

**2017 Minutes  
Town of Dover Annual Town Meeting & Town School District Meeting  
March 7, 2017**

The legal voters of the Town of Dover, Vermont, and the Town School District of Dover, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned that, pursuant to Title 17, V.S.A., Section 2655, they are to meet at the Dover Town Hall on Dover Common in said Dover, Vermont on Tuesday, March 7, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. to act upon the following articles to wit:

**ARTICLES TO BE VOTED BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT (Include Articles 1&2 only)**

**The polls will open for Australian ballot voting at 10:00 a.m. and remain open until 7:00 p.m.**

- ARTICLE 1:** Shall the Town of Dover School District, which the State Board of Education has found necessary to include in a proposed new unified school district, join with the school district of Wardsboro, which the State Board of Education has found necessary to include in the proposed new unified school district, and the school district of Marlboro which the State Board of Education has found to be advisable to include in the new proposed unified school district for the purpose of forming the River Valleys Unified School District as provided in Title 16, Vermont Statutes annotated, upon the following conditions and agreements.
- The Unified District shall be formed and the terms hereby voted shall become effective on the date this article is approved by a majority vote of the electorate of at least two "necessary" districts of the Forming Districts and said votes become final per 16 V.S.A. 706g, provided that votes approving this article shall not become effective unless and until the voters of other Windham Central Supervisory Union (WCSU) town school districts (Brookline, Jamaica, Newfane, Townshend, and Windham) vote to approve formation of a unified district and said vote becomes final thereby forming a Supervisory Union with two Unified Districts (a "Side by Side").
- No elementary school shall be closed without a unanimous vote of the River Valleys Unified School District Board, and an affirmative vote of the town in which it is located.
- (a) Grades. The River Valleys Unified School District will offer pre-kindergarten through grade six (6) education to all students in the unified school district and will pay tuition for students in grades seven (7) through twelve (12) pursuant to Vermont statutes.
- If the Marlboro Town School District votes to approve the Unified School District and the District is established, then the Marlboro Elementary School will cease operating school for grades seven (7) and eight (8) on June 30, 2019.
- (b) Board of School Directors. A town school district's representation on the unified district board will be closely proportional to the fraction that its population bears to the aggregate population of the Unified District. Initial Board composition will be based upon the year 2010 Federal Census and shall be recalculated promptly following the release of each subsequent decennial census. The Board is authorized to reapportion the Board, including increasing or decreasing the number of school directors. However, at no time will a town school district have less than one board member on the Board. Subject to the previous sentence, each proportionality calculation shall be rounded to the nearest whole number.
- (c) Assumption of debts and ownership of school property. The unified union school district shall assume the indebtedness of forming districts; assume all operating deficits and/or surpluses or reserve funds of the forming districts; acquire, maintain, and pay for the school properties of member districts; all as specifically identified and provided for in the Final Report.
- (d) The complete provisions of Articles 7, 8 and 15 of the Final Report regarding special funds, indebtedness, real and personal property and school continuity of school buildings are set forth in the Final Report and are incorporated in their entirety by reference herein.
- (e) Final Report: The provisions of the final report approved by the State Board of Education on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2016, which is on file in the town clerk's office, shall govern the River Valleys Unified School District.

Yes votes: 124

No votes: 75

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Cub Scouts, Emerson Cohen, Liam Kummisky and Elliot Cohen along with leader Robert Hickey lead the body in the pledge of allegiance.

School District Moderator, Sarah Shippee, reads Article 1 and asks for a motion to suspend Robert's Rules of Order to allow the body to discuss Article 1 without a motion on the floor. Linda Sherman moves the suspension. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sue Rand.

Christine Levy asks what the contingency plan is if we vote down Article 1?

Rich Werner, School Board Chair, responds, Board will regroup and depending on the vote decide where to go from here. There will be public meetings.

Ian Schrauf, commend our school board for capital budget programs. Would we be funding other schools with these funds? What about the solar farm?

Rich, Wardsboro has their own reserve, Marlboro not as much. Solar farm would be shared ownership. Chip Vicary, school board, comments that the solar agreement specifically benefits Dover and that will not change.

Randy Capitani, Act 46 committee, brick and mortar assets of the three towns are in decent shape with no outstanding debt.

Jim Lynch moves to suspend the rules so that Becca Balint, one of our State Senators who is not a Dover voter, can address the body. Mark Wallace 2<sup>nd</sup>. Aye.

Laura Sibilia, our State Rep., addresses the body. Act 46 school merger is a big decision. We're not alone, 10 other mergers being voted on around the State. Commends the study committee, Rich Werner in particular whose leadership extended beyond Dover to the Supervisory Union level. Laura is on a new committee, Energy and Technology which has oversight of I.T. projects like Vermont Health Connect.

Becca Balint, I wanted to come with Laura today because of the big vote today. Need to focus on rural economy and economic development.

Mark Wallace, comment, went to Montpelier, visited with Laura, we are very very lucky to have Laura in the State House. She knows everyone up there. Laura listens to you even if you may disagree. Thank you, Laura!

Laura, rural weighting would count rural students as more than one student and may be the way forward for small towns as far as education tax affordability. Education finance is going to change.

Trip Morse, we want to keep school choice and The I.B. program. We should look into becoming a magnet school. If we vote this down and we go with alternative structure, do we lose small school grant?

Laura and Becca, maybe.

Kerry McDonald-Cady, when might the small school grant go away? Laura, taking away small school grant might be unconstitutional since the small school grants were instituted to address constitutionality concerns about Act 68.

Randy Terk, concerned about H 197, the "PTSD" bill and the costs to local rescue squads. Applaud the new Governor and his stance on no new taxes to clean up Lake Champlain.

Jim Lynch, healthcare feds change to Obama-care and those effects on Vermont Health Connect? Laura and Becca leave.

Laura & Becca, effects will be devastating.

Jason Staloff, voting no because Dover School is successful and that success is fragile.

Dave Cerchio, voting no. Act 46 is a symptom of the socialist agenda in Montpelier.

Mary Jenkins, yes vote is the only way to retain some control.

Jim Lynch moves to suspend the rules so that the select board can make a presentation during the School Meeting and the school kids can make a presentation. Tom Baltrus, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Aye.

On behalf of the select board Randy Terk recognizes Linda Holland for her many years of service on the select board, Ken Black for his service as the Economic Development Director, and Dave Cerchio for his service as the Zoning Administrator.

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Linda Holland moves that we break for lunch. Jim Lynch 2<sup>nd</sup>. Aye.

Wonderful lunch provided by the Dover School sixth grade.

After lunch Courtney Perkins, Dover School 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, introduces her class. 4<sup>th</sup> graders, Emerson Cohen, Skye Twining, Eric Kurucz, Eddie Oakley, Matilda Morse, Breck Bensin, Ella Levy, Olivia Chase, Stefan Tallini, Jack Cady present their idea for a new Town Seal. Ella Levy, Olivia Chase, Stefan Tallini and Jack Cady took turns speaking to the assembly. Sue Rand asked the presenters to describe the new seal, an evergreen tree surrounded by snowflakes. Andrea Seaton made a motion that the assembly support the new design. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sue Rand. Ayes, unanimous.

Randy Terk moves to suspend the rules so that we can end discussion on Article 1 without a vote. Andy McLean 2<sup>nd</sup>. Aye.

**ARTICLE 2:** To choose all Dover town officers and Dover school district officers and Unified School District officers for the following positions required by law to be elected at the annual meeting:

Auditor 3-year	Tamara Allen	186
First Constable 1-year	none elected	
Grand Juror 1-year	none elected	
Library Trustee 5-years	none elected	
Library Trustee 5-years (3 remaining)	Kevin Stine	178
Moderator – School 1-year	Sarah Shippee	193
Moderator - Town 1-year	Richard J. Werner	195
School Director 3-years	Richard J. Werner	187
School Director 2-years	Kerry McDonald-Cady	42 (write-in)
Select Board Member 3-years	Joshua Cohen	129
	Sandy MacDougall	69
Select Board Member 2-years	Victoria Capitani	185
Town Agent 1-year	Linda L. Holland	191
Trustee of Public Funds 1-year	Marco Tallini	195
Unified School District Director 4-years	Richard J. Werner	187
Unified School District Director 3-years	Kerry McDonald-Cady	188
Unified School District Director 2-years	Laura Sibia	191

**SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**ARTICLE 3:** Shall the Town School District expend \$25,000 to install a playground for the pre-school program?

M: Vicki Capitani

2: Andrea Seaton

D: Randy Capitani why not use reserve? We'd rather not unnecessarily lower the reserve.

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Vicki Capitani, motion for an amendment that the funds come from the reserve Fund. 2nd, Linda Sherman.

Mark Schaubert, when would reserve go to the union school district if we vote yes on the merger. 2019.

Ian Schrauf, is it smart to spend this down in anticipation of merger?

Randy Capitani, call question.

Tom Baltrus 2nd

Aye, question called

Vote on Amendment:

Nays have it, no amendment.

Vote on article as warned:

V: Ayes have it. Passed as warned.

**ARTICLE 4:** Shall the Town School District set the annual tuition rate to approved independent schools as \$16,700 for the 2017/2018 school year?

M: Sue Rand

2: Jim Lynch

V: aye

**ARTICLE 5:** Shall the Town School District compensate the Officers as follows- Chairperson- \$2,500 per year; Members- \$2,000 per year, and mileage reimbursement at the Federal reimbursement rate for the month in which the mileage occurred?

M: Jim Lynch

2: Andrea Seaton

D: Andrea Seaton thanks Rich Werner for all of his work on behalf of the Town and our students.

V: aye

**ARTICLE 6:** Shall the Town School District authorize any surplus from the 2016/2017 budget to be placed in the Capital Reserve Fund?

M: Vicki Capitani

2: Jim Lynch

V: Aye

**ARTICLE 7:** Shall the Town School District authorize funding the Capital Vehicle Fund in the amount of \$10,550, with such funds coming from the Capital Reserve Fund?

M: Jim Lynch

2: Marco Tallini

V: Aye

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**ARTICLE 8:** Shall the Town School District authorize funding of the Capital Building fund in the amount of \$12,000, with such funds coming from the Capital Reserve Fund?

M: Marco Tallini

2: Mike Chase

V: Aye

**ARTICLE 9:** Shall the voters of the Dover Town School District approve the school board to expend \$3,105,067 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 \$16,461.84 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 1.08 % more than spending for the current year.

M: Dick Severance

2: Robert Hickey

D: Ken Westby, adding a teacher and yet there's a reduction in health premiums? Rich explains.

V: Aye

**ARTICLE 10:** Shall the Town School District authorize the School Directors to withdraw money from the Capital Reserve Fund to offset the Homestead tax rate, but not more than \$330,000

M: Randy Terk

2: Marco Tallini

D: Mary Lou how much in that fund? Rich, 716,000

V: Aye

**ARTICLE 11:** To discuss any other items that the voters would like to discuss, and to conduct any other business that may legally come before the voters.

M: Rich recognizes Chip Vicary's years of service on the school board.

**TOWN MEETING**

**ARTICLE 12:** Shall the voters accept the annual report of the auditors and other town officers?

M: Dick Severance

2: Jim Lynch

V: Aye

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**ARTICLE 13:** Shall the voters compensate town officers as follows: Town Clerk \$52,532.28 annual salary, Town Treasurer \$5,000 annual stipend, Select Board Chairman \$2,500 annual stipend, Select Board members \$2,000 annual stipend, and Town Auditors \$16.92/hr., all others – chairmen Vermont minimum wage plus \$1.50/hr., members Vermont minimum wage, and mileage based on the Federal reimbursement rate for the month in which the mileage occurred?

M: Sarah Shippee

2: Linda Sherman

D: Christine Levy, Treasurer paid \$5,000? Randy explains Treasurer, Book Keeper, Delinquent Tax Collector compensation.

V: Aye

**ARTICLE 14:** Shall the voters authorize general fund expenditure for operational expenses of \$2,204,674.73 for the coming year?

M: Dan Baliotti

2: Sarah Shippee

V: Aye

**ARTICLE 15:** Shall the voters authorize highway fund expenditure for operational expenses of \$1,383,843.52 for the coming year?

M: Andrea Seaton

2: Jim Lynch

V: Aye

**ARTICLE 16:** Shall the voters raise and appropriate \$650,000.00 for the Capital Paving Fund?

M: Randy Capitani

2: Jim Lynch

D: Jim Lynch is this an appropriate number? Asphalt prices? Gerry Golet, why all the paving on Dover Hill Rd. Randy Terk, we put 3 inches of asphalt on dover hill Rd. Now we will put an additional 2 inches to make a total of 5 inches. Gerry, how often do roads get paved? Bob Holland, 6 years' maximum.

V: Ayes have it 2 nays, passes as warned.

**ARTICLE 17:** Shall the voters raise and appropriate \$250,000.00 for the Capital Equipment Fund?

M: Cathy Kaufmann

2: Bob Hickey

V: Aye

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**ARTICLE 18:** Shall the voters raise and appropriate \$80,000.00 for the Capital Building Improvement Fund?

M: Linda Sherman

2: Randy Capitani

V: Aye

**ARTICLE 19:** Shall the voters raise and appropriate \$3,372.00 for the purpose of supporting Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS) activities?

M: Sarah Shippee

2: Mike Chase

Vicki moves to suspend the rules to allow a SeVEDS representative speak. 2nd Randy Terk. Aye.

Alex Beck from SeVEDS describes some of their programs.

Marco Tallini, how do you arrive at the \$3,372? \$3 dollars per person on decennial census.

V: Aye

**ARTICLE 20:** Shall the voters raise and appropriate \$5,161.25 for the purpose of supporting MHCA Dover Cinema (Memorial Hall Center for the Arts, Inc.)?

M: Andrea Seaton

2: Mike Chase

D: Andrea Seaton, one of the greatest assets that dover has.

Charles LaFiura, facility is extremely important to the area. Suggests to the board that we have a capital budget for the cinema.

Ken Black, agree tremendous asset to the community, support should be from economic development funds.

Wayne Estey, professional economist, unique part of Dover. Minimal amount of support.

V: Ayes have it, a few nays, passes as warned.

**ARTICLE 21:** Shall the voters authorize the Selectmen to apply any surplus from the current fiscal year to reduce taxes in the next fiscal year?

M: Geraldine Golet

2: Randy Capitani

V: Aye

**ARTICLE 22:** Shall the voters authorize the Selectmen to sell properties, which the Town has acquired by gift or through tax sales?

M: Dan Baliotti

2: Jim Lynch

D: Geri Golet shouldn't people have a say? They can have a say at the select board meeting.

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V: Ayes have it, one nay.

**ARTICLE 23:** Shall the voters authorize the Selectmen to set the tax rate sufficient to cover the approved expenses of the Town of Dover and the Town of Dover Highway for taxes due on August 15, 2017 and February 15, 2018?

M: Linda Sherman

2: Sarah Shippee

V: Aye

**ARTICLE 24:** Shall the voters authorize the Selectmen to borrow money in anticipation of taxes?

M: Linda Holland

2: Robert Hickey

V: Aye

**ARTICLE 25:** To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

M: Randy Capitani

2: Dan Baliotti

D: Randy Terk introduces new Zoning Administrator, Wayne Estey.

Christine Levy, concerned about step down generators at the school. Any research on step down generators? Not researched by the board but installed per code.

Randy Capitani, Cinema needs to come up with some plans for moving forward with their Arts Center goal.

Josh Cohen, Laura Sibilila and Abe Schuster suggest a microphone at next year's Town Meeting.

Randy Terk motion to adjourn. 2nd, Bob Hickey

Aye

Respectfully submitted by Andy McLean, Town Clerk