

MINUTES

2010 ANNUAL BROOKLINE-NEWFANE JOINT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

NEWBROOK FIRE STATION

FEBRUARY 16, 2010

Joint School Board Clerk Lee Anne Parker called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. She brought forth Article I which reads as follows: To elect a Moderator. ??? nominated Deborah Luskin, Newfane, as Moderator. There were no other nominations. ??? moved that the Clerk cast one vote for Deborah Luskin as Moderator and this was done.

Moderator Deborah Luskin read the Warning to the voters. She asked if there were any present who were not Brookline or Newfane voters. Steven John, Windham Supervisory District superintendent and Jamie Cone, Brattleboro Reformer reporter, were guests. The Joint School Board members introduced themselves. Don Seiden, Brookline; Pam Meihak, Newfane, Brandy Pickering, Newfane; Kim Friedman (Chair), Newfane; April Wellman, Brookline; Lee Anne Parker (Clerk), Brookline; Ken McFadden (Newfane), and Kim Colligan (Newfane).

Moderator Luskin read Article II which reads as follows: To see if the voters of the Brookline School District and Newfane School District will authorize the School Directors to borrow money in anticipation of revenue. Joellen Falk (Newfane) moved the article and Joyce VanPamelen (Newfane) seconded it. After limited discussion Neil Pelsue (Newfane) moved the question.

Article II was approved.

Moderator Luskin read Article III which reads as follows: To see if the voters of the Brookline School District and Newfane School District authorize the Brookline-Newfane Joint School Board to raise and appropriate \$1,918,372 to defray expenses and liabilities for the 2010 – 2011 school year. Ed Druke, Sr. (Newfane) moved the article. Doug Wellman (Brookline) seconded the motion.

Before discussion of Article III took place, Moderator Luskin allowed Kim Friedman (Newfane), Joint School Board chair, to address the voters. She reiterated the essential ideas presented at informational meetings so that the electorate who had not been at any of the meetings could understand the work that the Joint Board did to be proactive for the best education for the students and to be fiscally responsible. All students will attend Newfane Elementary School with the Brookline Elementary School building being maintained until a definite use for it is determined at a later date.

Doug Wellman (Brookline) thanked the Joint School Board for their hard work. He expressed disappointment at the closing of the Brookline Elementary School without the voters having a say in this since that was the understanding when the voters agreed on the Joint School Board. He also said that the tax rate increase is unacceptable and encouraged voters to vote down the article to send a message to Montpelier.

Tom Redden (Newfane) said that the electorate was in no position to change Montpelier's position since we are too small. He said that there were three poor choices, and Article III was the best of the three. He encouraged passing the budget.

Gary Katz (Newfane) questioned including maintenance as part of the budget since the Joint School Board was closing the school. Several people responded that the decision to move all students into one school building was made without time to decide how to best use Brookline Elementary School. Good educational use could be made of the building.

Gary Katz also asked about the student ratio of 14-15 per teacher. Bruce Garrow (Newfane) responded that this brings the combined elementary school student/teacher ratio to the higher end of the State and Federal ideal class sizes.

After further discussion, Piet Van Loon (Newfane) moved the question. Gloria Cristelli (Newfane) seconded the motion. Bill Guenther (Newfane) requested paper ballots. Moderator Luskin asked if there were seven voters desiring paper ballots. More than that number raised their hands. Brookline and Newfane voters went to their respective town area to be checked against the voter checklists and to vote. Votes were counted with 112 total votes. The ayes had 69 votes, the nays 42 with one spoiled vote. (58 Brookline voters, 54 Newfane voters)

Article III was approved.

Moderator Luskin read Article IV as follows: To transact any other business that may legally come before the Brookline-Newfane Joint School Board.

Greg Record (Newfane) wanted clarification that the Annual Meeting of the Brookline-Newfane Joint School Board would be held separately from the Annual Town Meeting of both Brookline and Newfane. This is true.

It was moved to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:20 p.m.