

TUNBRIDGE TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
WARNING
SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING
APRIL 10-11, 2017

The legal voters of the Tunbridge Town School District are hereby notified and warned to meet at Tunbridge Central School on Monday, April 10, 2017, at 7:00 PM to discuss the articles set forth below and transact any business not involving voting by Australian Ballot.

Article I:

To discuss the Act 46 Study Committee Report and the articles set forth below.

The meeting shall then be recessed to Tuesday, April 11, 2017, in order to vote on the following articles by Australian ballot. The polls will be open from 7:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Tunbridge Town Hall.

Article II:

Shall the voters of the Tunbridge Town School District vote to form the First Branch Unified School District ("Unified District") on the following terms:

1. The districts listed below shall be identified as "necessary" or "advisable" for the formation of the Unified District (referred to herein as "Forming Districts"):

Chelsea Town School District—Advisable
Tunbridge Town School District--Necessary

2. The Unified District shall become effective on the date this article is approved by a majority vote of the electorates of both Forming Districts in meetings warned for the adoption of these articles, and said votes become final per 16 V.S.A. 706g. Provided, however, that such votes shall not become effective unless the voters of other White River Valley Supervisory Union town school districts vote on or before the date established by the Vermont General Assembly for the Forming Districts to obtain financial incentives for merger, but not later than December 31, 2017, to approve the formation of a new unified union district which operates schools for grade levels PreK-12, and said votes become final per 16 V.S.A. 706g, thus allowing the creation of two Unified Districts that qualify as "Side-by-Side" Districts with operation commencement dates of July 1, 2018.

The creation of this district is also contingent on the voters of Chelsea agreeing to cease operation of grades 9-12, and to tuition their students to high schools of the family's choice, effective July 1, 2018. If the voters of the Chelsea School District vote to approve establishment of the Unified District as provided herein, such vote shall authorize the Chelsea School District Board of School Directors to discontinue operation of a school for grades 9-12 and allow the Unified District to pay tuition for students to high schools of the family's choice, in accordance with 16 V.S.A. Section 822(a)(1).

3. The name of the district shall be the First Branch Unified School District.

4. The Unified District shall commence operating the above-mentioned school on July 1, 2018 (“Operation Commencement Date”) provided this article shall have become effective by such date.

5. The Unified District will provide education to all students in grades Pre-K through Twelve. The Unified District will operate grades K-8 and will provide services to students in grades 9-12 by tuitioning students to programs determined by parents within the parameters of district policy.

6. (a) The Unified District will assume all capital debt of the forming school districts including both principal and interest, as may exist at the close of business on June 30, 2018. As of the adoption of these articles, there is no capital debt held by either of the forming school districts.

6. (b) The Unified District shall assume any and all general operating surpluses and deficits of the forming school districts that may exist as of the close of business on June 30, 2018. In addition, reserve funds identified for specific purposes will be transferred to the Unified District and will be applied for said purpose unless otherwise determined through appropriate legal procedures. No reserve funds currently exist at the time of adoption of these articles.

6. (c) The forming districts will transfer to the Unified District any pre-existing school district specific endowments or other restricted accounts that may exist on June 30, 2018. Scholarship funds or like accounts held by school districts or the Supervisory Union prior to June 30, 2018 that have specified conditions of use will be used in accordance with said provisions.

7. The Unified District Board of Directors shall be composed of six (6) members who will initially be elected by Australian ballot on an at-large basis by all voters (at-large) of the Unified District. Thereafter, the Board of Directors shall be elected by all voters of the Unified District at a floor meeting. The Board of Directors shall be comprised as follows:

Three (3) Directors shall be elected from candidates nominated by the legal voters of Chelsea from among the legal residents of that town; and

Three (3) Directors shall be elected from candidates nominated by the legal voters of Tunbridge from among the legal residents of that town.

All directors shall have equal votes on the Board.

8. The provisions of the Report and Formation Plan approved by the State Board of Education on February 21, 2017, which is on file at the offices of the White River Valley Supervisory Union shall govern the Unified District.

Article III: To elect from the following officers:

Unified District Director from Chelsea for a term of 1 year

Unified District Director from Tunbridge for a term of 1 year

Unified District Director from Chelsea for a term of 2 years

Unified District Director from Tunbridge for a term of 2 years

Unified District Director from Chelsea for a terms of 3 years

Unified District Director from Tunbridge for a term of 3 years

The legal voters of Tunbridge Town School District are further notified that voter qualification, registration and absentee voting relative to said annual meeting shall be as provided in Chapter 43, 51, and 55 of Title 17 Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Dated at Tunbridge, Vermont, February __, 2017.

Kathy Calley, Chair

[Signature], Clerk

[Signature]