

WINNISQUAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes of the Annual Meeting

March 20, 2004

Pursuant to the Winnisquam Regional School District Warrant, the Annual School District meeting was convened in the cafeteria of the Winnisquam Regional High School in the Town of Tilton in said District on the 20th day of March 2004. School District Moderator Kenneth Randall called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Assistant Moderators selected for the meeting were – Jim Lamanuzzi – Northfield, Don Foudriat – Sanbornton, and Dave Wadleigh – Tilton. They were sworn in by the moderator prior to the start of the meeting.

Moderator Randall explained the voting procedure and explained that the rear section behind the railing on the right hand side had been designated for non-voters and non-residents.

Moderator Randall put the assembly on notice that if at 6:00 PM, there are still articles to be discussed, the meeting would be recessed to Wednesday, March 24th at 7:00 PM.

Moderator Randall introduced himself, District Clerk, Adele Chertoff, Assistant Moderators, and then asked Larry Prince, School Board Chairperson, to introduce the school board members, administrative staff and the district's legal counsel, Matt Upton.

Larry Prince recognized outgoing school board member, Bob Mazur for dedicated service from 1995-2004, and presented him with a plaque. Larry Prince recognized Dave Foster, newly elected board member to represent the town of Northfield and Lynn Chong, newly elected board member to represent the town of Sanbornton. Larry Prince also recognized Ken Randall for 29 years as district moderator.

Moderator Randall explained the procedure for standing vote and ballot vote.

Moderator Randall discussed the Moderators Rules, and Rule #17 regarding the use of cell phones. Moderator Randall asked for a vote to adopt the ground rules for the meeting.

Vote: Affirmative

Moderator Randall discussed reconsideration of a motion and vote protection to the assembly.

Moderator Randall read Article 1 as follows:

Article 1

To see if the Winnisquam Regional School District will vote to authorize under RSA 195 (Revised Statutes Annotated) to extend the charge of the Formula Committee appointed in 2003 to evaluate the existing formula and to recommend changes, if any, to the cooperative school board. Appointment of vacancies on the Formula Committee shall be made by the moderator as may be deemed necessary to ensure that one selectman, school board member, and resident represents each pre-existing district. (Majority vote required). The School Board recommends this warrant article.

Motion: A motion was made by Nina Gardner, seconded by Valerie Allen, to bring this article to the floor for discussion.

Discussion: School Board Member, Nina Gardner explained the reason for not going forth with the recommendation of the Formula Committee as printed in the annual report. She stated that during the process of working on the formula during the past year, there was legislation pending in Concord regarding school aid. The difficulty of that situation was whether or not it would be voted on in sufficient time for the committee to understand what the implications would be for each of the three towns. The committee reviewed costs among the three towns and how those costs are allocated, valuations, pupil enrollment and tax rates. State aid drives much of that. The committee felt it was not possible to bring a change to the voters. A vote to change the formula would be binding for five years. There were too many uncertainties that would affect taxpayer's rates and it was not appropriate to move forward this year.

Joe Plessner asked how long the charge of the Formula Committee would be extended and should the warrant article be amended to state that. Nina Gardner answered for one year. Ken Randall said the warrant article did not have to be amended because the assembly has been told it would be reported back at the next school district meeting.

Jean Surowiec questioned the language in the article where it states "recommending changes to the cooperative school board". Nina Gardner told her the committee makes its recommendation to the school board by law.

There being no further comments or questions, the Moderator called for the vote.

Vote: Affirmative

Moderator Randall read Article 2 as follows:

Article 2

For consideration of the Winnisquam Regional School District (WRSD) to support a football program in the district that is fully funded by the non-profit organization, Friends of Winnisquam Football, Inc. (FWF). The WRSD would vote to sanction the program within the high school athletic program as a New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA) team, playing all games on non-district fields. As a school sanctioned team, the FWF agrees to abide by all current and existing NHIAA rules, and district policies. As a school sanctioned team, all final decisions on coaching and schedules will be subject to school board approval. All future non-financial decisions to be made will be brought before the school board. There will not be any issues with financial implications determined without coming before the voters. This warrant article is being presented for consideration by the voters. (Majority vote required). School Board recommends this warrant article.

Motion: A motion was made by Larry Prince, seconded by Bob Mazur, to bring this article to the floor for discussion.

Discussion: School Board Chair, Larry Prince told the assembly that the school board representatives met with FWF and a group with opposing views to fashion this warrant article.

This warrant article has no monetary impact to the district. This has been a controversial issue but if agreed upon today can bring the community together. The board feels they are deserving of this opportunity. The board recommends this article.

Don Foudriat asked if the school district incurs any legal liability. Larry Prince answered that the Friends of Winnisquam Football were totally insured and the liability would be on them.

Foster Peverly asked the attorney to verify Larry Prince's answer. Matt Upton stated that prior to this meeting there was a discussion and he feels comfortable that the district is protected by the insurance policies. Assuming this passes the current carrier will be contacted to make sure that all potential liability is covered through the non-profit's insurance coverage.

Gloria Muraszko asked where the team would practice. Bob Brown, selectman from Tilton, answered that the field across from J. Jill was prematurely used last year which had a detrimental effect. Hopefully they can begin this spring to build the fields according to plans. It may not be until the fall that the field will be ready for use.

Susan Walker, FWF, commented that Mr. Wadleigh's property was used and they have insurance on that field. They are prepared to play all away games this year.

Arlo Stanley asked if this would affect any other sports programs, such as the girls having to have another sport. Judy Farr, Principal of WRHS, said that because the funding is done off site and doesn't have anything to do with the school, it is not an issue.

Corey Gilbert asked if girls could play and was it covered under Title 9. Matt Upton said this is in essence a private program and all the district is doing is lending its name.

Greg Hill asked if we would have the ability to set restrictions as far as academic standards. Larry Prince replied that the team would come under the same guidelines and would have to comply with the NHIAA policies.

Kevin Miller stated that he heard some earlier discussions and felt that some people may believe there is a connection between this article and the one for the athletic director. Nina Gardner said the articles are independent of one another. Kevin Miller spoke in favor of this article.

The question was called and the Moderator called for the vote. Ken Randall explained that he was exerting a Moderator's prerogative and was calling for a ballot vote.

Ballot Vote: Yes – 144 No – 70 and the Moderator declared Article 2 as read passed.

Motion: A motion was made by Susan Walker, seconded by Edward Walker, to protect the vote on Article 2.

Vote: Affirmative

Point of Order: Charles Mitchell asked for clarification on reconsideration.

Moderator Randall interpreted Susan Walker's intent as to protect her vote. RSA 40:10 states that if we move reconsideration and reconsideration passes, we cannot reconsider during this meeting, that particular vote. We must wait seven days at least before we can reconsider it.

Moderator Randall read Article 3 as follows:

Article 3

To see if the Winnisquam Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$100,000 to be placed in the Capital Reserve Fund-Building Renovations and Repairs, such amount to be funded from undesignated fund balance as of June 30, 2004. (Majority vote required). The School Board recommends this appropriation.

Motion: A motion was made by Larry Prince, seconded by Mike Gagne, to bring this article to the floor for discussion.

Discussion: School Board Member, Mike Gagne told the assembly that the capital reserve fund is at \$300,500. Should Article 4 pass the balance would drop to \$161,000. If we have \$100,000 surplus the fund will be back up to \$261,000. This is an annual request.

The question was called and the moderator called for the vote.

Vote: Affirmative and the Moderator declared Article 3 as read passed.

Moderator Randall read Article 4 as follows:

Article 4

To see if the Winnisquam Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thirty-nine thousand five hundred dollars (\$139,500) to purchase replacement windows at the Union Sanborn School and Sanbornton Central School, to replace floor tiles in the 7th grade classrooms at the WR Middle School, to install snow guards at the Vocational-Agriculture Center, replace fencing at the softball field, repair bathroom floor at Union Sanborn School, install air conditioning in specified areas at the Southwick School, and to authorize the withdrawal of one hundred thirty-nine thousand five hundred dollars (\$139,500) from the Capital Reserve Fund-Building Renovations and Repairs Fund created for that purpose. The School Board recommends this appropriation. (Majority vote required).

Motion: A motion was made by Nina Gardner, seconded by Tom Salatiello, to bring this article to the floor for discussion.

Discussion: School Board Member, Nina Gardner explained that this article is to keep up maintenance and repairs of the facilities. This article asks the voters to authorize the withdrawal of funds. Nina Gardner explained the requests.

The question was called and the moderator called for the vote.

Vote: Affirmative and the Moderator declared Article 4 as read passed.

Moderator Randall read Article 5 as follows:

Article 5

To see if the district will vote to add a full time Athletic Director's position at the Winnisquam Regional High and Middle Schools and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$46,346 for this purpose. The School Board recommends this appropriation. (Majority vote required).

Motion: A motion was made by Nina Gardner, seconded by Bob Mazur to bring Article 5 to the floor for discussion.

Discussion: School Board Member, Nina Gardner said that the school board decided to bring this article forward to the voters rather than adding it to the budget. This is something the board has been asked by parents to look at on a number of occasions. The reason to consider this at this time is because of the expansion of the facilities with a great investment of the communities. The board feels it is time to have someone who can devote themselves to this. Nina explained how this would be funded and how the amount was derived.

Charles Mitchell asked if anyone is doing this half time now. Nina Gardner responded that no one is doing this half time.

Kevin Miller said it was not specified what degree would be required for this position. Nina Gardner answered that it would be a certified teacher with at least a bachelor's degree and with some experience.

Susan Walker commented that she has worked with the part-time AD and has never had a problem, but does have a concern that the middle school will take a back seat to the high school, also would the AD be available on nights and weekends. Nina Gardner said these are some of the concerns that are the reason for this new position.

Dina Hunter asked when the person would start. Nina Gardner responded that the money becomes available as of July 1st.

Barbara Foster asked about AD responsibilities and scheduling of time in the gymnasiums and cafeterias. Nina Gardner said the AD job would also entail co-curricular activities.

Lana Dearborn spoke in favor of an Athletic Director to maintain the value of the district. Lana requested that the AD's responsibilities include the review of the NHIAA standards with respect to participation in sports. Nina replied that this has been discussed at a school board meeting and she supports Lana's comments.

Dan Clark asked if there is already a director of co-curricular activities and would it be appropriate to amend this article to read Director of Co-Curricular activities. Nina Gardner responded that the job description reads Co-Curricular Athletic Director and this person will report to the Superintendent of Schools at the administrative level.

There being no further questions or comments, the moderator called for the vote.

Vote: Affirmative and the moderator declared Article 5 as read passed.

Moderator Randall read Article 6 as follows:

Article 6

To see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate \$19,587,837 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. (Majority vote required). The School Board recommends this appropriation.

Motion: A motion was made by Valerie Allen, seconded by Nina Gardner to bring Article 6 to the floor for discussion.

Discussion: School Board Member, Valerie Allen told the assembly that this is the operating budget only. The Department of Revenue Administration now requires this to be presented separately exclusive of the previous articles voted here today.

Kevin Waldron asked what the amount of the total budget is including the other articles. Ken Randall responded that the total amount including Articles 3, 4, 5 & 6 is \$19,873,683. Mr. Waldron asked why the operating budget is up over \$1 million dollars. Valerie Allen replied this is due to fixed contracts voted on last year for the teachers and custodians.

Ken Randall added that when you vote on something one year it cannot be carried over for the next year with the exception of contracts. Regardless of what is done with the budget this year, this will still have to be paid.

Greg Hill asked if the budget figure could be divided by the number of students to get the cost per student for education. Ken Randall read the number given by Allan Demko as \$10,608, which takes into consideration the transfer to grants and food service. This number does not include district revenues.

Emily Speare commented on the way of determining cost per student and said she believed our district's cost is about \$7000, which is below state average.

Arlo Stanley commented that they do not care where the money comes from but the point is that it costs \$11,000 per student.

Greg Hill asked where the \$11,000 is ranked in the State. Nina Gardner responded that the number he is asking the board to determine is not available because they do not have access to other districts budgets being voted on or their enrollments. The figures they do have are from State reports and are based on a consideration of revenues. Valerie Allen read from the 2002-2003 Cost Per Pupil By District report citing where other school districts in the area are listed on the report.

Gloria Muraszko commented that changes could be made to the budget by making an amendment.

There being no further questions or comments, the moderator called for the vote.

Vote: Affirmative and the moderator declared Article 6 as read passed.

Motion: A motion was made by Gloria Muraszko to protect the vote on Articles 1, 3, 4, 5, & 6.

Vote: Affirmative

Moderator Randall read Article 7 as follows:

Article 7

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

Motion: A motion was made by Wayne Elliot, seconded by Chuck Mitchell to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 PM.

Vote: Affirmative

A true Record, Attest:

Adele Chertoff, Clerk
Winnisquam Regional School District