

**ABSTRACT OF THE 2016 FAIRFAX TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING**  
**FAIRFAX TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT**

*Annual Meeting 2016*

The inhabitants of the Town of Fairfax who are legal voters in the Annual Town School District Meeting met in the Elementary auditorium of Bellows Free Academy, Fairfax, Vermont on Saturday, February 27, 2016 for the purpose of voting upon or transaction such business not involving voting by Australian ballot.

Moderator Roberta K (Robby) Rodimer called the school portion of the Town Meeting to order at 12:45 p.m. Robby read Robert's Rules as modified by VT State Law. She stated that without objection that the School would change the length of time each person may speak from 10 minutes to 3 minutes. There was no objection.

Articles 1, 2, and 3 were voted upon by the use of the official Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at the Elementary Auditorium at Bellows Free Academy, Fairfax, Vermont. Polls opened at 7:00 a.m. and closed at 7:00 p.m.

**Article 1**

The following officials were elected by the legal voters of the Town:

School Moderator	One year term	Roberta K Rodimer	1272 votes
School Director	Three-year term	Kathi Ellsworth Muehl	1262 votes
School Director	Two-year term	Jasen Boyd	1236 votes
BFA Trustee	Five-year term	Alfred V Daniels	1119 votes
BFA Trustee	Five-year term	James Meunier	1160 votes

Robby read Article 1 that was voted by Australian ballot. There was no discussion from the floor.

**Article 2**

Shall the voters of said school district approve the school board to expend \$13,259,900, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$12,733.82 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 4.07% higher than spending for the current year.

A slide show was presented. Elaine Carpenter, Chair spoke about the Fairfax School Budget FY17 Proposal consisting of the BFA Fairfax's Mission with the commitment to ensuring all students become informed, literate, critical thinkers who demonstrate responsible social and civic behaviors. The reallocation of budget resources with increases and decreases consisting of staff, high school technical education tuition, lengthen school day, early education tuition, debt service, building and grounds, co-curricular, and special education to mention a few. Enrollment snapshot showed our student population change over time. Elaine showed the staffing-student ratio of BFA student: Adults ratio (K-12), and the student: instructional staff ratio. She continued speaking about the Budget Proposal FY2017 with the changes in the budget, the projected spending in the FY17 per equalized pupil and how the spending is calculated of the total budgeted expenditures minus any local revenue, and the teacher leaders who provide instructional support for classroom teachers will be shifted to the profession development budget function. The estimated tax impact, assuming statewide property yield set at \$9,870. Scott Mitchell presented Act 46, the consolidation of schools to realize the cost savings. The Act requires schools to have an optimal district of no fewer than 900 students. Fairfax has entered into a study with Georgia and Fletcher schools. There are tax incentives to consolidating. Rachelle LeVau presented that the school allocated \$15k to hire an architect to help study the current building and develop a recommendation to the school board of a renovation project for the next 20 years. A plan was brought to the board that would cost approximately \$5 million and received approval to move the project forward to bond vote. School consolidation Act 46 needs to be considered as part of the building plan. There are plans to move forward until we see a clear direction from the Act 46 committee.

The floor was opened to discussion. There was a question and answer session. A question was asked about changing the wording on Article 2 but due to the State of Vermont guidelines, the article is required to have the word that was used.

In Favor: 936

Opposed: 592

### **Article 3**

Shall the voters of said school district authorize the school directors to borrow money for school expenses in anticipation of revenue for the ensuing year?

The floor was opened to discussion. There was none.

In Favor: 892

Opposed: 632

**Article 4**

To approve reports of School Directors from the previous year.

A motion was made by Ben Albee and seconded by Barbara Murphy. The floor was opened to discussion. There was none. A motion was passed by a show of cards.

**Article 5**

To conduct any other legal business to come before said meeting.

A motion was made by Gail Shulman and seconded by Slade Farnham. The floor was opened to discussion. A motion was passed by a show of cards.

**Article 6**

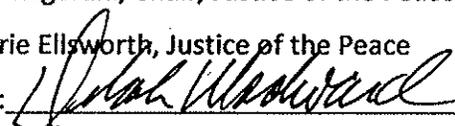
To adjourn.

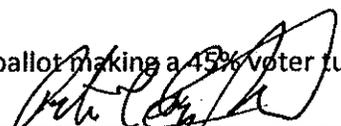
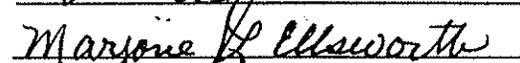
A motion was made by Barbara Murphy and seconded by Mike Cain. The floor was opened to discussion. A motion was passed by a show of cards at 1:50 p.m.

There are 3401 registered voters with 1563 voting by Australian ballot making a 45% voter turnout.

Peter Fitzgerald, Chair, Justice of the Peace

Marjorie Ellsworth, Justice of the Peace

Attest:  Deborah Woodward, Fairfax School District Clerk

A true record

March 4, 2016