

DUMMERSTON TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Town Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2017

The legal voters of the Town of Dummerston and School District of the Town of Dummerston, Vermont, met as warned at the Dummerston School on Tuesday, March 7, 2017. The polls were open from 10:00AM to 7:00Pm. Moderator Cindy Jerome called the meeting to order at 10:00AM and declared the polls open for voting by Australian ballot on Article 1. The Town School District meeting was recessed until the conclusion of Town Meeting. At 2:19pm the Moderator reconvened the meeting for the School District portion of the meeting.

ARTICLE 1: To elect all necessary Town School District officers for the ensuing year: School District Moderator for one year term; one School Director for three year term; two School Directors for one year terms; and one Brattleboro Union High School District #6 Director for a three year term. (By Australian Ballot)

ARTICLE 2: A motion to act on the Auditor's Report of the Town School District was made by Emily Gelke and seconded by Michael McGillion. There was no discussion and the article was reread and passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 3: A motion to authorize its School Board to accept and expend categorical grants and aid received from the State of Vermont and the U.S. Government was made by Katey Everest and seconded by Kristina Naylor. There was no discussion and the article was reread and passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 4: A motion to pay its Officers and Directors \$500.00 each for a total of \$2,500.00 was made by Amy Wall and seconded by Kristina Naylor. There was no discussion and the article was reread and passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 5: A motion to appropriate the sum of \$2,987,500.00 to defray its expenses and liabilities for the period of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 was made by Kristina Naylor and seconded by Michael McGillion. Kristina presented the budget. School Principal, Jo Carol Ratti, explained the 68.3% increase in the Guidance Counselor salary. The position is changing from part time to full time. Kristina, Jo Carol, and WSESU Business Administrator, Frank Rucker answered questions from Sam Farwell, Michelle Cherrier, Lynn Levine, Read Miller, Lewis White, and Rick Mills. With no other discussion, the motion was reread and passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 6: A motion to expend \$60,000 for previously deferred repairs and maintenance, such as paving of the school entrance and improvements to current HVAC equipment was made by Michael McGillion and seconded by Kristina Naylor.

John Warren and Sam Farwell questioned the Board on the proposed items; effect on tax rate. Read Miller asked if we could "stay the course" a little bit. Lewis White and Jody Normandeau suggested that the Town pay for the paving. Amy Wall responded that it would still count toward the per pupil cost. With no other discussion, the motion was reread and passed by voice vote.

The Moderator recognized the recipient of this year's Town Report dedication, Andrew MacFarland, who was given a standing ovation.

ARTICLE 7: A motion to request the Dummerston Town School Board to engage in a full and thorough examination of the feasibility of alternatives to merger was made by Paul Normandeau and seconded by Dan Normandeau. After a lengthy discussion, the motion was reread and passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 8: To transact any other business that may legally come before said Town School District Meeting. Amy Wall did a power-point informational presentation of the advantages of an Act 46 merger. She also commented on the struggles of being a member of the Act 46 Study Committee. Questions and comments were heard from Michael McGillion, Jody Normandeau, and Suzanne Weinberg.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Amy Wall, seconded by Harold Newell and the motion passed by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 5:02pm.

Katey Everest, School Board Chair

Cindy Jerome, School District Moderator

Laurie Frechette, Town Clerk