

Fifty-Third Annual Meeting, Twinfield Union School District No.33
Twinfield Union School Library
Tuesday, February 21st, 2022
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

AGENDA

The legal voters of the Twinfield Union School District No. 33, a municipal corporation consisting of the member towns of Marshfield and Plainfield, Vermont, were invited to meet virtually to discuss any business involving the Australian ballot. Two residents of Marshfield or Plainfield were in attendance: **Charles Cogbill and Eric Blaisdell (from the Times Argus)**. The other attendees were present as a result of holding a position on the Board or for the District. Herein are the minutes of that meeting which was called to order at 6:00pm by Patrick Healy.

Patrick informed everyone that we will be talking about the articles for the annual meeting.

Patrick informed everyone that **ARTICLE ONE, TWO, and THREE** will be by Australian ballot this year.

FY23 Budget Discussion for Article Four

Mark Tucker shared the FY23 Budget.

- There was a significant surplus in FY21, and the school has been able to pay off three of their four outstanding loans, \$322,637. The one left (taken out to install the new heating system) would have a penalty if we had paid it off early. This alleviates \$80,199 of debt service out of the FY23 budget. And \$24,182 of future interest cost that we will not have to pay.
- There was an Increase of direct institutional cost by \$105,349. (Projected staff salary increases, 5% increase in health insurance costs).
- Reduction in co-curricular and operational expenses of \$111,940. Money saved on heating pellets. Athletic director position was moved out of co-curricular and into the instructional role, moving a person from one category to another doesn't save any money, but it does reflect in the operational and co-curricular expenses. There is a revenue offset by an increase to the educational and vocational fund payments. The overall effect on the revenue is a net increase of a little more than \$24,000.
- We currently have 30 preK students. PK instruction increase of \$54,990 for the second classroom.
- Slight increase (\$12,705) in anticipated special education costs, largely of ACT173 Block Grant shortfall (going into effect July 1st).
- SU assessments reduced by \$44,906.Reduction in the operations budget, no significant maintenance projects in FY23- deferring repaving of back parking lot and Windows for another year.
- Twinfield was flagged for storm water study and abatement project. That project is now getting under way. There is some federal money for the design, but we know that when the design is done, the school will have some input, but as of right now, there isn't any funding for the finished project. It is unknown and Twinfield will probably have to pay some portion.

- Replacing windows on the building is in the discussion.

Erin Barry mentioned that a second Kindergarten teacher is in the budget.

Mark Mooney mentioned that overall, Twinfield had some teacher positions open that the team elected not to fill, as teachers have left, and now we need to add one more kindergarten teacher.

- Factors Affecting the Tax Rate: Education Spending increased \$128,816 (increases tax rate). Equalized pupil decreased by 8 students (increases tax rate), CLA in each town dropped (increases tax rate), Yield rate (per approved budget) \$1.00 tax rate raises \$12,937. Higher than FY22 (lowers tax rate)

Mark Tucker asked for any questions.

The Board approved the budget in January with a \$.05 decrease in Plainfield and no change in Marshfield.

REVIEW of school~

- Mark Mooney- Proud of the staff who have really managed the twists and turns. The community has been so supportive of the school, it was a great team effort.
- The health office has been doing unbelievable work as testing protocols changed. Front office, food service, the drivers, custodians, paras, plus everyone juggling their own families and professional staff.
- In the town report, I highlighted a few projects kids have been working on: Tiny House project, Studies of and with the Indigenous peoples, Abenakis, Partnerships with our libraries with the art of storytelling unit, French students with Maddie Cobb is coming into their own, and feel really good about where the french classes are going.
- We have two mirror image pre-K's, spending much of their time outside.(We have a strong partnership with the Northfield Science Center).
- Mrs. Flynn takes her kids in the woods everyday~ building boats, mushroom identification, and hiking.
- 5-8 Integrated Art in the Classroom with the teachers working together to create a graphic novel, some about historical events.
- After school options are increasing, beyond athletics; A whole new group of kids are staying after school.
- Brought back our Penny challenge raised \$2,300 and hundreds of food items for the food shelf. Over the last 15 years, Twinfield has supplied over \$60,000 and unbelievable amounts of food items.
- Last year we started our Equity studies. This year we are focusing on bringing in a more diverse group of hires, and also looking to bring more restorative practices to our discipline system at Twinfield.
- This is the last year of the VSAC aspirations project, excited to bring the curriculum and lessons to the board after the budget season. Continue Work with the Stearn center, developing common language through all grades with the hope that all 3rd graders are on reading level.
- Equity by universal design, working hard on flexible pathways for graduation. Have brought normalcy back to our community and students.

Patrick asked if there were any questions, or comments.

No questions or comments~

Public Comments~

Charles Cogbill would like to thank Mark Mooney and Mark Tucker for their presentations. He believes that every voter should hear.

And Charles commented about the minimal attendance. This year and last, only 2 folks in attendance.

Thanks to the board for presenting the information.

Comment on the Annual Report~ The minutes of last year's annual meeting are not included. According to the secretary of state, the Australian ballot is the informational meeting, and the results of the vote should be included. "Are the minutes of that vote available?"

Mark Tucker, admitted to the oversight, and will locate those and get them to Charles Cogbill. Commented about how the number of voters, says something about our democratic system.

Cogbill has a great deal of consternation of Article 2, regarding the Central Vermont Career Center. Which gives Charles the enfranchisement to vote for four members who are not part of his school district. "The process has been vetted by 3 lawyers, the agency of education, secretary of state, by 6 school boards and 18 town clerks." He thinks this is bizarre. This is in contradiction to the definition of "At Large members" on page 4 on the planning document. He does not believe he is qualified or even enfranchised to vote on this.

Mark Tucker let Cogbill know that Janna Osman is the Twinfield representative to the CVCC who has been deeply enmeshed in the process to get to this vote.

"Be forewarned, the ballots will be commingled and if there is a flaw the fan is going to be full." Cvcogbill@gmail.com~ Happy to get any email from anybody.

Patrick asked if there was anything else to be presented tonight.

Erin Barry motioned to adjourn the informational meeting at 6:38, Janna Osman second it.

Article FOUR: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$6,615, 565 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 \$18, 938.00 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 4.3% higher than spending for the current year.

(To be voted on by Australian ballot)

2022-2023 Article Four- Marshfield only numbers

Yes	No	Overvotes	Undervotes	Total	Result
218	96	0	11	325	Passed

Plainfield

199 yes/ 310	Passed
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Article FIVE: To see if the school district will authorize its Board of Directors to borrow money to pay its lawful debts and expenses for the fiscal year which ends June 30, 2023 in an amount not to exceed 90% of the anticipated collection of taxes and receipts of other funds to be used for those purposes.

(To be voted on by Australian ballot)

2022-2023 Article Five- Marshfield numbers only

Yes	No	Overvotes	Undervotes	Total	Result
255	56	1	13	325	Passed

Plainfield

222 yes/ 310	Passed
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Article SIX: Shall the voters of the Twinfield Union School District No. 33 authorize the Board of School Directors to hold any audited fund balance as of June 30, 202 in a reserve fund to be expended under the control and direction of the Board of School Directors for the purpose of operating the school?

2022-2023 Article Six- Marshfield numbers only

Yes	No	Overvotes	Undervotes	Total	Result
261	49	0	15	325	Passed

Plainfield

254 yes/310	Passed
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