

Newfound Area School District

First Deliberative Session

January 30, 2016

10 a.m.

Newfound Regional High School Auditorium

MINUTES

School Board Present: Jeff Levesque, Chair, Groton; Don Franklin, Vice Chair, Hebron; Vincent Migliore, Bridgewater; Christine Davol, New Hampton; Ben LaRoche, Bristol; Sue Cheney, Alexandria; Sharon Klapyk, Danbury.

Budget Committee Present: John Jenness, Chair, New Hampton; Harold Reilly, Vice Chair, Alexandria; Gina Rescigno, Groton; Stan Newton, Hebron; Absent Jeff Bird, Bridgewater.

School Administrators Present: Stacy Buckley, Superintendent; Michael Limanni, Business Administrator; Anne Holton, Student Services Administrator; Therese Wetherington, Curriculum Coordinator; Sue Cross, SAU.

Ned Gordon, Moderator, opened the meeting on time at 10 a.m. and invited Archie Auger to lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and then Ned offered the Invocation. Ned reminisced that it is the fiftieth year anniversary of Archie Auger's Class of 1966 and spoke kindly of his own classmates and class motto. He then read the rules for the meeting and explained that there were three warrant articles. Article 1 To choose all necessary School District Officials for the year ensuing will be voted on by citizens in their respective towns at the Second Session, March 8, 2016, Election Day. Today Article 2 and 3 will be discussed. An official will speak to the Article after Ned reads it. To amend the Article put it in writing, second it and open it for discussion. Only registered voters within the District can vote or speak but may answer questions. Ned will take a motion to close debate and ask for a vote. The majority vote will shape how the warrant articles will appear on the ballot before the voters at the Second Session.

Next Ned invited Jeff Levesque, School Board Chairman to introduce members of the school board. John Jenness, Chairman of the Budget Committee introduced members of the budget committee. The Moderator introduced Ruth Whittier, School Board Clerk taking minutes of the meeting.

Article 1: Ned Gordon read Article 1 and explained that no action is needed today; choosing School District Officials will be voted on at the Second Session, March 8, 2016.

Article 2: Expendable Trust Fund: Building Maintenance: To see if the Newfound Area School District will vote to raise the sum of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000) to be added to the Expendable Trust Fund: Building Maintenance, and to authorize the use/transfer in that account from the undesignated fund balance available July 1, 2016 for this purpose?

Ned Gordon read Article 2 and invited Don Franklin, Chair of the Facilities Committee for the School Board, to speak on this article. Don Franklin explained the fund can only be used for building maintenance, can only be taken from funds after expenses from coming year are expended or encumbered., and approving the warrant will not increase taxes. Don Franklin explained that the Sixty Thousand Dollars is not nearly enough for the major maintenance bill if it were necessary given the old

age of our buildings. He cited several specific needs that may make it necessary to approve a bond if not enough money is set aside for that purpose. Don Franklin strongly recommended approval of the warrant because of the age of the buildings factor and made a case for why more money should be set aside for maintenance of buildings.

Ned Gordon invited discussion on Article 2. Don Franklin, Hebron spoke to the need to set aside more money for Building Maintenance and he moved to amend Article 2 to raise Sixty Thousand Dollars up to Ninety-Nine Thousand, Nine Hundred, Ninety-Nine Dollars (\$99,999). Seconded by Paul Manganiello, Bristol.

The Moderator reiterated that this proposed amendment increases the \$60,000 amount proposed in Article 2 from \$60,000 to \$99,999.

Steve Spafford, Groton asked does this impact the new school proposed? Don Franklin answered there are no specific plans for a new building, just for Building Maintenance. Steve was relieved because he would rather see repairs than a new school.

Ruby Hill, Danbury explained that the figure has remained at \$60,000 every year for quite a while.

Vincent Migliore, Bridgewater offered additional data that the current Expendable Trust Fund balance is \$120,000 so if there is a fund at the end of the year it will be added to the \$60,000. He opposed the amendment.

No more discussion. Archie Auger moved to close the debate. Voice Vote was taken and the motion passed to close debate on the amendment to Article 2.

Next the Moderator asked for a Vote on the amendment itself. Voice Vote was too close to call so a show of hands was counted. A Yes Vote meant a higher figure of \$99,999 and a No Vote meant the figure stayed the same at \$60,000.

Final Vote. Yes, higher figure, 28.

No, stay the same, 19.

Amendment Passed The new figure \$99,999 to be added to the Expendable Trust Fund will appear on Article 2.

Vincent Migliore, Bridgewater added a point that one of the concerns at considering this amount is that if it is too high it may be voted down on Voting Day. Susan Duncan, Bristol also questioned the necessity of the increase if the risk is there to lose everything.

Cote moved to close debate, Sue Cross seconded. Vote was taken on Article 2.

Article 2 Passed on a Voice Vote Article 2 will appear on the ballot March 8 as amended with figure change.

Article 3: Operating Budget: To see if the Newfound Area School District will raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as attended by vote of the "First Session", for the purposes set forth therein, totaling Twenty-Two Million, Eight Hundred Twelve Thousand and Seven Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$22,812,760)? Should this article be defeated, the Default Budget shall be Twenty-Three Million, Two Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand, Seven Hundred and

Fourteen Dollars (\$23,285,714) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Newfound Area School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Ned Gordon read Article 3 and invited Jeff Levesque, School Board Chairman to address it. Jeff Levesque said the operating budget is up slightly over last year but is still below the Tax Cap.

During discussion Archie Auger, Bristol offered thanks to both the Budget Committee and the School Board for preparing this budget which he fully supports.

Tom Caldwell, Bristol had a question about the Default Budget to which Michael Limanni, Business Administrator responded.

Sue Duncan, Bristol asked for comment on the number of student population in the District. Jeff Levesque, School Board Chair said the population has stabilized with the addition of Hill students. He added that some student population predictions can be found on the school website.

Richardson, Alexandria personally appreciates all the community work accomplished by the District.

Paul Manganiello, Bristol had a question to which Stacy Buckley, Superintendent replied that Hill students are on a tuition basis to come here.

Archie Auger moved to close debate on Article 3 seconded by Mr. Hill. ***Voice Vote passed to close debate on Article 3.***

Susan Duncan, Bristol thanked the School Board and the Budget Committee for diligent work.

Steve Spafford, Groton asked where the board came up with an idea for a new school and Ned Gordon replied it was not a relevant question at this time.

Adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Ruth Whittier, School Board Clerk