

FIRST BRANCH UNIFIED DISTRICT

MEETING MINUTES

April 15, 2024 – Tunbridge Campus

The duly warned meeting was brought to order at 7:03 PM by Moderator, Israel Provoncha beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance. He read the first paragraph of the warning and with no objection of the voters waived reading the Articles. He explained Robert's rules of Order which he would be using to moderate the meeting.

Article 1. Kathy Galluzzo nominated Israel Provoncha for Moderator (1 yr). There being no other nominations. Kathy Galluzzo called the vote. All were in favor, so moved.

Article 2. Susan Kay nominated Karen Lathrop for School District Clerk (1 yr). There being no other nominations and with no objection of the voters, the Moderator instructed the Clerk to cast one ballot for Karen Lathrop, School District Clerk.

Article 3. Kathy Galluzzo nominated Becky Hoyt for School District Treasurer 1(yr). There being no other nominations and with no objection of the voters, the Moderator instructed the Clerk to cast one ballot for Becky Hoyt for School District Treasurer.

Article 4. Victoria Paquin moved to hear the reports of the District, including the reports of the Board of Directors, the Treasurer, the Auditor, and the Superintendent and to take action with reference thereto. Nancy Howe seconded the motion.

Discussion: The Moderator asked if there was voter objection to Principal Cash and Superintendent Kinnarny speaking to the reports and found none. Kathy Galluzzo welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Board of Directors. Principal Cash, Business Manager, Tara Weatherell, Superintendent Kinnarny and Alan Ackerman participated in showing their reports through a power point presentation. (See attachment). There being no more discussion, the Moderator called the question. All were in favor, so moved.

Article 5. Victoria Paquin moved to fix the annual salaries in the amount of \$1,500.00 per member for the School Board for the term of July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025. Nancy Howe seconded the motion. There being no discussion, the Moderator called the question. All were in favor, so moved.

Article 6. Joe Paquin moved to fix the annual salary in the amount of \$1,500.00 for the School District Treasurer for the term of July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025. Nancy Howe seconded the motion. There being no discussion, the Moderator called the question. All were in favor, so moved.

Article 7. Victoria Paquin moved to authorize the School Board Directors to borrow money by issuance of notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the fiscal year July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. Nancy Howe seconded the motion. There being no discussion, the Moderator called the question. All were in favor, so moved.

Article 8. Kathy Galluzzo nominated Susan Kay for School Board Director (3 yr) for Chelsea. There being no other nominations, the Moderator called the question. All were in favor, so moved.

Tiffany Tucker nominated Kathy Galluzzo for School Board Director (3 yr) for Tunbridge. There being no other nominations, the Moderator called the question. All were in favor, so moved.

Tiffany Tucker nominated Stacy Dion for School Director (1 yr of a 3 yr term) for Tunbridge. There being no other nominations, the Moderator called the question. All were in favor, so moved.

Article 9. Sue Kay moved to approve the School Board of Directors to expend \$8,386,852 which is the amount the School Board of Directors has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year. Victoria Paquin seconded the motion.

Discussion: Ted Hoyt requested a paper ballot. The Moderator stated there would need to be six more voters in favor and asked voters to stand. A majority of voters were in favor of a paper ballot.

There was a lively debate on many topics, from running two schools was too expensive, loss of local control of our school, investment in

our student's futures by supporting their education, to voting the budget down to send the State a message. There was discussion on the cost of running a building, pre-school costs, school choice, and what next steps were if the budget were voted down. Participants in the discussion were, Linda Kuban, Frank Keene, Victoria Paquin, John Doyle, Joe Paquin, Jack Johnson, Rebecca Savidge, Christian Szeg, Kana Johnson, Alan Ackerman, Robert Childs, Warren Lathrop, Stacy Dion and Kathy Galluzzo. Nancy Howe moved to call the question. Tess Mix seconded the motion. Alan Ackerman asked for a Suspension of the rules. There was no second. The Moderator asked if there were any objections to Mr. Ackerman speaking and seeing none, Mr. Ackerman gave his opinion on what voting the budget down would mean. He was not in favor of voting the budget down. It would mean cutting positions and athletic programs. He did not feel the State would get any message from our Town voting down the budget.

The Moderator stated the ballot box was open for voting.

The Moderator closed the ballot box, and the BCA counted the ballots.

There were 151 voters checked off the checklist. There were 147 ballots counted with 84 yes and 62 no with 1spoiled ballot.

The motion for Article 9 passed.

Article 10. Nancy Howe moved to authorize the School Board Directors to transfer part of the audited fund balance existing on June 30, 2023, estimated to be \$521,592 in an amount not to exceed \$167,000 to the First Branch Unified School District Capital Reserve Fund. Motion seconded by Tiffany Tucker. There being no discussion, the Moderator called the question. All were in favor, so moved.

Article 11. Eve Ermer moved to authorize the School Board Directors to transfer part of the audited fund balance existing on June 30, 2023, estimated to be \$521,592 in and amount not to exceed \$267,000 to the First Branch Unified School District Tuition Reserve Fund. Nancy Howe seconded the motion.

Discussion: There was discussion on designated schools, having all salary amounts listed in the handout to ensure voters knew what they

were paying for. A FBUD employee reported her salary, where she worked, and what she paid for and her insurance costs and said that it hurt her to hear that sentiment. There was discussion on how a surplus came to be, and why it was not allocated towards lowering voter taxes. Board member Alan Ackerman, and Business Manager Tara Weatherell explained how the surplus came about and the need for placing money in the Tuition Reserve Fund. Without the Tuition Reserve Fund, the District would run at a deficit. Participants in the discussion were Linda Kuban, Ted Hoyt, Brian Sanborn, Tiffany Tucker, Alan Ackerman and Tara Weatherell.

Joe Paquin called the question. Nancy Howe seconded the motion. The Moderator called the question. All were in favor, so moved.

Article 12. Victoria Paquin moved to adjourn. Tiffany Tucker seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:09 PM.