

**2010 RANDOLPH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING  
MARCH 2, 2010  
CHANDLER MUSIC HALL**

Moderator Peter Nowlan called the Annual School District Meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. He opened the meeting by asking the audience to stand and recite the “Pledge of Allegiance”, followed by a moment of silence for good government.

Mr. Nowlan introduced himself and Town Clerk Joyce Mazzucco to the audience. He made note of the presence of Shirley Stewart, Randolph Elementary School Principal, School Director Laura Soares, and School Director Anne Kaplan at the meeting. Mr. Nowlan told the audience that any questions regarding the elementary school should be directed to Ms. Stewart, Ms. Soares and Ms. Kaplan.

Moderator Nowlan began by telling the audience that the Warning for the Annual School District Meeting could be found on page 119 of the Town Report.

**ARTICLE I. To hear and act upon the reports of the several Town School District Officers and Committees.**

Mr. Nowlan asked if the principal or any of the school directors wanted to provide supplemental information to the School District reports. He recognized Laura Soares and gave her the floor.

Ms. Soares introduced herself as Chair of the School Board and made note of Superintendent Brent Kay’s presence at the meeting. She began by first recognizing and acknowledging Anne Black Cone’s and John Kidder’s service on the board. Both have left the board. She also recognized Linda Minsinger’s 12 years of service as Union High School Director, whose term expires this year. There was a round of applause acknowledging Ms. Minsinger’s service. Ms. Soares also stated that she was pleased that this year’s Town Report is dedicated to Stephen Metcalf, who served as supervising principal of the Randolph School District for over 20 years, and passed away last year.

Ms. Soares gave an update on what the School Board has been working on. A lot of surveys were done to determine the most critical things the students need, and on pages 128-129 of the Town Report is the mission statement that was developed as a result of those surveys. This mission statement identifies four critical areas of learning: critical thinking, communication, foundational knowledge and the ability to adapt. The question is how do you know if you succeeded? Test scores tell you something, but not enough. Ms. Soares told the audience that for the last 3 years a Science Fair has been held at the school. She had the opportunity to see what the students were doing. She saw the students were excited about their projects, that they understood the scientific method and processes, and understood the terminology used. The School Board would like to extend the opportunity for the public to come and observe what is happening in the school as the opportunities come up. Ms. Soares told the audience that there was a sign-up sheet in the lobby and invited the audience to sign up to be notified of opportunities to observe what is happening at the school. She also encouraged the public to provide feed back about the school to the board.

Warren Preston made a motion to accept the reports of the School District Officers and Committees. The motion was seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried by majority vote.

**ARTICLE II. To vote by Australian Ballot on the following Town School District Officers:**

- SCHOOL DIRECTOR for a term of two years**
- SCHOOL DIRECTOR for a term of three years**
- SCHOOL DIRECTOR to complete the remaining year of a three-year term**
- SCHOOL DIRECTOR for Union High School District No. 2 for a term of three years**

Moderator Nowlan told the audience that voting for the school district officers by Australian Ballot was being held next door in the Gallery, and that the polls were open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**ARTICLE III. To vote by Australian Ballot on the following:**

- Shall the voters of the Randolph Town School District appropriate \$4,443,872.00 necessary for the support of its elementary school for the year beginning July 1, 2010?**

Moderator Nowlan asked if there were any questions about Article III. There were no questions.

**ARTICLE IV. To vote by Australian Ballot on the following:**

- Shall the voters of the Randolph Town School District approve the transfer of \$50,000.00 in surplus funds from the 2008-2009 school year to the Bus Replacement Fund for the year beginning July 1, 2010?**

Moderator Nowlan asked if there were any questions about Article IV. There were no questions.

**ARTICLE V. To vote by Australian Ballot on the following:**

- Shall the voters of the Randolph Town School District approve the transfer of \$58,310.00 in surplus funds from the 2008-2009 school year to the Building Maintenance Fund?**

Moderator Nowlan asked if there were any questions about Article V. There were no questions.

**ARTICLE VI. To vote on the floor the following:**

- Shall the voters authorize the School Board to borrow money up to but not exceeding the anticipated revenue for the ensuing year?**

John Westbrook made a motion to authorize the School Board to borrow money up to but not exceeding the anticipated revenue for the ensuing year. The motion was seconded. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried by majority vote.

**ARTICLE VII. To do any other business proper to come before this meeting.**

Nan Gwin acknowledged and thanked Mr. Nowlan for his years of service as Moderator.

John Westbrook asked about the declining student enrollment and the impact this has on state funds and on taxes. Moderator Nowlan asked if the audience would allow Superintendent Brent Kay to speak at the meeting. The audience approved allowing Mr. Kay to speak.

Mr. Kay told the audience that student enrollment in Randolph has declined by 11% in the last 8 years. There has been a 25% reduction in staff, and spending is now less than what was spent in 2002-2003. He said they are always looking for ways to do things more efficiently and more cost effectively. The tax rate implications are complex and Mr. Kay invited anyone interested in learning more about the effect on taxes to see him.

Chris Recchia asked if the decline in the student enrollment was due to student choice, and asked what is being done to attract students to Randolph. Mr. Kay said that generally sports activities or other specialties attract students to a school. Vermont has strict residency laws that must be complied with. There have been little or no requests for outside students to attend

Randolph schools. The loss of local jobs over the years also has impacted the number of students enrolled.

Gay Gaston asked if there was progress to change how education is funded. Mr. Kay said he wished there was. He has spoken to the state education department and suggested changes such as a 1.5% flat tax for education, but there is no government support for the idea. It is presently a regressive tax system. Vermont taxes are at approximately 29% and growing.

Becky Seymour said the decline in enrollment is not unique to Randolph. Mr. Kay said at the state level student enrollment is declining at a rate of 1% per year.

Kathy Leonard asked how home schooling children affects enrollment in the schools. Mr. Kay said there are currently 43 students being home schooled across the county.

Barbara Angell asked why the schools have had surpluses the last few years. Mr. Kay told the audience that the budget process is a very strange system. Budgets are created on budgets. Changes in processes and purchasing methods have saved money. The schools could spend all the money, but would rather not do that. Having surpluses helps on a number of levels. For instance, the elementary school is now off warranty. Surplus funds can be used for the maintenance of the building.

Larae Francis asked about the high school infrastructure. Mr. Kay said it will cost about \$12 million to fix. Until the state lifts the moratorium on school construction, it is unlikely a project will go forward.

Warren Preston made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Larry Townsend seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried by majority vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

Attest: Joyce L. Mazzucco, Town Clerk  
Joyce L. Mazzucco

Approved by: Peter M. Nowlan, Moderator  
Peter M. Nowlan

Laura Soares, School Board Chair  
Laura Soares