

**LISBON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANNUAL MEETING  
MARCH 16, 2022**

The polls were opened at 7:00 PM by Moderator John Northrop III. Lyman residents voted in the library and Lisbon residents voted in the multi-purpose room. Moderator John Northrop III called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Moderator Northrop instructed attendees to silence cell phones and lead everyone in The Pledge of Allegiance. After The Pledge of Allegiance, Moderator Northrop introduced the Lisbon Board of Education Members Chairman Owen Clark, Vice Chairman Bob Adams, and Members Nina Brown, Arthur Boutin, Mo Chandler, Steve Sherry, Tucker Clark, and Scott Peterson and thanked them for their work as well as Superintendent Tari Thomas, Business Administrator Toni Butterfield, and Council Member Gordon Graham. Moderator Northrop also thanked the checklist supervisors Audrey Champagne of Lisbon and Keri Lyndes from Lyman who assisted in Lisbon and Lyman voting this evening.

Moderator John Northrop ran through the rules to make this evening's meeting run smoothly explaining he would use Modified Roberts Rules.

Moderator Northrop began to address the Articles.

**ARTICLE 01: TO CHOOSE ALL NECESSARY OFFICERS FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.**

The article is addressed by ballot vote.

**ARTICLE 02: TO HEAR THE REPORTS OF AGENTS, AUDITORS, COMMITTEES, OR OFFICERS HERETOFORE CHOSEN, AND TO PASS ANY VOTE RELATING THERETO.**

The reports are listed in the Annual Report.

**ARTICLE 03: TO SEE IF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL VOTE TO APPROVE THE COST ITEMS INCLUDED IN THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN THE LISBON SCHOOL BOARD AND THE LISBON SUPPORT STAFF ASSOCIATION WHICH CALLS FOR THE FOLLOWING INCREASES IN SALARIES AND BENEFITS AT THE CURRENT STAFFING LEVEL:**

<b>FISCAL YEAR 2023</b>	<b>ESTIMATED INCREASE</b>	<b>\$71,214.00</b>
<b>FISCAL YEAR 2024</b>	<b>ESTIMATED INCREASE</b>	<b>\$ 8,819.55</b>
<b>FISCAL YEAR 2025</b>	<b>ESTIMATED INCREASE</b>	<b>\$ 8,692.25</b>

**AND FURTHER TO RAISE AND APPROPRIATE \$71,214.00 FOR THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR, SUCH SUM REPRESENTING THE ADDITIONAL COSTS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE INCREASE IN SALARIES AND BENEFITS REQUIRED BY THE NEW AGREEMENT OVER THOSE THAT WOULD BE PAID AT CURRENT STAFFING LEVELS. (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED)**

**RECOMMENDED BY THE LISBON REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD.**

Chairman Owen Clark spoke to this article. He explained the reasoning for this article is Paraeducators came to the board to express the need to pay our Paraeducators more money in order to attract more potential applicants. The board agreed the current Paraeducator salary was too low and our Paraeducator numbers are low as well making it difficult to fulfill some of the mandated positions we have.

Member of Council Gordon Graham advised the wording in the article “current fiscal year” be amended to “2022/2023 fiscal year”. Board members agreed this wording could be amended.

Lyman resident Tim Carignan asked why last year’s estimated Paraeducator increase was \$9,830 and now the increase is \$71,000. Chairman Owen Clark answered that last year’s estimated increase was a fractional increase to salaries. With this increase for the 2022/2023 fiscal year, there would be a \$3 raise bringing the Paraeducator base pay up to \$15. COVID has increased salaries all over and we are losing Paras to other places of employment.

Tim Carignan asked if there were any other projected increases like this to occur in the 2023/2024 fiscal year. Chairman Clark answered the estimated amount is as shown in the Article. The 2022/2023 fiscal year is the only one seeing the larger increase.

*Chairman of the Board Owen Clark motioned to amend “current fiscal year” to “2022/2023 fiscal year”. Seconded by Board Member Tucker Clark. Amendment to Article 03 passes.*

Moderator John Northrop asked if anyone had questions for Board Members about Article 03.

Lisbon resident Mathew Champaign asked if the increase included any benefit changes for the Paraeducators. Chairman of the Board Owen Clark answered there are no benefit changes in the increase. The increase is to make the base pay of the Paraeducators equal to that of the Office Staff in their union.

*Moderator John Northrop read Article 03 as amended and called for a vote. Article 03 was approved by a voice vote.*

**ARTICLE 04: TO SEE IF THE DISTRICT WILL VOTE TO RAISE AND APPROPRIATE THE AMOUNT OF \$7,097,828 FOR THE SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS, FOR THE PAYMENT OF SALARIES FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICIALS AND AGENTS, AND FOR THE PAYMENT FOR THE STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS IN SPECIAL OR INDIVIDUAL ARTICLES ADDRESSED SEPARATELY. (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED)**

Before reading Article 04 Moderator John Northrop explained there is an amendment and asked Chairman Owen Clark to speak on the amendment. Chairman Clark explained the board would like to amend the total balance in Article 04 to \$6,890,929. Board members took into consideration input from taxpayers in making the budget more level.

***Motion by Board Member Tucker Clark, seconded by Board Member Nina Brown to amend the total balance in Article 04 to \$6,890,929.***

Moderator John Northrop read Article 04 as amended then asked for a discussion on the amendment.

*Moderator Northrop called for a vote on the motion to amend the total balance. Article 04 was approved by a voice vote.*

Amended article 04 to reflect the correct amount of \$6,890,929.

**ARTICLE 04: TO SEE IF THE DISTRICT WILL VOTE TO RAISE AND APPROPRIATE THE AMOUNT OF \$6,890,929 FOR THE SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS, FOR THE PAYMENT OF SALARIES FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICIALS AND AGENTS, AND FOR THE PAYMENT FOR THE STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS IN SPECIAL OR INDIVIDUAL ARTICLES ADDRESSED SEPARATELY. (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED).**

Moderator Northrop asked for questions on Article 04.

Lyman resident Tim Carignan asked what line items were cut to move to the amended amount. Chairman Clark answered the items involved with the reduction in the budget including the reduction of 1 classroom teacher and moving some line items into applicable grants. Tim Carignan followed up asking what was moved for line items versus what was fully cut. Chairman Clark answered there is an increase in retirement which we cannot control as well as an out-of-district increase of \$104,000, increased costs to maintenance on the building, increased costs to transportation, and increased need for physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy to students. These listed increases within the budget are items we cannot control the increase of.

Resident Nancy Lebay asked with costs of everything going up including fuel does the school have enough of a buffer to account for further increased cost? Chairman Clark answered the budget essentially has no buffer as the board has had to eliminate all buffers from the budget in recent years in order to bring the budget down.

Moderator Northrop announced there would be 5 more minutes to vote if anyone has not yet.

*Moderator Northrop read Article 04 as amended and called for a vote on the Article. Article 04 was approved by a voice vote.*

***Motion made by Chairman Owen Clark to restrict reconsideration for Article 04, seconded by Board Member Nina Brown.***

*Moderator Northrop called for a vote on the motion.  
The motion to restrict reconsideration for Article 04 passes by a voice vote.*

**ARTICLE 05: SHALL THE DISTRICT, IF ARTICLES 3 AND 4 ARE DEFEATED, AUTHORIZE THE SCHOOL BOARD TO CALL ONE SPECIAL MEETING, AT ITS OPTION, TO ADDRESS ARTICLES THREE AND FOUR COST ITEMS ONLY. (RSA 197:3) (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED)**

***Motion made by Chairman Clark to table Article 05, seconded by Board Member Arthur Boutin.***

*Moderator Northrop called for a vote on the motion.  
The motion to table Article 05 passes by a voice vote.*

Polls were closed for voting.

Moderator Northrop read Article 06.

**ARTICLE 06: TO TRANSACT ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY LEGALLY COME BEFORE THIS MEETING.**

Moderator Northrop asked for questions on the article.

Lyman resident Bethany Carignan stated the flyers on the front desk look different than those on the school website. Principal Jackie Daniels answered the flyers went through a few versions and may not have been updated. This will be kept in mind for the future.

Lyman Resident Greg Harvelle expressed he appreciates the board keeping the budget level, however, questioned why the cost per pupil for Lisbon is higher than surrounding schools and schools around the state according to studies. Mr. Harvelle asked what our school, board of education, and townspeople can do to get their money worth for the education taxpayers are paying for.

Chairman Clark answered Lisbon's cost per pupil is higher due to our enrollment being so low. Surrounding schools, for example, Woodsville and Littleton, have higher enrollment spreading the costs of running the school between more kids. Landaff and Bath used to give higher enrollment, however, this has changed over the years. We now get about 60% of Landaff kids. We have to pay to run our school and to do that we have to divide it between the students we do have. As for the quality of education Chairman Clark shared he has two kids and each was accepted to every college they applied to.

Board Member Nina Brown added her child has been accepted to all colleges she has applied to and has been given close to full scholarships to almost all.

Lisbon Resident Tom White expressed there are hundreds of reports about school funding. Mr. White added he has 4 kids that went to Lisbon and went off to do very well in their secondary education earning Master's Degrees and higher. Mr. White commended the board on the budget changes while still being able to take care of the building and doing what is best for our students. Fair funding has been fought over for years as schools in richer areas tend to get more funding.

Board Member Nina Brown added that it's your legislators that table these discussions and requests for more funding every year.

Lisbon Resident Beth Johnson added as a long-time educator she believes the school would benefit highly from the addition of a preschool program. Preschool programs allow schools to see students younger, get them where they need to be before Kindergarten, and allow them to grow even more once they get to Kindergarten. Resident Beth Johnson added if taxpayers want to improve on the education of our students this is where they should think of putting their money.

Chairman Clark added the board has looked into ways of lowering Special Education costs and adding a preschool program.

Moderator Northrop explained the results of the voting will be announced on the Facebook page as well as the school's website.

*Motion by Board Member Tucker Clark to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 PM, seconded by board member Arthur Boutin.*

*The motion passed by a voice vote.*

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis Blowey  
School District Clerk

Reelected for Moderator John Northrop  
Reelected for Board Member 3-year term Scott Peterson (Lisbon)  
Reelected for Board Member 3-year term Arthur Boutin (Lisbon)  
Write in Board Member 3-year term Cathy Colby (Lyman)  
Elected at March 16th School Board Meeting at 5:00 PM District Board Clerk Alexis Blowey