

Town of Isle La Motte School District  
Annual Town Meeting  
March 2, 2019  
Isle La Motte Elementary School/ 10:00AM

Legal Voters Present: Joyce Tuck, Jane Zera, Michael Clark, Chet Bromley, Marjorie Bertram, Terry Tuck, Alma Patnode, Dale Patnode, John Yaratz, Paul Zera, Betty Lockerby, Sylvia Jensen, Carol Michaels, Cathy Tudhope, Deborah Spaulding, Rusty Spaulding, Selby Turner, Maureen Turner, Toby Peacock, Lyle Andrews, Allen Hall, Cyndi Varga, Bob Varga, Charles Gurney, Billy Clayton, Lisa Procaccini, Audrey Bromley, Peter Brzozowy, Elizabeth Lee, Joseph Haffly, Carol Stata, William Johnson, Stephen Stata, Beth Meese, Louise Koss.

Non-voters: Brenda Dulude, Marian and Tom Dean, Bake Allen & Rep. from Grand Isle County Sheriff's Dept., Leland Morgan & Mitzi Johnson- Vermont State Representatives, Douglas Disabito- Grand Isle County State's Attorney.

Rustam Spaulding called meeting to order.

School Moderator Spaulding read from the Official Warning: The legal voters of the Town School District are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Isle La Motte elementary School on Saturday March 2, 2019, at 10:00AM to transact the following business.

**Moderator Spaulding states that Robert's Rules are the order for the meeting except where State law takes precedent and if we have a 2/3 majority, we can waive the double reading of each article.**

Moderator Spaulding asked to see a show of hands who are not legal voters of the Town.

**Motion by Deborah Spaulding to allow those not registered to vote to speak, 2nd by Betty Lockerby-- All in favor.**

Moderator Spaulding read:

ARTICLE 1: to hear and act on reports of the Town School District Officers as published in the Town Report.

**Motion to move by Deborah Spaulding, 2nd by Betty Lockerby.**

No discussion.

**Motion to approve by Deborah Spaulding, 2nd by Betty Lockerby-- All in favor.**

Moderator Spaulding read:

ARTICLE 2: To transact any other business proper to come before this meeting and to discuss any article to be voted upon by Australian ballot on Tuesday March 5, 2019.

Moderator Spaulding read the Official Warning:

The legal voters of the Isle La Motte Town School District are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Isle La Motte Town Office, on Tuesday March 5, 2019. Polls are open between the hours of 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM to vote by Australian ballot of the following articles:

ARTICLE 3: To elect all School Officers as required by law?

Jane Zera had discussion; Joyce Tuck, Chet Bromley and I make up the school board. Champlain Islands Unified Union School District will take over July 1, 2019.

Michael Clark had discussion; introduced himself as the new superintendent, being 7 months in. People should have received the flyer in the mail about CIUUSD budget information. An in depth CIUUSD meeting is at 7:00 at the North Hero School. The biggest concern is the 8 million dollar figure, most want to know what portion is from Isle La Motte. The reality of school funding is that it is all together when consolidated. When the budget was built, we added full time language teacher for district, restructured guidance to add a full time clinician to provide mental health service on Island. The board put money in for an after school program, library has doubled, new technology, new computers or chrome books & bussing was added. Our equalized pupil count has stayed relatively the same, but the state has not given us that number, we were given the formula to estimate the equalized pupil rate. Cost per pupil combined is just over \$17,000.00. In the new district there is a base tax rate is 1.54. Isle La Motte's common level of appraisal went up meaning it moves in a favorable position tax wise. The other thing to come into account that when you voted for act 46, your tax rate cannot change up or down by more than 5 % for this year and for 3 years afterwards. Even if a million dollars as taken off of the proposed budget, the tax rate will stay the same. Polls are open Tuesday from 9AM-7PM at Town Office. CIUUSD informational meeting at 7:00 tonight at North Hero School.

Bill Johnson had discussion: if the budget was voted down, the re-proposed budget would keep the same tax rate?

Michael Clark had discussion; Yes.

Stephen Stata had discussion; what will the procedure look like for after the polls close?

Michael Clark had discussion; ballots will transported in a locked box, by two BCA members to be commingled and counted by a combined BCA at the CIUUSD Clerk's.

Stephen Stata had discussion; if budget does not pass before July how are they going to operate CIUUSD?

Michael Clark had discussion; I am not positive enough to show a method for this. If we get there, I will know the answer. Default is to lower the budget. The tax rate will still not lower. Sylvia: is this a similar to a budget in a union school district?

Michael Clark had discussion; Yes.

Paul Zera had discussion; Title 16 says you need an Australian ballot to comingle ballots. It's not title 16 that gives authority to do so in the terms of agreement.

Louise Koss had discussion: I think it would be valuable for people to compare the cumulative budgets from the last 3 years for these towns, because it looks like a huge number but it may not be as big as it looks by having the previous budgets to compare.

Bill Johnson had discussion; is GISU the overseer of governance structure. These three school buildings will complete CIUUSD, GISU will still stay the same?

Chet Bromley had discussion: How does South Hero and Alburgh enter into the merger business?

Michael Clark had discussion: South hero and Alburgh will contribute to GISU.

John Yartz had discussion; out of the 436 pupils, how many belong to Isle La Motte?

Michael Clark had discussion; great question, I don't know on the top of my head. We are used to basing it on a budget, but in a combined district, you don't break it apart, it is all one budget.

Joseph Haffly had discussion; what is the definition of clinician, and what languages will be offered?

Michael Clark had discussion; a job description is created, it is in the board. A psychologist based person able to work with students with significant mental health issues. The world language, we're in the process talking about what we will offer, I would like the position posted in April.

**Motion by Deborah Spaulding to adjourn meeting at 11:11, 2nd by Betty Lockerby-- All in favor.**  
Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Noble, Town Clerk

School board approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_

—

Jane Zera

\_\_\_\_\_

Joyce Tuck

\_\_\_\_\_

Chet Bromley