



NORWICH SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPOSED ARTICLES



TOWN DELIBERATIVE SESSION, Monday, March 1st, 7:00 p.m.

ALL DAY VOTING Tuesday, March 2nd, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Tracy Hall, 300 Main Street, Norwich, VT

2021-22 Warning Articles & Explanations

ARTICLE 1: Elect a Moderator of the Town and School District meeting for one year.

The moderator is voted upon annually and presides over town meeting.

ARTICLE 2: Elect Town and School District Officers for terms starting in 2021.

School district officer positions are voted upon annually. There are five Norwich School Board positions; four are staggered three-year terms and one is a two-year term. All positions also serve on the Dresden School Board, however the two-year position does not hold voting privileges in Dresden. This year there is one 3-year seat coming up for election in March.

ARTICLE 3: Hear and act on the reports of the officers of the Town and Town School District.

Each year the Norwich School District presents the proposed budget to the voters at Town Meeting. In odd numbered years the School District presents first, in even numbered years the Town presents first.

ARTICLE 4: To authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenues for the next fiscal year in accordance with the provisions of 16 VSA § 562(9).

In the event that school district tax revenues are not received in a timely manner, the school district requests authorization from the electorate to borrow money to cover necessary expenditures.

ARTICLE 5: Shall the voters of the Norwich Town School District determine and fix the salaries of the School Board members in the sum of \$500 each per year in accordance with the provisions of 16 VSA § 562(5)?

The salary for school board members is voted upon annually. This figure is unchanged from last year.

ARTICLE 6: Shall the voters of the Norwich Town School District approve the school board to expend \$6,206,043 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing 2021-22 fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$19,960 per equalized pupil (this includes the Dresden assessment for 7-12th grade). This projected spending per equalized pupil is 5.99% higher than spending for the current year.

While the budget number shown above is solely for the Marion Cross School, the Education Spending Per Equalized Pupil includes the Dresden Assessment. While the gross expenditure amount of the Marion Cross School budget is decreasing by (0.16%); the state's

definition of net "Education Spending per Pupil" (that is, net education spending, after the application of appropriate income, divided by the number of equalized pupils) is increasing by 5.99%. This is the result of an increase in the 2021-22 budgeted Dresden District assessment to Norwich of \$549,175, an increase of 8.13% coupled with a notable change affecting this year's Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) which is experiencing another significant drop from 94.16% to 90.28%. The CLA drop is resulting in an increase to the tax rate of \$0.0846. Other differences include changes in the base (homestead) property yield from \$10,998 to \$10,763 and potential differences in the equalized pupils count although we have not received the final numbers, we are using last year's count of 603.28. All of these changes combined result in an estimated homestead tax rate of \$2.0541 or a \$0.2356 cent increase, which is 12.96% more than the current year's rate of \$1.8185. Several of the parameters are set by the State of Vermont throughout early Spring. Certainly changes in the yield and/or equalized pupil count will alter the tax rate estimate presented. An estimated homestead tax rate of \$2.0541 would result in a tax rate increase of \$942 on a \$400,000 home.

ARTICLE 7: Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Norwich Town School District in an amount not to exceed \$216,224, subject to reduction from available state and federal grants-in-aid and other financial assistance, be issued for the purpose of financing the cost of making school building improvements, namely, the acquisition and installation of technology infrastructure at the Marion Cross Elementary School, the estimated cost of such improvements being \$216,224?

State funds may not be available at the time the project is otherwise eligible to receive State school construction aid. The District is responsible for all costs incurred in connection with any borrowing done in anticipation of receipt of State school construction aid.

ARTICLE 8: Transact any other business that may legally come before the annual meeting of the Norwich Town School District.

Articles adopted the 14th day of January, 2021.

Tom Candon, Chair

Lisa Christie

Kelley Hersey, Vice Chair

Neil Odell

Garrett Palm