

**NEW HAVEN TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 3, 2014**

The legal voters of the Town of New Haven School District are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Town Hall in New Haven, Vermont on **Monday, March 3, 2014 at 6:30 pm** (school district to follow town) to discuss and transact the following business. Articles 2 and 5 require a vote by Australian Ballot to take place on **Tuesday, March 4, 2014** at the New Haven Town Hall between 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM.

Moderator, Lanny Smith opened the School meeting at 7:32 pm, and read the Warning. Lanny Smith introduced the School Board members: Chair, Brad Bull, Craig Bemis and Ed McGuire as well as Susan Bruhl, Special Educator for Pre K through 6th grade for the District and Beeman School Principal, Kristine Evarts - Bouvier.

ARTICLE 1. To elect a Moderator following nominations from the floor.

Pam Marsh made a motion to nominate Lanny Smith as Moderator, seconded by Paul Horn.

All in favor.

Passed.

ARTICLE 2. To elect all Town School District Officers for the ensuing year by Australian Ballot.

Moderator, Lanny Smith let the audience know there is currently no one running for the Beeman or Mt. Abe positions.

No further discussion.

ARTICLE 3. To act upon the reports of the Town School District Officers.

Chair, Brad Bull read the report that is in the Town Report. (See attached)

Principal – Kristine Evarts – Bouvier prepared a short video of the Beeman students while they were doing their community service.

Julie Olson – Asked about Act 153 and 156, how this will impact the Beeman students.

Brad Bull – The School Board has no choice, it is mandated by State Statute.

Susan Bruhl – Beeman will see no changes. There will be a 1 year transition, with no impact on the school staff; it is more a mechanical shift. Next year it will be a cross the board for ANESU; she could only hypothesize what it will look like in the future. The District will need to have folks in the buildings who have a deep sense of culture and community. They will have to pool their efforts across the county.

Rick Shappy – How will this effect negotiations?

Brad Bull – It is included in the teacher contract negotiations within the district for the next contract year.

At this time Pam Marsh took over as Moderator, so Lanny Smith may speak to this.

Lanny Smith – The Supervisory Union attempted to initiate this, but you have to approach the Union, and they rejected the offer. The employees are still employed by the individual schools. In the future they will be hired by the ANESU; this change will occur on June 30, 2014. The idea behind this is if one school “A” ends up with only 5 students with special needs, and school “B” has 10, and all of a sudden school “A” gets 10 more students. This would be a huge spike for this town. This would allow the schools to spread the cost throughout the district. This will better serve the students.

John Madden – Will there be a loss of control of our Special Education teachers when the paycheck is from the district.

Brad Bull - Agreed the biggest issue would be the loss of control. Kids moving in and out of town can wreak havoc on budgets.

Susan Bruhl – There will be stability in the need, it is a different mindset.

Craig Bemis – If one child moves from one school to another, it allows that teacher to continue to work with that child.

Kathi Apgar – Is there a risk for a delay in services?

Susan Bruhl – No, she feels there is a large enough staff to respond to the needs. Currently there is a small evaluation team, she would love to see it be more robust.

Kathi Apgar – What happens if the ANESU budget fails?

Lanny Smith – Special Ed and delivery service should stay the same. If not then we must deficit spend.

Barb Torian – New Haven voters vote for Beeman and Mt. Abe, not for the supervisory district.

Brad Bull – 3 Board members are part of the ANESU Board. The ANESU meeting is open to the public, and it is voted on at that meeting.

Pam Marsh yielded the Moderator back to Lanny Smith.

Brad Bull – The Special Education department tries to keep budget credibility. At the Superintendents recommendation, a reduction force could take place.

John Madden – Referred to page 92 in the Town Report, which shows a decrease. He expressed his gratitude for the decrease.

Pam Marsh – Said she wasn’t sure the CLA (Common Level of Appraisal) will decrease. The Common Level of Appraisal was discussed.

Barb Torian – There is a discrepancy in the numbers the State sent and this is what Kermit Blaisdell based his numbers on. The CLA went down to 101% from 107%.

Kathi Apgar – Is there a Pre K collaborative?

Susan Bruhl – No, but they do partner with 80 schools from Burlington to East Middlebury. On the Superintendents website (www.anesu.org) you can apply for preschool for the next year.

Kathi Apgar – At what rate do we reimburse?

Susan Bruhl – Do not have figures for next year.

No further discussion.

ARTICLE 4. To establish salaries for the Town School District Officers for the ensuing year.

Kathi Apgar made a motion to keep the salaries the same, Chair \$1,250; other members \$1,000; Treasurer \$1,000 and Moderator \$100. Motion seconded by Kathy Barrett.

All in favor.

Passed.

ARTICLE 5. For discussion only: VOTE TO BE TAKEN BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT ON TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2014 BETWEEN 7:00 AM AND 7:00 PM.

Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven School District appropriate \$1,795,413 necessary for the support of its school for the year beginning July 1, 2014?

Kathy Barrett – Will the current teaching staff remain the same, will there be any cuts?

Brad Bull – Under, Policy Governance, the current staffing will remain the same.

Kristine Evarts – Bouvier – There will be shifting roles, but no one will be leaving.

Kathy Barrett – The current school population is around 92 -95. Last year it was around 100, with 16 kids going to Mt. Abe. There are only 16 Kindergarteners coming in. How many kids are now homeschooled or in private schools?

Brad Bull – They have a 3 year rolling average. The Board has discussed how to approach this; we can't put folks on the spot. Many are in other schools for religious reasons. He wanted to again point out the handouts on the back table have a lot of information in them.

Craig Bemis – It is hard to get numbers on kids who are being home schooled.

Pam Marsh – Independent and home school age kids must be registered with the state. She is not sure the state will give this information up.

Brad Bull – These are very personal decisions for families.

Tim Bouton – Any thought to having all the teachers work for ANESU? Then we could get rid of the School Board since they have to abide by the Policy Governance. He added he thought the School Board is doing a good job.

Lanny Smith – Consolidation is happening county wide, we have less than 90,000 students in Vermont.

Fabian Bourgeois – Are there projections for enrollment?

Brad Bull – The Superintendent has no numbers. But the numbers for student enrollment are declining state wide. Possible consolidation, tax districts and boards, then the teachers would be employed by ANESU.

Mary Pat Roche – Next year will be the smallest year.

Barb Torian – Thanked Ed Gomeau for his hard work on the finances for the district.

Lanny Smith – When Ed came to this district, several schools were in deficit, now only one is.

No further discussion.

ARTICLE 6. To see if the voters of the New Haven Town School District will authorize the New Haven Town School District Board of Directors to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the school year, as provided in 16 V.S.A. §562 (9).

Kathy Barrett made a motion to approve the Article, seconded by Pam Marsh.

Tim Bouton – Will the current Bond be retired upon the payment of taxes?

Ed Gomeau – Yes.

All in favor.

Passed.

ARTICLE 7. To hear and report any further business which may legally come before this meeting.

John Madden thanked the School Board members for their hard work.

Russ Reilly made a motion to adjourn the School meeting at 8:30 pm, seconded by Rick Shappy.

All in favor.

Adjourn: 4:15 pm

Respectfully submitted:

Pam Kingman

Approved:

Roger Boeip

LANNY SMITH