

John Stark School District
Comments by the Weare Finance Committee

Article 3 BUDGET

RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (vote: 8-0) The Finance Committee believes that the school board has worked hard to find savings for the taxpayers in this difficult economy. Although the proposed budget is slightly higher than the default budget, both represent reduced numbers from the previous year's budget due to the final payment on the bond, reducing the number of out of district special education students, and savings found in various other areas of the budget.

Article 4 2 YEAR TEACHER CONTRACT

RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (vote: 8-0) The Finance Committee believes that the School Board negotiated a fiscally responsible agreement. This contract includes increases for teachers but also includes provisions that are beneficial to the taxpayers in the long run such as less expensive health insurance benefits and streamlining costs associated with the retirement system. This would result in a cumulative total increase of \$260,976 over two years (\$90,502 year 1; \$90,502 plus \$79,972 year 2).

Article 6 2 YEAR SUPPORT STAFF CONTRACT

RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (vote: 8-0) The Finance Committee believes that the School Board negotiated a fiscally responsible agreement. This contract includes increases for support staff but also includes provisions that are beneficial to the taxpayers in the long run such as less expensive health insurance benefits. This would result in a cumulative total increase of \$31,859 over two years (\$6,278 year 1; \$6,278 plus \$19,303 year 2).

Article 8 SURPLUS FUNDS FOR BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (vote: 7-1) The Finance Committee believes it is prudent to put aside a surplus amount to cover the increasing costs for this aging building. We also support the School Board's decision to return at least 25% of any surplus to the taxpayers.

Article 9 SURPLUS FUNDS FOR SPECIAL ED TRUST

RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (vote: 6-2) The Finance Committee believes it is prudent to put aside a surplus amount to cover unanticipated costs for special education. We also support the School Board's decision to return at least 25% of any surplus to the taxpayers.