

Town of Charleston
Annual School District Meeting – March 7, 2023
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 Pat Austin, second by Bob Devaney. Unopposed. Elected for one year.

Article 2. To elect a School Board Director for a term of 3 years.
Ryan Besaw nominated by Jessica Applegate, second by Pat Austin. Unopposed. Elected for three years.

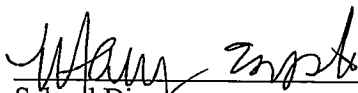
Article 3. To elect a School District Treasurer for a term of 1 year. Teri Gray nominated by Peggy Stevens, second by Bob Devaney. Unopposed. Elected for one year.

Article 4. Shall the voters of the School District approve the school board to expend \$2,664,868.00 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? Moved by Nancy Engels, second by Samantha Stevens. Vote: Ayes have it. RESULT: Passed. Discussion: School Board Chair Mary Esposito discussed things impacting the budget including an increased number of Equalized Pupils and a dollar yield increase that brought more Education Fund money. The main impacting factor was the town's CLA (common level of appraisal), which is how houses are selling compared to appraised values. Because houses are selling above appraised values, the CLA went to 83.26, which would have increased the tax rate by \$.16. Past budget deficits, mostly due to fewer staff, helped to pay down the budget resulting in \$.05 increase. The budget is increasing by \$24,000 from last year and will allow for full-year nurse, which benefits kids. Pat Austin asked how much was spent to buy down the budget as he was considering amending the budget up to avoid a problem next year. With voter approval to speak, Principal Chris Lawson explained that rather than actually "buying down" the budget, a \$75,000 deficit that would have been raised in taxes was allocated to decrease the budget. Bob Devaney asked if the town will have a new assessment, which should level-out the tax rate. Pat Austin and Jean Wilson discussed how reappraisal can increase taxes if a house value increases but the education tax rate should go down.

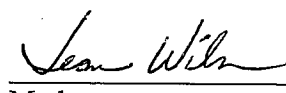
Article 5. To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.
Discussion:

Seeing no other business, School Business concluded at 10:14 am.
DATED AT CHARLESTON THIS 7th DAY OF MARCH 2023.

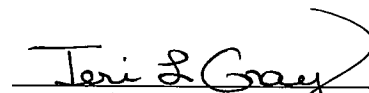
Respectfully Submitted



School Director



Moderator



Town Clerk