

MINUTES OF THE FAYSTON TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING 2010

Approved 3/16/10

March 2, 2010 at 1:30 PM

David Jones called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

Thank you to the PTO for one of the best lunches in recent memory. Many clapped.

David Jones turned the meeting over to Michael Riddell for nomination of a School Meeting Moderator. Michael Riddell welcomed everyone and thanked them for their participation in the Town School Meeting portion of the day.

Article 1: To Elect a Moderator for the year ensuing. David Jones' term expires. Freddie Graves nominated David Jones. No second is required. Carried by voice vote. David Jones unanimously elected Moderator for the year ensuing. Many clapped.

Article 2: To hear and act upon the reports of the Town School District Officers. Motion by Jane Hobart, seconded by Hanne Williams. Carried by voice vote.

No verbal reports were given at this time. However, a printed, one-page fact sheet was available on each seat, and the website was verbally highlighted.

Article 3: To authorize the Board of School Directors of Fayston Town School District to borrow money by issuance of notes in anticipation of revenue to pay the expenses of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011. Motion by Hanne Williams and duly seconded by Trish Read that they be so authorized. Carried by voice vote.

Article 4: Shall the School District pay the School Directors' expenses, and if so, how much? The current amount of \$750 was asked and confirmed. Motion by Freddie Graves and duly seconded by Trish Read that they are paid \$750 each in expenses.

Article 5: To elect a School Director for a two-year term; Robert Lockett's term expires. A motion was made by Carolyn Bauer that the name Bob Lockett be placed in nomination; she then took a moment to thank the Board for their service to the community. Carried by voice vote. Robert Lockett unanimously elected School Director for a term of two years.

Article 6: To elect a School Director for a three-year term; Jean Wry's term expires.

A motion was made by Patty Martley that the name Heidi Spear be placed in nomination. A motion was made by Gussie Graves that the name Peg Booth be placed in nomination. Each candidate gave a brief explanation of their qualifications. A paper ballot was called. Ann Day was the representative from the Civil Authority. Additional information was asked for and given by both candidates. Votes were cast and counted. Ann Day announced the results. 57 votes were cast, with Heidi Spear receiving 29, and Peg Booth receiving 28. Heidi Spear was elected School Director for a term of three years, by simple majority.

Article 7: To elect a Representative to the Harwood School Board for a term of three years. Freddie Graves' term expires. A motion was made by Hanne Williams that the name Freddie Graves be placed in nomination. A motion was made by Kim Laidlaw that the name Ellen Gonnet be placed in nomination. A paper ballot was called. Both candidates were given an opportunity to speak to their qualifications, and to take and answer questions. Freddie Graves took this time to give a brief report on the complexity of issues facing the school at this time. Votes were cast and counted. Ann Day announced the results. 60 votes were cast, with Freddie Graves receiving 46 votes, Ellen Gonnet receiving 13 votes, and one unmarked ballot. Freddie Graves was elected Representative to the Harwood School Board for a term of three years, by simple majority.

Article 8: To elect a Treasurer for the School District for a one-year term. Nicole Belknap's term expires. A motion was made by Russell Beilke that the name Nicole Belknap be placed in nomination. Carried by voice vote. Nicole Belknap unanimously elected Treasurer for a one-year term.

Article 9: To see if the School District shall appropriate any funds to the Maintenance Reserve Fund, pursuant to the provisions of 24VSA, Section 2804, for the purpose of capital improvement and facilities maintenance projects. Motion by Freddie Graves and duly seconded by Gussie Graves that they so appropriate said funds. The fund balance was \$13,631.

Chris Dodge was permitted to speak, as a non-resident, to the purpose of this fund. Questions were asked as to the appropriate uses of this fund. Chris confirmed that uses were limited to larger capital expenses and improvements; however, with community approval, other uses for the school could be approved.

Carried by voice vote.

Article 10: To have presented by the Board of School Directors the proposed budget for the ensuing year in the amount of \$1,645,692 and to appropriate that sum which the District deems necessary for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2010, and ending June 30, 2011.

Motion by Freddie Graves and duly seconded by Trish Read that the sum of \$1,645,692 be voted for that purpose.

Michael Riddell publicly invited the community to participate in the creation of the budget, explaining that their input is valuable to our process. He then thanked Howard Wynn for his time and effort. The budget for 2010-2011 was presented.

“Fayston Elementary School is a great place for our kids.” Many clapped. Then, Mike reported that the \$1,645,692 is a 0% expenditure increase over last year’s budget. In addition, we will add a .3 FTE Technology teacher to the school to increase efficient use of new technology, much of which has been provided by Fayston’s PTO. Also, FES will have a 10-hour Custodial position, in addition to the Maintenance position. The Special Education caseload has decreased, due primarily to early preventative attention.

In summary, a proposed Fayston cost per pupil of \$12,549 is DOWN by 1.9%. By contrast, the projected State average is \$12,754, an INCREASE of 6%.

Questions were then asked and answered. Holliday Rayfield asked for clarification on teacher reductions, referring to the kindergarten teacher position (.6 FTE). The number of incoming and kindergarteners has dropped, making the position unnecessary. Freddie Graves asked about the number of students. Jane Hobart asked if the number of students would have any impact on Act 60. Carolyn Bauer asked about the increase in Special Education, in light of the decrease in caseload. This represents a shift in how and where expenses and/or revenues are accounted.

the Hanne Williams called for the question. Freddie Graves duly seconded call.

David Jones called the vote. Carried by voice vote. There were 2 votes in opposition.

Article 11: To transact any other business which may legally come before the meeting.

Kim Laidlaw asked about health reimbursement accounts, in light of the current negotiations. Jane Hobart spoke in regard to the opportunities available for volunteers, and how much volunteering has enriched her life.

Motion by Hanne Williams and duly seconded by Ann Day that the meeting be adjourned. Unanimously carried by voice vote.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Susan MacLean Daley, Clerk, Fayston School Board of Directors.

