

**ANNUAL WESTFIELD SCHOOL MEETING
MINUTES
MARCH 6, 2018**

The legal voters of the Westfield School District are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Westfield Community Center, 59 North Hill Road, on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at 10:00 A.M. to transact the following business:

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Selectman Jacques Couture who began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING:

Article 1. To elect a moderator for a term of one year:

Selectman Couture asked if there was any objection from the body to elect a moderator who would serve as both the School and Town Moderator. No one objected.

Mike Piper nominated Pat Sagui. Hearing no other nominations, Pat was re-elected by voice vote as the School and Town Moderator for a term of one year (2019).

Moderator Sagui made some housekeeping announcements. She announced after many years of wanting to do this, the Town Meeting Procedures are printed on the inside back cover of the Town Report. She reminded people to turn off any electronic devices. New Assistant Town Clerk, Heather Johnson, was introduced. Pat said Heather would be taking the minutes this year. She asked everyone who is recognized by the Moderator to speak to stand and state their name for the record. A microphone is available, if needed. Moderator Sagui explained paper ballot voting is done at the table with the Selectboard members and Australian ballot voting is done at the table near the voting booths. Australian ballot voting takes place throughout the day until 7 p.m.

Article 2. To elect one Westfield Town School District Board Member for a term of three-years:

Jacques Couture nominated Nicole Dunn. Hearing no other nominations, Nicole was re-elected by voice vote for a term of three-years (2021).

Article 3. To elect one North Country Union High School Board Member for a term of three-years:

Mike Piper nominated Shawn Baraw. Hearing no other nominations, Shawn was re-elected by voice vote for a term of three-years (2021).

Article 4. Shall the legal voters of the Westfield Town School District appropriate the sum of \$1,129,441 dollars to defray the expenses and liabilities for the Jay/Westfield Joint Elementary School for the ensuing year with a net assessment to the town of \$381,412.23? (Paper ballot to be co-mingled with Jay)

Motion by Mike Piper and second by Will Young to bring the article to the floor.
Discussion: None

**Paper ballot vote results: WESTFIELD: YES – 41 NO – 5
JAY: YES – 24 NO – 1**

(Jay results: reported by Lynnette Deaette, Jay Town Clerk)

Article 4 passed in Westfield and Jay.

While the votes for Article 4 were being counted, Moderator Sagui said if there was no objection Representative Mark Higley wanted to briefly address the body. Hearing no objection, Representative Higley gave a brief report about what was happening in the legislature. He said the only bill that has passed is the marijuana bill. The Governor wants no new taxes from fees. Other major issues being looked at by the legislature include: phasing out tax on social security; eliminating tax on military pensions; education funding reform; paid family leave; \$15 minimum wage; carbon tax; and gun control bills. Margaret Rowley, Sandy Snyder, Dianne Laplante and Linda Preston asked questions relating to the pros and cons of the \$15 minimum wage, the property tax reform timeframe, and elderly people leaving Vermont due to taxation of social security. Representative Higley encouraged people to contact him or other legislators with questions and to fill out the Doyle survey.

The meeting resumed with Moderator Sagui reporting the voting results for Article 4 (see Article 4 above).

Article 5. Shall the voters of the Westfield Town School District approve the school board to expend \$587,896.00, 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 \$13,920.94 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 5.43% lower than spending for the current year.

Motion by Mike Piper and second by Dianne Laplante to bring the article to the floor. Discussion: Yves Daigle asked how the 5.43% lower was arrived at. School Board Chair Kevin Amyot said there was some savings on salary and healthcare costs.

Article 5 passed by voice vote.

Article 6. Shall the voters of the Westfield Town School District approve the school board to expend \$36,741.15 from the tuition reserve fund to eliminate the fiscal year 2017 deficit?

Motion by Dianne Laplante and second by Mike Piper to bring the article to the floor. Discussion: None

Article 6 passed by voice vote.

Moderator Sagui explained that Articles 7-11 were Australian ballot items voted on throughout the day until 7 p.m. at the Westfield Community Center. She explained she would read each article and then there would be an opportunity to ask questions (except for candidates). At the 7 p.m. closing of the polls, on March 6, 2018, the Australian ballots were counted. Following each article (7-11) are the official election results as reported at the close of the polls.

Articles 7 through 11 were voted on by Australian ballot:

Article 7. To elect a Jay/Westfield Joint School Treasurer for the school year 2018-2019. (Australian Ballot to be commingled with Jay):

Westfield:	Tara Morse – 62	Spoiled – 0	Blank – 6	Write-in – 0
Jay:	Tara Morse – 68	Spoiled – 0	Blank – 1	Write-in – 0

Tara Morse was re-elected to a one-year term (2019) in Westfield and Jay.

Article 8. To elect a Westfield School District Treasurer for the school year 2018-2019. (Australian Ballot)

Rita Petzoldt – 65 Spoiled – 0 Blank – 3 Write-in – 0

Rita Petzoldt was re-elected to a one-year term (2019).

Article 9. Subject to approval by the North Country Union Junior High School District and certification by the Secretary of the Agency of Education, shall the Westfield Town School District apply for admission as a member of the North Country Union Junior High School District effective the 2019-2020 school year? (Australian Ballot)

Discussion: Margaret Rowley asked if this could be discussed in general. School Board Chair Kevin Amyot said we voted and passed this article last year but we did not go through the process correctly so we are re-voting on joining the Junior High School District again. At the same time as we are voting on this, the other towns in the district are voting on whether or not to accept Westfield into the district.

Votes by Australian ballot: Yes – 53 No – 9 Spoiled – 0 Blank – 6
Article 9 passed.

Article 10. North Country Union High School and North Country Career Center: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$15,848,200, 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 \$14,286 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 0.02% lower than spending for the current year. (Australian Ballot)

Discussion: None

Votes by Australian ballot: Yes – 52 No – 13 Spoiled – 0 Blank – 3
Article 10 passed.

Article 11. Shall the North Country Union High School District authorize the Board of School Directors to place \$350,000 of undesignated FY2017 fund balance from the general fund operations in the Capital Improvement Reserve fund? (Australian Ballot)

Discussion: None

Votes by Australian ballot: Yes – 51 No – 14 Spoiled – 0 Blank – 3
Article 11 passed.

Article 12. To transact any other non-binding business which may legally come before this meeting.

a. Principal, Kristy Ellis: Principal Ellis talked about the amazing school, supportive parents, teachers and school board our community has. She spoke about providing opportunities for students to participate in the Town Meeting process with a presentation of five minutes or less. Moderator Sagui asked for a show of hands to get a feeling of the body's interest in future student participation. The majority favored the idea.

b. Update on Act 46: School Board Chair Kevin Amyot stated the District's proposal has been submitted and we await the decision. He also said it has been a challenging year with extra meetings and work, which the School Board was happy to do. There are new students in school and 20 new preschoolers to increase student enrollment, which is what we want. He said he is pleased to work with the two new Westfield School Board Members, Nicole

Dunn and Janellen Parker-Goodwin, as well as Shawn Baraw, who is on the High School Board. He feels Jay/Westfield students are well educated and will be ready for the world.

Article 13. To adjourn:

Motion by Mike Piper and second by Sonny Cote to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m. The motion passed by voice vote.

Moderator Sagui said there will be a short break until 11 a.m. at which time the Town Meeting will begin.

Submitted by: LaDonna Dunn, Town Clerk

Dated at Westfield, Vermont this 30th day of April, 2018.



Kevin Amyot
Westfield School Board, Chair



Pat Sagui
Moderator