

POMFRET  
SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING

March 6, 2012

The School District Meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Kevin Geiger, Moderator.

Articles:

1. Kevin Geiger was elected Moderator. He was given the oath of office by the Town Clerk, Lynne A. Leavitt.
2. Robert O'Donnell moved to accept reports submitted. Seconded Robert W. Merrill. Greg Greene said the Pomfret School hired an Interim Part-time Principal, Tom McKone last July. Tom McKone lives in Montpelier and has over 30 years experience in teaching and administrating. Greg said he is an outstanding addition to the Pomfret School. The School placed 4<sup>th</sup> in Reading and 11<sup>th</sup> in Math in the NECAP testing (out of 274 schools in Vermont). A Sport Court was put in last year behind the School, which includes basketball and ball hockey. Having this area behind the School makes it easier for monitoring the students and provides a wider range of options for the students to choose from. Enrollment for 2011-12 was 66 students and for 2012-13 56 students are expected.

There was a lengthy discussion on tuition and how to bring the enrollment up in the School. Greg said we have done everything we can to increase enrollment. Orson St. John wanted to know what is the cost of tuition in the Pomfret School. Greg said for 2011-12 it is \$9,000.00 per student. Kevin Rice asked how does the \$9,000.00 per student (tuition) compare to other schools. Greg said Mid Vermont Christian School was around \$11,000.00. We are not a business and do not actively seek tuitioned students, he said it is not the right thing to do. He stated that they were looking at all options to keep the School open and as a community we need to look forward 10–15 years down the road. Christine Pilot said there is really no other way to make cuts in the School. Douglas J. Tuthill expressed his concerns about the declining enrollment in our School. He said we have good teachers and an excellent School. Anthony Thacher said there are a lot of Schools in Vermont with the same problem we are facing, declining enrollment.

The estimated tax rate will be \$1.55.

The construction bond was paid off last December.

Tropical Storm Irene caused minimal damage to the School, water was within 2” from the door, the pedestrian bridge across the brook was lost and fields were covered with silt.

Alice Worth was hired last year as the new Superintendent of the Windsor Central Supervisory Union and Daphne Tuthill was hired as the new Director of Instructional Support Services. Sonia Burnham-Johnson, Business and Finance Director, will be retiring this year. Passed unanimously.

3. Jody Lynn Eaton was elected Town School Director for a 3 year term. Passed unanimously.
4. Kevin H. Lessard moved that the voters of the Pomfret School District appropriate \$1,162,156 (One Million One Hundred Sixty-two Thousand One Hundred Fifty-Six Dollars) as the amount necessary for the support of its school for the year beginning July 1,2012. Seconded by Orson St. John. Michael S. Reese wanted to know how the Pomfret School could account for the per pupil spending. Greg Greene said that the School’s staff expenses were higher than some other schools, but we have a very good and experienced staff. Passed unanimously.
5. Deanna J. Jones moved that the voters authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money, if necessary, for payment of current expenses of the district, pending receipts of payment of taxes. Seconded Norman M. Buchanan. Passed unanimously

6. Other business:

Sara Woodhead said on the First Wednesday of May the Pomfret School will celebrate the Town’s 250 years. Each class will be presenting something different and they will also have an old fashioned Contra Dance. Posters will be placed around Town.

Greg Greene said they are looking into ways to use the school space. Some suggestions are holding meetings, dances, classes, such as yoga and zumba. He stated the school has a lot to offer.

There was continued discussion on the declining enrollment, the possible closing of the school and consolidating schools with other towns.

Kevin Geiger adjourned the meeting at 2:08 p.m.

Results of Pomfret vote for WUHS Budget Article 4 - \$11,384,266: Yes – 87 / No – 26

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne A. Leavitt, Town Clerk

Minutes approved by:

Date:

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