

**TOWN OF SHARON SCHOOL DISTRICT
REMOTE PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING
NOTICE and AGENDA FOR APRIL 29, 2021 AND MAY 6, 2021**

This meeting was publicly warned in conformance with H.681 authorizing temporary amendments to Vermont's open meeting law to protect the health and safety of the public, board members, and town employees during the state of emergency declared due to COVID-19.

Links were provided for public participation by videoconference software or by conventional phone.

Present virtually:

School Board: Chantelle Brackett, Samantha Potter, Don Shaw

Staff & Other: Keenan Haley (SES Principal), Jamie Kinnarney (WRVSU Superintendent), Tara Weatherell (WRVSU Business Manager), Raymond Ballou (WRVSU Technology Manager), Nicole Antal (Sharon Recording Secretary)

Pubic (Speaking): Mary Gavin, Galen Mudgett, Kevin Gish

Public (non-speaking): Angie Carpenter, Melissa Zoerheid, Rachel Piper, Sarah Canterbury, Peter Lowes, Krista Mock, Kasey Cronan, Melissa Paton, Joe Ronan, Will Davis, Diana Putney, MArgot Holmes, Emma Murray, Brittany Kelton, Kevin Gish, Katie Chesnut, Luke Maclane, Paula Duprat, Deb Jones, Rick Kent, 4 people on the phone non-identified.

1. Call to Order

Shaw called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Additions or deletions to the agenda

None

3. Public comment

None

4. To hear the reports of the School District Board of Directors

Shaw asked Kinnarney, Weatherell, and Haley to present a slideshow on behalf of the Sharon School District Board of Directors.

Kinnarney, Weatherell, and Haley shared a slideshow presentation (see documents), and encouraged the public to ask questions on the presentation.

4.1 Public comment

Galen Mudgett asked some clarification on the 12 cents increase due to CLA and the 2 cents increase due to the budget. Kinnarney explained that the 14 cents increase is due in small part due to the budget (the 2 cents increase), and CLA contributes 12 cents to the increase. Kinnarney explained that this year, they worked on a 0-base budget: they built a

budget from scratch, and didn't assume any expenses. The majority of the increase of the budget is due to secondary tuition. Districts have increased their budget, which they hadn't done in a long time, which added a significant amount to the secondary budget. Mudgett explained that, as a lister, the CLA has increased for the whole state. Everyone is getting affected by it, across the state, due to the volatility of the current real estate market: houses are bought at significantly higher prices, cash.

Mary Gavin shared Mudgett's concerns, and added that months ago, when Mudgett came to the selectboard to share his concerns, she reached out to our state representatives, and to encourage them to look into it, as Sharon would not be the only one affected.

Gavin asked Haley about the phone system that incurred an increase in cost. Haley explained that the installation of a new phone system was required by the state to be 911 compliant (phones from classroom could now dial 911 directly from the classroom). The initial installation was covered by a grant, but the ongoing cost to the phone bill has significantly increased. They are working on lessening that bill.

Gavin asked about the Math Interventionist that will be hired (1.0 FTE Math Interventionist) at the SU level. She asked if the funding will be on-going or if it is a one-time funding. Kinnarney explained that they will be using ESSER II federal funding as part of the recovery plan, which is a two year funding. The goal is that once the intervention is established, and we start to decrease the need for specialized instruction via Special Education, it will free up more resources for the local district (because Sharon will not be paying assessments to the SU for Special Ed services), Sharon will then be able to carry that interventionist moving forward locally after 2 years. Kinnarney wants to provide early intervention in place, when the kids are just a little bit behind, and in the long run, it should cost less, as the school district is not trying to get kids at level when they are two or three years behind. Gavin asked about monitoring and tailoring of student's progress. Kinnarney explained that in the past year, the school districts have been working on getting testing up (monitoring the kids 3 times a year), and to focus on being more data-informed, to monitor kids during the whole year to be able to adjust and tailor the needs of the students.

Kevin Gish asked who will fill the position of math interventionist. Kinnarney said it will be a certified teacher who has expertise in math or is willing to be trained in math intervention.

Gavin thanked the SU and the Board for the transparency on the deficit. In the past, she shared that this information hadn't been relayed to the voters prior to the meeting or at the meeting, so she appreciate the SU's work on making this more transparent. Gavin shared her concern about the amount of deficit Sharon has, and asked what the plan is to decrease and eliminate this deficit over the next three years as mentioned by Weatherell in her report. Weatherell shared that the goal has been to look at ways to save money to bring that number down to the zero. The Board, Haley, and the SU are looking at financial reports every month and include projected revenue and expenditures.

4.2 Review and discuss Article 2: To fix the salaries in the amount of \$1,000 per member for the School District Officers per annum.

Public comment

None

4.3 Review and discuss Article 3: To fix the salary in the amount of \$1,000 for the School District Treasurer per annum.

Public comment

None

4.4 Review and discuss Article 4: Shall the voters authorize the School Board to borrow money by issuance of notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the fiscal year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022?

Public comment

None

4.5 Review and discuss Article 5 : Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$5,038,941, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$18,073.89 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 5.18% higher than spending for the current year.

Public comment

None

5. Entertain motion to adjourn hearing.

Brackett made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 pm. Potter seconded. Motion carried.