

Minutes for the School District Meeting  
March 2, 2010

The legal voters of The Town of Peacham met at the Peacham Congregational Church in Peacham, on Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at 10:00 AM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited at the beginning of the meeting.

There was a moment of silence to honor departed members and those men and women who are serving their country here and abroad.

Rob Ide, speaking on behalf of the Peacham Congregational Church, welcomed all visitors to the church at the beginning of Peacham School District Meeting.

Rob Ide introduced Mary Ellen Griffin who would serve as Town Attorney.

General announcements:

1. Rob Ide presented the ground rules for how the meeting was to be conducted.
2. Lunch would be served in the downstairs of the Peacham Congregational Church at 12:00 PM.
3. The Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District poll would be open until 7:00 PM, moving to the Town Clerk's office after the Town Meeting is adjourned.

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, 2009.

There being no auditors present, the Moderator referred voters to page 1 of the Town Report.

Article 3 To elect a School District Clerk/Treasurer.

Richard Browne 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.

Dave Magnus nominated Jo Anne Post. There being no other nominations, Jerry Senturia moved to close nominations and asked the Clerk to cast a single ballot for Jo Anne Post. Diana Senturia seconded. An affirmative voice vote closed nominations and the Town Clerk was instructed to cast one ballot. Post elected.

Article 5 To hear a report of the Board.

The Moderator asked for the unanimous consent to allow Superintendent, Martha Tucker, to speak on behalf of the School Board. There were no objections.

Jo Anne Post presented the School Board report. She began by introducing Mark Peabody, the new Peacham Elementary School principal.

The total budget request is \$1,655,277.00. She reported that the budget was about \$20,000.00 less than last year and that it represented a scaled down, no frills budget. She reported that our student population is down by 4 students and that the base for tax rate calculations was frozen by the legislature. Rather than being increased for inflation, it was held at last year's rate.

Martha Tucker provided key legislative information regarding school consolidation and school merger proposals. She reported on the two proposed systems, the Incentive System for school systems who merge on their own and the Top Down proposal which forces school districts into mergers. She reported that the legislature appears to be interested in “increasing opportunities and options for students”. She said State funding is directly tied to State standards. She reminded voters that this is all still in the conceptual stage.

Article 6        Shall the voters of the Peacham School District vote to adopt an expenditure budget as presented for the school year ending June 30, 2011 including an appropriation of a sum of money for the support of schools with provisions for current expenses, capital improvement, a deficit if any, and for other lawful purposes?

Bruce Courtot moved that the Town approve a budget of \$1,655,277.00 for the coming year. Diana Senturia seconded. Dave Magnus moved to increase the amount of Article 6 by \$22,00.00. Wendy McKenzie seconded. Jo Anne Post explained the \$22,000.00 would allow a part-time position to become full-time. Jock Gill called for a paper ballot. The Moderator explained that a yes vote would allow the amendment and a no vote would not. There were 120 votes cast. There 48 yes, 71 no, and 1 spoiled ballot. Amendment defeated. The Moderator called for a voice vote. Article 6 passed.

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

Jerry Senturia moved the question. Diana Senturia seconded. School Director, Wynne Browne, discussed the Capital Fund transfer. This fund was formerly known as the Sinking Fund and the Bus Fund and the money will be used for upcoming capital building projects. The moderator called for a voice vote. Article 7 passed.

Article 8        Shall the voters of the Peacham School District approve the transfer of \$28,861 included in Article 6 to the Hot Lunch Fund?

Eric Page moved the question. Diana Senturia seconded. The Moderator called for a voice vote. Article 8 passed.

Article 9        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, 2011 in an amount not to exceed 90% of the anticipated collection of taxes and receipts of other funds to be used for those purposes?

Mark Clough moved the question. Dave Magnus seconded. The Moderator called for a voice vote. Article 9 passed.

**The following article was submitted by petition of the electorate:**

Article 10       Shall the school district vote to direct its Board of Directors to take proactive measures to ensure that the current status of school choice for Peacham families with children in grades seven through twelve is maintained?

Jerry Senturia moved the question. Rod Reis seconded. Wendy Morgan spoke to the question. Discussion followed.

Jo Anne Post and Superintendent, Martha Tucker spoke about the School Board’s present policy of school choice and the importance of gathering the sense of the Town.

The Moderator called for a voice vote. Article 10 passed.

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

Karen Gallas, President of the Library Board, encouraged voters to fill out the library survey. She reported that the Peacham Library will be celebrating its bicentennial in 2010.

Martha Ide moved that the meeting be adjourned. Jerry Senturia seconded. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 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