

**GREEN MOUNTAIN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

February 27, 2018

The Moderator, William Dakin, called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

The Moderator asked all to stand and give their allegiance to the flag. The Moderator then introduced the School Directors, Principal and Superintendent and asked permission for Tom Ferenc, George Thompson and Meg Powden to speak if necessary. No objections were made. The Moderator then gave an explanation of events to follow. The Moderator then read the Warning.

**ARTICLE 1:** Shall the voters of the Green Mountain Unified School District approve setting its annual honorarium for each of its School Directors at \$1,200.00? A motion was made by Deborah Aldrich. Seconded by Joe Fromberger. Voted affirmatively.

Wayne Wheelock questioned how many members there are. There are 11 members. It was noted that Cavendish has always paid its board members \$250.00. Tonia Fleming noted that the Unified School District members have been volunteering since its origination. Hank Mauti gave a history of the salary increases for Green Mountain board members which began at \$500.00 and was increased to \$1100.00 a few years ago.

**ARTICLE 2:** Shall the voters of the Green Mountain Unified School District approve setting its annual honorarium for the Treasurer at \$500.00? A motion was made by Diane MacNamara. Seconded by Deborah Aldrich. Voted affirmatively.

**ARTICLE 3:** Shall the voters of the Green Mountain Unified School District approve setting its annual honorarium for its Clerk at \$125.00? A motion was made by Cynthia Collins. Seconded by Leigh Dakin. Voted affirmatively.

**ARTICLE 4:** Shall the voters of the Green Mountain Unified School District authorize its Board of School Directors to borrow money, pending receipt of payments from member districts as provided in Title 16, Chapter 11, §711, by issuance of notes of money orders, payable not later than one year from date, for the purpose of paying its expenses? A motion was made by Leigh Dakin. Seconded by Sandra Walker. Voted affirmatively.

**ARTICLE 5:** To act on any other business proper to come before said meeting. There being no further business, a motion was made by Deborah Aldrich to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

**GREEN MOUNTAIN UNION HIGH SCHOOL  
PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING**

February 27, 2018

The Moderator, William Dakin, called the public information meeting to order at 7:22 p.m. The Moderator proceeded to read the Warning for the Public Information Hearing. He then opened the meeting and turned the floor over to Marilyn Mahusky, Chairman of the School Board for discussion and questions pertaining to the budget or any other ballot items, so long as they were germane.

Marilyn Mahusky provided a power point presentation relating to the history of the new unified board as well as the budget. The power point is attached to these minutes.

Susan Leader questioned the decrease in food services and if there is free lunch for all students. Marilyn Mahusky stated that the school needs 60% of eligible students for free or reduced lunch and our schools are

between 35-50%. Marilyn Mahusky stated that this decrease is based on anticipated efficiencies.

Diane McNamara questioned the 6 Districts that were combined. They are Chester, Andover, Baltimore, Cavendish, Chester Town and Andover Town.

Diane McNamara questioned page 32 of the GMUHS book, the decrease in the tuition line by over \$300,000. This line is attributed to the Baltimore school. There were current students grandfathered and were allowed to graduate from their school. This figure will continue to go down over time.

Jen Leek questioned how the Board arrived at their unified budget figure. Meg Powden stated that the consolidated budget from 2018 is just for comparison. They are the current budgets that the schools are operating under now. The additional services being provided, such as the language teacher and teaching dean, are under the new budget.

Susan Leader stated that she is wondering how many families are out there who qualify for free or reduced lunch that aren't applying. Marilyn Mahusky stated that this is an area that they are working on. A food service committee has been formed to review and analyze this department.

George Thompson stated that the concept of "free" is a misnomer. The food may be free to the student, but the food still needs to be prepared and the department still needs to run. So, there are expenses that will remain.

Deborah Aldrich asked if the Two Rivers Budget is included in the budget being voted on. Marilyn Mahusky stated that the supervisory union budget is voted by the SU Board. The "central assessment" is contained within the overall budget that is being proposed. Rick Alexander asked for an explanation of the "assessment". The salaries are for the special educators and the instructional needs. This also includes technology services which are being handled differently this coming year, one of these positions is being moved into the Ludlow budget.

Diane McNamara stated that she has been reviewing these budgets for years. She stated that it is a very confusing budget to follow because of moving numbers within the budget. She expressed her frustration and concern over the confusion.

Susan Leader questioned if the Supervisory Union has given any consideration to moving its office from Ludlow. Meg Powden stated that they are reviewing this.

Jen Leek questioned the "previously shared items" and where these numbers are shown now. Marilyn Mahusky stated that they are now located within the unified school district budget.

Wayne Wheelock questioned the total budget cost when the school board members salaries are included. Marilyn Mahusky stated that it is included in the presented budget figure.

Rick Alexander questioned the 19.6% increase in special education spending. The salaries are for the special educators and benefits. Discussion ensued and it was identified that the school does not have a choice about the special education requirements. This is mandated by Federal and State law. Diane McNamara stated that the school is also paying a special education assessment as well. Meg Powden explained the relationship between the salaries and the special education assessment and how the billing and revenue works.

Jen Leek stated that there is \$837,448 in special education assessment that does not include salaries. She questioned where this money goes. Meg Powden clarified that some students are sent out of district and this pays for the extra services that are needed.

Susan Leader questioned if there is a way to merge foreign language of all schools so that there is not an entirely new position created. Tom Ferenc stated that the money budgeted is for the current language teacher at GMUHS to go to the Elementary Schools on a very part time basis. George Thompson explained that this is introductory only. The elementary students will not receive a block of language each day. It is an introduction to the language and culture.

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

A true record.

Julie S. Hance  
District Clerk