended by the Amherst School Board (5-0)

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

Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.52 per thousand.

**Amherst School District  
Annual Meeting Warrant  
February 5, 2024 and March 12, 2024  
Amherst, New Hampshire**

**Article 13.**

Shall the Amherst School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling thirty four million fifty five thousand nine hundred eighty five dollars (\$34,055,985)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be thirty three million one hundred sixteen thousand five hundred nine dollars (\$33,116,509) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Amherst School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only? **Majority vote required.**

Recommended by the Amherst School Board (5-0)

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

Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.56 per thousand.

Estimated tax impact of not passing this article is: \$0.17 per thousand.

\*NOTE: Warrant Article 13 (operating budget) does not include appropriations proposed in any other warrant articles.

**Article 14.**

Shall the Amherst School District raise and appropriate the sum of up to six hundred seventy five thousand dollars (\$675,000) to be added to the Amherst School District Capital Facilities Repair, Maintenance and Improvement Expendable Trust Fund, previously established in March 2003? This sum to come from the June 30, 2024 unassigned fund balance (surplus) available for transfer on July 1, 2024. No amount to be raised from new taxation. **Majority vote required.**

Recommended by the Amherst School Board (5-0)

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

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

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

**Article 15.**

Shall the Amherst School District establish a Technology Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 198:20-c, V for the purpose of purchasing, updating, maintaining, and replacing hardware, software, services, and technology infrastructure, and to raise and appropriate the sum of up to seventy five thousand dollars (\$75,000) to be placed in this fund? Further, to name the Amherst School Board as agents to expend from said fund. This sum to come from the June 30, 2024 unassigned fund balance (surplus) available for transfer on July 1, 2024. No amount to be raised from new taxation. **Majority vote required.**

Recommended by the Amherst School Board (5-0)

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

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

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



**Amherst School District  
Annual Meeting Warrant  
February 5, 2024 and March 12, 2024  
Amherst, New Hampshire**

**Article 16.**

Shall the Amherst School District establish a Vehicle Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 198:20-c, V for the purpose of purchasing new vehicles, replacing existing vehicles, and for vehicle repairs, and to raise and appropriate the sum of up to thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) to be placed in this fund? Further, to name the Amherst School Board as agents to expend from said fund. This sum to come from the June 30, 2024 unassigned fund balance (surplus) available for transfer on July 1, 2024. No amount to be raised from new taxation. **Majority vote required.**

Recommended by the Amherst School Board (5-0)

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

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

Estimated new tax impact of not passing this article is: -\$0.01 per thousand.

Given under our hands as said Amherst, New Hampshire, on the day <sup>21</sup>\_\_\_ of January 2024.

*Tom Gauthier*

Tom Gauthier, Chair

*Jason White*

Jason White, Vice Chair

*Terri Behm*

Terri Behm, Secretary

*Shannon Gascoyne*

Shannon Gascoyne

*Tim Theberge*

Timothy Theberge

**ABSENTEE  
OFFICIAL BALLOT  
AMHERST SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION  
AMHERST, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
MARCH 12, 2024**

*Tony Ortiz*  
SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK

**INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS**

- A. TO VOTE, completely fill in the OVAL to the RIGHT of your choice(s) like this: ●
- B. Follow directions as to the number of candidates to be marked for each office.
- C. To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the candidate's name on the line provided and completely fill in the OVAL.

**FOR SCHOOL BOARD**

(For 3 Years)	Vote for not more than ONE
TIMOTHY THEBERGE	<input type="radio"/>
GREG FRITZ	<input type="radio"/>
_____	<input type="radio"/>
(Write-in)	

**ARTICLES**

**Article 12**

To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty nine million nine hundred and ninety seven thousand two hundred fourteen dollars (**\$49,997,214**) (gross budget) to finance the major addition, reconstruction and renovation project for the Wilkins Elementary School building, located at 80 Boston Post Road, Amherst, NH and to authorize the issuance of not more than forty nine million nine hundred and ninety seven thousand two hundred fourteen dollars (**\$49,997,214**) of bonds or notes under and in compliance with the Municipal Finance Act, RSA 33:1 et seq., as amended; to authorize the School Board to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; to authorize the School Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver said bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and to authorize the School Board to take any action or to pass any other vote relative thereto, and further to raise and appropriate an additional sum of one million two hundred forty nine thousand nine hundred thirty dollars (**\$1,249,930**) for the first year's interest payment on the bond. **3/5 ballot vote required.**

YES   
NO

**Recommended by the Amherst School Board (5-0)**  
**Recommended by the Amherst School District Ways & Means (advisory budget committee) (7-0)**  
 Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: **\$0.52 per thousand.**

**Article 13**

Shall the Amherst School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling thirty four million fifty five thousand nine hundred eighty five dollars (**\$34,055,985**)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be thirty three million one hundred sixteen thousand five hundred nine dollars (**\$33,116,509**) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Amherst School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only? **Majority vote required.**

YES   
NO

**Recommended by the Amherst School Board (5-0)**  
**Recommended by the Amherst School District Ways & Means (advisory budget committee) (7-0)**  
 Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: **\$0.56 per thousand.**  
 Estimated tax impact of not passing this article is: **\$0.17 per thousand.**

*\*NOTE: Warrant Article 13 (operating budget) does not include appropriations proposed in any other warrant articles.*

**VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT**

**ARTICLES CONTINUED**

**Article 14**

Shall the Amherst School District raise and appropriate the sum of up to six hundred seventy five thousand dollars (\$675,000) to be added to the Amherst School District Capital Facilities Repair, Maintenance and Improvement Expendable Trust Fund, previously established in March 2003? This sum to come from the June 30, 2024 unassigned fund balance (surplus) available for transfer on July 1, 2024. No amount to be raised from new taxation. **Majority vote required.**

**YES**   
**NO**

**Recommended by the Amherst School Board (5-0)**  
**Recommended by the Amherst School District Ways & Means (advisory budget committee) (7-0)**

**Estimated new tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.00 per thousand.**  
**Estimated new tax impact of not passing this article is: -\$0.28 per thousand.**

**Article 15**

Shall the Amherst School District establish a Technology Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 198:20-c, V for the purpose of purchasing, updating, maintaining, and replacing hardware, software, services, and technology infrastructure, and to raise and appropriate the sum of up to seventy five thousand dollars (\$75,000) to be placed in this fund? Further, to name the Amherst School Board as agents to expend from said fund. This sum to come from the June 30, 2024 unassigned fund balance (surplus) available for transfer on July 1, 2024. No amount to be raised from new taxation. **Majority vote required.**

**YES**   
**NO**

**Recommended by the Amherst School Board (5-0)**  
**Recommended by the Amherst School District Ways & Means (advisory budget committee) (7-0)**

**Estimated new tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.00 per thousand.**  
**Estimated new tax impact of not passing this article is: -\$0.03 per thousand.**

**Article 16**

Shall the Amherst School District establish a Vehicle Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 198:20-c, V for the purpose of purchasing new vehicles, replacing existing vehicles, and for vehicle repairs, and to raise and appropriate the sum of up to thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) to be placed in this fund? Further, to name the Amherst School Board as agents to expend from said fund. This sum to come from the June 30, 2024 unassigned fund balance (surplus) available for transfer on July 1, 2024. No amount to be raised from new taxation. **Majority vote required.**

**YES**   
**NO**

**Recommended by the Amherst School Board (5-0)**  
**Recommended by the Amherst School District Ways & Means (advisory budget committee) (7-0)**

**Estimated new tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.00 per thousand.**  
**Estimated new tax impact of not passing this article is: -\$0.01 per thousand.**

**VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT**

# SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT THIRTY-NINE

Amherst, Mont Vernon, and Souhegan Cooperative School Districts



MICHAEL BERRY  
Superintendent of Schools

STEVEN CHAMBERLIN  
Assistant Superintendent

CHRISTINE LANDWEHRLE  
Assistant Superintendent

MARGARET BEAUCHAMP  
Director of Student Services

AMY FACEY  
Business Administrator

February 2024

Dear Amherst Residents,

My name is Michael Berry. I have been privileged to serve as your Superintendent for the 2023 – 2024 school year. It is an honor to contribute to the Amherst School District Voter Guide. This guide is the culmination of a 6-month process to develop a budget and provide critical information to the residents of Amherst.

Since beginning my new role this past July, I have enjoyed the opportunity to visit Clark and Wilkins, the Amherst Middle School classrooms, and events.

As I began my duties as the new superintendent, I prepared and communicated a comprehensive entry plan in collaboration with our school boards in SAU #39.

Over the past nine months, I have also worked closely with the Amherst School Board. By their actions, members of the Board display a strong commitment to the safety, security, policy work, and education of all of our Amherst students.

### Some highlights:

- The Board engaged in the visioning process during the summer of 2023, resulting in the priorities for 2023-2024, culminating in the Framework of Progress update.
- The Board increased communication and engagement with the community around the FY25 budget, Wilkins facility project, Amherst Middle School roof project, and other District happenings.
- I have been honored to work with the Board, which is tireless in its efforts to support student learning. It has also been their motivation to put forth a long-term solution to the substantive facility challenges while working to repair/replace roofs and HVAC equipment in the near term.

For the past six months, Board members, staff, administrators, and SAU staff have worked with the Amherst Ways and Means Committee to prepare an appropriate budget for the coming year. The proposed FY25 Amherst School District budget shows an increase of 3.9%.

In Amherst, the discussion of the Wilkins project was robust. I appreciate the responsiveness of the Board to the concerns of the community. It is a critical time to support this project. The reconfigured space, the change in bond approach, and the new interest rate have saved the taxpayer approximately \$27M compared to the FY24 project. I wholeheartedly support this project as creating a safe, healthy, effective learning and working environment is critically important to the Amherst community and me.

I hope this Voter Guide provides the information necessary to make an informed decision. Please feel encouraged to contact me at [Mberry@sau39.org](mailto:Mberry@sau39.org) if you have any questions.

Take good care,

Michael Berry  
Superintendent of Schools



In August of 2023, Clark-Wilkins School opened its doors to welcome approximately seven hundred students and we have continued to see our enrollment hold steady throughout the year. Students can begin their journey with us in preschool or kindergarten at Clark School, while first through fourth graders attend school at Wilkins. The integrated preschool program at Clark-Wilkins houses three and four-year-olds and is servicing approximately 57 students this year. The preschool and kindergarten programs provide outstanding opportunities for our youngest students to develop valuable social, emotional, and early learning skills that will prepare them for the expectations of future grades.

We utilize a schoolwide positive behavior program, focused on our school mascot, Hootie, the Clark-Wilkins Owl. We have consistent OWL expectations that are used across all settings in the school community. Students have the opportunity to be recognized for positive and expected behaviors with stickers and shout-outs. In addition, we promote positive behaviors in the lunchroom with our signature Golden Spatula Luncheon, a special lunchroom celebration for classes demonstrating consistent expected behavior, and through the use of earning gold coins for use in our Book Vending Machine. Students demonstrating above-and-beyond behaviors and perseverance are recognized by earning a golden coin and choosing a new book from the vending machine.

In addition to our schoolwide positive behavior programs, we have established several student leadership opportunities for Clark-Wilkins students. Fourth graders have the opportunity to participate in the Principal's Council, a group that helps to model expectations for younger students and works closely with our school leadership team. Fourth-grade students can also participate in Recess Rangers, a group that supports our younger students during recess time with structured activities and peer models, and Joey Club, a group that works with our school therapy dog and helps to engage younger learners. We were also very excited to offer an abundance of afterschool activities for students to participate in this year. Some of these programs were Chess Club, French Club, Backstage Crew, Lego Creators, and an Outdoor Explorers Club.

Clark-Wilkins teachers utilize a high-quality curriculum to provide students with exceptional educational experiences. Students engage in explicit and systematic phonics and literacy instruction at all grade levels, engage in a play-based learning curriculum in kindergarten, and work with evidence-based mathematics curriculum materials to develop conceptual understanding, procedural skills, and application of mathematics knowledge. The students continue to take assessments such as the New Hampshire State Assessment System (NHSAS) in grades three and four in the areas of language arts and mathematics. All students in grades kindergarten through four also take the NWEA assessment in reading and mathematics at least two times per year. The results of all assessments help teachers to inform and develop their

instructional practices, create a range of learning groups, and identify students who can benefit from tiered instruction inside and outside of the classroom learning environment.

The Amherst PTA continues to work closely with Clark-Wilkins and we have been able to offer several different events and activities this school year with their support. In September, we had a record turnout at our Ice Cream Social event which allowed for families to gather, connect, and celebrate the start of a new school year. In October, we partnered with the PTA to host the Boosterthon, which culminates in a student Fun Run celebrated with families and community members. These fundraising opportunities help us continue to offer residencies and assist us in purchasing materials for our students. We hosted a Holiday Story Time evening for students and families in December, with chocolate milk and cookies for students to enjoy while listening to holiday stories and music. This year we hosted our week-long residency program for all grade 3 students where they learn all about circus arts. The residency program culminates in a fantastic show for all third-grade families and includes juggling, human stunts, clowning, and entertaining magic tricks. We are excited to begin a new residency with a comic book artist and our second graders this year. Working with our art teacher and classroom educators, each second-grade student will produce their own comic book! Special thanks must be extended to the Amherst PTA for their financial support of events and activities including the visiting author and curriculum enrichment activities that benefit all grade levels.

An area of focus for our school community has been to strengthen family partnerships and provide parents with resources to support their child's learning at home. We are pleased to share that we offered a Fall evening focused on supporting behavioral expectations and a Winter night for families and caregivers focused on assisting students with skills to develop as readers, writers, and mathematicians.

The following staff members will retire at the end of the 2023-2024 School Year: Deanna Cordts, Linda Brennick, Karin Hopper, and Gail Polio. We appreciate their work with the students at Clark-Wilkins and wish them well on their future journeys.

The Amherst community can continue to take great pride in the tremendous work that our students and their teachers accomplish daily. Clark-Wilkins School continues to provide an outstanding educational and learning environment that works collaboratively to engage, challenge, and nurture all learners. We recognize and appreciate the commitment, effort, and support that Amherst residents provide to our schools and value greatly the time contributed by our many volunteers, our families, and our PTA. Clark-Wilkins School provides the ideal model of the entire village stepping in to educate every child.



In September 2023, Amherst Middle School welcomed six hundred and fifty-three students in grades 5-8 from the communities of Amherst and Mont Vernon. The AMS community is committed to our students' social, emotional, and academic success. We continued to implement our divided school model to best support the needs of our learners. Our *Upper School* (Grades 7 and 8) and *Lower School* (Grades 5 and 6) are each supported by a dedicated assistant principal and school counseling team. Dividing resources in this way allows students and staff to build positive rapport and collaborative relationships with specific point persons, making a large student population feel a bit smaller.

Over the summer, the Amherst Middle School administrative team worked collaboratively with SAU and fellow building leaders to establish clear priorities that will drive our work over the next two academic years. These priorities were established based on student performance data, observations of the current school climate, and staff, student, and parent/guardian feedback. We have outlined four major goals in the following areas: grading and reporting, instruction, middle school model, and trust and professionalism. Our staff has utilized time during early release days and in-service days to begin some of the learning and work necessary to achieve the outcomes set forth by these major priorities. We believe that by focusing on these four areas, students and staff will have a more positive and fulfilling experience at Amherst Middle School.

Middle school is a time of great change and growth for students, especially with friendships and social-emotional awareness. AMS works to support the whole child through a variety of structures, programs, and curricula to help students navigate these changes as they travel through their middle school years. AMS is a community built on respect, where it is essential that every member of our community of learners is connected, seen, heard, and has trusted adults with whom they have built positive relationships. Teachers in grades 5 and 6 use resources from Responsive Classroom and hold Morning Meetings each day to support community building and greater self-awareness. In grades 7 and 8, each day begins with Launchpad, our version of an advisory program. During both Morning Meeting and Launchpad, students meet with a small group and their anchoring adult who supports them throughout the school year. This time is dedicated to ensuring that every child begins their day taking care of their human needs and connection before diving into academics.

Our Eagle Support Team is a group of diverse staff from across the school including administrators, the school resource officer (SRO), school nurse, counselors, and social workers. This team works to support both students and staff throughout the school day in both proactive and responsive interventions and strategies. They support the design of professional learning, focus on increasing staff understanding of social emotional, and behavioral strategies, support Morning Meeting and Launchpad groups, increase parent and family partnership, and organize school-wide events. School counselors and social workers join teaching teams in bi-weekly meetings to strengthen communication among staff regarding students and work collaboratively to develop and assess interventions. Most recently, our Eagle Support Team organized activities for Red Ribbon Week in October and Kindness Week in January.

AMS continues to build its Multi-Tier System of Support (MTSS). MTSS is a whole school improvement model that supports students academically, behaviorally, and socially-emotionally. Within the MTSS model, AMS offers a range of tiered levels of instruction, intervention, remediation, extension, and services. Individual teaching teams meet bi-weekly to develop plans for supporting individuals and small groups of students. Student plans may include behavior coaching, counseling, family attendance plans, specialized reading instruction, math programming, and opportunities to expand skill sets. Within our MTSS model, AMS has done extensive work developing New Hampshire Department of Education-approved specialized programs to help meet the needs of all of our students. Our specialized programs continue to thrive and are delivering a research-based curriculum, resources, and support to ensure that all our students have the opportunity to learn in their community school with their peers. MTSS provides a range of experiences, opportunities, and specialized resources for our students.

Amherst Middle School boasts an extensive Integrated Arts program with several offerings to students in all grades. Students are given a chance to explore each area of our integrated arts program in 5th and 6th grades

in preparation for 7th and 8th grade where they are given to option to choose from a catalog of more specialized integrated arts courses. For example, students in grades 5-8 have the opportunity to choose their path for music education, selecting from chorus, band, and general music at first and later on from other electives like guitar and music technology. We also offer several classes in computer science, including more basic classes in 5th grade and higher-level coding classes in 7th and 8th grade. We take pride in our ability to offer students choice and invite them to be active participants in choosing their educational paths.

At Amherst Middle School, we recognize that learning can take place anytime and anywhere. We offer a variety of diverse opportunities through extracurricular activities, integrated arts, interscholastic athletics, interdisciplinary learning experiences, and specialized programming. Environmental school camp weeks, indoor rock climbing, watershed monitoring, and SEE Science Center visits are just a few of the unique offerings our students experience that truly go beyond a traditional curriculum. At Amherst Middle School, the learning doesn't stop when the final bell of the day rings. In a typical school year, over two-thirds of our students participate in one or more interscholastic sports. AMS offers a diverse line-up of sports including lacrosse, volleyball, wrestling, field hockey, soccer, cross country, track, basketball, spirit, softball, and baseball. We have been able to modify our team selection processes this year and in many cases offer participation opportunities to more students. Students also take advantage of our after-school clubs, which run on a seasonal calendar in the fall, winter, and spring. Clubs including art and pottery, culinary arts, mountain biking, indoor rock climbing, and board games have been incredibly popular this year. We even offer a year-round homework club where students can get support after school twice a week. We are especially excited to share that we have been able to bring back the AMS Theater Club, which will be performing *The Wizard of Oz* in March. Involvement in the school community is vital for helping students feel safe and included each day.

We are incredibly proud of the work we do at AMS to support our school and local community. We recently partnered with the Amherst PTA to raise funds for outdoor and indoor improvements. While we were able to raise over \$27, 000, the true reward was the fun and spirited activities that took place throughout the two-week drive. We were also able to continue the tradition of the Veterans' Day Walkathon and fundraiser. This event raised over \$2,000 for local veterans, including Operation Delta Dog, and offered students an awareness and an appreciation of the sacrifices that veterans make to protect our country. We continue to promote our slogan, *Courage to Care* through this important work. We hope that these experiences will have a lifelong impact on students who will continue to be caring, thoughtful, and compassionate citizens within our community.

While we often refer to Amherst Middle School staff and students as our community of learners, the truth is our families, local organizations, and the larger community are also a critical part of our success and continued efforts in fulfilling our mission. Partnerships with and the support of the PTA have helped us to fund classroom grants, and academic enrichment programs, and will fund indoor and outdoor beautification efforts. In addition, our community has given to our school countless volunteer hours helping in our cafeteria, chaperoning dances and field trips, sharing expertise with students, participating in, helping in the library, supporting our fundraising efforts, and other ways too numerous to list! It is that same spirit of giving that we hope to instill in our students.

In closing, and on behalf of the entire Amherst Middle School, I would like to say thank you to every member of our community. As a resident, parent, and educator, I continue to be humbled by the generosity of our town. The support for the Amherst School District, and Amherst Middle School in particular is unique and heartwarming. I feel fortunate to work in a community that believes in a strong education for all students and will go to great lengths to ensure that our educators have the resources they need to meet that goal. Whether you have a child currently in our schools or not, Amherst Middle School has felt your support consistently throughout the years. As we celebrate 50 years, we look forward to maintaining the traditions we value, while helping our learners realize their full potential as caring, courageous, creative, and diligent citizens in the years to come.



**Director of Student Services  
Meg Beauchamp**

This year, the student services department has been focused on aligning with district and SAU initiatives. Truly engaging and supporting all learners requires collaborative work across disciplines and grade levels to ensure continuity and progress. Our staff has been reviewing data to support the practices utilized when delivering specialized instruction. We have recognized a need to focus on strategy-based reading instruction and are looking to find creative ways to allow our students to achieve at high levels. We have partnered with Saint Anselm’s College to utilize two fellows from their graduate program to assist us with this work and to support our students within our classrooms at Wilkins.

This past year, across the Amherst School District, student services has supported the specialized needs of approximately 235 students from preschool through eighth grade. We were excited to welcome new staff as well as new students within all of our buildings. The staff has worked to support student learning while adapting to the continually shifting challenges we are faced with daily. It is rewarding work and it has been a pleasure to be a part of providing exceptional learning opportunities for all of our students within the Amherst community.

It is with sincere appreciation that I have served as the Director of Student Services for SAU #39 for the past twelve years. I have truly enjoyed getting to know the children and families of Amherst and I am proud of being a part of a community that is so incredibly supportive of public education. I will look back at my time in Amherst with fondness and pride in the accomplishments we have achieved together.

**Amherst School District  
Actual Expenditures for Special Education Programs and Services  
FY 2021-2022 and FY 2022-2023 per RSA 32:11a**

ITEM	FY 2021-2022	FY 2022-2023
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Special Education Aid	\$248,715	\$313,958
IDEA Grant	\$303,785	\$228,263
Medicaid	<u>\$227,888</u>	<u>\$163,822</u>
Total Revenues	\$780,387	\$706,042
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Salaries	\$5,007,327	\$5,027,240
Employee Benefits	\$3,027,461	\$3,139,099
Purchased Services	\$892,759	\$1,022,226
Supplies	\$36,360	\$58,621
Equipment	\$1,955	\$0
Other	<u>\$122</u>	<u>\$1,493</u>
Total Expenditures	\$8,965,984	\$9,248,679
Net Cost of Special Education	\$8,185,597	\$8,542,637

**Amherst School District  
Annual Report of the Treasurer  
as of 6/30/2023**

	<b>Starting Balance</b>	<b>Deposits</b>	<b>AP-PR Expenses</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>Interest Earned</b>
<b>July-2022</b>	\$846,296.69	\$2,904,527.49	(\$1,695,850.49)	\$2,054,973.69	\$130.86
<b>August-2022</b>	\$2,054,973.69	\$2,342,352.77	(\$2,182,645.58)	\$2,214,680.88	\$182.78
<b>September-2022</b>	\$2,214,680.88	\$2,876,292.34	(\$3,409,745.81)	\$1,681,227.41	\$939.22
<b>October-2022</b>	\$1,681,227.41	\$2,221,644.38	(\$2,538,901.54)	\$1,363,970.25	\$1,514.24
<b>November-2022</b>	\$1,363,970.25	\$3,233,774.92	(\$2,489,974.97)	\$2,107,770.20	\$2,119.82
<b>December-2022</b>	\$2,107,770.20	\$2,648,667.68	(\$2,376,065.78)	\$2,380,372.10	\$2,280.41
<b>January-2023</b>	\$2,380,372.10	\$3,509,048.76	(\$2,867,915.14)	\$3,021,505.72	\$8,796.76
<b>February-2023</b>	\$3,021,505.72	\$2,252,825.62	(\$2,385,132.93)	\$2,889,198.41	\$7,735.45
<b>March-2023</b>	\$2,889,198.41	\$2,139,656.06	(\$2,574,310.71)	\$2,454,543.76	\$8,296.49
<b>April-2023</b>	\$2,454,543.76	\$3,526,957.76	(\$2,599,597.83)	\$3,381,903.69	\$9,307.49
<b>May-2023</b>	\$3,381,903.69	\$2,088,023.33	(\$2,183,236.11)	\$3,286,690.91	\$9,174.47
<b>June-2023</b>	\$3,286,690.91	\$2,536,266.01	(\$3,895,677.02)	\$1,927,279.90	\$6,638.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$846,296.69</b>	<b>\$32,280,037.12</b>	<b>(\$31,199,053.91)</b>	<b>\$1,927,279.90</b>	<b>\$57,115.99</b>

<b>Bank Accounts</b>	<b>M&amp;T</b>	<b>M&amp;T</b>	<b>M&amp;T</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>	
	<b>Cash Management</b>	<b>Checking</b>	<b>Savings</b>	<b>Checks/Debits</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>7/1/2022</b>	\$1,504,940.60	\$100,005.75	\$502,942.30	\$(1,261,591.96)	\$846,296.69
<b>6/30/2023</b>	\$2,789,539.27	\$99,957.34	\$383,441.15	\$(1,345,657.86)	\$1,927,279.90