

**DANVILLE SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 10, 2022 - 5:00 p.m.
Danville School Library & Zoom teleconference**

Members present Bruce Melendy (Chair), David Towle, Tim Sanborn*, Clayton Cargill, Robert Edgar* | *Zoom remote

Administration present Mark Tucker, David Schilling, Sarah Welch, Michael Concessi

Public present Ginni Lavelly, Lindsey Mitchell-Wheeler

1 Call to Order [00:13:00] Bruce called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. Roll call of directors present: Clayton - present, Dave T - present, Tim - present, Robert - present, Bruce - present.

2 Board Business. [00:14:00]

- FY'23 District Warning

Mark informed the board that the legislature passed S. 172 last Friday which empowers district boards and municipalities to change the date of the town meeting, to vote by Australian ballot rather than from the floor, and it allows the Secretary of State's office to waive certain statutory provisions for towns voting by Australian ballot rather than from the floor on a case-by-case basis.

There's a second bill going through Senate Government Operations Committee that would eliminate the need for nominating petitions for town meeting, although there is some ambiguity as to whether that applies to all Australian ballot meetings or only for those which have decided to go from floor voting to Australian ballot. In either case if that legislation passes, it would waive the petition requirement. As it stands right now S. 172 as enacted has gone to the governor, and as soon as he signs it, the board can warn its meeting for Australian ballot, if that's what the desire of the board is. Mark added that you already vote on your budget by Australian ballot; the only thing that it would change is the election of school board members. It would basically be an election like we did last year.

Mark noted that he had the impression from talking to Wendy Somers at the Town Clerk's office that the Select Board is also leaning toward not having an in-person meeting. Clayton said at the last Select Board meeting there were a lot of questions about who is going to pay for the balloting, how many ballots to send out, and whether to have an election with only people who request a ballot. The impression he got was people did not want to be sitting in the room with a bunch of senior citizens -- masked or not.

Bruce said in talking to Ken Linsley today that he got that same impression. They're leaning toward the Australian ballot. We do not tonight have to set dates for the candidates' meeting. If you see the [draft that Ken put out](#), we can try to coordinate with the select board on those. He's in agreement with doing two budget informational meetings, as we have in the past, even though only one is legally required.

Mark asked if there were dates that the select board was already proposing for those informational meetings. Bruce indicated Ken had not yet reached out to other members., but Danville has usually done them on Thursday night (Town Hall) and Monday (North Danville) night before town meeting day. Mark said that if you are voting by Australian ballot you are required to have at least one informational meeting within 10 days of the vote; the second one can occur at any prior time.

Mark had talked to Wendy about how to handle the warnings in view of S. 172; she recommended that we could approve both versions of the warning -- review both warnings, agree to represent the wishes of the board and then make a statement in the motion which one you intend to sign when you get authorization. That's what Peacham did last night. he noted.

Mark said that if it were the Board's intent to sign the version authorizing all Australian ballot voting, that is the controlling thing that you put on the warning. The warning will not be signed until we know the Governor's has signed S. 172. The Board agreed with that plan by unanimous consent.

The [warning authorizing a meeting with a voting by Australian Ballot on all 6 Articles](#) was reviewed by the Board. dates of informational meetings were added ,and the budgetary data in Article 4 were confirmed. The [warning authorizing the in-person meeting with voting by Australian Ballot for only budgetary Article 4](#) was reviewed in a similar manner to the first one.

Dave Towle recommended that the pages of the warnings be labelled: page 1 of 2 and page 2 of 2; Mark made a note to add them.

Clayton asked about Article 5. and Mark explain it was designed to move surplus money at the end of the fiscal year into a Reserve account; it had no relation to the approval of the budget. Dave T noted that Article 7 on the in-person meeting warning might be used to recognize officially some group in the Town Meeting Report of the next year.

MOTION. Tim moved to approve the two warnings for the FY'23 District election, as written, be voted on, noting the intent of the Board is to sign the warning authorizing all District articles by Australian Ballot, once S. 172 is signed by Governor Scott; Dave T seconded. Vote: unanimous. Motion ADOPTED.

Mark indicated these warnings would be prepared for the board signatures, and he would notify us when we should come in to sign them.

In a Public Comment Ginni inquired whether a term limit was desirable for the moderator position. Bruce and Dave spoke in favor of the idea. Article 1 in both warnings was altered to indicate "To elect a School Moderator for a term of one (1) year." The Board then voted on the modified warnings.

MOTION. Tim moved to approve the two warnings for the FY'23 District election, as written, be voted on, noting the intent of the Board is to sign the warning authorizing all District articles by Australian Ballot, once S. 172 is signed by Governor Scott; Dave T seconded. Vote: unanimous. Motion ADOPTED.

3 Public Comment - see 2 paragraphs above

4 Adjourn

MOTION Clayton moved to adjourn the meeting; Tim seconded. Vote: unanimous. Motion ADOPTED. Bruce adjourned the meeting at 5:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Robert Edgar (Clerk), 14 January 2022.

Meeting video recording [2022-01-10 DSB Spec TRIM2.mp4](#), 659 MB, c. 00:29:00.

The next Regular Meeting will occur on Tuesday, February 4, 2022 at 6:00 pm