

Meeting called to order at 8:30 p.m. Recording folder A01/07

## Minutes

**Annual Meeting of the Lincoln School District  
March 4, 2024, 6:00 P.M.  
Burnham Hall, 52 East River Rd., Lincoln, VT**

The legal voters of the Lincoln School District, Lincoln, Vermont are hereby notified and warned to meet at Burnham Hall on Monday, March 4, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. to discuss and transact the following business. *Article 11 requires a vote by Australian ballot* and will take place on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm at Burnham Hall, 52 East River Road.

**Article 1:** To elect a clerk who shall assume the office immediately and serve a one-year term or until the election and qualification of a successor.

**Motion:** Erin Warnock, **Second:** Sarah McClain, **Discussion:** Jeanne Albert nominated Sally Ober. Lea Calderon-Guthe seconded. ***Passed by voice vote.***

**Article 2:** To elect a Treasurer who shall assume office immediately and serve a one-year term or until the election and qualification of a successor.

**Motion:** Bay Jackson, **Second:** Judi Danforth, **Discussion:** No nominations were made. *Question: what happens to Van Talmage, our current Town and School Treasurer? Answer: by default, he will be the School Treasurer. No vote taken.*

**Article 3:** Shall the legal voters of the Lincoln School District accept the report of the School District Board of Directors?

**Motion:** Ilana Brett, **Second:** Alison Parker, **Discussion:** none. ***Passed by voice vote.***

**Article 4:** Shall the voters of the Lincoln School District approve a stipend of \$50 for the Moderator?

**Motion:** Alison Parker, **Second:** Ken Stockman, **Discussion:** none. ***Passed by voice vote.***

**Article 5:** Shall the voters of the Lincoln School District approve a stipend of \$500 for the School District Clerk?

**Motion:** Patty Schoenhuber, **Second:** Christie Sumner, **Discussion:** *Question, what does the School District Clerk do? Sally Ober explained that the clerk takes minutes at the annual or special district meetings, warns the meetings, conducts elections, and archives the official minutes and records in the vault. Passed by voice vote.*

**Article 6:** Shall the voters of the Lincoln School District approve a stipend of \$500 for the School District Treasurer?

**Motion:** Bern Terry, **Second:** Kathleen Kolb, **Discussion:** none. ***Passed by voice vote.***

**Article 7:** Shall the voters of the Lincoln School District approve a stipend of \$750 for the Board Chair?

**Motion:** Judi Danforth, **Second:** Peg Sutlive, **Discussion:** None. ***Passed by voice vote.***

**Article 8:** Shall the voters of the Lincoln School District approve a stipend of \$500 for each board member?

**Motion:** Sarah McClain, **Second:** Jan Buker, **Discussion:** none. **Passed by voice vote.**

**Article 9:** Shall the voters of the Lincoln School District authorize the District Board of Directors to borrow money by the issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenues for the fiscal year 2024-2025, per 16 V.S.A. §562(9)?

**Motion:** Christie Sumner, **Second:** Roger Rood, **Discussion:** Question: *is this in anticipation of taxes? Ans: Yes, we spend some money before we collect it. Passed by voice vote.*

**Article 10:** Shall the legal voters of the Lincoln School District authorize the School Board of Directors to expend \$4,927,939.57, which is the amount the School Board of Directors has determined to be necessary for the 2024-2025 school year?

**Motion:** Roger Rood, **Second:** Fred Danforth, **Discussion:** *The School Board presented a slide show about board priorities including elementary education, secondary education, academic opportunities and systems, district business office, community, and voters. Budget highlights include ensuring continuity of programming and services, a new grade 1-2 teacher, facilities and tuition contingency planning, and food program. There was also a presentation on the complexities of estimating education tax rates. A recent legislative action has changed weighting of students, and Lincoln is undergoing a town-wide reappraisal this year. Both will impact our tax rates.*

*Superintendent, Amy Cole, acknowledged the work of the Board and LCS staff, and that of Principal, Tory Riley. [Big round of applause.]*

**Questions:**

- *Is the Superintendent part- or full-time and how much does she get paid? Ans: Full-time and about \$125,000.*
- *Have we been putting money aside for building maintenance? Ans: Yes, and the Board plans to write a long-term facility plan and have a capital fund.*
- *What is \$42,000 Administration Contingency? Ans: legal services*
- *What is the average class size and student/teacher ratio? Ans: Page 40 of the Town Report shows a chart of the number of students in each grade level, Pre-K includes both 3- and 4-year-olds. Average class size and student/teacher ratios were not presented in the chart and were unavailable in the moment.*
- *Do the Pre-K numbers include kids from other towns? Ans: No, just Lincoln students were reported. Kerry Malloy, Lincoln Cooperative Preschool Director, indicated that Lincoln students get first choice to attend the Lincoln Cooperative Preschool, and any remaining openings are filled by students from other towns. All students pay the same tuition, regardless of where they live.*
- *What are the tuition rates for secondary students? Ans: Secondary tuition rates are set by districts and supervisory unions, and later reviewed by the State.*
- *For medical benefits, what insurance company does the school district use? Ans: VHEIP [Vermont Higher Education Investment Plan]*
- *Is the library position new? Ans: Tory Riley is retiring as Principal and she is going to work in the LCS Library. The way the library budget is laid out changed this year, it now includes books, materials, and staffing combined.*

- Why now zero dollars for professional development? Ans: It was moved to another line in the budget.
- Why are we not voting on whether to vote our budget by Australian ballot? Ans: It was overlooked from last year, and it must be properly warned. Additional comments included pros and cons of voting the school district budget by Australian ballot. Requests were made to please put this on next year's warning.

Will Sipsey made a ***motion to call the question. Passed by voice vote.*** Roger Rood asked for a paper ballot, not enough people seconded. ***Article 10 passed by voice vote.***

**Article 11:** To elect Lincoln School District Officers and Directors as follows, for the indicated term, *by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 5, 2024:*

- 1 – School Meeting Moderator (1 year)
- 1 – School Director (3 years)
- 1 – School Director (2 years)
- 1 – School Director (*1 year remaining of a 3-year term*)

***No action needed for Article 11. None taken.***

**Article 12:** To transact any other legal business coming before said meeting.

**Motion:** Matt Atkins, **Second:** Bill Perta, **Discussion:** Sally Ober informed everyone that we won't be voting on the Patricia A. Hannaford Regional Technical School District budget this year.

Matt Atkins made a ***motion to suspend the rules*** to allow for a vote on whether to vote on the Lincoln School District annual budget by Australian ballot next year. ***Second:*** Bill Finger ***Discussion:*** This was not warned and it doesn't feel like it should be allowed. If we do this, next year's budget vote might need to be decided in court, which could be costly. Matt ***withdrew his motion*** to suspend the rules.

***Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.***

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lincoln School District Clerk, Sally Ober \_\_\_\_\_

Minutes approved by LSD Meeting Moderator, Paul Forlenza \_\_\_\_\_

Minutes approved by LSD Board Chair, Jeanne Albert \_\_\_\_\_