

Benson Town School District Meeting March 3, 2009

Board Members Present: Michael Ellis, Liza Pellerin and Tobi Silver

Attendees: Sue Janssen, Lillian Phillips Smith, Norma Phillips, Melvin Corey, Susan Corey, Marc Twitchell, Melissa Twitchell, Pam Lamoureux, Jacki Ambrozaitis, Bob Ambrozaitis, Jan Burleson, Les Burleson, Rita Charlton, Guy Charlton, Rachel Collett, John Hill, Lynn Bowen, Kathleen Hill, Ted Kellogg, Jaime Smuiler, Charles Kellogg, Terri Pritchard, Fran Bowen, Richard Bowen, Ami Hults, Eric Hults, Jaime Hoffman, Scott Muener, Rick Wilson, Shelbie Wing, Bobbie Jo Bean, William Tyler, Debra Robbins, Alanna Flynn, Eileen Breaun, Billie Jo Goad, Jody Goodhue, Darryl Kuehne, Jim Pritchard, Marc Lamoureux, Susan Brown, Gerry Perkins, Jeanne Kenney, Wayne Kenney, Lois Trenn, Joe Trenn, Mike Andronaco, Jacob Brown, Tim Boyd, Morris Silver, Pam Horton, Sally Beckwith, Marcel Cyr, Veronica Cyr, Nancy Kotsull, Wesley Bowen, Judith D'Amico, Krystyna Jensen, Peter Jensen

Meeting was called to order by John Hill at 1:20pm

Minutes:

Lynn Bowen made a motion on Article 1: to act on the report of the Town School District Officers. Sue Janssen seconded the motion and it was so voted.

Liza Pellerin made a motion on Article 2: to see if the Town School District will authorize the Board of Directors to borrow money to meet the current expense of the District until funds can be realized from the State of Vermont. Sue Janssen seconded the motion and it was so voted.

Judy D'Amico made a motion on Article 3: to establish salaries as budgeted and payment of other school related expenses for the Directors and other elected Officers of the Town School District. Deb Robbins seconded the motion and it was so voted.

Marcel Cyr moved on Article 4: Do the residents of the Town of Benson feel that the Holiday Season should be celebrated in the school by allowing a Holiday Concert and decorations throughout the school, which will be equally divided to include all traditions and beliefs? (By Petition- Advisory only) Judy D'Amico seconded the motion.

Guy Charlton asked Sue Janssen to read a section of Vermont Law telling what the State's position was on this policy. The State says that voters cannot dictate policy to the School Board.

Lois Trenn moved to table the Article indefinitely. Sue Janssen seconded the motion.

After long discussion on the floor, Sue asked for a point of order. Lois stated that she wanted to table the item and let it drop. Sue stated that she wanted to wait for the committee's decision.

Sue asked for a point of order.

Gerry Perkins moved to call the question to table the article. John Dodd seconded the motion.

Les Burluson asked for a point of order explaining what would happen if the article was tabled.

John Dodd moved to divide the House. Marcel Cyr seconded the motion and it was so voted. The motion to table the article was defeated No-37 to Yes-14.

Discussion continued about the Article with various people for and against. Joe Trenn asked the School Board what the current policy was at the school. Tobi Silver explained that there is no written policy. She stated that currently the school had been doing a season of giving for the holidays. She stated that the Principal had removed the decorations made in art class due to a misunderstanding.

Jacki Ambrozaitis asked where the committee members were. Only a few were present. She wanted to know what had been done so far. Tobi stated that there had only been one meeting so the committee was just starting up.

Dick Bowen asked why there had been no special meeting to deal with the issue when it came up so as to act immediately. Tobi stated that the Board was not aware until after the fact.

Sue Corey stated that there was a Teacher's meeting prior to the incident. The Teachers felt that Mr. Beal had done as the School Board said as they told him it was to be a season of giving.

Eric Hults and Norma Phillips both stated that this article was more of a poll for the committee to act upon than a dictation of what the School Board needed to do.

Ted Kellogg stated that if people feel so strongly about the issue then they should attend the meetings. Then he asked why there was an Officer present.

John Dodd asked for a point of order. Guy explained that it was the policy of the Select Board to have an Officer present at the Meeting.

Les Burluson questioned the Federal Law concerning this matter. He felt that the Federal Law should be looked into then opinions formed. Tobi stated that this was a very gray area.

After more discussion Morris Silver handed out a copy of his interpretation of the Article. See on file. He then explained the hand out.

Sue Janssen moved to call the question. Lynn Bowen seconded the motion and it was so voted.

Article 4 was restated for the voters. Lynn Bowen asked for a show of hands. Article 4 passed Yes-26 to No-15.

The following pertains to Article 5: To transact any other business that may lawfully come before the meeting.

Jan Ladd asked how ARSU got a 1.3% increase in their budget when everyone else had to cut.

Lois Trenn stated that this came from ACT 60. Tobi stated that this also came from the ARSU assessment.

The following articles were voted on by Australian ballot.

Article 6: To elect a Moderator for a term of one year; elect two School Directors for terms of one year each; and elect one School Director for a three year term to the Benson Town School Board.

School Results

Moderator:

School Director, 1 year:

School Director, 1 year:

School Director, 3 years:

Article 7: Shall the voters of the Benson Town School District appropriate the sum of \$35,000.00 for one additional new bus added to the contracted service agreement for school transportation?

School Results

Bus Vote: Yes – No –

Article 8: Shall the voters of the Benson Town School District appropriate the sum of \$1,760,445.00 necessary for the support of its school year beginning July 1, 2009?

School Results

Benson School Budget: Yes – No –

Rachel Collett made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:30pm. Lynn Bowen seconded the motion and it was so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel S. Collett
Select Board Secretary