

## Ice Hockey Warrant Article for Sanborn

The Sanborn Regional School District has had a group of parents who formed an Ice Hockey Boosters Club 7 years ago. They appealed to the School District to permit them to become a team, first a JV and in recent years a Varsity Team. It's School Warrant #11, and you've probably seen signs for it all over town.

The original plan was that the Boosters cover all the costs, with none to the District.

Now, as a Varsity team, they are appealing to the voters to create a line item in the budget for Ice Hockey, by approving this warrant article.

What the Boosters Club is seeking is funding for Ice Hockey at a level like that provided for other teams. They ask that the costs for intramural sports, coaches, uniforms and the like be covered by the taxpayers, while the Boosters Club continues to raise money for expensive ice time.

In the past two years, this warrant article has come before the voters and been rejected. The loss was narrow in 2018, and a Go-Fund-Me campaign raised the funds requested in the warrant.

In the past, Football had a similar beginning, first as a self-funding Boosters Club, then by petition warrant, becoming a sport fully funded by the taxpayers as a budget item. It grew from \$25,000 in cost to \$50,000 today.

There are concerns on both sides of the issue. One, is the growing budget. The fact of the stated intent of the Booster Club original founders that they would not be seeking public monies to fund the sport swayed past School Boards to vote not to recommend this warrant article. This year, the School Board and Budget Committees have voted to recommend this warrant article.

On the side of approval is that the sport has become one of the mainstream sports in the District, as a full Varsity team. It is part of the District's long-term plan to encourage sports and other co-curricular activities in order to further engage children, both players and spectators, in healthy activities.

The cost to taxpayers is estimated at 0.01 cent per thousand of assessed value on the proposed ballot. The actual cost is less than that, but one cent is the lowest number that can be placed on the warrant.

Will the line item grow in the future? Most probably with inflation. Superintendent Ambrose stated in a recent Budget Committee meeting that his Administration would never seek to fund ice time, given the stated intent of this warrant article.

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