

DUMMERSTON Town School District Minutes

March 6, 2012

The legal voters of the Town of Dummerston School District are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Dummerston School in said Town on Tuesday, March 6, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. to transact the following business of the Town School District. (Voting on Article 1 will be by Australian Ballot.) The polls will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

- 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; one BUHS District #6 Director for three year term. **Election results follow the minutes.**
- ARTICLE 2: To act on the Auditor's Report of the Town School District. **A motion to accept the Auditor's Report of the Town School District was moved by Rick Mills and seconded by Ruth Barton. No discussion followed, the motion was reread and passed by voice vote.**
- ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town School District will authorize its School Board to accept and expend categorical grants and aid received from the State of Vermont and the U.S. Government. **A motion to authorize the School Board to accept and expend categorical grants and aid received from the State of Vermont and the U.S. Government was moved by Robert Thibault and seconded by Paul Smith. No discussion followed, the motion was reread and it was passed by voice vote.**
- ARTICLE 4: To see what salaries the Town School District will vote to pay its Officers and Directors. **A motion to approve the salaries of \$500.00 each for a total of \$2,500 for its Officers and Directors was made by Roger Aquadro and seconded by Claude Gouin. No discussion, the motion was reread and it passed by voice vote.**
- ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town School District will authorize the expenditure of a sum not to exceed \$80,000 for the purpose of replacing the roof on the original building as well as the replacement of gymnasium floor to be financed over a period not to exceed five (5) years [24 V.S.A. § 1786(b)]. **A motion to authorize the expenditure of a sum not to exceed \$80,000 for the purpose of replacing the roof on the original building as well as the replacement of gymnasium floor to be financed over a period not to exceed five (5) years was made by Dan Normandeau and seconded by Ruth Barton. Dan explained that the repairs to the kindergarten roof are a scheduled repair. The replacement to the gym floor is necessary because the existing tile floor is not safe as a gym floor and the plan is to use a synthetic floor.**
- Bill Conley supports the replacement of the floor and roof. He would like to ask the board to consider better insulation of the gym. There was no further discussion. The motion was reread and passed by voice vote.**
- ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town School District will vote to appropriate a sum of money to defray its expenses and liabilities for the period of July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013, and if so, in what amount. If adopted, the portion of this total sum to be raised by taxes to be only

that portion not received from revenues from other sources. **A motion to appropriate a sum of money to defray its expenses and liabilities for the period of July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013, in the amount of \$3,124,865.00 by Amy Wall Dews and seconded by Ruth Barton.**

Amy announced that the school is under the cap and we do not have to separate the two budgets.

Below are the explanations Amy provided about certain line items in the budget:

- * the General Operating fund reflects the expenses for the K-8 program with portions of it determined by contractual obligations and outside influences**
- * the Preschool line item continues to increase as participation in the state Preschool/ADM program increases and expenses for this line item are offset by corresponding revenue**
- * the Special Education line item is determined by the needs of K-8 Special Education students and their IEPs (Individual Education Plans) according to federal and state laws**
- * the EEE line item is Dummerston's assessment for EEE services for Dummerston children, ages 3 to 5 years, in area preschools and for the state licensed preschool classroom for both typically developing and special needs children**
- * On going Debt Service includes our bond payment**
- * Debt Service – Water Planning and Water Project are for the project started in 2005 due to changes in federal water quality regulations for arsenic**
- * the Special Article for roof and gym floor replacement that was voted on in Article 5**
- * WSESU Assessment includes Dummerston's portion of district administrative costs, curriculum development and shared services like English as a Second Language (ESL) and speech therapy**
- * 5% estimated increase in health insurance premiums (actual is 3.5%)**
- * an estimated increase in teacher salaries and support staff salaries as new contracts are being negotiated currently**
- * 2% increase in transportation expenses**
- * Reduction of 2 in paras (1 reduction and 1 shift to Intensive Services) Dummerston paras lowest in SU-\$16.6k (6.5 hr/day) vs. SU \$19-19.5k (7 hr/day)**

- * **\$5000 for the Fiber Optic project with Sovernet and Educational Networks of America (ENA)**
- * **\$18.5k for the Nutrition program to subsidize annual losses and to retire an accumulated deficit**
- * **\$19,600 for year one (1) of a five year note for K roof repairs and replacement of the gym floor**

Carol Bessette questioned the difference between the two different budget totals of \$3,124, 865,000 and \$3,144,865,000. Jim Kane was asked to address this question. Jim Kane is WSESU Business Manager. He explained that the \$20,000 difference is the first payment on the capital expenses of \$80,000 as indicated in Article 5 which the residents just approved.

Suzanne Weinberg expressed shock at the increase in Special Education numbers in Dummerston. She asked if anyone is keeping track of where this increase is coming from. She is wondering if the increase is from new students moving into the area or increased needs from students enrolled in the school. Amy explained that it was a combination of both those factors.

Amy explained the estimated tax rate will be \$1.5200 for the next year.

The motion was reread and passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 7: To transact any other business that may legally come before said Town School District Meeting.

Jodi Normandeau asked for help on the Views of Dummerston. The Historical Society has a variety of residents who are authors. There will be an Authors Exhibit at the Historical Society this Saturday. The exhibit is open from 2-4pm and the following authors will speak: Dan Snow, Tim Scott and Vern Grubinger.

Amy Dews announced that the Class of 2012 will be having a spaghetti dinner to raise money for their class trip on Saturday March 17, 2012 from 5-7pm here in the school gym. Please note the two new benches out in the front yard. They were donated from the 2011 8th grade class to honor the memory of Sue McKenna and Leah Short. Amy also announced the retirement of Judy Hawkins and thanked her for her service to the Dummerston community.

Michael Italia gives kudos to the School. His son Dominic began his musical career here with Mary Bandish. Dominic for the second year has been selected as 1st chair in New England Music Festival as percussion drummer.

Chuck Fish would like to know how the No Child Left Behind Law has effected the school and has it been beneficial. Second question is could someone explain to him the Equalized Pupil Spending Law in the broadest general terms. Paul Smith explained the principles of NCLB. Paul is the curriculum supervisor for WSESU. It is his job to coordinate the curriculum for NCLB and he has done this job since the law was put in place. NCLB has been a mixed blessing for schools. The

curriculum has been adjusted to focus on all students and not just the ones who need support. Math and English have been the subjects that have received the most attention.

Jim Kane answered the Equalized Pupil Spending Law. ACT 60 was put in place in 1997. In general terms, there was VT Supreme court case which ruled that education in VT must have equity and equal opportunity for all students no matter what community they reside. There was a formula which purpose was to redistribute the wealth between towns based on property valuations and income sensitivity. Overall he feels ACT 60 has been successful. There are reports published by the State which show that it has been successful. Every town has the opportunity to choose the education programs they want to offer. There are baseline programs that are required by Federal and State government. Asian Studies and Diversity program are examples of the additional programs available at the High School. These programs are local choice. The voters have the opportunity to increase the taxes to include these programs.

Alex Wilson announced that over 80% of the Town's energy use is expended here in the school building.

Winnie Vogt reminded the audiences of the Friends of the Library's adopt a book campaign.

Paul Smith moved to adjourn the School District meeting at 11: 08am and it was seconded by Ruth Barton with no discussion. The motion was reread and passed by voice vote.

_____ **Cynthia Jerome, School District Moderator**

_____ **Amy Wall Dews, School District Chairperson**

_____ **Pamela G. McFadden, Town Clerk**