

**MINUTES
TOWNS OF HALIFAX AND READSBORO
SOUTHERN VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING**

Pursuant to notice the inhabitants of the Town of Halifax and the Town of Readsboro, Vermont, who are legal voters in the Southern Valley Unified Union School District met at the Twin Valley Middle High School Auditorium in Whitingham, Vermont, on the evening of Thursday, March 1, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. for the 1st Annual Meeting of the Southern Valley Unified Union School District.

Moderator Paul G. Blais called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Moderator Blais called for a moment of silence in memory of those who had passed away and who have extended kindness.

Homer Sumner, Chairman to the Board led the voters in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The town officers were introduced: Clerk of the Board – Patricia Dow; Chairman of the Board, Homer Sumner; Stephanie Powers; Mary King; Sue Bailey and Caroline Sprague. Moderator Blais gave the guidelines for the conduct of the meeting and read the Southern Valley Unified Union School District Warning in its entirety.

The following business was transacted:

- ARTICLE I** To elect a Moderator, by Australian Ballot.
- ARTICLE II** To elect a Clerk, by Australian Ballot.
- ARTICLE III** To elect a Treasurer, by Australian Ballot
- ARTICLE IV** To elect (2) School Directors for three (3) years terms each, by Australian Ballot.
- ARTICLE V** To see if the voters of the School District approve the School Board to expend \$2,773,909, 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 \$14,410 per equalized pupil. This is the first budget of the Unified Union District, therefore no prior year education spending per equalized pupil comparison can be made. To be voted by Australian Ballot.
- ARTICLE VI** Tina Blais moved that the Towns hear the reports of the Southern Valley Unified Union School District Officers and act thereon. Lewis Sumner seconded the motion. Article VI was so voted and Moderator Blais declared Article VI so passed.
- ARTICLE VII** Lewis Sumner moved that the Unified Union School District will vote to authorize the School Directors to borrow money in anticipation of taxes. Marilou Parkhurst seconded the motion. Article VII was so voted and Moderator Blais declared Article VII so passed.
- ARTICLE VIII** Marilou Parkhurst moved to transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting. Tina Blais seconded the motion.

Cara Cheyette asked if the money that the union will be borrowing if it will have an impact on each towns taxes? Sumner states we don't anticipate borrowing money against taxes. This article was intended for a catastrophe.

Sumner thanks the members of the board and how trying it was for them to put together two budgets. The board had the best interest of the students in mind that we are educating.

Lewis Sumner asked each member of the board to tell a little about themselves.

Paul Blais Moderator, this is my 2nd go round as moderator and I have been on the school board for 13 years, I've also lived in Halifax for almost 18 years.

Homer Sumner: Been on the school board for 43 years, lived in town for 107 years, do this because I really like education and like students and I also coached for about 25 years. Stephanie powers, Lived in Halifax for 25 years, 2 boys went to Halifax School. Worked with the wings programs for a number of years. Now I work at the Academy at Charlemont and this is my first year on the school board.

Mary King: Lived in Readsboro for eight years and been on the Readsboro school board for three years and chair of the Readsboro School Board. I wanted to do something helpful to be helpful in town.

Susan Bailey: Lived in Readsboro for 30+ years my children went to the Readsboro school. I volunteer on committees and have been on the school board for almost three years, it is a wonderful experience to work for the town and with a wonderful group of people.

Caroline Sprague: This is my first time on the school board. I was born and raised in Readsboro. I run my fathers plumbing business and I am on rescue and fire department.

Marilou Parkhurst asks if the number of students in each class are small are you going to combine classrooms amongst Readsboro and Halifax? Sumner, no, both schools have two grades per classroom now and it would cost more to have a bus run back and forth, and the bus route would be too long. A parent could choose to send their child to the other school.

Marilou Parkhurst: are we sharing specials? Sumner: We already are sharing Phys Ed, music, nurse etc. We try to share everyone we can. We do not share a librarian tech as of yet. Sandie Pentak: our goal is to try to share as much as possible to be consistent between schools. Sumner: We also already share specials with Stamford, music and nurse.

Cara Cheyette: Are there any other ways the two towns can come together? Sumner: The 3rd Wednesday of each month a combined school board meeting takes place. Pentak: We want to uphold each towns' traditions but we do complement each other.

Doug Parkhurst: States we can think of this as a single school with two wings, will there be a new name? Sumner: There will not be a Halifax or Readsboro school after July 1, it will be Southern Valley, Pentak states, we have been calling it the Halifax campus or Readsboro campus. Sumner states sports teams may be combined based on numbers, could be Southern Valley Huskys or Southern Valley Eagles.

Tina Blais moved to adjourn this meeting until Tuesday, March 6 at 10:00 a.m. to vote on the remaining Austalian Ballot Questions. Marilou Parkhurst seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Attest: Patricia Dow
Town Clerk

We, the undersigned, approve and attest that the record of the Southern Valley Unified Union Annual School District Meeting of the Towns of Halifax and Readsboro held at the Twin Valley Middle High School in the Auditorium on Thursday, March 1, 2018 is a true record of all action taken at that meeting.

Attest: Paul Blais
Unified Union School District Moderator

Attest: Lewis L Sumner
Other Election Official