

SPECIAL ROXBURY SELECTBOARD MEETING  
MINUTES OF APRIL 25, 2024  
7:01 P.M. – 9:02 P.M.  
COMMUNITY HALL

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: Chair Jon Guiffre (remotely), Vice-Chair Rene Bouchard and Road Commissioner Dave McShane

STAFF PARTICIPATING: Selectboard Assistant Tammy Legacy

PUBLIC: Tom Frazier, Nan Wardle, Dave Santi, Tim Martin, Mark Gerdes, Jim Rogler, Ben Pincus, Carol Edwards and Heather Holter

1. Vice-Chair Rene Bouchard called the meeting to order at 7:01p.m.

Rene informed the attendees that the voices/chatter in the audience is heard by those listening remotely.

2. The Judge did not rule in favor of the Selectboard's lawsuit regarding the school vote.

3. Public

- a) Tom Frazier stated he was very upset by the lawyer's approach and thinks the closing of village school was planned by the Superintendent, Chair of the School Board and some members of Montpelier.
- b) Nan Wardle, a former teacher in Roxbury, wondered what else could be done.
- c) Tim Martin had wanted to talk about other things but was unable due to this being a special meeting regarding the school closure.
- d) Dave Santi has concerns regarding the closure and the school building.
- e) Mark Gerdes disagrees with the phrase of "we didn't see this coming". He felt it was clear that this was going to happen. He thinks merging with Northfield would have been better and is not in favor of the Montpelier merger.
- f) Jim Rogler asked questions about the lawsuit and would like to get the school back. Also mentioned were alternative education ways.
- g) Ben Pincus stated he had sent a letter to the Selectboard asking them to stop the injunction. He does not agree with fighting with the school. He talked about the school's transition team.
- h) Kristen Gelter, remotely, a member of the school board, talked about the transition committee.
- i) Rhett Williams, remotely, a member of the school board, talked about the transition committee and the cost of the building.

There was a discussion about the transition committee, when their meetings were held and the purpose of the committee. Also discussed was bussing.

4. Jon Guiffre recapped the last few weeks regarding the school closure and the legal case. The next steps the Board will need to decide are: do nothing and see what happens, advocate a yes or no vote (school budget revote is April 30<sup>th</sup>) or advocate for Town & School through current committee. There was a discussion on informational meetings. Jon would like lots of people to attend the information meeting and ask lots of questions.

Dave Santi advocated for a non-binding vote. More discussion on the school closing and how do the parents of school children feel, withdrawing from Montpelier Roxbury School District and

becoming an independent school. Some parents are choosing to homeschool their children instead of having them go to Montpelier. The school district is planning on having tours of the Montpelier schools. Are Roxbury kids being treated differently than Montpelier kids?

More discussion on what happens with the school building. The school district must use it for educational purposes or the Town can buy it back for \$1. Discussion on what happens if the vote fails. Many people supported a NO vote.

5. Dave moved to go into executive session with an invitation to Tammy to join them to discuss a legal matter. The motion was seconded and passed 3 to 0. The Board entered at 8:50 p.m.

The Board exited at 9:01 p.m. No action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

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Tammy Legacy, Selectboard Assistant  
Approved on May 6, 2024