

Rochester-Stockbridge Unified District

Special Meeting

Wednesday, January 31, 2018

6:00 pm, Rochester Auditorium

APPROVED MINUTES

The legal voters of the Rochester-Stockbridge Unified District (the "District"), comprising of the voters of the Towns of Rochester and Stockbridge, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Rochester School in Rochester, VT on January 31, 2018, in the Auditorium at 6:00 p.m. to conduct the following business: Connor Solimano explained that he will be acting as designee for Secretary Holcombe and explained that this is the organizational meeting of the new district. He opened the meeting at 6:10 pm. Katie Keown helped Connor lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. Connor welcomed everyone and thanked all the members of the study committee for all their hard work through the long process. Secretary Holcombe explained to him that the process is like two planes-one landing, one taking off. The old board is now landing, the new board will be taking off. He reviewed how the voting tonight will take place, and gave a brief review of Roberts Rules of Order. He asked all elected Rochester-Stockbridge Unified Board Members to stand and raise their right hand while he read the Affirmation of Allegiance and the Affirmation of Office to the directors: Carl Grope, Janie Fienberg, Jenny Austin, Amy Wildt, Ethan Bowen and Megan Payne

Article 1: To elect a temporary presiding officer and clerk from among the qualified voters.

Martha Slater nominated Rob Gardner, seconded by Carl. No further nominations. Rob elected Temporary Presiding Officer. Nominations made for temporary clerk-Brenda nominated Joanne McDonnell, seconded by Ethan. No further nominations. Voted in the affirmative, Joanne McDonnell elected.

Article 2: To adopt Robert's Rules of Order or other rules of order to govern the parliamentary procedures of this and subsequent meetings of the District.

Carl explained that the board recommends a change in that we adopt Robert's Rules for small boards. Amendment approved and seconded. All in favor, amended article passes. Amended Article: To adopt Robert's Rules of Order for smaller boards to govern the parliamentary procedures of this and subsequent meetings of the District: All in favor, voted in the affirmative.

Article 3: To elect the following officers to serve from their election and qualification for one year or until the election and qualification of their successors:

Moderator: Amy Wildt nominated Dan McKinley, seconded by Ethan. No further nominations. All in favor, voted in the affirmative. Dan McKinley elected.

Clerk: Amy Wildt nominated Joanne McDonnell, seconded by Megan. No further nominations. All in favor, voted in the affirmative, Joanne McDonnell elected

Treasurer: Amy Wildt nominated Desiree Boardman, seconded by Ethan Bowen. No further nominations, voted in the affirmative. Desiree Boardman elected.

- Article 4:** **To determine and approve compensation, if any, to be paid District officers.** Carl Groppe recommended an annual stipend of \$1000 to be divided between the three officer positions. No further discussion. Voted in the affirmative.
- Article 5:** **To establish a date of the annual meeting.** Megan made motion to set the annual school meeting on April 24, 2018, seconded by Carl. Discussion: Frank asked if this is just for this year. Carl explained that the board intends to move closer to the actual town meeting. Bruce Labs suggested that the board tie the date to the third Tuesday or something like that. At this point the 4th Tuesday in April will be the date. Frank asked if the meetings will alternate between the two towns, Carl explained that the electorate does not determine the hour and place of meeting. They believe this will be the case. No further discussion, voted in the affirmative.
- Article 6:** **To establish provisions for the payment of any expense incurred by the District.** This article confirms that the board has obligations to ensure expenses are paid. The SU business manager office pays them Amy Wildt made motion to approve, seconded by Janie. No discussion, voted in the affirmative.
- Article 7:** **To authorize the District to borrow money pending receipt of payments from the State Education Fund by the issuance of its notes or orders payable not later than one year from date: provided, however, that the newly formed District is authorized by Vermont Statutes to borrow sufficient funds to meet pending obligations.** Carl noted that this is statutory financial boilerplate language. Supervisory Unions cannot borrow funds, but the School Board can. Jess Arsenault asked where the money is borrowed from. Carl noted we receive a municipal rate and borrow from a bank with the best rate, this time Mascoma. It is a line of credit, in anticipation of taxes paid. Jess asked if this is discussed in public meetings, and Carl responded that Stockbridge has had it as an article on the annual warning. No further discussion, voted in the affirmative.
- Article 8:** **To determine and approve compensation, if any, to be paid to School Board Directors.** Carl recommends a total annual stipend of \$8000. Frank asked what purpose these payments are for, which are general expenses, travel compensation, etc. The board feels that as .2% of the total budget, this is reasonable compensation. Amy noted that this line item would be removed before any line item that might affect the students. Joanne Mills noted that this is well deserved! Frank noted that he well understands the wear and tear of all the meetings. No further discussion. Voted in the affirmative.
- Article 9:** **To determine whether to authorize the Board of School Directors, pursuant to the provisions of 16 V.S.A. ss 563(10) & (11) (C), to provide mailed notice to residents of the availability of the Annual Report and proposed school budget in lieu of distributing the Annual Report and proposed budget.** Carl noted that again, this is boilerplate language. Voters could pick up the reports instead of having it mailed to them. Frank asked if mailing school reports by a certain date is a statutory requirement. Carl replied that the report is due to the voters 10 days before the meeting. The warning must be posted 30 days before the meeting. The board could send to let people know they can

pick up their report at their respective town office. No further discussion. Voted in the affirmative.

Article 10: **To transact any other school business thought proper when met.** Carl noted the board has no further actions to undertake at this time. Martha asked when/where the next meeting will be. They have been meeting on the 4th Wednesday, but this may be reconsidered. They have been alternating between the two towns. Until further notice it will be on the 4th Wednesday at 6:00 pm. They will have working meetings for budget preparation before this. Frank asked about the Act 46 merge funds. Carl noted that they have not been able to petition for funds yet. The allocation formula will be at the SU level. Bruce noted that what has already been spent in mergers will be subtracted from the total \$150,000 allotted. The discussion has not taken place with the Executive Board (SU) yet. Short discussion ensued.

Carl thanked Connor, Katie for leading in the Pledge of Allegiance, and all for attending. He expressed his excitement and that since August 2017, they have been meeting a couple times a week to create this proposal to put forth to the voters and the state, and feels it is a great opportunity. Martha made motion to adjourn at 6:40 pm, seconded by Jess. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McDonnell