

MINUTES
TOWN OF HALIFAX
ANNUAL TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING
MARCH 3, 2015

Pursuant to notice the inhabitants of the Town of Halifax, Vermont, who are legal voters in the Annual Town School District Meeting met at the West Halifax Elementary School multi-purpose room in West Halifax, Vermont, on Tuesday, March 3, 2015. The meeting was called to order by Moderator Patricia Pusey at 1:05 P.M. Moderator Pusey introduced the School Directors - Homer K. Sumner, Paul Blais and Kimberly Tefft; School Principal – Sandie Pentak; and Town Clerk - Patricia Dow.

RECESS: Moderator Pusey called a brief recess to hear a report from District Representative Ann Manwaring.

Representative Ann Manwaring spoke to the assembly highlighting education funding and the impact the small schools grant has on schools. She also spoke about her role on the appropriations committee. Ann Manwaring introduced State Treasurer Beth Pearce. Pearce commented on the devastation from Tropical Storm Irene. Manwaring and Pearce took some questions from the floor. Homer Sumner spoke about Halifax's great scores in necap testing. Halifax's per pupil cost has stayed the same for the last two years. High School tuition is one of the things that drive per pupil costs up. Manwaring spoke about pre-K and the change that will be coming in 2016.

Moderator Pusey brought the meeting to order, gave the guidelines for the conduct of the meeting and read the Annual Town School district Warning in its entirety.

The following business was transacted:

ARTICLE I: The results of the election by Australian Ballot for school district officers were as follows:

Moderator - one year	Patricia A. Pusey
School Director - three years	Kimberly Tefft

ARTICLE II: Arthur Copeland moved that the voters of the Halifax School District appropriate \$ 1,489,755 necessary for the support of its schools for the year beginning July 1, 2015. Charlene Martynowski seconded the motion.

April Dupuis amends the article to increase the budget by \$ 31,000 to \$ 1,520,755 in order to keep the half time teacher position in the budget. It is in the best interest of our students. Taking this position away we might have to force three grades into one classroom. The amendment was seconded by Maria Stewart.

Edee Edwards asks what the half time position does? Homer Sumner explains there is a half time principal and half time Kindergarten teacher. This coming year this school does not have any Kindergarteners coming in. Maria Stewart spoke about the following year after that there is expected to have a Kindergarten class of ten coming in to the school. Stephanie Power asked what impact this would have on the tax rate. Sumner stated the impact would be about .03 cents per hundred. On a \$ 200,000 property it would be less than \$ 60. Sarah Barnett asked what happens if a Kindergartener comes in next year. Sumner stated we would either hire a part time teacher or tuition out the student. A motion was made and seconded to call the question. 7 people stood for a paper ballot. Results of the paper ballot were as follows:

YES	55
NO	32
BLANK	1

Moderator Pusey declared the paper ballot vote on the amendment passed. Calling the question was moved, seconded and so voted. Amended Article II was so voted and Moderator Pusey declared Amended Article II passed.

ARTICLE III: Arthur Copeland moved that the Halifax School District vote to authorize the School Directors to borrow money on the notes of the Town School District or otherwise in anticipation of taxes. Charlene Martynowski seconded the motion. The article was so voted. Moderator Pusey declared Article III was approved.

ARTICLE IV: To transact any other nonbinding business brought before the meeting.

A discussion was made on the quality of the Town Report Book being too small and illegible. A request was made to have an email address for the auditors be included.

Linda Combs moved that the meeting be adjourned. Charlene Martynowski seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 P.M.

Attest: Patricia Dew
Town Clerk

We, the undersigned, approve and attest that the record of the Annual Town School District Meeting of the Town of Halifax held at the West Halifax Elementary School multi-purpose room on Tuesday, March 3, 2015 is a true record of all action taken at that meeting.

Attest: Patricia Pusey
School District Moderator

Attest: Lewis F. Sumner
Other Election Official