

Approved by the Rye School Board at its March 18, 2009 meeting.

**RYE SCHOOL DISTRICT
RYE, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

A special meeting of the School Board of the Rye School District was held at the Rye Junior High School on Wednesday, January 14, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

School Board Members: Ian Grant, Betty Anderson, Peggy Balboni, Jeanne Moynahan,
Michael Schwartz

Administration: George Cushing, Superintendent of Schools
Chris Pollet, Principal, Rye Junior High School

Visitors: Ron Fortier, Teacher
Bob Eaton, Resident
Kathy McAlpine & daughter, Residents,

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Grant called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Grant asked Mrs. Moynahan to discuss last night's public hearing.

Mrs. Moynahan stated the budget committee passed the town budgets. She mentioned that there was discussion about the Board's warrant article on library expansion. She has talked to people in the community and at this point she believes that we should pull the warrant article on this as this is not a good year.

Mr. Grant stated that if the budget committee votes down the warrant article then the Board will have brief meeting to see if the Board wishes to withdraw the article. Mr. Katkin checked with DRA and the article can be removed with a Board vote if, as part of discussion at the public hearing, it is stated that the article may be removed.

Mr. Grant asked if there was interest in pulling the warrant article before the public hearing. Before the vote Mr. Schwartz presented new information he has received since the last meeting with the budget committee.

Mr. Schwartz stated he respects the budget committee and will speak respectfully as he recognized the many other people who have helped get the library project to where it is now.

Mr. Schwartz presented a written narrative spelling out why we should move forward with the warrant article. The hand-out addressed the questions that were asked at the last meeting with the budget committee.

Mr. Schwartz stated that Bob Gray, a builder who provided an estimate for the job, would be available at the public hearing to answer questions about the project.

Mr. Schwartz reviewed the content of his hand-out and emphasized that we recently determined that the project is eligible for state building aid which would reduce the cost of the project by 30%.

Ms. Anderson said she believes it should go forward to the voters and it would be ill-advised to pull it now. She compared this warrant article to that of the full-day kindergarten program which was initially unpopular but proved to be something the town supported. Ms. Anderson mentioned that she is writing a news article to explain the steps we have gone through to get to this point.

Mr. Grant would still like to have a Board vote to remove it from consideration if the budget committee votes it down.

Mrs. Moynahan stated we should bring the article before the budget committee and see where it goes.

RECESS

At 6:27 p.m. Mr. Grant recessed the meeting so the Board could attend the scheduled public hearing.

RECONVENE

At 8:30 p.m. Mr. Grant reconvened the meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS *continued*

Mr. Grant asked the Board if they wanted to make a decision tonight as to whether or not they should withdraw the warrant article on the library.

Mrs. Moynahan believes that we should pull the warrant article.

Mrs. Balboni does not want to see it go on the ballot without the support of the budget committee. She feels we have great information to get out to the public in preparation of selling the project to the voters next year.

Mr. Schwartz feels this warrant article would be a good test to see how important the budget committee's recommendation is.

Mrs. Moynahan believes the article will not pass without the budget committee's recommendation.

Mr. Grant feels that we would lose some credibility if we were not sensitive to the needs of the town.

Mrs. Balboni stated that we cut staff in the proposed budget and it is probably not the best time to add a warrant article for a library expansion.

Mr. Grant suggested we make the library expansion a goal at our retreat and rally around it.

Mrs. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Grant, to pull the article from the ballot. Discussion followed: Mrs. Moynahan said we did a good job but did not sway the three on the budget committee who voted against the article.

The vote was taken to pull the warrant article: In favor: Mr. Grant, Mrs. Moynahan, Mrs. Balboni, Opposed: Ms. Anderson and Mr. Schwartz.

ADJOURN

Ms. Anderson proposed, seconded by Mrs. Moynahan, a motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Vote: Unanimously approved.

School Board Secretary