

**FALL MOUNTAIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, January 8, 2008**

Chair Shaw called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM in the Fall Mountain Regional High School Library. In attendance were Cheryl Cavanaugh, Andy Collins, Jim Elsesser, and Chas Street. Debra Livingston, Brendan Minnihan, and Steve Varone were also present. Rob Pearson joined the meeting at 6:27 PM.

Chair Shaw reviewed Warrant Article 2.

Article 2: *To see if the district will vote to form a study committee appointed by the school board for the purpose of proposing a high school building renovation plan to appear on the 2009 warrant. To qualify for 55% state building aid, the plan must cost at least 25% of the building's insured value. As such, the proposal is expected to be at least \$2,100,000. The primary focus of the study will be the vocational education wing and the gym locker rooms but may extend to any other portions of the facility. Furthermore, to raise and appropriate \$25,000 to provide the committee with the technical support they may require developing the plan.*

Board members discussed the possible scope of the project and Chair Shaw explained the Budget Committee had requested the portion of the Article referring to state building aid be removed from the body of the article and placed in the footnotes.

Motion: (Elsesser/Street) to recommend Article 2 with the wording change as requested. Passed- Unanimously.

Chair Shaw advised members that the Budget Committee had discussed changing the funding source for the SmartBoards to the high school Capital Reserve Fund.

Motion: (Cavanaugh/Street) to rescind the School Board vote of 12/10/2007 recommending Warrant Article 8. Passed- Unanimously.

Article 8 (Revised): *To see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate \$30,000 to purchase fifteen "Smart Boards" for installation at the High School and authorize the school board to withdraw these funds from the High School Capital Reserve Fund.*

Motion: (Cavanaugh/Street) to recommend Article 8 with revisions. Passed- Unanimously.

Chair Shaw mentioned the Clerk had received three articles by petition and suggested the Board review them after the Budget Hearing.

Motion: (Elsesser/Cavanaugh) to recess the meeting at 6:31 PM.

Chair Shaw reconvened the meeting at 6:34 PM.

Chair Shaw opened the floor to a discussion of Petitioned Article 10:

To see if the District will vote to amend Article 2 of its Articles of Agreement, as previously amended, to read in its entirety as follows:

"The Fall Mountain Regional School District School Board shall consist of thirteen (13) members, subject to effective dates as hereinafter provided and without affecting the incumbency of exiting Board members including those elected at the 2008 Annual Meeting. The thirteen-member board shall consist of

One (1) member domiciled in Acworth

Two (2) members domiciled in Alstead

Five (5) members domiciled in Charlestown

One (1) member domiciled in Langdon

Four (4) members domiciled in Walpole

Each School Board member shall be elected by the voters of the town of his or her domicile, voting by ballot at the respective annual town meetings.

All members of the School Board shall be elected for three year terms.

The provisions hereof shall become effective with the March 2009 election in accordance with the following:

1 Alstead member (Robert Pearson - term expires in 2010)

1 Alstead member (term will expire in 2012)

1 Acworth member (Jim Elsesser - term expires 2010)

1 Langdon member (elected in March 2008 - term will expire in 2011)

1 Charlestown member (term will expire in 2010)

1 Charlestown member (elected in March 2008 - term will expire 2011)

1 Charlestown member (term will expire in 2011)

2 Charlestown members (terms will expire in 2012)

*1 Walpole member (Chas Street - term will expire in 2010)**

1 Walpole member (term will expire in 2011)

2 Walpole members (terms will expire in 2012)

** Chas Street was elected as an "at large" representative in 2007. He is domicile in Walpole and will serve the final year of his three year term as a Walpole representative.*

Mr. Elsesser expressed the opinion that because all Board members were elected by voters from all five towns, they were able to participate in all Board discussions and votes relating to the entire District.

Mr. Varone mentioned that if Petitioned Article 10 passed, the Budget Committee would be required to have fourteen members. (Thirteen members and one School Board representative).

Motion: (Elsesser/Cavanaugh) to Not recommend Petitioned Article 10. Passed- Unanimously.

Chair Shaw opened the floor to discussion on Petitioned Article 11:

As of the opening of the School Year 2009 the Cooperative School Board shall cease to have responsibility for grades K thru 8 for the town of Acworth and will amend the apportionment formula.

Mr. Varone indicated he believed that because there was no governing body named and no petition to change the Articles of Agreement, this article would prove to be unlawful. Chair Shaw asked Mr. Varone to ask the District's attorney to review the legality of the article.

Chair Shaw opened the floor to a discussion of Petitioned Article 12:

Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:14-b to delegate the determination of the default budget to the municipal budget committee which has been adopted under RSA 32:14

Board members discussed the issue and asked Budget Committee Chair Beaudry for his input. Chair Beaudry indicated he did not feel it was the Budget Committee's function to develop the default budget.

Mr. Collins asked members if they had any interest in pursuing a change in the RSA governing the default budget at the state level.

Chair Shaw responded that he would support a change but did not presently have the time to pursue a legislative change.

Motion: (Elsesser/Cavanaugh) to Not recommend Petitioned Article 12. Passed 5/1 (Collins)

Chair Shaw adjourned the meeting without objection at 7:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda M. Pappas,
Board Clerk