

TOWN OF MARLBORO, VERMONT
~ MINUTES ~
SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING - MARCH 6, 2018

Moderator Steven John called the meeting to order at 9:13 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 Tuesday, March 6, 2018, 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 Rachel Boyden and seconded by Clarence Boston.

So moved by Lucy Gratwick and seconded by Robert Elliott 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.

**Article 2: To elect : One (1) School Director for a three-year term ending 2021.
Two (2) School Directors for one-year terms ending 2019.**

Steven John noted the polls will be open on Tuesday, March 6th, 2018 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.

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

The School Directors Douglas Korb (Chair), Celena Romo, Dan MacArthur, & Lauren Poster take the dais.

So moved by Clarence Boston and seconded by Susan Kunhardt.

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 Andrea Howe and seconded by Rachel Boyden.

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 \$2,614,368.00 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 \$17,369 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 1.2% higher than spending for the current year.

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

Discussion followed:

- Chair Douglas Korb stated that Wayne Kermenski was hired as new principal last year, and discussed the following details from the report: page 64 expenditure up 1.24% because the school lost Title 1 funding (allotted federal money, but the State of Vermont decides who get this funding, and schools under 100 pupils no longer qualify). On page 72 Doug noted the per pupil cost up 2.77%, as the Common Level of Appraisal went from 100.44% down to 97.82%, which increases the projected tax rate (but the rate may go down with reappraisal).
- Wayne stood up for discussion of changes to the early education programming in town, and explained the time was right for the transition from the long-running private Meetinghouse Preschool to having the program incorporated into Marlboro School. The early ed program would be for 4 year olds (5 full days), and for 3 year olds (4 half days). The new programming will enlarge opportunities for the children and will be a benefit for all parents of small children.
- Andy Horton asked if families out of town will be able to tuition in children? Wayne says yes.
- Patty Webster asked if the programming will be primarily school readiness? Wayne said that there will be emphasis on outdoor play but rigorous learning nonetheless.
- Steve Giard asked if 4 year olds will be riding the bus? Yes, bussing will begin that way and then assess how it works.

- Gail MacArthur asked about the play equipment at Meetinghouse, and if it will be available for the new program and Wayne responded that yes it will be moved to MES.
- Evan Wyse asked about what changes are to be made in the school layout and Wayne detailed how the classrooms will be set up. There will be two dedicated classrooms, one for the 3-4 years olds and one for kindergarten with two dedicated teachers with assistants.
- Celena Romo stated that she will be asking the town to add flashing speed signs on both sides of Route 9 to help calm traffic near Marlboro School, especially as buses are pulling out. The Board would like this to not affect the school budget. David Elliott said the signs should be ok'ed by the State since it is a State road.

Douglas Korb proposed an amendment to correct an error in the warned language of Article 5, seconded by T Hunter Wilson. The amendment is proposed as

- **This projected spending per equalized pupil is 2.77% higher than spending for the current year.**

Doug referenced Page 72 line 27 in the town report.

- Edie Thomas asked what an equalized pupil is, it was explained by Celena Romo.
- Paul Butler asked if moving the preschool change the town's equalized pupil cost? Doug answered that all students are still counted either way.
- Paul Butler asked how does the town's equalized pupil cost relate to surrounding towns ? Doug replied that per pupil costs are around \$200 lower in Townsend, but that both Dummerston and Putney are higher per pupil by a couple hundred of dollars. Wayne says if we put the Title 1 funding back in, \$17,061 would be our per pupil cost.
- Lauren Poster is upset that the Title 1 seems like a penalization for small schools, and this change was imposed by the Vermont Agency of Education, Rebecca Holcolmbe is the Secretary of Education.

Moderator Steven John returned discussion to the amendment and explained the correction to the percentage change to per pupil cost once again for clarification, from 1.2% to 2.77%.

Amendment so voted by unanimous voice vote, the amended Article 5 in full:

Article 5: "Shall the voters of the Marlboro School District approve the school board to expend \$2,614,368.00 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 \$17,369 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 2.77% higher than spending for the current year.

Back to general discussion of Article 5.

- Patty Webster asked what is Title 1, which was explained by Wayne Kermenski. The Small Schools Grant is still in place.
- Jonathan Morse asked that we all discuss the Title 1 issue with our legislators.
- Susan Kunhardt asked about the Title 1 teacher Christine Moyer who is retiring, and Wayne stated that adjustments have been made to staffing while holding the budget steady.
- Gail MacArthur asked about the large increase in insurance on p 61, near the top. Doug and Wayne said there is a 10% increase statewide right off the bat and some changes to individual plans.
- Richard Dror asked about how the school is doing with Act 46. Dan MacArthur said it is still unfolding across the state. Round of applause for the School Directors.
- Paul Butler detailed how well the school has done over the last 30 years and made comments from a 1980's era town report and how it relates to cost of living etc over those years.
- Judy Robinson commented on retiring Title 1 teacher Christine Moyer and her excellence, and feels this is a loss for the school.
- Rose Watson asked about staffing. Junior High teacher Rachel Boyden replied that Christine's position will be a bit over half-filled.

Moderator reiterated the change to the article language.

So voted by unanimous voice vote.

The voters of the Marlboro School District approved the school board to expend \$2,614,368 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 Clarence Boston and seconded by T Hunter Wilson.

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.

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

So voted by unanimous voice vote.

School Meeting adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Forrest Holzapfel, Town Clerk

Douglas Korb, Chair School Directors



Linda Peters, Justice of the Peace & Treasurer