

**Colebrook School District Annual Meeting Notes**  
**March 7, 2019**

The annual meeting of the Colebrook School District was held on March 7, 2019 at the Colebrook Elementary School. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by School Moderator Jonathan Frizzell. Present were School Board Members Brian LaPerle, Chairman, Deborah Greene, David Gales, Michael Pearson, David Thatcher, Craig Hamelin, and John Falconer. Also present were Superintendent Bruce Beasley, Business Administrator Cheryl Covill, and approximately 160 citizens. Flag salute was observed. Moderator Frizzell opened the meeting by reading the Special Warrant. He then read the regular warrant:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Colebrook Elementary School Cafeteria in said District on Thursday, the 7<sup>th</sup> day of March 2019 at 6:00 o'clock in the evening to act upon the following subject (it was noted that the day of the meeting was published incorrectly in the report as Wednesday and an insert with the correct day was placed in the report):

**ARTICLE 1**

David Thatcher moved to accept the salaries of the School Board and fix the compensation of any other officers or agents of the District. The motion was seconded by Michael Pearson.

There was no discussion and the motion passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 2**

Deborah Greene moved to accept the reports of the Agents, Auditors, Committees or Officers chosen as printed in the school report and pass any vote relating thereto. The motion was seconded by David Thatcher.

There was no discussion and the motion passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 3**

Brian LaPerle moved to support the continued study of a regional education plan known as Model 11 and the formation of any necessary committees to continue the study and development of a regional education plan; and further authorize the School Board to take the actions necessary to bring a plan forward for

discussion and possible approval at a future School District meeting. Craig Hamlin seconded the motion.

Brian LaPerle then moved to amend Article 3 by striking the words “known as Model 11” from the amendment. The motion was seconded by Craig Hamlin.

Brian spoke to the amendment stating that Pittsburg School voted not to continue with the study and so Model 11 would need to be adjusted. The amendment would give the School Board flexibility to study other models as well.

There was no further discussion and the amendment passed by voice vote.

Brian spoke to the amended article noting declining enrollments are predicted to continue and that passage of the article would allow further study with a goal of a final proposal that would require a public hearing and binding vote.

There were several questions regarding the handicapped accessibility and condition of the Canaan School building, status of towns who opt out, options being considered, and the effect on the tax rate.

Carrie Rancourt made a motion to further amend Article 3 to state any final proposal will have at least two separate options to be brought to the District for a vote. The motion was seconded by Jane Smith.

Brian noted that a single option would eliminate the problem of different towns voting separately on multiple options.

There was a question as to why Canaan was chosen for the location of the high school and it was noted that Canaan is centrally located, has a current CTE program and would provide a separate location for the high school.

The amendment was defeated by voice vote.

There was a written request for a ballot vote on Article 3 as amended and the Article passed with 106 yes votes and 50 no votes

Phil Dauphinais made a motion to restrict reconsideration of Article 3. It was seconded by Ron Patterson.

The motion passed by voice vote.

#### ARTICLE 4

John Falconer moved to see if the Colebrook School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-SEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$277,000.00) for the renovation of the Colebrook elementary School and for the acquisition of equipment necessary to move the Colebrook Academy (High School) into the Elementary School and authorize the School Board to take whatever action is necessary to consolidate the high school into the elementary school. David Gates seconded the motion.

John Falconer spoke to the motion stating the principles shared a plan after visiting the facilities and reviewing staffing and curriculum needs. An architect was consulted to develop bid specs and one bid was received.

He stated the benefits of the consolidation included having chorus, gym and art available on site, 90-minute electives, mentoring, reduction in administration, school wide assemblies, improved utilization of staff, consolidation of food service, having a single school safety plan, and eliminating cross town bussing. The challenges include staff not having assigned classrooms, the change of having all students in one building, separation of children, increased traffic on Dumont Street, having a vacant building, and daily operations and schedules.

The plan is to convert ground floor space into a classroom, expanding the weight room, renovate above the stage for staff offices, purchase library equipment and furniture, and utilize the kitchen for Consumer Science and tech building for trade classes.

The proposed cost of renovations would be \$265,111 with equipment purchases of \$11,886. The savings of closing the Academy building would be approximately \$425,000. The first year savings would be \$148,003 with an increase on the tax rate of approximately \$1.25 per thousand if the Article fails and approximately \$.43 per thousand if the Article passes.

David Hodge moved to amend Article 4 that no activities shall occur in the Academy building unless brought back before the annual meeting, absent a recognized emergency. Jay Weir seconded the Amendment.

The motion failed by voice vote.

There was discussion about routine maintenance of the building and what discussions have occurred regarding the use of the building for SAU or Town Offices. Selectman Gorman stated the Town has not been discussing using the building.

There was a request for a ballot vote and the article passed with 122 yes votes and 25 no votes.

#### ARTICLE 5

Brian LaPerle moved to see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of SIX MILLION, NINE HUNDRED FIFTY-SEVEN THOUSAND, NINE HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS (\$6,957,950.00) for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for the School District officials and agents and for the payment of the statutory obligations of the District. This article not to include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. John Falconer seconded the motion.

Brian spoke to the motion outlining increases and decreases in revenues and expenditures, including the phase out of State Adequacy Stabilization Aid, declining enrollment, and a smaller balance on hand than expected. Other changes were due to staff changes, salary changes, increase in health insurance premiums, and changing numbers of students receiving special services. The budget represents a total increase of \$528,273 with total revenues of \$2,492,329.

Phillip Dauphinais moved to restrict reconsideration of Article 4. Kevin McKinnon seconded the motion.

The motion passed by voice vote.

Brian LaPerle moved to amend Article 5 based on the passage of Article 4 to raise and appropriate the sum of SIX MILLION, FIVE HUNDRED, THIRTY-TWO THOUSAND, NINE HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS (\$6,532,950.00) for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for the School District officials and agents,

and for the payment of the statutory obligations of the District. John Falconer seconded the motion.

The amendment was passed by voice vote.

Carrie Rancourt moved to amend the amended article to add the current music position back into the budget, two days per week at a cost of \$26,000. The motion was seconded by Tammy Frechette.

The Moderator read the article as amended:

To raise and appropriate the sum of SIX MILLION, FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY-EIGHT THOUSAND, NINE HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS (\$6,558,950.00), for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for the School District officials and agents, and for the payment of the statutory obligations of the District.

The motion passed by a standing vote with 53 yes votes and 46 no votes.

Article 5 as amended was passed by voice vote.

#### ARTICLE 6

To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Brian LaPerle recognized retiring teachers:

Ginette White 21 years of teaching in Colebrook

Alicia Boire 27 years of teaching in Colebrook

Nancy Marchand 11 years of teaching in Colebrook

Dan Gorham 7 years as Building Principal for Colebrook Elementary

and departing teachers:

Ray Hebert

Erin McGinnis Lavigne

Sharon Pearson

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Hyde, School Clerk