



LAFAYETTE REGIONAL SCHOOL

A New Hampshire Elementary School of Excellence

January 24, 2012

149 Main Street
Franconia, NH 03580
p 603-823-7741
f 603-823-5452
lafayetteregional.org
Gordie Johnk, Principal

*As a community we
educate, nurture, and
challenge all students to
be successful, enthusiastic,
lifelong learners who
creatively explore,
effectively apply and
share knowledge as
responsible participants in
an ever-changing world.*

Dear Parents,

We need your help and participation! The all-important Annual School Meeting is coming up. We wanted to share some details with you to both inform you and to encourage your attendance at this meeting. The goal of this letter is to help you understand our budget process so you can support the outstanding education that your child is experiencing.

Each October, the staff thoughtfully prepares a classroom budget that outlines the “needs” (not necessarily the “wants”) of their respective grades/classes. Meanwhile, the School Board nominates a Budget Committee comprised of two School Board members, one community member, two parents, one teacher, and the principal as chairperson. This committee closely reviews the teacher’s requests and makes cuts and modifications as are deemed appropriate. After 5-6 meetings during October and November, they recommend a budget to the School Board at their December meeting. The School Board analyzes this recommended budget and makes further changes in December and January. Lafayette Regional School’s mandated annual **Budget Hearing is scheduled for Thursday, February 9th, at 7:00 p.m.**, when the final budget is presented to the public for their edification and input. This final budget is then voted on at our **Annual School Meeting on Thursday, March 8th also at 7:00.**

The Budget Hearing in February and the Annual School Meeting in March are the two most important meetings that our school convenes each year. We need to have every parent at this meeting. Some folks have related to us that they never knew that our budget was determined by a public vote, this is different from where they had lived previously. Here in New Hampshire, we hold town and school annual meetings where everyone can have a say and a vote on the budget and associated warrant articles. Please mark the aforementioned meetings on your calendars so you can participate in this important educational and budgetary experience. Once again, we are offering a budget that allows us to continue an excellent educational elementary experience with a fiscally responsible budget that mirrors our hard economic times.

Here are some facts for your consideration:

- Lafayette’s proposed budget down -0.07% from last year’s budget.
- No salary increases for staff members.
- Warrant article for asbestos abatement program funds previously budgeted for, but not expended (\$100,000)* (over)

-Warrant article for technology reserve fund from surplus funds (\$5,000)

* This one-time surplus is due to the sudden resignation of a teacher last August.

Lafayette Regional School is the only school in our SAU that still has asbestos in the building. During the 1996 renovation of our school building, it was decided that in order to save money, carpeting would be placed over the existing asbestos tile. The carpet covering this asbestos tile is in need of replacement and the only way to accomplish this is to conduct an asbestos abatement program. The proposed abatement program will remove the asbestos tile that covers the entire flooring of the old portion of our building. The end result will be no asbestos tile left in our building. We will also have new carpet in all hallways, office, library, and some classrooms. There will undoubtedly be opposition to this project of some form so we are hoping that parents will be as informed as possible when it is their turn to vote on each item. Some folks might ask why we are undertaking such a large project given our poor economy. The only silver lining of losing our librarian/technology coordinator position last August is that it gives us some monetary leeway to finance an asbestos abatement without raising more taxes next year. We would be using monies already raised to finance this long overdue project.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding the budget process, the budget itself, or either of the warrant articles. We obviously would appreciate your continued support of our small but successful school and definitely want your participation in this important civic activity. Thank you for your time in reading and understanding the intent of this letter. A better informed parent group is a powerful tool indeed! Please mark your calendars for:

Annual School Meeting- Thursday, March 8th
7:00 Voting, 7:30 Business Meeting

There will be free day-care provided by Profile students in our library. Mrs. Butterfield will also have a list of babysitters that will provide babysitting services at your home.

Sincerely,



Gordie Johnk
Principal