

Town of Mason, New Hampshire  
Mason School District  
Minutes of the 2013 Deliberative Session  
February 2, 2013

The First Session, The Deliberative Session, of the Mason School District was held in the Mason Elementary School Multi – Purpose Room at 13 Darling Hill Road Mason, New Hampshire on February 2, 2013.

At 0900h Moderator Schwenk asked School Board Members to take their place at the head table. All voters and non - voters were asked to wear appropriate credentials and to be seated after signing in with the Supervisors of the Checklist located at the back table. Non - voters were asked to be seated to the Moderator's left in front row.

There were 26 voters and 5 non - voters present.

Moderator Schwenk recognized the efforts of the many individuals to prepare for this meeting including School District Personnel, Supervisors of the Checklist, Physical Plant Staff, Police, Fire and Emergency Personnel. Moderator Schwenk also recognized the efforts of Rick Griffith, School Facilities Manager for making a 24 X 36 exterior legal notice bulletin board.

Moderator Schwenk reviewed safety procedures calling attention to the Emergency Exits as one entered the Multi-Purpose Room, the Exit Door to the Moderator left, and up the stairs to the kitchen and out the Exit Doors.

There were no requests for Interpretative Services.

**Roll Call and Introductions:** Chairperson Robert Hemmer – Present

Vice Chairperson Stephanie Syre-Hager– Present

School Board Member John Diefenbach – Present

School Board Member Robert Doyle – Present

School Board Member Jeannine Phalon – Present

School Board Secretary and District Clerk Becky Partridge – Present

Superintendent of Schools – James McCormick – Present

Elementary School Principal and Student Services Director Kathryn Wyman – Present

MRI Consultant Mike O'Neill- Present

Business Services – Brenda Wiley – Present

School District Counsel Allison Minutelli – Present

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**Procedure:**

When directing a question or comment please use the microphone in front of the head table. All questions will be directed to the Moderator Once recognized please state your name. All amendments / substantive motions are to be made in writing and signed by the maker and seconder. Paper and pen can be found at the head table. For a ballot vote, five voters may make a written request prior to a voice vote per RSA 40:4a, all five must be present at the meeting and print and sign their name.

**Call to Order:**

Catherine Schwenk called the First Session, The Deliberative Session of the School District Meeting to order at 0900h. **Moderator Schwenk:** By the powers vested in me as Moderator of the Mason School District I now call to order the First Session, The Deliberative Session of the Mason School District.

**Opening Exercises:**

Moderator Schwenk was honored to present at school meetings Mason students who excel in Academics, The Arts, or Athletics by asking them to take part in the opening exercises.

This year The Pledge of Allegiance To The Flag of The United States of America was led by Rachel Doucet. Rachel is a National Honor Society member and excels in Math and Science. Outside of school she is a track athlete and plans on attending college in the fall with a major in Civil Engineering. Rachel attended Mason Pre-School, Elementary School, Boyton Middle School, and currently Milford High School. Please rise.

The first business in order was the reading of the warrant. There was no objection to waiving the reading of the warrant.

*On Motion of Chairperson Hemmer, duly seconded, it was **VOTED** that the following individuals be permitted to speak, as needed, on School District affairs: Superintendent of Schools James McCormick, Principal and Student Services Director Kathryn Wyman, MRI Consultant Mike O'Neill, and School District Counsel Allison Minutelli.*

Moderator Schwenk informed the public that Article 1 is the election of School District Officers which will be held at the Mason Town Hall on March 12, 2013 from 11 am to 7 pm.

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*On Motion of Chairperson Hemmer, duly seconded, it was **VOTED** to place on the official ballot Article 2, to accept the reports of agents, auditors, committees, or officers chosen as printed in the Annual Mason School District Report.*

Moderator Schwenk noted that there was an omission in Article 3 which DOES NOT effect the budget figures.

*On Motion of Chairperson Hemmer, duly seconded, it was **VOTED** to insert in the budget the word Thousand. The written amount should read Two Million Nine Hundred Seventy Six Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Six Dollars.*

*On Motion of Chairperson Hemmer, duly seconded, it was **VOTED** to insert in the default budget the word Thousand. The written amount should read Two Million Nine Hundred Seventy Eight Thousand Six Hundred Fifteen Dollars.*

*On Motion of Chairperson Hemmer, duly seconded, it was **VOTED** to place on the official ballot Article 3.*

Shall The Mason School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant, or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purpose set forth therein, totaling \$2,976,896.00? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$2,978,615.00 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Mason School District, or by law, or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (School Board recommends this Warrant Article)

**Discussion:** Chairperson Hemmer noted that this budget has been reviewed at five different meetings and one budget hearing. Although a difficult year with increases in various state and health fees and contributions the district was able to decrease the budget while maintaining excellent staff and programs. Chairperson Hemmer thanked all those involved for their hard work.

*On Motion of Nancy Richards, duly seconded, it was **VOTED** to move the previous question which stopped debate on the budget article.*

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*On Motion of School Board Member Jeannine Phalon, duly seconded, it was **VOTED** to place on the official ballot Article 4.*

To see if the Mason School District will vote to authorize, indefinitely until rescinded, to retain year-end unassigned general funds in a amount not to exceed, in any fiscal year 2.5% of the current fiscal year's net assessment in accordance with RSA 198:4-B II. Such fund balance retained will only be used to reduce taxes or for emergencies that are approved by the Department of Education pursuant to RSA 32:11. (School Board recommends this Warrant Article)

**Discussion:** Chairperson Hemmer explained that this was proposed by the state for Towns and School Districts to adopt.

**Liz Fletcher** asked what emergencies can this fund be used for?

The Moderator recognized MRI Consultant Mike O'Neill. **Mr. O'Neill** stated that emergencies that are approved by the state could be for instance a roof collapse, boiler break down, or an out of district placement of a special needs student. He continued by stating that this will help alleviate the reliance on trust funds.

*On Motion of School Board Member John Diefenbach, duly seconded, it was **VOTED** to place on the official ballot Article 5.*

Shall the Mason School District raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to be added to the previously established Educating Educationally Disabled Children Capital Reserve Fund (Established in 2010), with such amount to be funded from the June 30, 2013 unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 1. No amount to be raised from taxation. (School Board recommends this Warrant Article)

*On Motion of School Board Member Robert Doyle, duly seconded, it was **VOTED** to place on the official ballot Article 6.*

Shall we rescind the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB2), as adopted by the Mason School District on 9-March 2010, so that the official ballot will no longer be used for voting on all questions, but only for the election of officers and certain other questions for which the official ballot is required by state law? (3/5 majority vote required, this is a Petition Warrant Article)

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**Connie LaCasse** questioned whether this article, if passed will return the process back to Town Meeting style. Chairperson Hemmer stated yes.

**Allen Wolf** stated that he is concerned that if this article passed it would take away the right to vote in private and believes that the town meeting style is intimidating to some.

*On Motion of George Schwenk, duly seconded, the meeting adjourned Sine Dai at 0937h.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Becky Partridge

School District Clerk