

**Town of Charleston**  
**Annual School District Meeting – March 7, 2017**  
**Charleston Elementary School**

**MINUTES**

The Annual Town & School District Meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Moderator Jean Wilson, beginning with School Business.

**Article 1. To elect a School Moderator for the ensuing year for the Town School District.** Jean Wilson nominated by Sherman Allen, second by Steve Wilson. Unopposed. Elected for 1 year.

**Article 2. To elect a School Board Director for a term of 3 years.** Pat Austin nominated by Tom Jensen, second by Sherman Allen. Unopposed. Elected for 3 years.

**Article 3. To elect a School District Treasurer for a term of 1 year.** Teri Gray nominated by Jason Brueck, second by Pat Austin. Unopposed. Elected for 1 year.

**Article 4. Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$1,929,588, 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 \$14,383 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 22.24% higher than spending in the current year.**

Moved by Nancy Engels, second by Peggy Stevens. Paper ballot requested by Dan Whipple and 7 more. Vote: 62 yes to 18 no. RESULT: Passed. Discussion: School Board Chair Jason Brueck explained equalized per pupil spending driven up by decline in state-calculated enrollment and corresponding \$55,000 revenue loss. Budget increases include state mandates for Library & Media specialist (\$22,500) and increased pre-K staff and playground fence (\$22,400); anticipated state mandate to offer health education to middle school (\$30,600); and voter petition for a full-time music teacher (\$18,600). Board continues to pursue alternative to state-driven school consolidation while also complying with mandates to avoid taxpayer penalties. With proposed budget, Charleston still in lower half of supervisory union and lower 50% of state in terms of equalized per pupil spending.

**Article 5. Shall the voters authorize the school board to transfer \$58,000 of unobligated fund balance from the FY2016 General Fund to the Asset Replacement Fund?**

Moved by Nancy Engels, second by Peter Engels. Amended to \$58,882. Vote: Ayes have it. RESULT: Passed as amended. Discussion: Mr. Brueck explained Asset Fund, with balance of

\$22,000, covers anything that is part of the school that needs replacing—recently the Boiler, HVAC, gym tables, drilled well, with expected work to drinking water system, boys' bathroom and pre-K fence. Post-audit, exact surplus amount is \$58,882. Proposed amendment to change the amount to \$58,882 moved by Dan Whipple, second by Penelope Newcomb, no discussion. Vote on amendment: Ayes have it; amendment passed.

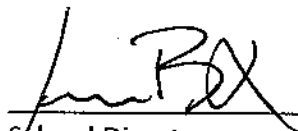
**Article 6. To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.**

Mr. Brueck asked attendees to complete an Act 46 survey and call the Secretary of Education to express opinions. Tom Jensen suggested an informal vote to see who wants to keep a local school. Mr. Brueck moved the following: "Are voters in favor of the Charleston school district (1) pursuing an alternative model to Act 46 to stay the way we are, a local school board that retains ownership of the Charleston school, and (2) opposing the state's model of one big school board that gives over ownership of the school to a giant consolidated district?" second by John Kellogg. Audrey Frizzell offered a parallel motion to "Stay as we are, keep our local school and do everything we can to fight consolidation." Shannon Brown noted that her child struggled with the transition from the K-8 school to large high school and would have benefited from a junior high experience. Mr. Brueck noted that consolidation affects governance and not necessarily where students attend school. Voters were asked to respond: Yes (support the way the school is now, with local control) or No (support Act 46 and the governance of a large school district). Vote: Ayes have it. RESULT: Passed, but non-binding.

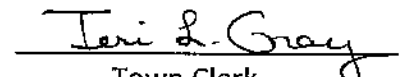
Seeing no other business, the Annual School District Meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.

DATED AT CHARLESTON, VERMONT THIS 7th DAY OF MARCH 2017.

Respectfully submitted:

  
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School Director

  
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Moderator

  
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Town Clerk