

JACKSON SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING
March 20, 2006
MINUTES

The Annual Meeting of the Jackson School District was held at the Jackson Town Hall on Monday, March 20, 2006. The moderator, Tim Scott, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

A motion from the floor to dispense with the reading of the checklist, unless a ballot vote is called, was moved and seconded. There was no discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion passed.

A motion was introduced to dispense with the reading of the warrant. Moved, seconded. There was no discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Before beginning the deliberative portion of the meeting, the moderator asked board member Benson to say a few words about outgoing board member Sara Isberg who has served for 10 years.

Article 1:

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million, three hundred seventy-five thousand, five hundred and thirty-two dollars (\$1,375,532) for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for school district officials and agents, and for the payment of the statutory obligations of the District. This article does not include appropriations voted in other warrant articles. (Recommended by the School Board 3-0-0)

The article was moved and seconded. A vote was taken after brief discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Article 2:

To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate seventy-seven thousand dollars (\$77,000) to purchase one 66 passenger school bus; and authorize the withdrawal of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) from the Capital Reserve Fund (School Buses), previously established for this purpose. The balance of thirty-seven thousand dollars (\$37,000) is to come from general taxation. (Recommended by the School Board 3-0-0)

The article was moved and seconded. A vote was taken after brief discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Article 3:

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate up to fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to be added to the Capital Reserve Fund (School Buses) previously established for this purpose, with these funds to be offset, in part, by National Forest Reserve Funds. (Recommended by the School board 3-0-0)

The article was moved and seconded. A vote was taken after brief discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Article 4:

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to be added to the Expendable General Trust Fund (School Building Maintenance Fund) established for that purpose in 1996. (Recommended by the School Board 3-0-0)

The article was moved and seconded. A vote was taken after brief discussion, and the motion passed. There was one voter opposed.

Article 5:

To see if the School District will vote to increase the number of School Board members from three (3) to five (5) members pursuant to RSA 671:4 and their election to take place in the year next following the one in which the change is voted; the initial term of office for said positions shall be one and two years each. (Recommended by the School Board 2-1-0)

The article was moved and seconded.

Discussion in response to questions brought forth the following points:

- School Board member Peter Benson described the challenges that a board of three members faces in order to comply with stringent Right-to-Know laws. Because it takes only two members to constitute a quorum, board members are unable to discuss board issues outside of the meetings without their conversation being considered a board meeting and requiring that minutes of that conversation be introduced into the minutes at the next “official” board meeting. The issue then becomes the fact that their conversation was a meeting that was held without adequate public notice. If the school board had five members, then two members could discuss issues outside of meetings.
- School Board member Angus Badger suggested that more people would run for the position knowing that they would not likely be put in a position of being the sole deciding vote, as is currently the case with a three-person board.
- Several members of the public, as well as two board members (Badger & Benson), expressed a need for more community representation on the board.
- Those opposed to the article described how difficult it currently is to fill only three seats on the board, and they have concerns about willingness and availability within the community to fill the proposed two new seats. There is concern that the seats will be filled by write-ins who may lack the skills, perspective and/or dedication to do the work of the board well.
- School Board member Angus Badger reminded the voters that the School District has several very heavy-impact decisions in the near future, most notable being the proposed

school renovations/rebuilding, and he suggested that a larger board would be more effective at addressing all facets of those decisions while at the same time providing wider community representation. There will also be increased workload on the board members.

- There was a question about whether or not this issue should be considered as a town issue and be included in next year's annual Town Meeting, which has a wider representation from the community. School Superintendent Carl Nelson confirmed that the School District forum was the correct one for this issue. Other audience members stated that this issue requiring tonight's vote was widely posted and publicized, and that anyone with an interest in it was already present and prepared to vote. The rest of the voters who are not present chose not to be. Opponents of the article held the position that the vote should be deferred until next year.

Article 6:

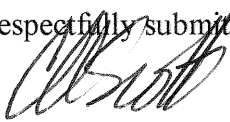
To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

The article was moved and seconded.

The School Board and several voters shared their appreciation of the many years that Sara Isberg dedicated to the School District in her work as Board Member.

There was no other business, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Carry Scott
School District Clerk