

TOWN OF MARLBORO, VERMONT
 ~ MINUTES ~
SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING - MARCH 1, 2016

Moderator Steven John called the meeting to order at 9:12 AM and read out the warning :

The legal voters of the Town School District of Marlboro, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet in the Town House of said Marlboro on the first Tuesday, March 1, 2016, at 9:10 AM to consider and act upon the following Articles:

Article 1: To elect a Moderator for a one year term.

Steven John nominated by Clarence Boston and seconded by T. Hunter Wilson.

So moved by T. Hunter Wilson and seconded by David Holzapfel that the nominations be closed, and that the Clerk cast a single ballot.

So voted by unanimous voice vote.

Steven John elected Moderator for a one-year term.

Steven John explains that Roberts' Rules of Order is the guiding procedure for the meeting, limit to 2 minutes speaking time and the person making the motion gets to speak first. Amendments to articles procedure: moderator decides if amendment is germane to article. If seconded, debate on amendment, then vote.

Article 2: To elect : One (1) School Director for a three-year term ending 2019
One (1) School Director for a three-year term (one year remaining) ending 2017.
Two (2) School Directors for one-year terms ending 2017.

Steven John explained the reasoning behind the January 4th Special School District Meeting to expand the board to five members, and why there are 4 School Directors on the ballot. He noted the polls will be open on Tuesday, March 1st, 2016 from 10:00 am until 7:00 pm in the Marlboro Town Office for the purpose of electing the above School Director positions by Australian Ballot. The candidates introduced themselves by standing and by name.

Discussion: none.

The School Directors Jen Carr, Chair, Douglas Korb, & Celena Romo take the dais.

Article 3: To compensate the Directors of the Marlboro School District \$500 each.

So moved by T. Hunter Wilson and seconded by Pieter van Loon.

No discussion followed.

So voted by unanimous voice vote.

Compensation for School Board members set at \$500/year each.

Article 4: To see if the voters of the Town School District will authorize the School Directors to borrow in anticipation of revenue.

So moved by T. Hunter Wilson and seconded by Clarence Boston.

Discussion followed: Steven John explained the nature of what this article means.

So voted by unanimous voice vote.

School Directors are authorized to borrow in anticipation of revenue.

Article 5: Shall the voters of the Marlboro School District approve the school board to expend \$2,734,921 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year. It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$16,676 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 3.7% higher than spending for the current year.

So moved by Dan MacArthur and seconded by Jonathan Morse.

Discussion followed:

- Chair Jen Carr explained the bottom line did not change from the prior year but the Legislature reduced the penalty for going over the threshold for education spending per equalized pupil. She went over details of the budget. The projected tax rate will be the same or a little less than last year. Health insurance costs beyond our control went up 7.9%. The Board managed to propose a budget that not reduce programming for the children. The Outback bond has been paid in full, and all other prior years' negative fund balances, i.e., budget deficits, have all repaid.
- Edie Thomas asked what an equalized pupil is -- each student is not considered one, but a % of of a full time elementary school student. A preK student counts as .46 compared to 1.0 for a student in grades K-6. Grades 7-8 and 9-12, and special education students count for more than 1.0 per student enrolled. The sum total of these numbers results in

“an equalized pupil count”.

- Evan Wyse asked about calculations.
- Edie Mas asked about funding for the After School Program. Jen pointed out that the Board increased the district’s contribution to supplement and secure the future funds granted by the federal 21st Century Grant to the WCSU.
- Tyler Gibbons thanked the School Directors for doing such a good job on prioritizing the programming for the students.
- Keely Eastley asked about test scores, which was explained in detail by Principal Francie Marbury. 5th-6th teacher Pam Burke thought the tests were poorly designed and cheaply done, and the State said these scores don’t matter. She hopes the tests are better in the future.
- Eric von Ranson wondered if there is a financial ramification for test scores. None at this time.
- Steven John, stepped down as Moderator to answer questions as WCSU Superintendent regarding test scores. The importance of the results to inform the parent and teacher of the child progress over time was emphasized as the value of standards based testing such as the Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium (SBAC). He returned to Moderate.
- General discussion of Act 46, and the possible consolidation of neighboring schools. Jen Carr explained that we have no natural K-8 partner in nearby towns, and the first deadline for our Act 46 proposal is July 1, 2017.
- Andrea Howe, MES bus coordinator, thanked the Road Crew for their work on the busses and keeping the roads good for transportation to school (applause).
- Aidan Salasin-Deane spoke explaining how much the L’After Program helped him now that he is attending BUHS.

Discussion ended.

So voted by unanimous voice vote.

The voters of the Marlboro School District approved the school board to expend \$2,734,921 for the ensuing fiscal year.

Article 6: To see if the voters of the Town School District will authorize the School Directors to spend any grants or other funds received by the District for school purposes.

So moved by T. Hunter Wilson and seconded by Tyler Gibbons.

Discussion followed:

- Chair Jen Carr said the school building needs some improvement. MES has joined the Windham Wood Heat Initiative and a statewide solar collaborative of school districts. The latter is anticipated to reduce the school's electricity costs by 18% via a net metering agreement with Green Mountain Power. If grants become available MES will be on the lookout. Another lighting initiative may help improve the energy efficiency of the building.

So voted by unanimous voice vote.

School Directors are authorized to spend any grants or other funds received by the District for school purposes.

Article 7: To transact any other legal business that may come before the Meeting.

- Lucy Gratwick thanked Jen Carr for her 6 years as School Director and 5 years as Chair to a standing ovation by the assembled. Further discussion of test scores and our town's high priority for education.
- Steven John, stepped down as Moderator to answer questions as WCSU Superintendent to discuss demographics of the student body here in Marlboro and statewide as well as the factors included in raising the money for education. Returned to Moderate.
- More general discussion of Act 46 and it became clear that any changes proposed must be approved by the voters by Australian Ballot.
- Lauren Poster thanked Steven John who is retiring this year as WCSU Superintendent, to a standing ovation.

Motion made by Clarence Boston & seconded by Brian Whitehouse to adjourn the School District Annual Meeting.

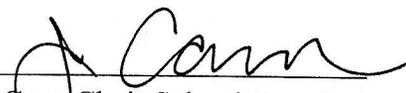
So voted by unanimous voice vote.

School Meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.

Respectfully Submitted,



 Forrest Holzapfel, Town Clerk



 Jen Carr, Chair School Board



 Linda Peters, Justice of the Peace & Treasurer

