

Surry School District
Annual Meeting
March 20, 2014
MINUTES NOT YET APPROVED

Call to Order – 7:00PM

Present: Nancy Callender, Moderator
Tim Peloquin, Chair
Bonny LaRocca, Secretary
Frank Buffum
Caroll Lothrop
John Davis
Rebecca Russo, Treasurer, Assistant District Clerk

Also Present – Ken Dassau, SAU 91 Superintendent

Pledge of Allegiance

Nancy Callender – Read the election results from March 11, 2014. The elected officers were as follows: District Moderator, Nancy Callender. District Clerk, Helen Smith. Board Members for 3-year terms, Caroll Lothrop and Tim Peloquin

Article 1 – Report of District Officers

To hear the reports of the District Officers

Motion, David Lane Second, Steve Goldsmith

No Discussion, Reports accepted as written. Article Passed.

Article 2 – Main Budget of \$1,679,560

To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,679,560 for the support of schools for the payment of salaries for the School District Officials and Agents, and for the payment of the Statutory Obligations of the District for the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year.

Motion, David Lane. Second, Bruce Smith.

Nancy Callender noted that there was a discrepancy with what is posted in the Keene Sentinel. The documents posted around town and with the state were correct.

Steve Goldsmith asked what the relationship was between the Surry School Board and the Keene School Board.

Tim Peloquin commented. S. Goldsmith then noted that the Keene School District does not seem to control its costs very well. T. Peloquin responded by explaining that Surry's tuition rates are entirely dependent upon what Keene determines and how many students are residents of Surry. Enrollment is up 30-35%. There are approximately 90 students in the town now. There were over 30 movements of children in and out of town within the past year. Special Education billing is divided up equally among all special ed students, so Surry pays much more than what is received in services for each special ed student.

Article Passed.

Article 3 – Transfer of Unused Funds up to \$30,000

To see if the Surry School District will vote to appropriate and authorize the school board to transfer up to Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) of its June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, if any remain on hand at the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2014 to be deposited in the Expendable Trust Fund (Special Education and Tuition Trust Fund) established by the voters of the District in March, 2009.

Motion, David Lane. Second, Jay Croteau

Bruce Smith asked about the \$30,000 budgeted for the capital reserve on the green information sheet.. He didn't believe it should be added to the bottom line of the budget because it was added last year. David Lane then asked if it would be appropriate to amend the article. Ken Dassau stated that the DRA reviewed the article and MS 27 this and gave its approval. Kim Fisher noted that there is no "raising" of money, so there is probably no reason to amend the article. David Lane said that the same thing will happen regardless. The intent is understood.

Article Passed.

Article 4 – Terms

To transact any other business which may legally come before the meeting.

Fred Bretton expressed concern that the small bus does not stop at the stop signs in the village. Steve Goldsmith said that First Student addresses every single issue faithfully.

Mark Gross noted in the Annual Report that there has been a contract with Granite State Transitional Principles with total flexibility in its staffing services. He believes it is a mistake to sign a 3-year contract with district superintendent and business manager strapping the district to inflexibility, employee legal issues, and potential conflict with no way out when hiring individuals directly. With GSTP, if there is a problem, the district has to do nothing more than say it would like someone else to provide services. Tim Peloquin responded by noting all of the transition the district has been through over the past 6 years with SAU services. He would like to have consistency in meeting the needs of the district. There were no problems that he could cite with the budget process this year, and he would like to see this continue. Gross said that this is not a critique of any individuals or their services. It is just prudent business to avoid a contract with an individual when there is a company that provide services. Bob Bergevin asked if there were any savings with the new agreement. T. Peloquin responded no. David Lane said that there are indeed issues surrounding hiring employees. The laws are changing. Bonny LaRocca asked for an explanation from Mark Gross surrounding legalities. Gross explained that there is no benefit to the district in this agreement whatsoever. He offered to speak with the District's attorneys and the School Board via phone conference over the upcoming week so that the District's attorneys can respond to more pointed questions.

Motion to terminate the meeting, David Lane - Second, Mark Gross - No Discussion, Meeting Ended – 7:34PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca H. Russo
Assistant District Clerk