

**Town of Charleston
Annual School District Meeting – March 1, 2022
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 & Town Moderator for the ensuing year. Jean Wilson nominated by Bob Devaney, second by John Kellogg. Unopposed. Elected for one year.

Article 2. To elect a School Board Director for a term of 3 years. Sarah Jenness nominated by Corrinne Moulton, second by Jessica Applegate. Unopposed. Elected for three years.

Article 3. To elect a School District Treasurer for a term of 1 year. Teri Gray nominated by Bob Devaney, second by Medora Jensen. Unopposed. Elected for one year.

Article 4. Shall the voters of the School District approve the school board to expend \$2,540,591.00 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 \$17,954 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 10.88% higher than spending in the current year. Moved by Peggy Stevens, second by Isaac Jensen. Vote: Ayes have it. RESULT: Passed. Discussion: Chair Mary Esposito said she is honored to serve with other board members, and thanked Principal Chris Lawson for supporting a very new board. On the budget, nothing has been added salary or program wise, but two things beyond district control account for a \$.09 increase. First, Act 173 now requires special education costs to be in the budget—a \$90,000 increase for these much-needed services. Second, the Town’s Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) was a hard hit. Bob Devaney expressed concern about continuously increasing education taxes.

Article 5. Shall the voters of the School District appropriate \$100,000.00 to be added to the Asset Replacement Reserve Fund for necessary building improvements? Approving this article will increase education spending and the tax rate. Moved by Nancy Engels, second by Sam Stevens. Vote: Ayes have it. RESULT: Passed. Discussion: Chair Mary Esposito said this ask is needed to address deterioration in an aging building. Planned kitchen grease trap replacement turned into a major septic/plumbing repair this winter when rotted pipes were found. Full diagnosis won’t be possible until spring, and more repairs are expected. A small portion of funds will be using to replace safety hazard carpets and convert all lights to LED to save costs.

Article 6. To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting. The Moderator thanked Principal Chris Lawson for his service to the school and community, and attendees responded with a round of applause.

Seeing no other business, School Business concluded at 10:17 am.
DATED AT CHARLESTON THIS 1st DAY OF MARCH 2022.

Respectfully Submitted

School Director

Moderator

Town Clerk