

**TOWNSHEND SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES**  
**@TOWNSHEND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
**6:30 pm**  
**1-11-16-DRAFT**

**Present:** Al Claussen, Cliff Passino, Brud Sanderson, Vincent DeBonis, FCO, WCSU, Steven John, Superintendent, WCSU, Deborah Leggott, Principal, Judy Hawkins, Recorder

**Absent:** Eric Scott, April Chase

**Call to Order:** Al called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m

**Additions and Deletions:** None

**Consent Calendar:**

Principal's Report  
Superintendent's Report  
Minutes for December 14, 2015.

Steven had no written report but distributed to the board members an article re: Sir Ken Robinson on Arts on Education. Steven distributed copies of the warning for Townshend School District Annual Meeting. He gave an overview of Jamaica meeting re: Act 46 last Thursday. They appointed 4 committees and have a board member on each committee. Steven has applied for a grant for Jamaica re: Act 46. Newbrook also directed Steven to apply for a grant. WCSU received a \$5000 grant for a consultant to provide support for the various member boards to see what the next steps are to take re: Act 46.

Steven called attention to Article #6 regarding the Townshend School District Annual Meeting. It looks much different than before. It reads as follows:

“Shall the voters of the Townshend School district approve the school board to expend \$1,556.825 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 \$16,441 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 2.2% lower than spending for the current year.

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Consent Calendar approved unanimously.

**Treasured and Financial Reports:** Vincent distributed the proposed budget for FY 17.

**Bills and Purchase Orders:** Al made a motion to pay the bills and purchase orders as follows: Payroll PO#44 \$7,807.34, Payroll PO #45 \$17,706.80, Payroll PO#46 \$12,536.91, Vendor Warrant PO #47 \$159,531.77 and Payroll PO #5,010.19. No Discussion. Motion carried to pay bills and purchase orders as read.

**Reports of Administration and Committees:** None

**Unfinished Business:**

- a. FY17-Budget finalization: Vincent presented the proposed budget for FY17 to the board for their review. The budget was reviewed by the board and a discussion ensued. Vincent was asked to re-do the three year comparisons so they will be in line with the FY17 numbers. The proposed budget for the year is: \$1,556.825. Cliff made a motion to approve the FY17 budget as presented in the amount of \$1,556,825. Motion carried.

Brud made a motion to approve the Annual District Meeting warning with a proposed budget for FY 17 of \$1,556.825 with the education spending of \$16,441 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 2.2% lower than spending for the current year. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

a.21C Agreement: \$7500.00 ELO and After School Program. Brud made a motion to direct the chair to sign the Memo of Agreement regarding the renewal of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant. Motion carried.

b. Annual Internal Financial Controls Requirement: Al will look over this questionnaire and return to Steven. This will be discussed at the February board meeting.

c. Town Meeting Prep-articles, financials: (See above) the Town Meeting Warning was approved. Steven and Deborah have completed their reports and Al is working on his. The financials have been completed.

Al has received the CLA information from the state.

ACT 46 Discussion with Public in Auditorium:

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AI distributed information re: Act 46 to the public in attendance.

AI opened the meeting introducing Emily Longe re: Act 46 and different scenarios to look at.

Emily started out by giving a historical prospective as to why we are here today. Programs needed to be cut in order to pass their budgets, inequity became an issue. Act 46 was designed to allow community input. Vermont is the highest in the nation in spending at 5.2 and nation is 3.5. Spending is going up and enrollment going down. Vermont has a very old population.

**GOALS:** Act 46 is designed to encourage and support local decisions and action that:

- provide substantial equity in the quality and variety of educational opportunities statewide;
- lead students to achieve or exceed the state's Education Quality Standards: maximize operational efficiencies through increased flexibility to manage, share, and transfer resources, with a goal of increasing the district-level ratio of students to full-time equivalent staff;
- promote transparency and accountability; and
- delivers public education at a cost that parents, voters and taxpayers value.

What Act 46 Does not do:

Act 46 is intended to support thoughtful consideration of changes to educational governance, outcomes and costs.

-it does not encourage or require closure of schools

-it does not restrict or repeal the authority of school districts to continue to pay tuition

-it does not change the amount or manner in which a district pays tuition for its students or the manner in which voters decide whether their district will pay tuition.

Questions and Answers:

This was opened up to the public: Steven presented a handout re: declining enrollment. The stats show no bounce back and the stats go thru 2025.

Consolidation of school districts: The question was asked if it meant consolidation of school board or the school. Reply: School Board.

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Someone suggested consolidating a group of schools rather than just 1 or 2. He thinks it would be a great savings. Al said this was considered at the time when the process first started.

Steven reported that 80% of budgets are in staff.

If you chose to do nothing you would lose the small schools grant and you wouldn't be able to get any of the incentives if you don't meet the timeline.

You don't need to stay within your own school districts.

The board is looking at the Side by Side option. Al described the side by side option to the public. The requirements would be as follows:

- Each new district (or "side") is formed by the merger of at least two districts
- One side operates all grades (PK-12), one side tuitions (some or all grades)
- The tuitioning "side" is not required to send students to the operating side of the SU, though it may choose to designate those schools as an option.
- Each new district has same effective date of merger.
- Each "side" (a.k.a. district) has it's own tax rate and budget-tax rate for each district adjusted for local CLA
- Each "side" is eligible for a \$20,000 study committee grant

There is a union school district already there; TES can't disband from the union without a vote from the town.

There will be another public meeting at a later time.

**Correspondence:** Al received correspondence from Grace Cottage Hospital regarding the water flow report for December 2015. The report was normal and Deborah was given the report to file.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

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TES School Board Meeting, February 8, 2016.

**Executive Session:** None

**Adjourn:** Cliff made a motion to adjourn at 9:16 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Hawkins,  
Recorder

DRAFT

DRAFT