

Benton School District Meeting - 2019

School Warrant State of New Hampshire March 12, 2019

The meeting opened at 7:05 PM.

Article 1

To choose a Moderator for the ensuing year.

Gilbert W. Richardson was elected by voice vote.

Article 2

To choose a School Clerk for the ensuing year.

Michael P. Stiebitz was elected by voice vote.

Article 3

To choose one School Board Member for a term of three years expiring in 2022.

Tim Hickey was elected by voice vote.

Article 4

To choose a Treasurer for the ensuing year.

Penny Chicoine was elected by voice vote.

Article 5

To hear reports of Agents, Committees, or Officers chosen and pass any vote relating thereto.

Motion made to accept article as written, seconded.

Joe Boutin III explained that when the School Board was apprised of the School Budget request, they had agreed to remove a reservation for three unanticipated students. He said that the major increase in the budget was due to Special Education expenses.

The article then passed on voice vote.

Article 6

To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate Seven Hundred Thirty-Four Thousand, Eight Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$734,825.00) for the support of schools, the payment of salaries of school district officials and agents, and the payments of statutory obligations of the district. This article is exclusive of any other article on the warrant. (The school board recommends this article.)

Benton School District Meeting - 2019

Motion to accept article as written, seconded.

Laura Richardson proposed an amendment to reduce the budget to \$684,825.00. She explained that the Education Trust Fund (ETF) currently has approximately \$88,000 so if the SAU really does need extra funds at the end of the school year, the funds can be distributed from the fund.

A motion was made to accept the amendment as proposed, seconded and the amendment to reduce the school budget by \$50,000 to \$684,825.00 passed on a unanimous voice vote.

A question was posed concerning the loss of the per student discount that the SAU had been providing because we send 100% of our students. Joe explained that we still indeed receive the 10% per student discount. We had received a 30% discount on 7th & 8th graders for duration of 5 years, but that has expired.

The article as amended then passed by voice vote. The vote was approximately 75% YES and 25% NO.

Article 7

To see if the district will raise and appropriate up to One Hundred Thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) to be added to the previously established Tuition and Education Expendable Trust Fund, such amount to be funded from the year-end unassigned fund balance available on June 30, 2019. (The school board does not recommend this article)

Motion to accept article as written, seconded and discussion ensued.

Joe Boutin explained that the School Board would have liked to put more of the \$198,000 surplus into the Expendable Fund that the SAU reported at the end of last year, but the information did not come in time for the Town Meeting. He admitted that in a normal year, we would have liked to put a good amount into the Expendable Fund for unexpected school expenses. This year they recommend against it. Selectman Darcy amplified the point by explaining that the 72% school tax increase from last year's final budget made it impossible for the Town to allocate any funds to the ETF this year.

The article then was not passed unanimously by voice vote.

Motion was made to close the meeting and the meeting adjourned at 7:22PM.

A true copy
Attest:



Michael P. Stiebitz

Michael P. Stiebitz - Benton School District Clerk - Benton, New Hampshire

