

**Fletcher Board of School Directors**  
**April 16, 2008 at 6:30pm**  
Fletcher School Library  
Regular Meeting

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## **Agenda**

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Consent Agenda**
  - Minutes
    - Annual Meeting: March 4<sup>th</sup>
    - Regular Meeting: March 19<sup>th</sup>
  - Reports
    - Principals Report
    - Financial Report
    - Superintendents Report
    - Board Reports
  - Correspondence
    - Little League Request
3. **Public Comment**
4. **Old Business**
  - A. Continued Community Forum Planning
5. **New Business**
  - A. Open Separate Capital Improvement Fund Account - *Action*
  - B. Board Secretary Pay Rate
  - C. School Calendar 2008-2009 - *Action*
6. **Other**
7. **Policies**
  - A. Copyright Policy - *Action*
  - B. Teacher License Expiration Policy - *1<sup>st</sup> Reading*
  - C. Criminal Record Check Policy - *1<sup>st</sup> Reading*
8. **Upcoming Meetings**

Next Regular Meeting: May 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 PM, Fletcher School Library
9. **Adjourn**

**Fletcher Board of School Directors**  
Annual School Meeting 2008  
Fletcher Elementary School  
March 4, 2008 at 1:00pm

**Article 1:** *Adoption of Robert's Rules of Order as indicated in T-1, section 562 (1) of the Vermont Statutes Annotated.*

- Tom Kalinoski moved to open discussion of the article, seconded by Patricia FreedThall. Debate ceased after there was no discussion of the article.
- **Action:** Article 1 was unanimously passed by the voters.

**Article 2:** *Elect a Moderator for the School District Annual Meeting.*

- Janet Young moved to open discussion of the article, seconded by Chris Ashby.
- Barry Doolan was nominated; no other nominations were given. Debate ceased on the article.
- **Action:** Article 2 was unanimously passed by the voters electing Barry Doolan as the Moderator for the Annual School District meeting.

**Article 3:** *Elect a Clerk for the School District Annual Meeting.*

- Melissa Minor moved to discuss the article, Keller Ashby seconded.
- Jen Cary moved to nominate Betsy Lesnikoski. No other nominations were submitted.
- **Action:** Article 3 was unanimously passed by the voters, electing Betsy Lesnikoski as the clerk for the Annual School District meeting.

**Article 4:** *Hear and act on reports of School Directors' from previous year.*

- Maxine Anderson moved to discuss the article, seconded by Gloria Brunette.
- Matthew Webb moved to amend the Town Report to include position titles with the list of names and salaries, seconded by Chris Ashby. Unanimously approved.
- Gloria Brunette asked a question about the fiscal years and Jennifer Cary explained.
- Unanimously approval of a motion to cease debate.

**Article 5:** *To elect a School Director for a three-year term.*

- Gloria Brunette moved to discuss the article, seconded by Keller Ashby.
- Jennifer Cary noted that terms for Tammy Langlois and Betsy Lesnikoski are up this year.
- Keller Ashby nominated Tammy Langlois.
- Chris Ashby moved to cease debate on the article, seconded by Lisa Rock.
- Motion passed unanimously and Tammy Langlois was re-elected.

**Article 6:** *To elect a School Director for a three-year term.*

- Mary Lynn Riggs moved to discuss the article, seconded by Keller Ashby.
- Mary Lynn Riggs nominated Betsy Lesnikoski.
- Orrin Tilton moved to cease debate on the article, seconded by Chris Ashby.
- Motion passed unanimously and Betsy Lesnikoski was re-elected.

**Article 7:** *Shall Fletcher School District spend a sum of money necessary for the support of the public schools?*

- Gloria Brunette moved to discuss the article, seconded by Melissa Minor.
- Jennifer Cary presented the budget proposal for 2008-2009.
- Tom Kalinoski asked for clarification of the Early Essential Education (EEE) program and Title 1 Compensatory Education. Jen Cary explained both programs and noted that due to increasing needs for services, an additional preschool teacher is included into the budget.
- There was a question about state funding for technical education students.
- Sue Williams asked about additional summer academic support and the enrichment program. Jennifer Cary replied that this is not a state-mandated initiative, but supports students so that they can meet state performance standards.
- There was a question the school nurse and whether they could provide health instruction.
- Tom Kalinoski asked how the preschool is funded.
- Keller Ashby had a question on increase in the tax rate. Annette Kalinoski asked if this was related to the per-pupil costs. Keller Ashby asked why Cambridge's per-equalized-pupil spending is significantly higher than other schools in the region.
- Chris Ashby asked about replacing the Early Ed trailer.
- There was discussion of the proposed Capital Improvement Fund.
- Gloria Brunette asked why the hourly rate for food service employees seemed very low for the many years they have served the school.
- Janet Young had a question about growth and potential for increased student enrollment and how it could affect capital improvements.
- John Bondy asked for clarifications about capacity restrictions for the school based on the number of students per acre.
- Sue Williams asked about the increase in custodial wages.
- Heather Pilkington asked about full-day kindergarten. Principal Jeffrey Teitelbaum noted that Fletcher currently does not have space for full-day kindergarten. This program is now standards-based which will help children be better prepared for school. Courtney Boutin asked if there had been further discussions at the state-level to mandate full-day kindergarten.
- There was extensive discussion of the interpretation of last year's special article to place 50% of the budget surplus in the school Capital Improvement Fund. The budget presented by the Board directed only 27% of the surplus to the Capital Improvement Fund (\$50,000) and

the remaining surplus was returned to the taxpayers as a starting fund balance in the 2008-2009 budget, reducing taxes.

- Dave Clark noted that the Board should have placed all of the surplus into the Capital Improvement Fund as directed by the article.
- Barry Peterson noted the Board is not required to set aside 50%. He stated that they are authorized to do so, not required.
- **Action:** Terry Riggs moved to amend the school budget and decrease the total amount by \$100,000, seconded by Tom Kalinoski.
- Discussion followed on the amendment.
- In response to questions about the surplus being so high. Diane Dayvie explained how the special education and secondary tuition budget can be very unpredictable because planning is based on the numbers of students that are anticipated months in advance. This results in fluctuations in secondary and technical education tuition.
- Elaine Sweet clarified that the school Capital Improvement Fund is not a separate fund, but is currently part of the general fund.
- Chris Ashby asked how the Capital Improvement Fund budget would be affected by this amendment. The board responded that this would not affect the Capital Improvement Fund, but would reduce the schools' overall operating budget.
- Discussion of the amendment to the article ceased. Amendment defeated by voice vote.
- The discussion returned on the original article.
- John Bondy asked if there is an accounting for a balance and expenditures of the Capital Improvement Fund in the Town Report. The board responded that the Town Report includes statements for last fiscal year, so these financials would not appear until next year.
- Elaine Sweet stated that in the past, the Town Report included sixth month/year-to-date information which would be helpful. Jennifer Cary replied that the board will consider including that in the future.
- **Action:** Bob Dayvie moved amend the motion to reduce the school budget by \$42,232 and deposit it into the Capital Improvement Fund, seconded by Terri Riggs.
- Discussion of the amendment followed.
- Deb Tilton noted that she agreed with Dave Clarks' comments that the Board needs to follow the special article as authorized by the voters. She stated that the purpose of the deposit of surplus into the Capital Improvement Fund is to plan for future unanticipated emergencies beyond the projects outlined in the proposed Capital Improvement Plan.
- Keller Ashby asked if the intent of the amendment is to cut the operating budget by \$42,232 or increase funding in the Capital Improvement Fund. Barry Doolan clarified that the intent of the motion would reduce the overall budget.
- Matthew Webb noted that passage of this amendment would penalize the wrong people.
- John Bondy stated that the town was very clear about its intent at last year's town meeting and that there was much discussion on the article before it was approved. He noted that it was admirable of the board to try to reduce taxes. However, the voters had already expressed their wishes and the board should have followed the special article.

- Barry Peterson explained that the special article did not require the board to deposit up to 50% in the Fund, but authorized them to do so. Similarly the town approves a school operating budget, but does not require them to spend the entire amount, only up to that amount.
- Kevin Holmes moved to amend the amendment, splitting it into two pieces and voting on them individually: to first increase the deposit of surplus into the capital improvement by \$44,232 to restore the deposit to the 50% intended, and then vote on the budget. Jim Furgeson seconded the motion.
- Annette Kalinoski moved to cease debate, seconded by Jim Furgeson.
- The amendment to the amendment of the article was defeated by voice vote.
- Discussion returned to the original amendment to the article.
- Annette Kalinoski moved to cease debate, seconded by Sue Williams.
- The amendment was defeated by voice vote.
- Discussion returned to the original article.
- Keller Ashby stated that the town should cut the board some slack, allowing the board to proceed with depositing only 27% of the surplus this year but next year return to the 50% as stated by Dave Clark. She added however that she agreed with Barry Peterson's interpretation of the special article.
- Deb Tilton asked why the board felt it was okay to plan for additional students in secondary education, but not plan for major capital emergencies.
- Sue Williams asked about insurance under the food service program. Patricia FreedThall moved to call the question, seconded by Kevin Holmes.
- Debate on the article ceased and a majority of the voters supported a call for a paper ballot vote on the article.
- **Results:** The article passed with 56 in favor and 12 opposed.

**Article 8:** *To conduct any other business that may come before the meeting.*

- Barry Peterson asked what the board planned to do with the school Building Use Fund. Jennifer Cary replied that the board has no plans for the money right now, but that it usually funds bussing for ski trips. She added that community use of the building has declined due to the no-smoking requirement.
- Annette Kalinoski requested that the proposed budget line items be numbered by line in the town report for easy reference and discussion.
- Keller Ashby requested that the amount of money to be raised by property taxes be clearly stated in the town report. This information was in the slide presentation, but not in the town report.
- Shawna Cain requested that debt service amounts be listed along with a clear description and duration details.
- Diane Dayvie asked why the annual school meeting and budget vote could not be moved to the end of the school year so that information would be more current.

**Article 9:** *To adjourn.*

- Annette Kalinoski moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Patricia FreedThall.
- The meeting adjourned at 3:25pm.

## Fletcher Elementary School

Fletcher, VT  
March 19, 2008

*These minutes are not approved until accepted by the School Directors at their next meeting.*

### Present

Board Members: Betsy Lesnikoski, Tammy Langlois, Dale Rock, Diane Dayvie, & Jen Cary

Administrators: Jeffrey Teitelbaum, Principal; Armando Vilaseca, Superintendent; & Sheila Rivers, Director of Curriculum, Assessment, & Instruction

Transcriptionist: Candy Granger

Visitors: Laura Peatman

1. Call to Order:  
Armando Vilaseca called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.
2. NECAP Presentation – Sheila Rivers (New Business):  
Sheila explained that Vermont collaborated with New Hampshire & Rhode Island to design this test to help assess our students. These tests are given in the fall to assess the previous year's grade. She presented & explained Fletcher's assessment scores in a variety of different ways.
3. Board Re-Organization:  
Tammy Langlois nominated Jen Cary as Chair. Dale Rock seconded. Motion passed, unanimously.  
Diane Dayvie nominated Betsy Lesnikoski as Clerk. Tammy Langlois seconded. Motion passed, unanimously.  
Tammy Langlois nominated Diane Dayvie as Assistant Clerk. Dale Rock seconded. Motion passed, unanimously.  
FWSU Board Members: Betsy Lesnikoski, Jen Cary, & Tammy Langlois volunteered. (Fletcher will hold the Chair position for this coming year, beginning with the March 2008 meeting.)
4. Town Meeting Recap:  
Natasha Wheel will get Armando the minutes shortly.
5. Consent Agenda - Minutes:  
Betsy Lesnikoski made a motion to approve the February 20, 2008 Minutes with 2 changes. Diane Dayvie seconded. Motion passed, unanimously.
6. Reports:

Principal's Report: Jeff informed the Board of upcoming events such as a science fair. Jeff has decided on the summer school teachers to service students from grades 2-6. Jeff asked if the Board would agree to have our last day of school on Friday instead of a ½ day Monday due to the snowdays. The Board agreed as long as there aren't any more snowdays. Jeff mentioned some maintenance concerns with the vacuum, hot water heater, & gym floor. There was some discussion regarding the additional need for computer/internet access in the town of Fletcher.

Financial Report: There will be one at the meeting next month.

Superintendent's Report: Armando spoke of the flyer that didn't make it to parts of Fletcher. He said that Natasha is reviewing what happened so the process can be fixed for next year. They will be meeting for negotiations again soon.

Board Member Reports: Betsy Lesnikoski informed the Board that the Superintendent's evaluations need to be completed. Betsy will speak with Sharon & Chris, because she would like the capital improvement funds to be put into a special money market account.

7. Correspondence:

There was no correspondence.

8. New Business:

A. NECAP Presentation – Sheila Rivers:

This was presented earlier in the meeting.

B. Planning for Community Forum on Education:

There was discussion regarding dates & possible volunteers to facilitate the discussion groups. They decided on Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 or 7pm. He asked if the Board members could get together with Jeff & himself to review some topics to be discussed.

C. Adopt Capital Improvement Plan – Action:

The Board changed some of the priorities, so Armando will update the list & bring it back for the Board to vote on at the next meeting.

9. Other:

Laura asked the Board to put it in the budget for the sixth grade field trip busing.

10. Policies:

A. Substitute Teachers Policy – Action:

Dale Rock made a motion to approve the Substitute Teachers Policy. Betsy Lesnikoski seconded. Motion passed, unanimously.

B. Copyright Policy – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading:

This item was reviewed for the first time.

11. Entered Executive Session at 9:45pm.  
Exited Executive Session at 10:15pm

12. Upcoming Meetings:

Next Regular Meeting: April 16<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm @ Fletcher School Library

FWSU Quarterly Meeting: March 26<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm @ Fairfax Community Library

13. Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15pm.