

**Colebrook School Board
Public Hearing
Meeting Minutes**

Date	2/6/2024
Time	6:00 pm Public Hearing
Location	Colebrook Academy & Elementary School library
Chairperson	Nathan Label

Attendance

Attendance Legend: **P** - Present **E** - Excused **A**- Absent **R** - Remotely

School Board Members		Principal		SAU Members			
P	Nathan Lebel	P	Robert Murphy	P	Kim Wheelock	P	Debra Taylor
P	Deb Greene	P	Tim Stevens		Asst. Principal	P	Bridget Cross
P	Rhonda Lyons	P	Tanya Young	E	Stephanie Cameron		
					College Career & Technical Education Director		
				E	Tia Cloutier		
					Student Members		
				P	Jamie McLain		
				P	Sandra Minigell		
Public in Attendance: Large group of citizens attended the hearing							

Minutes

Item	Subject	Action
1.	<p>Public Hearing: To discuss the 2024/2025 school budget. The hearing was opened at 6:25 pm. Nate Lebel read the warrants and then provided a thorough review of the Colebrook School District Building Project and the proposed District Budget. He thanked Deborah Greene for her seven years of service on the school board as she will not be running for the position this spring. Highlights of the presentation are as follows: Building Project: Building Aid Articles are included on the warrant as recommended by the building committee and approved by the board in the prior Special Meeting at 5:30 pm. The School District has a unique opportunity to proceed with two articles for approval – Article 1 is for the renovation of the elementary school (required) and the addition of HS and CTE Classrooms and Labs (18000 SQFT). Article 1 asks voters to approve Building Aid in the amount of \$7,515,071. This article notes that the balance of the funds will need to be raised by donations by June 30, 2024, and if not, the article is null and void and with no effect. Article 2 will be voted on if Article 1 passes at the annual meeting. Article 2 is for the addition of the regulation sized gymnasium</p>	

(10,000 SQFT). Article 2 asks voters to approve Building Aid in the amount of \$2,102,630. This article notes that the balance of the funds will need to be raised by donations by June 30, 2024, and if not, Article 2 is null and void and with no effect.

There is no cost to taxpayers for the building project if these articles are approved.

Proposed School Budget

Budget drivers are increases in negotiated contracts, 25% increase in health insurance, special education costs, contractual increases in food service and bus transportation, increases in energy costs such as oil and electricity.

Decreases/Changes in the overall budget include one custodial position and one paraeducator position, one reduction in special education teacher position (currently unfilled) and one addition of a middle school math specialist for student support. The estimated tax rate was discussed, but the Board noted that the tax rate is not set until December 2024 and is dependent on state determination of the Town of Colebrook’s assessed property valuation(the town is up for re-evaluation this year) as well as actual enrollment and surplus from the prior year. All these figures will be available by December. In addition, the Board pointed out that the tax rate estimate is conservative and is routinely smaller than estimated.

Discussion ensued and the Board entertained questions from the audience.

2.	<p>Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colebrook School Board Meeting at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, in the CAES Library 	
3.	<p>Adjournment: R.Murphy/D.Greene: Motion to adjourn the public hearing at 7:10 pm.</p>	<p>VOTE: Motion Carried</p>

Respectfully Submitted,
Debra J. Taylor
Superintendent