

**MINUTES
ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET
MARCH 03, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 12:50 p.m. at the Barnet Elementary School gymnasium by Moderator Dennis McLam.

The Moderator announced that prior to the commencement of warned articles, the School Board would present a slideshow presentation regarding the school budget and various other matters relating to School Board business. The lights were dimmed, and the presentation commenced as summarized below.

- Shellie Samuels presented a slide entitled “Budget at a Glance,” which compared the fiscal year 2016 budget and tax rates to the previous fiscal year.
- Louis Bushey presented slides providing detailed description and budget comparisons for several expenditure functions, and reasons for major expenditure increases and decreases.
 - James McFaul spoke, asking why there is a decrease in the expenditures for library and media.
 - Louis Bushey spoke: This decrease results from a cost shift from this category to technology expenditures in the Caledonia Central Supervisory Union (CCSU) budget.
 - James McFaul spoke, asking how many School Board members are on the CCSU board, and how the CCSU fits with the rest of the school administration.
 - Louis Bushey spoke: There are three members of the Barnet School Board on the CCSU board. CCSU provides professional leadership, guidance, and administrative functions to the School Board.
 - School Principal Shawn Gonyaw, who is not a Barnet resident, spoke, with the voters’ consent, regarding the leadership function of CCSU.
- Mary Skovsted presented slides providing details for high school tuition rates, school population including totals for each class, school population over the past nine years, and classroom configuration and class size policy.
- Robert Farlice-Rubio presented slides regarding school staffing for various functions over the past nine years, and trends in school staffing over the past nine years.
- Louis Bushey presented slides regarding CCSU: their composition, services provided, and goals.
 - John Cook spoke: Legal fees outside the Town’s control contributed to CCSU’s previous year deficit. The percentage of the Town School budget represented by the CCSU budget increases each year. Having only three Town voters involved in passing a budget the size of CCSU’s is not fair to Barnet voters; the School Board should not shift costs to CCSU, as it results in loss of local control.
 - William Graves spoke, stating his preference that a discussion of the issues material to the budget be postponed until there is a motion on the floor.
 - The Moderator agreed with Mr. Graves suggestion, and asked that the presentation be concluded without any further discussion from the floor.
- David Warden presented slides regarding the reasons why the tax rate decreased with a budget increase, the plan for a new playground.
- Shellie Samuels presented a slide regarding food service information.
- David Warden presented slides regarding roof deterioration issues, and the conclusion of the terms of Shellie Samuels and Mary Skovsted.

ARTICLE 1 To elect a Moderator.

- Moderator stated that one-year term of Dennis McLam is expiring.
- Dennis McLam nominated by Rosemary Kinerson.
- David Warden moved that nominations cease. Seconded by Mona Marceau.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Dennis McLam.

ARTICLE 2 To elect a School Director for a term of 3 years.

- Moderator stated that three-year term of Shellie Samuels is expiring. Moderator indicated that Ms. Samuels does not seek re-election.
- Susan Roberts nominated by Rebecca Boardman.
- Mona Marceau moved that nominations cease. Seconded by Rosemary Kinerson.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Susan Roberts.

To elect a School Director for a term of 2 years.

- Moderator stated that two-year term of Mary Skovsted is expiring. Moderator indicated that Ms. Skovsted does not seek re-election.
- James Schenck nominated by Beverly Larocque.
- Hearing no further nominations, Moderator announced that nominations would cease.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for James Schenck.

ARTICLE 3 Shall the School District vote to adopt a budget of \$5,010,724.00 for the school year ending June 30, 2016 including an appropriation of a sum of money for the support of schools with provisions for current expenses, capital improvements, a deficit, if any, and for other lawful purposes?

- Rosemary Kinerson moved the article as warned. Seconded by Mona Marceau.
- Deborah Nutter moved that this motion be decided by paper ballot.
 - Moderator asked if there were five other voters who also wished to vote on this motion by paper ballot. Five other voters signified this by show of hands; the Moderator announced that this motion would be decided by paper ballot.
- Marvin Bailey spoke: Is the School Board planning to use the Esden Fund to fund the new playground? The principal of this fund is restricted.
 - Shellie Samuels spoke: The School Board plans to use the Esden Fund to fund part of the matching funds for the playground project. Only gains on the investments will be used, not the principal.
- Mona Marceau spoke, asking for an explanation of the increases in the CCSU budget.
 - CCSU Business Manager Patricia Amsden, who is not a Barnet voter, spoke with consent of the voters. She reviewed the budget as appears on page 100 of the Town Report line-by-line and explained differences from the previous budget year. Much of the increase results from cost-shifts from School District expenditures to CCSU expenditures in the categories of Bookkeeper salary and technology.
- Gregory Jackmauh spoke: What was the cost at the school district level in the previous year for the technology functions shifted to CCSU?
 - Louis Bushey spoke: The CCSU-wide combined increase is approximately \$10,000. This change results in full-time support staff that was not available in the previous year.
- The vote for this article was conducted by paper ballot.
- While the votes were being tabulated, several voters spoke:
 - Shirley Warden spoke:
 - The Pre-Town Meeting Public Hearing was very poorly attended this year. Perhaps this should no longer be held.
 - The CCSU Superintendent's letter in the Town Report was addressed "To Whom it May Concern." This in an offensive way to address the taxpayers who support his salary.
 - Roseann Leute spoke: A sliding party will be held at the farm of Peter and Elizabeth Everts on Saturday, March 14, 2015 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- The Moderator announced the results of the vote: 112 total votes; 57 votes needed to pass. Total "Yes" votes: 71; total "No" votes: 41. The motion was passed.

ARTICLE 4 Shall the School District authorize the Barnet School Directors to borrow money to pay its lawful debts and expenses for the fiscal year which ends June 30, 2016 in an amount not to exceed 90% of the anticipated collection of taxes and receipts of other funds to be used for those purposes?

- Rosemary Kinerson moved the article as warned. Seconded by Edward Ryan.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 5 To transact any other non-binding business that may legally come before the meeting.

- Louis Bushey spoke about the School Board's discussions with the Peacham School District regarding the possibility of consolidation.
- Edward Ryan spoke in appreciation for the work of the School Board.
- Moderator adjourned the meeting at 1:40 p.m.

Dennis McLam, Moderator

Louis Bushey, School Director

Attest: Benjamin Heisholt, Town Clerk