Hello Everyone,

We will be hosting an Informational Meeting on Tuesday, May 28th - 6pm in anticipation of the "ReVote" Day on Saturday, June 8th - 10 am at the Windham Town Meeting House. We will be answering questions related to our 3 articles warned in the attached below.

Previously, we held a special meeting on April 26th where the board and our attorney, Mark Oettinger, answered some of the questions that may clarify details prior to the 28th:

[*Why are the articles worded the way that they are? - Part 1*](https://youtube.com/clip/Ugkxab9KcbkZRvFW8w5ARj92PD0qvLIlsF87?feature=shared)

[*Why are the articles worded the way that they are? - Part 2*](https://youtube.com/clip/UgkxAcibBH7sbI7fOa32P33dTjpk5dpJYEeo?feature=shared)

Mark expresses our intent to overly specify to be as clear as possible, especially toward avoiding confusion with previous articles that passed in March.

[*What if Article 1 and/or Article 3 fail the "ReVote"? - Part 1*](https://youtube.com/clip/UgkxbEjcDJkQilV550NqVCcR5FjioN79A2_Z?feature=shared)

[*What if Article 1 and/or Article 3 fail the "ReVote"? - Part 2*](https://youtube.com/clip/UgkxkGRpPryqP3DCIfGOfl6KBKG13_QfUbK1?feature=shared)

By statute the board is required, with the power as well as obligation, to follow through on any given tuition request. “Students have the right to be educated, that is in the Vermont Constitution.” Obligation is important to note, the board has to honor requests for any tuitioning by law.

[*Who owns the school house building?*](https://youtube.com/clip/UgkxJLNi1tPQlNDCQ_XbdGlu3Yp-xmKYV-bw?feature=shared)

“The district owns the building.” The school board is the governance of the district; the electorate has the power to open or close to the school, the board has the power to sell or keep the building.

In a previous update, we have already expressed not to hold onto to the building for the full upcoming FY25 year. The current roadmap is approximately 6 months as we finalize with community surveys, meeting(s) with the town select board, and understand all our selling options.

[*Why is School Closure necessary and what does this mean to the School House? - Part 1*](https://youtube.com/clip/Ugkx_jV-HkP0F1LMFyspYPZF0ONQ1N1TcdXg?feature=shared)

[*Why is School Closure necessary and what does this mean to the School House? - Part 2*](https://youtube.com/clip/UgkxzG7bTIBOhSPBhFKU9z9kGxnE9LUCE2fV?feature=shared)

[*Why is School Closure necessary and what does this mean to the School House? - Part 3*](https://youtube.com/clip/UgkxKh2cHjsp0vYb09zvAN9gd0nAgU1kALgr?feature=shared)

[*Why is School Closure necessary and what does this mean to the School House? - Part 4*](https://youtube.com/clip/UgkxDpxAVK4F3TIN2JHeYCTOLhO8i_OhU6I6?feature=shared)

[*Why is School Closure necessary and what does this mean to the School House? - Part 5*](https://youtube.com/clip/UgkxoslSJIaMaO26obfihe4YMxj5ovfXFKul?feature=shared)

Daniel Roth / Mark Oettinger - The district becomes non-operational rather than officially closed. The law does not recognize this scenario which means that interpretations of statutes may open Windham School district to unforeseen extra-legal litigation. The consequence is more legal fees thus higher taxes.

Still to discuss is the budget. What are the "scenarios" - *what does the proposed budget mean to taxes and housing prices? What if Article 2 fails and we are left with only 87% of our previous year's budget?* More school board updates to come as well as presenting the financials with forecasts at our meeting. Mark your calendars!!!

The final question that has been asked of us is *Will there be Australian Ballot? -* Our chair, Abby Pelton, has painstakingly looked into this very issue. Here is what she was able to find out:

"I received correspondence from the SOS office yesterday afternoon and was informed of the following;

The original method of voting is the voting method that is used in a revote. i.e. A floor vote begets a floor revote. Act 1 allows a vote of the legislative body to apply the Australian ballot system to **an annual meeting**. The vote you are conducting is not an annual meeting, therefore Act 1 does not apply. The voters of the district chose floor vote for the original and ongoing votes.

Because the original budget vote failed, this would be a required revote to the budget and not an annual meeting. Even if it were considered a "new" vote, it would be a special meeting (not an annual meeting) which is not contemplated under Act 1."

Unfortunately, this means that the school district "ReVote" has to be a floor vote per official word from the Vermont Secretary of State. Our personal wishes were to be able to provide ballots outside of an on-the-floor vote but that is not our reality for this go around. This does not mean that we cannot work to set up future votes in FY25 to be Australian and, indeed, we will be working towards that. Thanks to Abby for the swift and hard work consulting the folks needed to get us a clear answer!

I recommend watching the full video: [Special Meeting 4/26/24](https://www.brattleborotv.org/windham-elementary-school-board/windham-school-district-board-special-mtg-42624). You will see the full evolution of our draft articles and the discussion that took place. Mark described the meeting as "a moment of healing" for our town.

The 28th agenda is being finalized and will be posted as soon as possible in a subsequent board update.

That's all for now, enjoy this beautiful weather and stay healthy!

Thanks,

Daniel Roth

Vice Chair

Windham School Board