

February 6, 2024

To: Colebrook School Board

Fr: Debra Taylor, Ph.D., Superintendent

Re: Colebrook Building Expansion Committee Report and Recommendation

The Building Expansion Committee met on February 1, 2024 to review information from the NH Department of Education concerning Building Aid. Lance Whitehead, of Lavallee and Brensinger, attended the meeting as well.

Highlights of information received from the Department of Education are as follows:

- \$13 million from the 24-25 biennium is still available to Colebrook which is now # 1 on the list.
- To be eligible for FY25 building aid the district will need to secure funding for the project by June 30, 2024, including passing a warrant article, per Ed 321.22. If that does not happen, funding is offered to the next highest ranked project.
- If the district moves forward with the vote in March, 2024, the architect recommends adding 8% to the 2023 estimate for the project based on inflation in materials and increased labor market costs.
- The warrant article will require a majority vote and be for the acceptance of building aid only. If the district is unsuccessful in raising the local match through donations by June 30, 2024, the article is null and void.
- If the voters approve the building aid grant in March 2024, by June 30, 2024 the District will need to have received the funding. For documentation the District can submit the letter from the school district sent to the donor acknowledging receipt of their donation.
- As in the past, the warrant articles may be presented as two separate votes. The first for the elementary renovation and the HS addition; the second for the gymnasium. The second article would only be considered by the voters if the first article passes.
- Once the District receives voter approval and secures local funding, the department will issue an approval notice to the District. At that time, the District can start construction, provided the District has all your other local, state, and federal permitting and approvals in place.

The Committee voted to make the following recommendation to the School Board:

*VOTE IN MARCH OF 2024\**

*State Funding will be available and Colebrook will be ranked 1st.*

*The approval would be based on the current application.*

*Need to secure and verify donated funds by June 30, 2024.*

*Present two articles - one for elementary renovation and HS addition; - second for gymnasium. Majority vote required*

*If local contributions are not received by June 30, 2024, then the article(s) are null and void.*

*No cost to taxpayers.*

\*Draft articles and charts noting the 8% cost escalation from 2023 are attached.

# WARRANT ARTICLE # 1

- 01. To see if the Colebrook School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of SEVEN MILLION, FIVE HUNDRED FIFTEEN THOUSAND, SEVENTY-ONE DOLLARS (\$7,515,071.00) for the renovation of the Colebrook school, and the construction, furnishing and equipping of an addition thereto (“the project”), with this entire sum to come from a state building aid grant; and to authorize the school board to apply for, accept, and expend federal or additional state aid or any other aid, grant, donation, gift or bequest for the project; and to authorize the school board to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. The balance of the construction costs for the project (\$5,010,047.00) must be raised on or before June 30, 2024 from additional grants or donations, gifts or bequests to the School District or to the District’s private expendable trust fund previously established in 2022 for the design, engineering, construction and equipping of renovations, additions or new school buildings and/or grounds to serve the students of the Colebrook School District, failing which this article will be null and void and of no effect. No money for the project will be raised by taxation. The School Board recommends this appropriation.  
(Majority vote required)



# WARRANT ARTICLE # 2

02. If article 01 passes, To see if the Colebrook School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of TWO MILLION, ONE HUNDRED TWO THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED THIRTY DOLLARS (\$2,102,630.00) for the renovation of the Colebrook school, and the construction, furnishing and equipping of an addition thereto (“the project”), with this entire sum to come from a state building aid grant; and to authorize the school board to apply for, accept, and expend federal or additional state aid or any other aid, grant, donation, gift or bequest for the project; and to authorize the school board to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. The balance of the construction costs for the project (\$1,401,754.00) must be raised on or before June 30, 2024 from additional grants or donations, gifts or bequests to the School District or to the District’s private expendable trust fund previously established in 2022 for the design, engineering, construction and equipping of renovations, additions or new school buildings and/or grounds to serve the students of the Colebrook School District, failing which this article will be null and void and of no effect. No money for the project will be raised by taxation. The School Board recommends this appropriation.  
(Majority vote required)

# Building Project Costs and Aid 2024

2023 Vote - Original cost of project			
	Building Only	Building Aid	Amount to Raise
\$	14,842,132.00		
\$	11,597,332.00	\$ 6,955,399.00	\$ 4,641,933.00
Gym Only			
\$	3,244,800.00	\$ 1,944,780.00	\$ 1,300,020.00
\$	14,842,132.00	\$ 8,900,179.00	\$ 5,941,953.00

2024 Vote - Cost for Inflation - 8% increase from Original Cost			
	Building Only	Building Aid	Amount to Raise
\$	16,029,502.00		
\$	12,525,118.00	\$ 7,515,071.00	\$ 5,010,047.00
Gym Only			
\$	3,504,384.00	\$ 2,102,630.00	\$ 1,401,754.00
\$	16,029,502.00	\$ 9,617,701.00	\$ 6,411,801.00