

**Warning  
FOR  
2017 Town of Dover Annual Town Meeting  
And  
Town School District Meeting**

The legal voters of the Town of Dover, Vermont, and the Town School District of Dover, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned that, pursuant to Title 17, V.S.A., Section 2655, they are to meet at the Dover Town Hall on Dover Common in said Dover, Vermont on Tuesday, March 7, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. to act upon the following articles to wit:

*ARTICLES TO BE VOTED BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT (Include Articles 1&2 only)*

**The polls will open for Australian ballot voting at 10:00 a.m. and remain open until 7:00 p.m.**

- ARTICLE 1:** Shall the Town of Dover School District, which the State Board of Education has found necessary to include in a proposed new unified school district, join with the school district of Wardsboro, which the State Board of Education has found necessary to include in the proposed new unified school district, and the school district of Marlboro which the State Board of Education has found to be advisable to include in the new proposed unified school district for the purpose of forming the River Valleys Unified School District as provided in Title 16, Vermont Statutes annotated, upon the following conditions and agreements.
- The Unified District shall be formed and the terms hereby voted shall become effective on the date this article is approved by a majority vote of the electorate of at least two "necessary" districts of the Forming Districts and said votes become final per 16 V.S.A. 706g, provided that votes approving this article shall not become effective unless and until the voters of other Windham Central Supervisory Union (WCSU) town school districts (Brookline, Jamaica, Newfane, Townshend, and Windham) vote to approve formation of a unified district and said vote becomes final thereby forming a Supervisory Union with two Unified Districts (a "Side by Side").
- No elementary school shall be closed without a unanimous vote of the River Valleys Unified School District Board, and an affirmative vote of the town in which it is located.
- (a) Grades. The River Valleys Unified School District will offer pre-kindergarten through grade six (6) education to all students in the unified school district and will pay tuition for students in grades seven (7) through twelve (12) pursuant to Vermont statutes.
- If the Marlboro Town School District votes to approve the Unified School District and the District is established, then the Marlboro Elementary School will cease operating school for grades seven (7) and eight (8) on June 30, 2019.
- (b) Board of School Directors. A town school district's representation on the unified district board will be closely proportional to the fraction that its population bears to the aggregate population of the Unified District. Initial Board composition will be based upon the year 2010 Federal Census and shall be recalculated promptly following the release of each subsequent decennial census. The Board is authorized to reapportion the Board, including increasing or decreasing the number of school directors. However, at no time will a town school district have less than one board member on the Board. Subject to the previous sentence, each proportionality calculation shall be rounded to the nearest whole number.
- (c) Assumption of debts and ownership of school property. The unified union school district shall assume the indebtedness of forming districts; assume all operating deficits and/or surpluses or reserve funds of the forming districts; acquire, maintain, and pay for the school properties of member districts; all as specifically identified and provided for in the Final Report.

- (d) The complete provisions of Articles 7, 8 and 15 of the Final Report regarding special funds, indebtedness, real and personal property and school continuity of school buildings are set forth in the Final Report and are incorporated in their entirety by reference herein.
- (e) Final Report: The provisions of the final report approved by the State Board of Education on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2016, which is on file in the town clerk's office, shall govern the River Valleys Unified School District.

**ARTICLE 2:** To choose all Dover town officers and Dover school district officers and Unified School District officers for the following positions required by law to be elected at the annual meeting:

|                                  |                                 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Auditor                          | 3-year term                     |
| First Constable                  | 1-year term                     |
| Grand Juror                      | 1-year term                     |
| Library Trustee                  | 5-year term                     |
| Library Trustee                  | 5-year term (3 years remaining) |
| Moderator - School               | 1-year term                     |
| Moderator - Town                 | 1-year term                     |
| School Director                  | 3-year term                     |
| School Director                  | 2-year term                     |
| Select Board Member              | 3-year term                     |
| Select Board Member              | 2-year term                     |
| Town Agent                       | 1-year term                     |
| Trustee of Public Funds          | 1-year term                     |
| Unified School District Director | 4-year term                     |
| Unified School District Director | 3-year term                     |
| Unified School District Director | 2-year term                     |

**SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**ARTICLE 3:** Shall the Town School District expend \$25,000 to install a playground for the pre-school program?

**ARTICLE 4:** Shall the Town School District set the annual tuition rate to approved independent schools as \$16,700 for the 2017/2018 school year?

- ARTICLE 5:** Shall the Town School District compensate the Officers as follows- Chairperson- \$2,500 per year; Members- \$2,000 per year, and mileage reimbursement at the Federal reimbursement rate for the month in which the mileage occurred?
- ARTICLE 6:** Shall the Town School District authorize any surplus from the 2016/2017 budget to be placed in the Capital Reserve Fund?
- ARTICLE 7:** Shall the Town School District authorize funding the Capital Vehicle Fund in the amount of \$10,550, with such funds coming from the Capital Reserve Fund?
- ARTICLE 8:** Shall the Town School District authorize funding of the Capital Building fund in the amount of \$12,000, with such funds coming from the Capital Reserve Fund?
- ARTICLE 9:** Shall the voters of the Dover Town School District approve the school board to expend \$3,105,067 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 \$16,461.84 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 1.08 % more than spending for the current year.
- ARTICLE 10:** Shall the Town School District authorize the School Directors to withdraw money from the Capital Reserve Fund to offset the Homestead tax rate, but not more than \$330,000
- ARTICLE 11:** To discuss any other items that the voters would like to discuss, and to conduct any other business that may legally come before the voters.

#### **TOWN MEETING**

- ARTICLE 12:** Shall the voters accept the annual report of the auditors and other town officers?
- ARTICLE 13:** Shall the voters compensate town officers as follows: Town Clerk \$52,532.28 annual salary, Town Treasurer \$5,000 annual stipend, Select Board Chairman \$2,500 annual stipend, Select Board members \$2,000 annual stipend, and Town Auditors \$16.92/hr., all others – chairmen Vermont minimum wage plus \$1.50/hr., members Vermont minimum wage, and mileage based on the Federal reimbursement rate for the month in which the mileage occurred?
- ARTICLE 14:** Shall the voters authorize general fund expenditure for operational expenses of \$2,204,674.73 for the coming year?
- ARTICLE 15:** Shall the voters authorize highway fund expenditure for operational expenses of \$1,383,843.52 for the coming year?

- ARTICLE 16:** Shall the voters raise and appropriate \$650,000.00 for the Capital Paving Fund?
- ARTICLE 17:** Shall the voters raise and appropriate \$250,000.00 for the Capital Equipment Fund?
- ARTICLE 18:** Shall the voters raise and appropriate \$80,000.00 for the Capital Building Improvement Fund?
- ARTICLE 19:** Shall the voters raise and appropriate \$3,372.00 for the purpose of supporting Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS) activities?
- ARTICLE 20:** Shall the voters raise and appropriate \$5,161.25 for the purpose of supporting MHCA Dover Cinema (Memorial Hall Center for the Arts, Inc.)?
- ARTICLE 21:** Shall the voters authorize the Selectmen to apply any surplus from the current fiscal year to reduce taxes in the next fiscal year?
- ARTICLE 22:** Shall the voters authorize the Selectmen to sell properties, which the Town has acquired by gift or through tax sales?
- ARTICLE 23:** Shall the voters authorize the Selectmen to set the tax rate sufficient to cover the approved expenses of the Town of Dover and the Town of Dover Highway for taxes due on August 15, 2017 and February 15, 2018?
- ARTICLE 24:** Shall the voters authorize the Selectmen to borrow money in anticipation of taxes?
- ARTICLE 25:** To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.