

NEK Choice School District Annual Meeting
ENSU Office Canaan, VT with Remote Option Available
February 21, 2022

Members Present: Miles Etter, Sharon Ellingwood-White, Betsy Fontaine, Carla Curtis, Lyn Schmucker

Administration & Public Present: Karen Conroy, Jennifer Lawcewicz, Bridget Cross, Mary & Chris von Alt, Bob Champagne-Willis and Gina Vigneault

ARTICLE I: Call to Order

Miles Etter called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

ARTICLE II: Election of Officers

To serve from their election and qualification for one year until election and qualification of their successors:

Moderator- none for now

Clerk – Betsy Fontaine nominated Gina Vigneault for clerk. Sharon Ellingwood-White seconded. There were not enough members present so this will be put on the May 19, 2022 agenda to make this official.

Treasurer – There were not enough members present so this will be put on the May 19, 2022 agenda. Gina Vigneault will continue her role as Treasurer until the next meeting.

ARTICLE III: General Public Comments

Miles Etter thanked everyone for coming and he appreciates that people attend. Mary von Alt stated that she appreciates the dedication and interest and work that everyone has done on everyone's behalf. Miles Etter stated that most of the Board have stayed since the conception of NEK Choice.

ARTICLE IV: Superintendent Presentation

Karen Conroy went over Current Residency Status, Student Population by Town, Current Enrollment by School, FY23 Budget Summary, NEK Choice Estimated Tax Rates FY23, Estimated Equalized Tax Rates FY23, Impact on Town Taxes, and ACT 46 Financial Modeling.

After discussing the above topics and answering any questions that people had. Sharon Ellingwood-White asked about ESSER Federal funding to off-set unanticipated tuition costs due to families moving into the district due to COVID. Winhall School District was able to use ESSER funds to pay for tuition. Karen Conroy will follow up on her question. Karen Conroy also said we should have updated tax figures shortly based on the updated equalized pupil numbers from the AOE.

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ARTICLE V: Appointments and/or Resignations

Miles Etter told everyone all three existing members are on the ballot.

ARTICLE VI: Other Business

Miles Etter asked if there were any problems with the 2022-2023 Meeting Schedule? Miles Etter asked about changing the Annual Meeting to the Saturday or Sunday before Town Meeting and it was decided to revisit this at the May meeting. Sharon Ellingwood-White asked the other Board members how they deal with answering questions about the school at the Town meeting. Most board members stated that they answer a few questions and try to encourage people to attend the meetings.

Sharon Ellingwood-White stated that we are not being charged fairly in the low-income area because the State only looks at the SNAP program to judge the poverty level. Some students are from New Hampshire so they don't count in Vermont school figures.

Questions were raised about the independent school with increased tuition to verify if they are charging all Vermont students the same rate. Karen Conroy will follow up with the New Hampshire school tuition.

Karen Conroy asked if the Board wanted the May meeting to be just remote, in person or both. Miles Etter would like in person so Karen Conroy will check with Maidstone to see if it is available.

ARTICLE VII: Adjournment

Miles Etter made a motion to adjourn at 7:04 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Gina M. Vigneault, Clerk

Karen Conroy, Superintendent

Miles Etter, Acting Moderator