

## **2024 Annual Meeting Minutes**

Blue Mountain Union School District #21

Wells River, Vermont April 11, 2024

The legal voters of Blue Mountain Union School District #21 met in the Garvin Library at Blue Mountain, April 11, 2024. Angeline Bogie called the meeting to order at 6pm, with approximately 22 people in attendance (including school board members and administrator).

### **Article 1: Election officer and authorization to fix their compensation**

- Brian Emerson of Wells River, Vermont was nominated for Moderator and was then elected
- Lauren Nelson of Ryegate, Vermont was nominated for Clerk and was then elected
- Dena Baker of Groton, Vermont was nominated for Treasurer and was then elected

### **Article 2: Action on the report of the Blue Mountain**

- Richard Roderick (Wells River) would like to see the email addresses of the school board members posted. He would also like to see the student count broken down by town. He would also like to see the list of all employees and their salaries posted.
- Bill Nelson (Ryegate) asked if the superintendent was at the meeting, he was not.
- Jeff Haslett (Ryegate) found page 10 of the report helpful in explaining the overall budget. He suggested that more detail was spent on individual lines of the budget. He also questioned why the grant spending was not itemized. Kristen Murray explained that the grant funds are required to be separate from the regular budget. Angeline agreed that next year the grant money both in and out will be shown on page 12.
- Brian Woehleb (Groton) asked what Central Office Assessment covers. Angeline responded that it is all the support staff at OESU. Richard Roderick suggested it be renamed "OESU office" moving forward.
- Dan LaCoss (Ryegate) noted that for this year, each town in the district is showing a budget increase, some more than the proposed BMU increase.
- Richard Roderick (Wells River) asked how many students do we send to Riverbend. There are 38 students in Riverbend and 2 in the Electrical program at St Johnsbury Academy.
- Jeff Haslett (Ryegate) noted that page 14 of the report is incredibly confusing. Several other people agreed.
- Bill Nelson (Ryegate) suggested that the top Revenue line in the budget be divided into what the state gives and what each town gives.
- Sue Burroughs (Ryegate) asked where does BMU compare to other school districts. It was noted that this info would be provided in the slideshow later in the meeting.
- The Annual Report was accepted as published.

### **Article 3: Authorization to borrow money**

- Motion was made by Angeline to authorize the school board to borrow money. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Richard Roderick. Motion passed.

### **Article 4: The transact any other business**

- Kristen Murray created a comprehensive slide show that explained the Equalized Pupil Rate, and the CLA and how both impact the new budget figures.
- ESSER funds (covid funds) are expiring and tax funds will be used to continue these key positions at the school
- Richard Roderick (Wells River) asked how many ESSER positions the school has now. There are currently 6.5 positions, with two being eliminated for the upcoming year.

- Bill Nelson (Ryegate) asked if the employees pay a portion of their healthcare costs. Yes, is the answer, depending on their position. This is state negotiated.
- Richard Roderick (Wells River) stated that he had requested more information be provided in the annual report at last year's meeting. He would like to see more detailed information, similar to what was available in the old version of the report.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dawn Evans, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff Haslett. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:21om.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Nelson, District Clerk