

Report of Annual Meeting – 2020

Lake Region Union Elementary-Middle School District

The legal voters of the Lake Region Union Elementary-Middle School District met agreeably to the Warning on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 7:00 in the evening to transact the following business, viz:

Moderator William Boyd Davies called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. William Boyd Davies was nominated for the office of Moderator. With no other nominations forthcoming a motion was made that nominations cease and that the Clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for William Boyd Davies for the office of Moderator for the ensuing year. The motion was seconded. The motion carried and the clerk so did.

Toni Eubanks made nominated Kristin Atwood for the office of Clerk. With no other nominations forthcoming Bryanne Marquis made a motion that nominations cease and that the Moderator be instructed to cast one ballot for Kristin Atwood for the office of Clerk for the ensuing year. Michael Sanville seconded the motion. The motion carried and the moderator so did.

Steve Matthews nominated Shelia Martin for the office of Treasurer. With no other nominations forthcoming Steve Matthews made a motion that nominations cease and that the Clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Shelia Martin for the office of Treasurer for the ensuing year. Kathy Bennett seconded the motion. The motion carried and the clerk so did.

2. A motion was made and seconded to accept the reports of the Union Elementary-Middle School District officers as presented. Richard Pettengill made a request that future reports use a larger font. The motion carried.
3. A. Debbie Brunelle nominated Neil Urie for the position of School Director from the Town of Albany for a three-year term. With no other nominations forthcoming nominations ceased and Neil Urie was duly elected Director for a three-year term.
B. Dave Blodgett nominated Phil Roberts for the position of School Director from the Town of Barton for a three-year term. With no other nominations forthcoming nominations ceased and Phil Roberts was duly elected Director for a three-year term.
C. Toni Eubanks nominated Theresa Daigle for the position of School Director from the Town of Glover for a three-year term. Ms. Daigle declined the nomination. With no other nominations forthcoming this article was moved to the end of article 3 to allow voters time to think of candidates.
D. Steve Matthews nominated Angelique Thomas for the position of School Director from the Town of Irasburg for a three-year term. With no other nominations forthcoming nominations ceased and Angelique Thomas was duly elected Director for a three-year term.

- E. Debbie Burdick nominated Linda Michniewicz for the position of School Director from the Town of Westmore for a three-year term. With no other nominations forthcoming nominations ceased and Linda Michniewicz was duly elected Director for a three-year term.
- C. Tabitha Armstrong was nominated for the position of School Director from the Town of Glover for a three-year term. With no other nominations forthcoming nominations ceased and Tabitha Armstrong was duly elected Director for a three-year term.
4. A. Michael Sanville was nominated for the position of School Director for the Lake Region Union High School District from the Town of Irasburg for a three-year term. With no other nominations forthcoming nominations ceased and Michael Sanville was duly elected Director for a three-year term.
- B. Linda Michniewicz was nominated by Toni Eubanks for the position of School Director for the Lake Region Union High School District from the Town of Westmore for a three-year term. With no other nominations forthcoming nominations ceased and Linda Michniewicz was duly elected Director for a three-year term.
- C. Tammy Wiggett was nominated for the position of School Director for the Lake Region Union High School District from the Town of Barton for a three-year term. With no other nominations forthcoming nominations ceased and Tammy Wiggett was duly elected Director for a three-year term.
5. Toni Eubanks made a motion to pay the Chair of the Union Elementary-Middle School District board \$2,500/year, the vice chair \$1,400/year, the board clerk an additional \$400/year, and each board member \$1,300/year. The motion was seconded by Bryanne Marquis. The motion carried.
6. Toni Eubanks made a motion which was quickly seconded to authorize the appropriation of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) to the capital reserve fund, pursuant to the provisions of 24 V.S.A. §2804; such funds to be used for repair, replacement and/or upgrading of structural components or operation systems of the buildings and grounds owned by the Lake Region Union Elementary-Middle School District, if such repair, replacement, and/or upgrading entails a projected cost in excess of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000). Richard Pettengill asked if items costing under \$10,000 would not be paid for out of this fund. Moderator Davies replied in the affirmative based on the wording of the article and motion. The motion carried.
7. A. Matthew Kittredge, Debbie Brunelle, and Angelique Thomas presented the estimate of revenue and expenses for the ensuing year. The budget request represented a proposed increase of 4.11% given the affirmative vote on article 6. Richard Pettengill asked for an explanation of the increase of over \$100,000 in early ed support. Debbie Brunelle responded that it reflected the cost of a new roof for the COFEC building. Steve Matthews asked why the SWP which is funded by grants was increased from \$350,000 in the current year to \$407,000 in the following year. Debbie Brunelle responded that Mike Moriarty has done an excellent job in chasing down all possible grant funding for this program. Richard Pettengill asked why the roof couldn't be paid for out of the capital reserve fund. Debbie Brunelle explained the District does not own the building. Dan Demaine stated that the building could possibly be transferred to the district after its mortgage is paid off. Bev White asked why the district needed a Facilities

Director at a salary nearly twice that of long-serving custodial staff. Debbie Brunelle stated that this person is tasked with developing a comprehensive list of jobs to be done in all 6 buildings. Bev White asked if this was simply an advisory role and received an affirmative response from Debbie Brunelle who added that any large projects come back to the board. Justin Veysey noted the 4.11% increase in the budget and asked where the purported cost savings of moving to a unified union district under Act 46 were. Matt Kittredge responded that the increases are largely due to the roof project and an 11% increase in health insurance costs. Without those factors the increase would be close to 1%. Mr. Peters stated that the budget increase was unaffordable for those on fixed incomes. Matt Kittredge replied that many expenses start at the state level and the board's proposed budget stays up to date on current mandates and serves area children. Tony Pallotta asked about the increase in the food service budget. Debbie Brunelle replied that the cost of providing free lunch and breakfast to all students has risen as less grant funding is now available. Mr. Pallotta then asked about the food service assessment and Ms. Brunelle responded that this funds the two year old position of OCSU food service coordinator. Evan Gentler asked if there were any savings at all due to consolidation. Debbie Brunelle responded that there weren't any she could point to. Moderator Davies reminded the assembly that conversation must remain a discussion of budgets only.

B. A motion was made and seconded to appropriate the sum of \$12,312,957 to pay expenses for the ensuing year. The motion carried.

8. A motion was made and seconded to authorize the board of School Directors to borrow money to pay indebtedness and current expenses of the District.
9. Bryanne Marquis made a motion to hold the 2021 Annual School District Meeting on Monday, March 8, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. at Lake Region Union High School. The motion was seconded by Ajalon Emmerson. The motion carried.
10. Bev White stated she feels it is wrong that every town is voting on everyone's school directors. She then made a motion to hold an advisory vote to direct the school directors to take such action as it may find appropriate to cause local elections at the former school district level for school directors. There was discussion relating to the logistics of such a change. The advisory motion passed with minor opposition.

Tony Pallotta thanked the board for having name cards displayed. He asked when their regular meetings are scheduled as it had been difficult for him to find them in the past. Matt Kittredge said they will set those dates, times, and locations at their March 23rd meeting and will post them on the ocsu.org website. Debbie Brunelle added that meetings rotate between the 6 school buildings.

Gerry Cahill asked what would happen when the federal grants funding \$83,000 for behavior assessments, math intervention, and more run out and if the taxpayers would be expected to pick up the slack. Amy Leroux replied that there are grant funds routinely available every year but it is always on the board's mind as they formulate a budget proposal.

Gerry Cahill noted that the \$55,000 paid to the person coordinating maintenance is twice what a valued long-term custodian is making. There was no board response.

Richard Pettengill thanked the board for their service. A round of applause was given to the board.

Steve Matthews stated that he was unsure where this meeting was located and had a hard time finding it on the OCSU website, and a hard time finding the OCSU phone number on the internet as their fax line is listed as their phone line and vice versa.

The board was asked how it felt being a consolidated board rather than individual school boards. Angelique Thomas stated that there was a broader aspect of involvement in all the schools but still a feeling of close involvement in her home-town's school. Debbie Brunelle reminded the crowd that the board meets at all the locations and has toured them all also.

11. A motion to adjourn was made and seconded at 8:06 PM. The motion carried.

Attest:



Kristin M. Atwood – District Clerk

Approved and attested by:



William Boyd Davies – Moderator



Amy Leroux – School Director

Dated at Barton, Vermont March _____, 2020