SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: at *6:00 p.m., then recessed.*

[TOWN MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:00 p.m., then adjourned at 7:43 p.m.]

RE-OPENED SCHOOL MEETING *at 7:44 p.m.*

Lincoln School District
Special Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 4, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.,
at Burnham Hall, 52 East River Road

The legal voters of the Town of Lincoln, Vermont, are hereby warned and notified to meet at Burnham Hall on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., to discuss and transact business which may impact our Annual School District Meeting in 2026. ***[This meeting is being called in conjunction with a special meeting called by the Lincoln Selectboard at the same time and place.]***

Article 1: Shall the Lincoln School District hold its annual meeting on the Saturday preceding the first Tuesday in March?

Motion: *Alison Parker,* **Second:** *Matt Atkins* **Discussion:** *none*

Article 1 passed as warned by voice vote.

Article 2: Shall the Lincoln School District change its procedure from paper balloting to the use of an electronic voting system, to be used when the moderator's declaration of votes taken from the floor is questioned at a meeting?

Motion: *Sally Taylor,* **Second:** *Karen Lueders,* **Discussion points and questions:**

1. *"Proprietary protocol" doesn't mean this would be secure. How would we trust the system is well-maintained and counting votes properly, without a paper back-up?*
2. *The electronic devices will fall apart and be a waste of money.*
3. *The decision to get the clickers has been made. We can question a vote in the moment.*
4. *If for any reason the clickers are not working, we will have a backup plan, which is all the voting methods we use now (voice, division of the house, paper ballot).*
5. *We will put the devices through testing before using them at an official meeting.*
6. *Q: What about the allocation of funds for the clickers?*
7. *A: The funds won't be in this coming town report, because they were not budgeted for, but the expenditure will be shown in the budget going forward.*
8. *Q: Will Australian ballot voting be on the agenda for the next annual school meeting?*
9. *A: The school board has not taken up this issue yet, because they have been so busy with all the state changes to school districts, but they will take it up at a future board meeting.*
10. *Q: What does it mean "when a moderator's declaration of votes is questioned"?*

11. *A: Normally now, we vote by voice, and if the moderator is uncertain of the outcome, the next step is to call for a division of the house. If that count is questioned or if someone calls for a paper ballot, then we could use the clickers.*

Mark Mulqueen made a motion to amend Article 2, by adding at the end: ", or when the voters have voted to use the electronic voting system for an article?" Christie Sumner seconded.

Discussion/Questions:

1. *Q: How does it happen, that the voters vote to use the electronic system?*
2. *A: The moderator says we are about to vote on an article and someone asks to use clickers, then the voters vote on whether to use clickers for that article.*

Karen Swanson made a motion to amend the amendment, Ken Stockman seconded, to change the wording as follows: Shall the Lincoln School District change its procedure from paper balloting to the use of an electronic voting system? (And get rid of the conditions all together, and simplify it.)

Karen's motion was seconded. [A second was audible in the voice recording, but the clerk did not write down that person's name]

Discussion on the secondary amendment:

1. *This amendment makes it more ambiguous. It sounds like we would use clickers for ALL votes?*
2. *The School District's attorney suggested the warned language and it seems more appropriate to not strike any of it. Mark's amendment is not in opposition to that language. Adding clarity for other uses of the clickers seems fine.*
3. *Different mechanisms might trigger the use of clickers; this further clarity is great.*

Kudd Rood made a motion to call the question. Vote on calling the question passed by voice vote.

Vote on the secondary amendment failed by voice vote.

Back to Mark Mulqueen's amendment, which reads: Shall the Lincoln School District change its procedure from paper balloting to the use of an electronic voting system, to be used when the moderator's declaration of votes taken from the floor is questioned at a meeting, or when the voters have voted to use the electronic voting system for an article?" Discussion and questions:

1. *Q: Does the School Board feel comfortable with this?*
2. *A: It adds clarity that clickers can be used at other times when requested.*
3. *This doesn't seem like the right wording, we don't always "vote" to use paper ballots.*
4. *VT Statute requires that seven people agree to using a paper ballot, which is language that over-rides Robert's Rules.*
5. *Why not make it "whenever clickers are called for"?*
6. *The voters can vote to change Robert's Rules.*

Kudd Rood made a motion to change the word "voted" to "chosen" in Mark's amendment. Alison Rood seconded. The proposed amendment now reads: Shall the Lincoln School District change its procedure from paper balloting to the use of an electronic voting system, to be used when the moderator's declaration of votes taken from the floor is questioned at a meeting, or when the voters have chosen to use the electronic voting system for an article. Discussion:

1. *This should be a directive, and not contain a question mark at the end.*
2. *The question mark is because all articles are questions posed to the voters, and when the voters have decided on an answer, the article becomes a directive.*
3. *Q: How to define "chosen"? What's the procedure for choosing?*
4. *A: One person calls for paper ballot and 6 others agree.*
5. *It should be "voted" not "chosen"*

Vote on Kudd's motion to amend failed by voice vote.

Back to Mark Mulqueen's amendment. Jim Dumont made a motion to amend, by adding: "or if electronic voting is requested in the same manner in which a paper ballot is requested." Seconded by Mark Mulqueen. Discussion:

1. *This amendment is not needed.*
2. *Amendment is supported.*

Vote on Jim Dumont's amendment passed by voice vote.

Back to Mark Mulqueen's amendment as amended. Article 2 now reads: Shall the Lincoln School District change its procedure from paper balloting to the use of an electronic voting system, to be used when the moderator's declaration of votes taken from the floor is questioned at a meeting, or if electronic voting is requested in the same manner in which a paper ballot is requested?

The moderator suggested that people submit their amendments in writing, so we can accurately record them. ***Discussion:***

1. *It seems like the amendment decreases the use of clickers.*
2. *It's a little redundant, but doesn't harm anything, just whenever we would normally use a paper ballot, we will use clickers.*

Vote on Mark's amendment as amended, passed by voice vote.

Back to the main motion as amended, which now reads: Shall the Lincoln School District change its procedure from paper balloting to the use of an electronic voting system, to be used when the moderator's declaration of votes taken from the floor is questioned at a meeting, or if electronic voting is requested in the same manner in which a paper ballot is requested?

Article 2, as amended, passed by voice vote.

Article 3: To transact any other legal and proper business when met.

Discussion: *Christie Sumner summoned a round of applause for the Lincoln School Board, for all the work they have been doing with the VT Legislature on the redistricting efforts.*

Bill Finger thanked everyone for coming out. The Town Meeting Advisory Committee took 6 months and 27 meetings to bring these ideas forward.

Co'Relous Bryant made a motion to adjourn. Lori Atkins seconded. Passed by voice vote.

TIME ADJOURNED: *8:36 p.m.*

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sally Ober, School District Clerk _____

Minutes approved by Paul Forlenza, School Moderator _____

Minutes approved by Jeanne Albert, Lincoln School Board Chair _____