

**OXBOW UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL MEETING  
OXBOW HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM  
March 25, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 by Scott Labun, Moderator. Nancy Perkins, Minutes Clerk will take minutes until a Clerk is elected.

This is a continuation of the original meeting.

Article III—To elect officers of the District

- A. Bud Haas: Asked about minutes of previous meeting
- B. Nomination by Paul Jewett for Nikki Tomlinson as Clerk, seconded by Judith Learned.  
Unanimous by voice vote
- C. Nikki Tomlinson asked for nominations for moderator. Nomination by Emmy Hausman, sec by Bill Ellithorpe for Scott Labun to serve as Moderator. Unanimous by voice vote.
- D. Nom by Lucas, sec by Katherine Kidder for Lyn Fischer to serve as Treasurer. Unanimous by voice vote
- E. Motion by Lucas, sec by Kim Frydman for Emilie to speak as a non-resident
- F. Introduced the transitional board. Paul Jewett, Emmy Hausman, Barbara Briggs, Kim Frydman, Adam Lornitzo, and Lucas Barrett (standing in for Clerk of Bradford Elem Board)

Article IV

- A. Emilie Knisley explained that the Annual meeting for this year, coinciding for the time line needed to vote for budget June 30. Also need to set date for annual meeting in future years.
- B. Bud Haas asked for an update of what has happened out in the world regarding Act 46
  - 1. Emmy Hausman: nothing is going to happen imminently, and we need to proceed as is. There are two different versions of the bill in the House and the Senate, and they haven't come to a consensus. The time frame is just crazy.
- C. Emilie: June 17<sup>th</sup> is the recommended date for this year. This date gives us enough time to get done what is required.
- D. Mary Collins: does June 17<sup>th</sup> give us enough time if we need to revote the budget she thought everything had to be done by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Emilie explained that it should be fine, in consulting with finance and the Supervisory's Legal team we should be all good. Scott noted he spoke with the Vermont Department of Education and their response was it had to be before June 1 however he doesn't know if there is any issue with us being past June 1.
  - 1. Emilie: Board members elected May 7, warn budget May 8
- E. Lucas made a motion for the date to be June 17, 2019 at Oxbow, and all subsequent meetings to be the Monday before Town Meeting. Amended to start with just this year—June 17 at OHS. Seconded by Kim Frydman. Bud Haas amendment to date "unless the State of VT approves a one-year delay prior to June 17<sup>th</sup>" for the merger of the districts. Seconded by Rick Hausman. If there was a one year delay, there would have to be three separate budgets.
- F. If there was a delay, the elected board would be working on preparations for 2020-2021, and the present Board would operate the current districts as they stand.
- G. How would that impact creating budgets for schools? Emilie: We would probably operate under a default budget.
- H. Bill Ellithorpe: My feeling is that we need to move forward and not wait until the Legislature acts.
- I. By voice vote the amendment was defeated

J. By voice vote, the original motion was accepted unanimously. The first annual meeting will be June 17, 2019 at Oxbow High School. A motion was made and seconded to table the second half of the warrant article for all subsequent meeting dates, article carried.

Respectfully Submitted by Nancy Perkins, Minutes Clerk.

Nikki Tomlinson elected Board Clerk took over minute taking from this part of the meeting.

**ARTICLE V: To determine whether to vote on the District's budget and all other public questions by Australian ballot.**

Bill Ellithorpe moved the article, it was seconded.

Discussion ensued; several people gave their opinions and experiences on both Australian ballot and Floor voting. Paul Jewett explained that traditionally voter attendance at the Newbury meetings is low and changing from Australian to Floor will be very different for those voters. Paul stressed how important it will be to make sure we are sending out an Annual Budget Report with a lot of information so voters will be able to make informed decisions on these newly combined school budgets and hopefully attend. Question was called. All in favor. Moderator Labun reread the motion, voice vote was too close to call, Moderator Labun asked for all in favor of Australian ballot to hold their pink slips up and were counted, asked for all opposed to hold their pink slips up and they were counted. 30 opposed, 22 in favor, motion failed. Lucas asked if those numbers were in alignment with voters checked off the check list. Town Clerks, Nikki Tomlinson and Sonya McLam reported 28 for Newbury and 31 for Bradford.

**ARTICLE VI: To determine whether to elect members of the District Board by Australian ballot.**

Motion was made, seconded. Discussion: Emilie explained the Board language, two Board members from Bradford and two from Newbury all with terms ending at different dates. This is spelled out in the default Articles of Agreement given to us by the Vermont State Board of Education. Moderator Labun reread the motion, all those in favor of electing future members from the floor and not Australian ballot passed by voice vote.

**Motion was made to un-table the tabled second half of Article IV to consider future dates for subsequent Annual Meetings, voice vote passed.** Lucas made a motion for the Monday prior to Town Meeting Day as the meeting date. Discussion ensued. Voice vote all opposed, motion failed. Bud made a motion for the second Tuesday evening in April as the meeting date, Nikki seconded, and discussion ensued. Moderator Labun called for voice vote, only one opposed, Article carried that subsequent annual meeting dates will be the second Tuesday evening in April.

**ARTICLE VII: To determine and approve compensation, if any, to be paid to officers of the District.** Emilie explained these officers are Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer of the district. Currently only the Treasurer is compensated. Due to these odd dates of the elections these would be pro-rated for this year. Bud made a motion to allow the Boards to set these compensation amounts, seconded. Larry Coffin would like to recommend the moderator be paid \$100.00. Moderator Labun asked for voice vote, all in favor for allowing the Boards to set the compensation for the officers, no opposition, motion carried.

**ARTICLE VIII: To determine and approve compensation, if any, to be paid to members of the District Board.**

Emilie explained the differences in Board compensation between the schools and the Board Chairs are different as well. Bob Wing made a motion for \$2,000 per year for the members of the Board and \$2,500 per year for the chair, Josh Allen seconded. Voice vote motion carried.

**ARTICLE IX: To establish provision for the payment of any expense incurred by the District before it becomes fully operational on July 1, 2019, under a voter-approved budget for the fiscal year beginning on that date.**

Emilie explains this gives this transitional board the same authority as the current boards to pay bills and manage accounts held by current boards. Moderator Labun read the suggested language for a motion, motion made that the OXBOW UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT comply with the provisions of 16 VSA Section 563, subdivisions (8) & (9), regarding the payment of expenses and the maintenance of financial accounts (and comply with the policies and procedures of the Orange East Supervisory Union regarding such matters). Moved and seconded. Voice vote all in favor no opposed, Article carried.

**ARTICLE X: To authorize the District to borrow money pending receipt of payments from the State Education Fund by the issuance of its notes or orders payable not later than one year from date: provided, however, that the District is authorized by Vermont Statutes to borrow sufficient funds to meet pending obligations.** Motion made, seconded, voice vote, no opposed, Article carried.

**ARTICLE XI: To determine whether to authorize the Board of School Directors, pursuant to the provisions of 16 V.S.A 563(10) & (11)(C), to provide mailed notice to residents of the availability of the Annual Report and proposed school budget in lieu of distributing the Annual Report and proposed budget.**

Motion made, seconded. Discussion ensued. Several people felt it was very important for these reports to be mailed out to voters. Suggestions to the board for as much transparency and explanations in the reports as possible. Voice vote, Moderator Labun asked for those in favor to show their pink slips 17 for, all those against to show their pink slips, 33 opposed, Motion Failed the Board will not be given the option to not mail reports, they will be distributed.

Motion to adjourn, seconded, meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm by Moderator Labun.

Respectfully submitted,

Nikki Tomlinson, Oxbow Unified Union School District Clerk