

Woodford School District
Annual School Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2018- Unapproved

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Mike Charette at 7:55pm. He asked Woodford School principal, Sandi Foster, if she had anything to present to the public. Sandi introduced a slide show that was created to show what the students had participated in throughout the year presented by Melissa Chauncey.

Mike read the warning as posted:

Article I: To hear the reports of the School Board and other officials of the district and take action thereon.

Motion made by Tom Slee, 2nd by Wayne Tiffit to accept Article I. Discussion followed regarding the budget and the Act 46 law.

Dick Frantz stated that the real work on the budget is done by Rene Gordon, Jim Culkeen and Sandi Foster. He praised Sandi as being a huge advocate for the students and the success of the school. Dick explained that there were some increases in certain areas in the budget such as staff, health premiums, and capital improvement projects. He noted that the building is in good condition and \$2500 is budgeted towards painting. Items that decreased were cleaning costs and transportation due to lower bids. To help keep the tax rate down, the board applied \$20,000 from the reserve fund. The small school grant is currently still available but is expected to disappear for the 2020 budget year. This year the grant was \$36,000. Tuition students help offset the loss of this money and currently the school has 2 tuition students from Searsburg. The current enrollment for Woodford School is 21 students and for the Mt. Anthony Union High School and Middle School there are 28 students. Woodford School may be piloting a 175 day calendar in an effort to reduce education costs. Currently schools are on a 180 day calendar.

The requirements to comply with Act 46 have still been undecided for Woodford. Dick stated that an alliance of VT School Board members will meet in March. The board is advocating for what the voters asked them to do through the election with voting no to the proposed merger. Ryan Thurber asked since the merger didn't pass has the board demonstrated to the State how the school system already meets the requirements. Dick stated that the board did not submit a section 9 and so far no one has asked for it. Woodford will probably follow with Bennington's plan. Ryan expressed concerns as to whether the decisions made by the Secretary of Education would be presented to the voters prior to them being finalized. Jim Culkeen responded that the Secretary of Education will take all requests from the boards before making any decisions.

Article II: To establish the annual salaries of the District officers for FY19 as follows:

- a) Clerk \$100.00
- b) School Directors \$1000 each
- c) Treasurer \$3713.00

Motion by Tom Slee, 2nd by Ryan Thurber. No discussion followed. All were in favor, **Motion Carries.**

Article III: To hold public informational hearings on the articles to be voted by Australian ballot on March 6, 2018.

Motion Tom Slee, 2nd by Ryan Thurber. No discussion followed. All were in favor, **Motion Carries.**

Article IV: To transact any other business found proper when met.

There was no other business.

Motion by Ryan Thurber, 2nd by Tom Slee. No discussion followed. All were in favor, **Motion Carries.**

Motion to adjourn meeting by Ryan Thurber, 2nd by Steve Wright. No discussion followed. All in favor, **Motion Carries.** Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Submitted by,
Susan Wright
Woodford Town Clerk