

**NEW HAVEN TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 29, 2016**

The legal voters of the New Haven Town School District are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Town Hall in New Haven, Vermont on Monday, February 29, 2016 at 6:30PM (school district to follow town) to discuss and transact the following business. Articles 2 and 7 require a vote by Australian ballot to take place on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at the New Haven Town Hall between 7:00AM and 7:00 PM.

Moderator, Pam Marsh opened the meeting at 8:35 pm.

Moderator, Pam Marsh opened the School meeting at 8:35 pm, and read the Warning. Pam Marsh introduced the School Board members: Chair, Brad Bull, who is also on the ANeSU Executive Committee as well as the Bargaining Committee; Vice Chair, Ed McGuire, ANeSU Board and the ACT 46 Board for School consolidation and Clerk, Phyllis Smith, who also serves on the ANeSU Board. She also introduced Beeman Principal, Kristine Everts - Bouvier and Susan Bruhl, who is the Director of Special Education and Director of Pre-Education for the Supervisory Union and Sarah LaPerle who is on ACT 46 Board; appointed as a citizen. There were approximately 25 people in attendance.

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

Barb Torian made a motion to nominate Pam Marsh as Moderator, seconded by Sue Ford. There were no more nominations.

All in favor.

Passed.

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

Ed McGuire is running for re-election, running unopposed.
No further discussion.

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

Brad Bull said the Town Report is very detailed; he has strived to put information out in the towns' monthly newsletter. This year the Act 46 Committee was formed to look into school consolidation. This year Beeman had a jump of 15 students in enrollment, this has placed a strain on classroom configuration. Last year there were 5 full time teachers

for 7 grades; the school's biggest proposal for next year is to hire another full time teacher.

This year the tax rate calculation for Beeman is at \$0.69, which is the lowest compared to other towns in the district. Brad added Mt. Abe has also trimmed their budget. Principal, Kristine Everts- Bouvier said there are currently 2 classrooms with 25 kids in them and one teacher. They are asking for one more teacher for next year to ensure they meet the ENDS and Common Core standards. It makes a big difference adding an additional teacher.

Tim Bouton made a motion to accept the reports as written, seconded by Dan Monger. All in favor.

Passed.

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, and \$50 for the Clerk. Motion seconded by Al Karnatz.

All in favor.

Passed

ARTICLE 5. For discussion only: VOTE TO BE TAKEN BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT ON TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2016 BETWEEN 7:00 AM AND 7:00 PM.

Shall the voters of the New Haven Town School District approve the school board to expend \$1,884,124, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$14,376 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 6.6% lower than spending for the current year. Discussion only.

Equalized Pupils was discussed. There is a graph in the Town Report that is easy to read. This equates to daily membership per student. It also takes into account the poverty levels, including pre K students.

Offering incentives for homeschooleders came up, but Ed McGuire said the School Board has not authority to offer incentives. Brad Bull agreed that it is a parent's personal choice to send their children to private schools or home school. There are some homeschooleders in town who do take advantage of classes that are offered at Beeman. The new teacher for next year would be placed in the in the 4, 5, 6 grades. Currently there are 50 students with only 2 teachers in these classrooms.

There are 16 students graduating from Beeman at the end of this year. There are currently 105 students attending Beeman, last year the number was at 93. Some folks

would like to see how many pupils are in each class, and a projection for coming years. This used to show in the Town Report, many people liked to see it in there. The School Board was thanked for keeping the budget realistic and a good job overall; it is a lot of work.

ARTICLE 6. To see if the voters of said 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)

Tim Bouton made a motion to approve the Article, seconded by Rick Shappy.
All in favor.

Passed

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

Under Act 46, will Beeman School face closure in the future and if so what could the building be used for. It may be nice for CCV or use for elderly housing. If the building were to close, who owns it? Beeman is owned by the New Haven Town School District. Ed McGuire said there are models around the state, which say that no buildings would be closed anywhere from 4 to 10 years after consolidation is enacted. The earliest we would vote on Act 46 consolidation would be in November. Sarah LaPerle said they Committee is looking at the pros and cons, and how it works. The likelihood of Beeman closing is very low. Brad Bull said some levels remain at growth level, 105 students would be hard to fit into Bristol Elementary. There are obstacles as to what closing Beeman would look like. The Act 46 Committee plans to hold forums about how Act 46 works. Several in the audience agreed that Beeman is a draw for parents.

Discussed the jump in students this year, mostly it was from new folks moving into town, one large family can make a difference. Sarah LaPerle said Act 46 will consolidate the District and help with all the ups and downs; and may relieve some stress. Rick Shappy said he does not want to lose our district teachers.

No further discussion.

Kathi Apgar made a motion to adjourn at 9:30 pm, seconded by Rick Shappy.
All in favor

Adjourn: 9:30 pm

Respectfully submitted:

Pam Kingman

Approved:

