

WINNISQUAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes of the Annual Meeting

March 21, 2015

Pursuant to the Winnisquam Regional School District Warrant, the Annual School District meeting was convened in the gymnasium of the Winnisquam Regional High School in the Town of Tilton in said District on the 21st day of March 2015. School District Moderator Kent Finemore called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bob Cormier, chief of police in Tilton. Moderator Finemore pointed out the section for non-voters. Kent Finemore asked for a moment of silence to honor those who have passed. He took a moment to thank the Supervisors of the Checklist along with Adam Satler for operating the sound system. Kent Finemore went over the ground rules and the process of today's meeting, asking to limit testimony to five minutes. He explained ballot vote rules and asked that amendments to articles be presented in writing.

Moderator Kent Finemore swore in Assistant Moderators. At this time Moderator Kent Finemore announced election results.

Moderator Finemore read Article 1 as follows:

Article-1

To see if the Winnisquam Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's recommended amount of **Twenty Five Million Nine Hundred Thirty Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Five dollars [\$25,930,945]** for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for the District officials and agents, and for the payment of statutory obligations of the District. The article does not include appropriations voted in other warrant articles. The School Board recommends **Twenty Six Million Fifty Two Thousand One Hundred Twenty Five dollars [\$26,052,125]**.

[Majority vote required]

The School Board recommends this appropriation unanimously

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 7-0

This article raises the appropriations for the General Fund, plus Special Revenue Funds for Food Service and Local, State and Federal Grants.

Motion: Motion made by Nina Gardner and seconded by Michel Gagne.

Testimony: Nina Gardner spoke to the article and opened with a PowerPoint presentation. She began by explaining that the operating budget is up by 1.44% over last year and added that the changes in tax rates which vary in the district are one of the factors; down .16 in Northfield, up .81 in Sanbornton and up .74 in Tilton. Other elements include the ADM (Average Daily Membership), property ownership and money provided by the state. Nina stated the budget represents an investment in the people, our students and staff. Included in the budget is the redesigning of the Title 1 fund which represents the number of children on or below poverty levels, replacing tutors with interventionists to improve academic achievement for all students. Other factors include health insurance increases which are very significant, less savings regarding the Honeywell energy project due to the low cost of oil. Some of the increases include salaries, interventionists, retirement rate increases, technical services, Chrome books for freshmen and the Huot Technical Center in Laconia which has increased costs. Some areas which have a decrease in the budget include a retired bond, staff changes, textbooks, transportation reductions, utilities and \$13,156 in merit pay. She emphasized that this budget includes significant educational changes that will impact the district such as the interventionist positions, IT services and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) which are intended to move students forward educationally.

Discussion: Kathryn Ferrara questioned why we rely on the state to give us money which can be pulled at any time and why not include in the budget as possible income so we do not get stuck with picking up the slack. Nina Gardner responded that the state is required to provide funding for education and added that we are dependent on state aid, and without it parents would not be able to send their children in Northfield, for example. Furthermore, she stated that our tax rate would go up.

Follow-up: Silas St. James of Tilton wanted an explanation on the two different amounts in the article, one recommended by the Budget Committee and the School Board's recommended amount.

Sean Goodwin explained the differences reflect the budget committee changes of some of the operating budget items which have been moved into the capital improvement plan, adjustments to utilities in natural gas, fuel oil, gas and diesel and the removal of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) at Sanbornton Central School.

Vote: Affirmative. Article 1 passes.

Moderator Finemore read Article 2 as follows:

Article-2

To see if the Winnisquam Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of up to **Four Hundred Fifty Thousand dollars [\$450,000]** to be placed in the Capital Reserve Fund-Building Renovations and Repairs previously established, with such amount to be funded from the June 30, 2015 unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2015. No amount to be raised from taxation.

[Majority vote required]

The School Board recommends this appropriation unanimously

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 7-0

This will help maintain a favorable trust fund balance to fund building repairs and improvements in accordance with the District's Capital Improvement Plan.

Motion: Motion made by Michael Gagne and seconded by Sean Goodwin.

Testimony: Michael Gagne spoke to the article explaining that this is an annual request to fund our capital improvement plan. This reserve fund is used for facility improvements throughout the district. Recent improvements include completion of roof replacement at Southwick School, security improvements at all schools and ongoing capital assessment of all schools. The estimated balance in this account for June 30, 2015 is \$754,140.00.

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote: Affirmative. Article 2 passes. Motion to protect articles 1 and 2 by Michael Gagne and seconded by Julie Lonergan. **Vote affirmative.** Articles 1 and 2 are protected.

Moderator Finemore read Article 3 as follows:

Article-3

To see if the Winnisquam Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Six Hundred Seventy One Thousand One Hundred Thirty Eight dollars [\$671,138]** for the following purpose: At Union Sanborn School, install ADA entrance door controls, at the Sanbornton Central School, replace the existing underground storage tank and piping, replace the remaining asphalt shingle roof with metal, replace the existing playground structure with a new structure, replace the fire alarm panel and conduct asbestos abatement on floor tiles, at Southwick School, install ADA entrance door controls, replace the sprinkler system, install a hand washing sink and drainage /driveway/culvert repair, at the Middle School, complete asbestos abatement, replace the lockers in the 6th and 7th grade wings, at the High School, replace the concrete walks at the main and gym entrances, purchase bleachers for the athletic fields at the High/Middle campus, and to authorize the withdrawal of **Six Hundred Seventy One Thousand One Hundred Thirty Eight dollars [\$671,138]** from the Capital Reserve Fund-Building Renovations and Repairs created for that purpose.

[Majority vote required]

The School Board recommends this appropriation unanimously

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 7-0

Motion: Called to motion by Jasen Stock and seconded by Michael Gagne.

Testimony: Jasen Stock clarified that this is the expenditure of funds for our capital improvement as stated in article 2. He went on to say that with the five year capital improvement plan we are making progress regarding roof repairs over the last couple of years. He also added that the ADA is making sure our doors and egresses are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Discussion: Kathryn Ferrara asked if the \$450,000.00 was included in the \$754,140.00 account. Cheryl Somma responded that all of this information, including any ongoing projects are listed on page fifty of the annual report. She added that the estimated balance at the end of the year is \$754,140.00 without the \$450,000.00, however if we have fund balance remaining, it will be added to the \$754,140.00.

Vote: Affirmative. Article 3 passes. Motion to protect vote by Jasen Stock and seconded by Michael Gagne. **Vote affirmative.** Article 3 protected.

Moderator Finemore read Article 4 as follows:

Article-4

To see if the Winnisquam Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to **Forty Thousand dollars**

[**\$40,000**] to be placed in the School Facilities Maintenance Emergency Repairs Fund previously established, said sum to be paid from the June 30, 2015 unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2015. No amount to be raised from taxation.

[Majority vote required]

The School Board recommends this appropriation unanimously

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 7-0

Annually, the District budgets an estimated amount for facility repairs. At year-end these appropriations, if unused, lapse back to the unreserved fund balance. Moneys deposited in the emergency trust fund will address unforeseen repairs that are not included in the general fund budget.

Motion: Called to motion by Tim Lang and seconded by Michael Gagne.

Discussion: Kathryn Ferrara asked where the funds are being held and if they are collecting interest. Tim Lang replied that the funds are being held in an interest bearing account which currently has a balance of \$60,570.00.

Vote: Affirmative. Article 4 passes. Motion to protect vote by Michael Gagne and seconded by Tim Lang. **Vote affirmative.** Article 4 protected.

Moderator Finemore read Article 5 as follows:

Article-5

To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

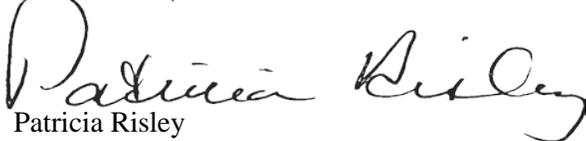
At this time moderator Kent Finemore asked that we join in congratulating Richie Mills, a senior and three-time state wrestling champion who made it as far as the nationals this year.

A dedication was made by Kevin LaChapelle to recognize Principal Rich Hines who will be retiring at the end of the school year after 26 years of devoted service.

Nina Gardner pointed out that three budget committee members were not present because of important personal business and one member who is ill. She also thanked Eliza Conde for her vital work on the Budget Committee as record keeper.

Meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

A true record, Attest:



Patricia Risley
School District Clerk
Winnisquam Regional School District