

TOWN OF SHARON
MINUTES OF ANNUAL SCHOOL MEETING
MARCH 5, 2018

The legal voters of the Town of Sharon met as warned at 7:00 pm in the Sharon Elementary School multi-purpose room. Moderator George Ostler opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ARTICLE 1. To Elect a Moderator.

Karen Henderson nominated George Ostler for Moderator and was seconded. Pamela Brackett moved to have nominations cease and was seconded.

The Clerk was instructed to cast one ballot in favor of George Ostler

Article 2. To hear and Act upon the reports of the School District Officers.

Motion made by Brad Atwood and seconded to accept the reports of the School District Officers. **The Article was passed by voice vote to accept the reports of the School District Officers.**

Steve Gagliardone talked about State Act 46 and the investigative work the Board did with merging local school boards to increase education and financial efficiency. The Board tried using a four town governing structure; however the merging towns must be compatible as far as grades offered. We looked at South Strafford, but they currently have a PK-8 grades with a designated high school. We looked at Tunbridge, but they currently have a K-8 grades with choice for high school. We then looked at Stockbridge that has PK-6 with choice for high school. So there was a match with Stockbridge, but the logistics, Stockbridge is 33 miles from Sharon so there would be no benefit with a merger with Stockbridge. The Board has applied to the State Board of Education to be an alternative structure and are waiting to hear back. This alternative structure we believe will meet the goals for financial and educational efficiency the State requires.

Superintendent Bruce Labs spoke about the White River Valley Supervisory Union. There are ten Districts of which four have merged, leaving 8 merged districts and two stand alone (Sharon and Strafford).

Anne Maplebeck asked when we will hear of the Secretary's decision. Bruce Labs replied that the Education Secretary would like to sit down with the Board for a discussion of the proposal, but nothing has been arranged as of now. Members will likely hear in May.

Scott Chestnut asked if the meeting would be public. Labs indicated it would be.

Karen Henderson reported about Teacher and Support Staff contracts. Support Staff contracts have been negotiated and finalized. There is a ten day grace period so it isn't yet public. There are no Teacher contracts yet. There has been mediation and a fact finders report done but federal mediation is needed. There is a meeting scheduled for March 22, 2018.

Principal Barrett Williams announced some changes that will be happening at SES. A foreign language will be added to the curriculum and is included in the new budget. Anne Maplebeck asked how many hours the position would be needed. Barrett indicated that it will be a .2 fte teaching position one day a week. After hearing from students who had graduated from the SES that they were behind in language studies in the middle and high schools that they were attending we thought this was an important issue to confront.

The Faculty and Staff have taken an Outdoor Education course through Antioch College in preparation for outside educational experiences and should have a proposal together by the end of May for next year. Steve Gagliardone reported a goal of teaching all of the SES kids how to skate in phys education class this year.

Article 3. Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$4,392,496.00, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year. It is estimated that this proposed budget if approved, will result in education spending of \$16,033.82 per equalized pupil . This projected spending per equalized pupil is 3.32% higher than spending for the current year.

Motion made by Anne Maplebeck and seconded to vote the sum of \$4,392,496.00 for the support of the Sharon Town School District for the ensuing fiscal year and was seconded. **The Article was passed by a voice vote to accept the sum of \$4,392,496.00 for the support of the Sharon School District for the ensuing fiscal year.**

The amount requested is up by \$256,554.00 from the last budget according to Principal Williams. Most of the increase is due to the increase of \$220,000.00 in secondary tuition costs.

Barb Donahue asked how the school keeps track of students moving in and out of town. Williams responded that parents have to sign a voucher.

Greg Elder what HRA is in the school budget. Williams responded that it is reimbursement account that offsets health costs.

Brad Atwood asked how much would taxes go up on a home valued at \$200,000. Williams indicated increase would be an increase of about \$70/year.

Article 4. Shall the Sharon Board of School Directors be authorized to transfer the sum of \$101,126.00 from the 2016-2017 school year general fund balance to the Building Reserve Fund.

Motion made by Anne Maplebeck and seconded to authorize the Sharon Board of School Directors to transfer the sum of \$101,126.00 from the 2016-2017 school year general fund balance to the Building Reserve Fund. **The article was passed by a voice vote to authorize the Board of School Directors to transfer the sum of \$101, 126.00 from the 2016-2017 school year general fund balance to the Building Reserve Fund.**

Steve Gagliardone reported that the funds were needed for repairs and maintenance on the building and the parking lot. The exterior of the building needs to be painted and the building needs to be insulated.

Catherine Roe asked Williams if he had a total cost in mind for insulation, he reported no.

Article 5. To elect one School Director for the term of three (3) years.

Motion made by Steve Gagliardone to nominate Karen Henderson for a three year term as School Director and was seconded. **The voice vote was unanimous for Karen Henderson for a three year term as School Director.**

Article 6. To transact any other business as needed.

Motion was made by Catherine Roe and seconded to transact any other business as needed.

There being no other business a **Motion** was made by Catherine Roe to adjourn and was seconded. The meeting was adjourned by the Moderator at 7:43 pm.

Dated at Sharon, County of Windsor, and State of Vermont, 5th day of March 2018.

School Directors: Steve Gagliardone _____
Karen Henderson _____
Don Shaw _____