

Minutes for School District Meeting  
March 3, 2009

The legal voters of The Town of Peacham met at the Peacham Congregational Church in Peacham, on Tuesday, March 3, 2009 immediately following the annual Town Meeting.

Article 1        To elect a Moderator to conduct and govern the meeting.

John Coffin nominated Rob Ide. There being no other nominations, a voice vote was taken. Ide elected.

Article 2        To hear the Auditors report on the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2008.

Moderator announced that Auditors' Report is available on page 1 of the 2008 Town Report of the Town officers.

Article 3        To elect a School District Clerk/Treasurer.

Jerry Senturia nominated Bruce Lafferty. There being no other nominations, a voice vote was taken. Lafferty elected.

Article 4        To elect a School Director for a term of three years.

Chuck Gallagher nominated David Stauffer. There being no other nominations, Charlie Browne moved to close nominations and asked the Clerk to cast a single ballot for David Stauffer. David Magnus seconded. A voice vote was taken. Clerk cast his vote and David Stauffer was elected.

Article 5        To hear a report of the Board.

Jo Anne Post presented the School Board report. Jo Anne thanked Jean Dedam for her years of dedicated service to the School District. Jean Dedam, in turn, thanked the voters for giving her the opportunity to work for the benefit of the Town's children.

Jo Anne outlined the proposed evolution of the school's future and the continued development of the students' passions for education. A Strategic Planning process involving the entire community, will begin in the Fall of 2009 to help the school formulate its goals and missions. Jo Anne reported that a number of personnel changes at the school and State level have also taken place. In response to a question from Tom Glavin Jo Anne reported that the Town sent \$1,486,376.16 to the State of which a projected amount of \$1,441,491.00 will be returned to the Town from the State Education Fund.

Upon resumption of the meeting following lunch, a moment of silence was held for those residents who are now deceased.

Article 6        School Budget Question # 1:

Shall the voters of Peacham School District approve a total budget in the amount of \$1,633,119, which includes the Maximum Inflation Amount of education spending?

Kathy Corcoran moved that the Town approve a budget of \$1,633,119 for the school budget for the coming year. Jerry Senturia seconded.

Kathy Corcoran moved to amend the amount of Article 6 to read \$1,633,024. Jerry Senturia seconded. Voice vote taken. The Amendment to Article 6 was approved.

Jo Anne Post discussed Act 82 which is intended to slow down the increase in school spending by identifying a Maximum Inflation Amount. Since Peacham exceeds this maximum inflation rate, it causes the Town to have a two vote budget procedure. This along with Article 7 makes the total school budget \$1,675,106.

Specific budget line items were discussed. The School Board responded to numerous questions including outside tuitions, special education, transportation, technology, grants, pre-school financing, per pupil expenses, upcoming physical plant projects, and the anticipated 2009 CLA.

Jock Gill moved to level fund the Peacham School budget at the 2009 level in the amount of \$1,596,905. Chris Hunt seconded.

Further discussion regarding the proposed motion to change the budget figure took place. Sam Kempton outlined the limited cost cutting areas available to the School Board when reducing the school budget.

Gary Swenson moved to call the question. A voice vote was held. Question to call was approved by a voice vote.

Moderator explained voting procedure. A yes vote would support Gill's amendment. A no vote would not support it. A paper ballot was requested by Kathy Schauer and the request was sustained by 6 other voters. Voting results, 115 votes cast, 58 necessary for approval. Yes votes 29, No votes 86. The amendment was defeated.

Charlie Browne moved the question as amended. A voice vote was taken. Question to call was approved. Judy Chypre requested a paper ballot and was sustained by 6 other voters. Voting results for Article 6, 116 votes cast, 59 votes necessary for approval. Yes votes 95, No votes 20, 1 spoiled ballot. Article 6 passed as amended.

Article 7

School Budget Question #2:  
If Question #1 is approved, shall the voters of the Peacham School District also approve additional education spending of \$11,944?

Kathy Corcoran moved to approve \$11,944 for additional education spending. Charlie Browne seconded.

Kathy Corcoran moved to amend the amount of Article 7 to \$42,082. Charlie Browne seconded. Voice vote taken. Amendment approved.

Voice vote taken to approve Article 7 as amended. Article 7 approved.

Article 8

Shall the voters of the Peacham School District approve the transfer of \$18,000 included in Articles 6 & 7 to the Capital Fund?

Bruce Courtot moved to approve the transfer of \$18,000 included in Article 6 and 7 to the Capital Fund. Jeremy White seconded.

Wynne Browne discussed Article 8 and the plan to consolidate capital expenses and other funds into a single Capital Fund.

Voice vote taken. Article 8 passed.

Article 9

Shall the voters of the Peacham School District approve the transfer of \$29,453 included in Articles 6 & 7 to the Hot Lunch Fund, for the purpose of reducing the projected FY10 deficit?

Jeremy White moved that Article 9 be approved. Francis Carlet seconded. Voice vote taken. Article 9 passed.

Article 10

Shall the voters of the Peacham School District authorize its Board of Directors to borrow money to pay its lawful debts and expenses for the fiscal year which ends June 30, 2010 in an amount not to exceed 90% of the anticipated collection of taxes and receipts of other funds to be used for those purposes?

Francis Carlet moved that Article 10 be approved. Dick Browne seconded. A voice vote was taken. Article 10 passed.

Article 11      To transact any other non-binding business that may legally come before the meeting.

1. Barry Lawson asked the School Board if there are tuition limits schools can charge for students. State of Vermont payment cap for independent schools is projected to be \$12,177 for fiscal 2010; we pay full tuition to public middle and high schools and to St. Johnsbury Academy, which is a regional tech center.
2. NEK Waste Management District voting booth will be moved to the Town Clerk's Office after this meeting and the polls will be open until 7:00 PM.
3. Melody Morrison thanked the School Board for all of their work on behalf of the school and students.
4. Jo Anne Post paid tribute to Wendy Olcott for her many years of service to the Peacham School.

Martha Ide moved that the meeting be adjourned. David Magnus seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM.

The foregoing is approved and attested by:

Peacham School Directors  
Jo Anne Post

Wynne Browne

David Stauffer

Moderator  
Robert Ide

Clerk to the School District  
Bruce Lafferty