

1. **Call to Order-Roll Call- Pledge of Allegiance:** Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:30pm and upon call of the roll the following board members were present: Anderson, Leach, Kunz, and Nelson. Absent: Robinson
2. **Budget Discussion:** Supt. Mosca stated that they prepared a one page estimate of where we are with version three of the budget. She stated that the operating budget is \$94,503 less than this year and then it lists if we were to do the warrant articles what the estimated tax impact would be. She stated that they have a slight adjustment to revenues because version two did not have catastrophic aid in the budget but we are going to have it next year so we need to add it back in. She stated that they will have a reduction in adequacy money due to a decrease in enrollment. Nelson stated that Jeni called this morning and Marshwood was doing demographics and uncovered today that there are five more Rollinsford students than we knew about which means that there are five more kids we are paying for this year and next year that are not included in the budget. She stated that as of right now the number is actually up to nine students and Jeni is making sure that their addresses are verified and we need to find out if they are special education students. Supt. Mosca stated that over the summer students from South Berwick moved to Rollinsford and continued to go to school and they are finally getting their emergency cards turned in and they found out about them. She stated that there are nine as of this afternoon. She stated that normally if there are one or two kids we expect that fluctuation and we don't adjust the numbers but nine kids is close to \$100,000 and that makes a big difference. Nelson stated that it is important to show the break out from the Rollinsford point of view that the increase in the overall budget is not related to K-6 and that there was a \$200,000 savings in the RGS budget which is all we have control over. Supt. Mosca stated that we need to add to the budget two paras for next year. She stated that they had a student leave this year and they reduced a para and now we have had to rehire one. She stated that we had cut that out of next year's budget so we need to add that back and then we have two or three kids that need extra support so we are projecting that we need to add one more para as well. Nelson stated that we had asked them to put money back in for things and she would suggest that we take some out with the hope that we will have money in this year's budget. She stated that for example in the maintenance budget there is the repair to the cupola and she would like to pull that out because we have the historical assessment being done and there will likely be money for that. She stated that she would like to see that line cut down and do the most important things and we also upped computer hardware and she would like to look at that as well. Lucas stated that she is comfortable with going back to the original plan for the maintenance of building. Supt. Mosca stated that from version two to version three there was a \$27,600 change in maintenance. Nelson stated that we could take \$25,000 out. Kunz asked in regards to the asbestos abatement if it was in the annex. Dick Fortier stated that some is in this building that we need to address and then once it is gone we don't need to do follow ups. Lucas stated that three years ago they did a warrant article and it failed and that is a major concern at this time and we bring it back every year. Nelson stated that if we take the \$25,000 out and put

the asbestos abatement in the budget is that shooting ourselves in the foot because then they could vote down the budget. D'Agostino stated that the default budget would not include that. Nelson stated that we are having the homeland security inspection and if there are things to be done and there's asbestos there it has to be taken care of. Anderson stated that it sounds like a lot of what we want to do will disturb it. Nelson stated that she would like to get the board's thoughts on the warrant article or putting it into the budget. D'Agostino stated that the \$94,000 savings is no longer there and we don't know the effect of the nine students yet because we don't know if they are special education students and the cost of the two paras is approximately \$45,000 so if you add the asbestos to that it is even more so you should consider that. Nelson stated that we haven't had a full year with the transition and we won't know what the special education costs are until after January so we are guessing again, this is a crash course in transitioning. She stated that the administration worked so hard to decrease the budget to have it all eaten up by tuition is hard to get my head around. Leach stated that if we chose to do it this year where are we with this year. Lucas stated that we had \$200,000 but now with the nine kids and adding back a para we are probably down to \$50,000. Supt. Mosca stated that nine is a huge fluctuation. Kunz stated that we didn't anticipate this and asked if going forward if there was any mechanism to look and see if kids are switching over because they didn't catch these for three months. Supt. Mosca stated that because people rent and didn't buy a house, things like this are going to happen. She stated that the problem is that you are relying on high school kids to take information from school and bring it home and we are still tracking those forms down in Somersworth after multiple calls and emails. She stated that her guess is that they are struggling the same way. She stated that they caught it and now she is asking for proof of residency now. Nelson stated that these are middle and high school students they are not moving here for elementary school so it is important for the town to see that the middle and high school budgets are going up. Kunz stated that \$100,000 is a huge swing and he would like to have a discussion with them about this. Supt. Mosca stated that we are verifying every child's attendance and where they live. Leach stated that they can work with the Marshwood board to come up with ideas on a system to keep track of this. Nelson stated that we have to trust the SAU to track kids just as Kate can track kids when they come here. Anderson stated that are we concerned that if we put the asbestos as a warrant article that it will be shot down. Can we add verbiage on it to explain it? Nelson stated that we can put it in the budget and when the budget committee goes line by line they can take it out if they want to but if the budget gets voted down it won't be in the default. Supt. Mosca stated that her suggestion because they are concerned with the budget and they would like it to pass and they made some great efforts to reduce the RGS side we should put this as a warrant article. Anderson stated that she would like the town to see the savings and the work that has been done. Leach stated that she is inclined to make it a warrant article and communicate to the town that the budget is a step in the right direction and the importance of the asbestos abatement. Kunz stated that one of the concerns he had cutting here and there if the things should be done now. He stated that the school should be operating at a certain level and we shouldn't just be saying we should cut this out because some of the things he hates to see them not done. Lucas stated that she struggles with this because she agrees things need to be done and she doesn't want to continue to band aid.

She stated that some is necessary band aiding but she likes to think of holistic things. She stated that they worked hard to cut \$200,000 out of people and she wants to meet the needs of the community so if you want to put money back in it is hard to put it into the building and not people. Nelson stated that it is a juggling match, she agrees with Tom to not come up with a budget just because we think it will pass, we need to be fair to the school, staff and students and what the community can bare. She stated that the nine student shift is out of our control and the tuition we pay to Marshwood is out of our control. Kunz stated that we are going to have to explain this and the answer is going to be we didn't know. Leach stated that this was discussed when we looked at transitioning about how it would make the town a more desirable place to live, it is a short term situation that will cost money. D'Agostino stated that the good thing is that we found out now in order to be able to adjust the budget going forward. Nelson stated that we are less than six months into a three year transition so we won't know what this looks like for a couple more years. Supt. Mosca stated that we started the budget process in April so it is a long wait to project out a year. She stated that she won't be surprised if come February or March we find out more things. She stated that we typically don't adjust the budget we pick a point in time and go with the estimate but because this is such a high number we had to adjust. She stated that so far the changes to the budget will be the additional catastrophic aid will be put back in, add the nine students, add the two paraprofessionals and decrease \$25,000 out of maintenance. Nelson stated that she is comfortable with the list of maintenance projects being kept fluid; we need an idea of what will be done but to make it clear that these are suggested ways to use the money. She stated that there is the budget side and there is also the revenue side and they may be able to boost revenue to market this school and charge tuition. She stated that they learned that they have a tuition policy already to tuition nonresident students, all we have to do is come up with the tuition we would like to charge and balance of what will help with income. Supt. Mosca stated that it can be what you want for example Barrington sends students to Oyster River and they charge less than what the Oyster River cost per student is in order to entice kids to come there because Barrington has choice. Nelson stated that it is not a tuition agreement so we have flexibility. She stated that we could decide not to take special education children here or we can come up with an a la carte menu. Supt. Mosca stated that you can do it on a case by case basis. She stated that if someone shows interest they would send a letter to me and I would bring it to the board and you can set the rate. Lucas stated that it is tough to market if it is a case by case basis rather than saying this is what the tuition rate is. Nelson stated that they will have to do research on that type of tuition. Supt. Mosca stated that they can get the per pupil cost on the state website. Lucas stated that when you consider this you should consider how many grades because some years we can absorb so many in each grade so that you make sure you are not hiring additional staff. Nelson stated that we don't want to entice kids to come and then say we don't have room to take them so you will have to be very involved. Kunz asked with the nine students if any of them have elementary school age kids. Supt. Mosca stated no. Nelson stated that they may decide that having kids pay tuition is too difficult so we will need to have a discussion. Supt. Mosca stated that a person can do this at any time but the burden is on the parents. She stated that she knows that you are looking at it as a way to gain revenue but if I am a parent who lives in Dover

and I can send my kid to Dover free I am not sure that it will gain us a lot of revenue. She stated that the education here is awesome but they can go for free or pay tuition. She stated that we can advertise but I am trying to be realistic. Lucas stated that a lot of schools are doing this, a lot of small town schools are trying to figure out how to get kids to come. Leach asked what are our rules on fundraising, such as raising funds to fix the cupola. Nelson stated that if it is related to the historical aspects there will be plenty of opportunities to raise money and it is tax deductible. Leach asked if there is a way to donate for other aspects. Supt. Mosca stated that it has to be through an organization because there is no fund here to put the money into and the auditors would question that. She stated that PTO's can fundraise because they are their own entity and not overseen by the school. Lucas stated that in the PTO guidelines it says what they can and can't do and it is more about enrichment. Leach asked if the school could accept funds. Lucas stated if they wrote a letter of specificity of what it would be used for. D'Agostino stated that if the community is not voting for it to happen and if the donation was for asbestos and something happens the liability outside the donation falls on the school district. Supt. Mosca stated that it is different if they wanted to donate money toward computers. D'Agostino stated that she would just like to be clear on version four of the budget. She will prepare a new tax rate summary sheet for the board and they haven't talked about the other two warrant articles and she left blank the ones for the capital reserve funds to put money into them. She stated that in the past if there was a fund balance left they would put an amount in the funds. She stated that when the board presents this to the budget committee this is what they will be discussing. Nelson stated that it is the will of the board to go forward with the asbestos. She stated that last year they said if anything was left they would put up to \$50,000 in each fund and it was defeated and she is hoping that this is not the case this year. The work Kate, Marie and Jeni put in is incredible and it is coming at the cost of people. Lucas stated that if you highlight the pie that shows the 3% in your control, that is a small amount of money but it will help to put some numbers to what we are saying. Nelson stated that it will help the town to see the \$100,000 jump on nine students going out of town to school. Leach asked if they want to say that if there is anything left to put \$10,000 in each. Nelson stated that we could even say \$25,000; it is a warrant that costs zero money. Kunz asked what the number is for the default. D'Agostino stated that it is only what is required and no new purchases. Lucas stated that Barrington does an unbiased mailer that goes out for the entire town and it is hugely beneficial and very successful tool. Supt. Mosca stated that it would be helpful to include the town. Nelson stated that we could include the budget committee as well to get a good overview. D'Agostino stated that last year the budget committee unanimously recommended all the warrant articles and that specifically goes on the warrant article. Kunz stated that some stuff that was getting mailed out looks official and we found ourselves countering information that wasn't correct and people walk to the polls with the flyers thinking that is the way to go. Leach stated that is something the building community committee can do and work on. Anderson stated that we need to do a better job at public forums of saying why we recommend it. Nelson stated that they vote after the public hearing if they recommend it and then we have the school deliberative session where we get the biggest crowd and the moderator will read the warrant articles and whoever placed it on the ballot will have to stand up and speak to it. If the budget

committee does not recommend it the moderator will ask why they don't. Anderson it would be helpful for them to add why they do support it. Kunz asked if it is just the chair or the individual members who speak. Supt. Mosca stated that if they both recommend it than Judy and the chair of the budget committee will speak to it so it is a united front. Lucas stated that is a great idea for accountability and it would be nice as a part of the deliberative session to stand up and say why we recommend it and if you don't why you don't. Nelson stated that she will extend the invitation. D'Agostino stated that she will put \$25,000 in each fund and at the board meeting you can vote. Nelson stated that it would be helpful to see the budget with the school board stuff and the SAU stuff broken out, it will be helpful to see it broken out and it will be clearer to the budget committee to see it. Supt. Mosca stated that the only warrant article will be for asbestos. Nelson stated at this moment. Leach stated that she worries about the perception on if we ask and ask and ask even if we think it is important. Nelson stated that we will continue to look at the budget and look for savings. She asked what the life is left on the roof. Fortier stated that the kindergarten roof was added in 1999 so that is past ½ life and the other roof was done in the 80's, so they are two different manufacturers and seamed together. He stated that they are trying to be proactive on the roof. The annex is well past the life expectancy. D'Agostino asked if these are part of the town CIP projects. Nelson stated that it should be added. Kunz asked why we didn't pursue anything with that. Nelson stated that we didn't have a list. Lucas stated that when she first started they did a CIP with all of these items. Nelson stated that the town started over from scratch. Lucas stated that all of these warrant articles are all the same things that have been on here. Kunz stated that it is always do we have to do it this year, that is what historically what has gone on. Nelson stated that it would be helpful to get it on the CIP. Lucas stated that we were putting forward warrant articles and the budget committee said do a facilities analysis so we did that and presented it and then they wanted a cost for the whole solution so they spent a year with Banwell and then they said go back and piece it. It is important for people to have that history. Kunz stated that if it comes from the town and not us it is more favorably received and it is looked at differently. He stated that we are talking about spreading things out but there is a lot on that list and they are uncovering things in the town that need to be addressed and he thinks that it gives it more validity when the town comes with a big CIP and were included in it. Anderson stated that if it gets on the CIP it may not happen for years. Nelson stated that if we can wait two years to do the roof we can put it into chunks each year. Lucas stated that we could take the IBEA report and get that on there. Nelson stated that we would have to appropriate \$200,000 each year to do it. Supt. Mosca stated that we need to take action on the budget.

3. **Adjournment:** The workshop closed at 7:00pm.

Katie Krauss
Board Secretary

Pending Board Approval