

TOWN OF PLAINFIELD
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Hampshire, ss:

To either of the Constables of the Town of Plainfield,

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Plainfield qualified to vote in Town affairs to assemble at the Town Hall on Saturday, May 5, 2018 at 1:00 p.m., then and there to act on the following articles, to wit:

Article 1. To vote by official ballot for all Town Officers, Committees, Trustees, etc., and to fix compensation for the same.

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide such amounts of money as are reasonable and necessary to defray the expenses of the town for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018 or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 3. Vocational Education

To see if the Town will vote to amend the MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT – REGIONAL DISTRICT AGREEMENT by striking the following language contained in Section III(E) – Vocational and Trade School Pupils:

Any pupil residing in a member town which is not a member of a vocational regional school district who is desirous of attending a trade or vocational school outside the District shall have all the privileges of attending such a school as are now or may be hereafter provided for by law. The cost of tuition for attending

such a school and the cost of transportation, when necessary, shall be assessed by the District upon the town wherein the student resides, providing, however, that the District school does not offer the vocational courses.

and replacing said language with the following:

Any pupil residing in a member town which is not a member of a vocational regional school district who is desirous of attending a trade or vocational school outside the District shall have all the privileges of attending such a school as are now or may be hereafter provided for by law. Such towns shall be responsible for the education of such pupils at such out-of-district schools in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 74 of the General Laws and acts amendatory thereto. The cost of tuition for attending such schools shall be borne by the town wherein the pupil resides.

The Committee, acting on the behalf of these towns, shall furnish transportation services, as needed, for town pupils who attend a trade or vocational school outside the District, and the cost of transportation (when necessary) shall be assessed by the District upon the town wherein the pupil resides. The cost of transportation during a fiscal year shall be assessed to the towns in the same fiscal year at such times and in such manner as the Committee and the towns shall agree. The award of any contract for such transportation services shall be made by the Committee, subject to the advice and consent of the involved towns.

To facilitate these arrangements and promote cooperation between the towns and the Committee, an Advisory Committee shall be appointed each year following annual town elections and the annual reorganization of the Committee. Each town which is not a member of a vocational regional school district shall, by its board of selectmen, appoint one member and one alternate to the Advisory Committee. The Committee, by its chair, shall appoint one member and one or more alternates to the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee shall have five voting members, each member to have one vote.

*Submitted by the MTRSD and VEAC
Committee*

Approved by the School

Article 4. Rowe Tuition

To see if the Town will vote to accept the following amendments to the Mohawk Trail Regional Agreement (note: the amendments below are to be effective July 1, 2018):

Strike the following language in Section I(A):

A member appointed by the Rowe School Committee would serve as a non-voting member of the Committee as described in Section IX (G) of this Agreement.

Strike the following language in Section III(F):

The Committee shall accept for enrollment in the District High School, pupils from the Town of Rowe on a tuition basis and upon such terms as are set forth in Section IX of this Agreement. The Committee may accept for enrollment in the regional district schools pupils from towns other than the member towns and the Town of Rowe on a tuition basis and upon such terms as it may determine. In either case, income received by the District from tuition pupils shall be deducted from the total operating costs in the next annual budget to be prepared after the receipt thereof, prior to apportionment under Section IV of this Agreement to the member towns.

and replace said language with the following:

Pursuant to Chapter 371 of the Acts of 1993, the Committee shall accept for enrollment in the District Middle/High School, all pupils from the Town of Rowe in grades seven through twelve on a tuition basis and upon such terms as are set forth in the tuition agreement entered into by the Committee and the Rowe School Committee. Such pupils shall include all Rowe pupils who are entitled to attend the District Middle/High School irrespective of the specific and particular educational needs of any pupil from said Town of Rowe, and irrespective of whether such education for any pupil from said Town of Rowe is provided at the District High School or at any other school as may be approved by said Committee (note: Rowe shall be financially responsible for resident pupils who choose to attend a vocational school). The Committee may accept for enrollment in the regional district schools pupils from towns other than the member towns and the Town of Rowe on a tuition basis and upon such terms as it may determine. In

either case, income received by the District from tuition pupils shall be deducted from the total operating costs in the next annual budget to be prepared after the receipt thereof, prior to apportionment under Section IV of this Agreement to the member towns.

Strike the entirety of Section IX as follows, and renumber the remaining Sections:

SECTION IX

EDUCATION OF PUPILS FROM THE TOWN OF ROWE

(A) Special Education Pupils from the Town of Rowe

The Committee shall provide for the education of all pupils from the Town of Rowe in grades seven through twelve who are entitled to attend the District High School irrespective of the specific and particular educational needs of any pupil from said Town of Rowe, and irrespective of whether such education for any pupil from said Town of Rowe is provided at the District High School or at any other school as may be approved by said Committee.

(B) Transportation of Pupils from the Town of Rowe

The Committee shall provide for the transportation of pupils from the Town of Rowe who are entitled to attend the District High School, to and from said District High School to the extent that such transportation is provided for pupils from member towns who are entitled to attend said District High School. The Committee shall provided for the transportation of pupils from the Town of Rowe who are entitled to attend the District High School, to and from any other school as may be approved by said Committee to the extent that such transportation is provided for pupils from member towns who are entitled to attend said District High School, to and from any other school as may be approved by said Committee.

The Town of Rowe shall bear the cost of transportation for elementary pupils attending the Rowe elementary school.

(C) Tuition Basis for Pupils Grades 7-12 from the Town of Rowe

The cost of tuition to the District High School for each pupil in grades seven through twelve who attends the District High School or any other school as may

be approved by the Committee, and who resides in the Town of Rowe shall be paid by said Town of Rowe to the District during the fiscal year when each such pupil is actually in attendance. The basis of the cost of tuition to the District High School or any other school as may be approved by said Committee for each fiscal year shall be established as follows: The total Maintenance and Operating Budget for said District High School as defined in Subsection VI(D) of this Agreement, for that fiscal year, reduced by the anticipated amounts of receipts from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to be used by the Committee to defray such budgeted maintenance and operating charges for that fiscal year, and further reduced by the anticipated amounts of surplus revenue from the District treasury to be used by the Committee to defray such budgeted maintenance and operating charges for that fiscal year, and further reduced by the amounts received from towns paying tuition to the district, consistent with the terms of Subsection III(F) of this Agreement; the balance (viz. the net operating and maintenance budget for said fiscal year) to be divided by the total enrollment of pupils in the District High School from member towns as of October 1 of the previous fiscal year and the resulting balance further divided by one and one-tenth (1.1); the final balance to equal the cost of tuition for one pupil for one complete school year.

(D) Reduction of the Cost of Tuition for Pupils Resident in the Town of Rowe
In the event the Committee reduces the net operating and maintenance costs assessed to the member towns for any fiscal year, by reduction of the Operating and Maintenance Budget for said fiscal year or by the application of additional amounts of revenue, irrespective of the source thereof, to reduce the net operating and maintenance costs assessed to said member towns for that fiscal year, the cost of tuition to the Town of Rowe for the education of its pupils during said fiscal year shall be likewise reduced in accordance with the provisions of Subsection IX(D).

(E) Schedule of Payment of Tuition Costs by the Town of Rowe
The Town of Rowe shall pay for the tuition of its pupils to the District High School, or any other school as may be approved by the Committee, such amounts as are in accordance with the provisions of Subsection IX (D), and shall make such payments twice each fiscal year at the following time: 1) not later than January 31 of each fiscal year; 2) not later than June 30 of each fiscal year.

(F) Payment of Capital Costs by the Town of Rowe

The Town of Rowe shall have the opportunity to pay a portion of capital costs as defined in Subsection IV (B) for capital projects at District High School. The Committee shall negotiate the rate of a voluntary contribution with the Rowe School Committee at the time of each capital project.

(G) Representation on the Committee

The School Committee of the Town of Rowe may appoint one of its members to represent the Town of Rowe at meetings of the Committee. The Committee shall allow such representative all powers of discussion, debate and deliberation including, but not limited to, participation in such meetings of the Committee while in executive session, but such representative shall not have the power to vote on any matter which comes before the Committee.

(H) Administrative Support Services for Rowe Pupils Grade K-6

The Town of Rowe shall have the opportunity to utilize the services of the Superintendent of Schools and central administration, and Director of Pupil Services who also directs special education, for administration of the Rowe Elementary School and bear the costs thereof.

(I) Distribution of Assets in the Event of Dissolution of the District

In the event of the dissolution of the District, its assets shall be distributed to the member towns and the Town of Rowe on the basis of each town's respective aggregate payment of capital cost to the District.

Submitted by the MTRSD

Approved by the School Committee

Article 5. Sixth Grade to Mohawk

To see if the Town will vote to accept the following amendments to the Mohawk Trail Regional Agreement:

Strike the following language in Section III(A):

Residents of the member towns and all residents of the Town of Rowe in grades seven through twelve will be eligible to attend school at the Mohawk Trail Regional High School, currently located on Route 112 in Buckland, Massachusetts.

and replace said language with the following:

Residents of the member towns in grades six through twelve and all residents of the Towns of Rowe, Hawley, and Charlemont in grades seven through twelve will be eligible to attend school at the Mohawk Trail Regional High School, currently located on Route 112 in Buckland, Massachusetts.

Strike the following language in Section IV(D):

(1) Grades 7-12

Operating and capital costs, as defined above, associated with grades seven to twelve (7-12) inclusive of the District school or schools shall be deemed District costs and the member towns shall be assessed their respective net shares thereof in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

(2) Grades pre-K-6

(a) Costs associated with the operation of grades pre-Kindergarten to six, inclusive, of the District schools shall be deemed operating costs of the District and the member towns shall be assessed their respective net shares thereof in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

(b) All capital costs incurred by the Committee and associated with grades pre-Kindergarten to six, inclusive, of the District schools shall be deemed capital costs of the District and the member towns shall be assessed their respective net shares thereof in accordance with the provisions of section IV(E) of this Agreement.

(c) If any member town or towns should construct an elementary school, the respective member town or towns will assume responsibility for all capital costs.

and replace said language with the following:

(1) Middle/High School

Operating costs, as defined above, associated with grades seven to twelve (7-12) inclusive of the District school or schools shall be deemed District costs and the member towns, shall be assessed their respective net

shares thereof in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

Capital costs, as defined above, associated with grades six to twelve (6-12) inclusive of the District school or schools shall be deemed District costs and the member towns, shall be assessed their respective net shares thereof in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

(2) Elementary Schools

(a) Costs associated with the operation of grades pre-Kindergarten to six, inclusive, of the District schools shall be deemed operating costs of the District and the pre-K-12 member towns shall be assessed their respective net shares thereof in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

(b) All capital costs incurred by the Committee and associated with grades pre-Kindergarten to five, inclusive, of the District schools shall be deemed capital costs of the District and the pre-K-12 member towns shall be assessed their respective net shares thereof in accordance with the provisions of section IV(E) of this Agreement.

(c) If any member town or towns should construct an elementary school, the respective member town or towns will assume responsibility for all capital costs.

Strike the following language in Section IV(E):

Apportionment of Capital Costs Grades pre-K-6

(1) Ashfield, Plainfield

Capital costs incurred by the Committee and associated with grades pre-Kindergarten to six, inclusive, of the District school or schools serving pupils from the Towns of Ashfield and Plainfield shall be apportioned to the Towns of Ashfield and Plainfield as follows:

To Ashfield: A portion of the whole expressed as a percentage of the total to the nearest one-hundredth of one per-cent calculated as follows: By (1), computing the ratio which the population of the Town of Ashfield bears to the total of the

population of the Towns of Ashfield and Plainfield, and by (2), computing the ratio which the sum of the enrollments of pupils at said school(s), resident in the Town of Ashfield, as determined by the census of pupils at said school(s) each October 1 for the five most recent years, bears to the sum of the enrollment of pupils at the Ashfield Plainfield district school(s), resident in the Towns of Ashfield and Plainfield, as determined by the census of pupils at said school(s) each October 1 for the five most recent years (note: pre-K enrollment will be included in the calculation beginning in FY18 and will include the data from October 1, 2015 and October 1, 2016); and by summing both ratios ((1) + (2)), and dividing such sum by two.

To Plainfield: A portion of the whole expressed as a percentage of the total to the nearest one-hundredth of one per-cent calculated as follows: By (1), computing the ratio which the population of the Town of Plainfield bears to the total of the population of the Towns of Ashfield and Plainfield, and by (2), computing the ratio which the sum of the enrollments of pupils at the Ashfield Plainfield district school(s), resident in the Town of Plainfield, as determined by the census of pupils at said school(s) each October 1 for the five most recent years, bears to the sum of enrollment of pupils at the Ashfield and Plainfield district school(s), resident in the Towns of Ashfield and Plainfield, as determined by the census of pupils at said school(s) each October 1 for the five most recent years (note: pre-K enrollment will be included in the calculation beginning in FY18 and will include the data from October 1, 2015 and October 1, 2016); and by summing both ratios ((1)+(2)), and dividing such sum by two.

(2) Buckland, Shelburne

Capital costs incurred by the committee and associated with grades pre-Kindergarten to six, inclusive, of the District school or schools serving the pupils from the Towns of Buckland and Shelburne shall be apportioned to the Towns of Buckland and Shelburne as follows:

To Buckland: A portion of the total of all principal and interest on bonds, notes or other obligations as issued by the Committee consistent with the above, expressed as a percentage of the total to the nearest one-hundredth of one per-cent calculated as follows: By (1), computing ratio which the sum of the enrollments of pupils at the Buckland Shelburne Elementary School, resident in the Town of Buckland, as determined by the census of pupils at said district

school each October 1 for the five most recent years, bears to the sum of enrollments of pupils at the said district school, resident in the Towns of Buckland and Shelburne, as determined by the census of pupils each October 1 for the five most recent years (note: pre-K enrollment will be included in the calculation beginning in FY18 and will include the data from October 1, 2015 and October 1, 2016); and by (2) expressing such ratio as a percentage.

To Shelburne: A portion of the total of all principal and interest on bonds, notes or other obligations as issued by the Committee consistent with the above, expressed as a percentage of the total to the nearest one-hundredth of one percent calculated as follows: By (1), computing the ratio which the sum of the enrollments of pupils at the Buckland Shelburne Elementary School, resident in the Town of Shelburne, as determined by the census of pupils at said district school each October 1 for the five most recent years, bears to the sum of enrollments of pupils at said district school, resident in the Towns of Buckland and Shelburne, as determined by the census of pupils each October 1 for the five most recent years (note: pre-K enrollment will be included in the calculation beginning in FY18 and will include the data from October 1, 2015 and October 1, 2016); and by (2) expressing such ratio as a percentage.

and replace said language with the following:

Apportionment of Capital Costs Grades pre-K-5

(1) Ashfield, Plainfield

Capital costs incurred by the Committee and associated with grades pre-Kindergarten to five, inclusive, of the District school or schools serving pupils from the Towns of Ashfield and Plainfield shall be apportioned to the Towns of Ashfield and Plainfield as follows:

To Ashfield: A portion of the whole expressed as a percentage of the total to the nearest one-hundredth of one per-cent calculated as follows: By (1), computing the ratio which the population of the Town of Ashfield bears to the total of the population of the Towns of Ashfield and Plainfield, and by (2), computing the ratio which the sum of the enrollments of pupils at said school(s), resident in the Town of Ashfield, as determined by the census of pupils at said school(s) each October 1 for the five most recent years, bears to the sum of the enrollment of pupils at the

Ashfield Plainfield district school(s), resident in the Towns of Ashfield and Plainfield, as determined by the census of pupils at said school(s) each October 1 for the five most recent years (note: pre-K enrollment will be included in the calculation beginning in FY18 and will include the data from October 1, 2015 and October 1, 2016); and by summing both ratios ((1) + (2)), and dividing such sum by two.

To Plainfield: A portion of the whole expressed as a percentage of the total to the nearest one-hundredth of one per-cent calculated as follows: By (1), computing the ratio which the population of the Town of Plainfield bears to the total of the population of the Towns of Ashfield and Plainfield, and by (2), computing the ratio which the sum of the enrollments of pupils at the Ashfield Plainfield district school(s), resident in the Town of Plainfield, as determined by the census of pupils at said school(s) each October 1 for the five most recent years, bears to the sum of enrollment of pupils at the Ashfield and Plainfield district school(s), resident in the Towns of Ashfield and Plainfield, as determined by the census of pupils at said school(s) each October 1 for the five most recent years (note: pre-K enrollment will be included in the calculation beginning in FY18 and will include the data from October 1, 2015 and October 1, 2016); and by summing both ratios ((1)+(2)), and dividing such sum by two.

(2) Buckland, Shelburne

Capital costs incurred by the committee and associated with grades pre-Kindergarten to five, inclusive, of the District school or schools serving the pupils from the Towns of Buckland and Shelburne shall be apportioned to the Towns of Buckland and Shelburne as follows:

To Buckland: A portion of the total of all principal and interest on bonds, notes or other obligations as issued by the Committee consistent with the above, expressed as a percentage of the total to the nearest one-hundredth of one per-cent calculated as follows: By (1), computing ratio which the sum of the enrollments of pupils at the Buckland Shelburne Elementary School, resident in the Town of Buckland, as determined by the census of pupils at said district school each October 1 for the five most recent years, bears to the sum of enrollments of pupils at the said district school, resident in the Towns of Buckland and Shelburne, as determined by the census of pupils each October 1 for the five most recent years (note: pre-K enrollment will be included in the calculation

beginning in FY18 and will include the data from October 1, 2015 and October 1, 2016); and by (2) expressing such ratio as a percentage.

To Shelburne: A portion of the total of all principal and interest on bonds, notes or other obligations as issued by the Committee consistent with the above, expressed as a percentage of the total to the nearest one-hundredth of one percent calculated as follows: By (1), computing the ratio which the sum of the enrollments of pupils at the Buckland Shelburne Elementary School, resident in the Town of Shelburne, as determined by the census of pupils at said district school each October 1 for the five most recent years, bears to the sum of enrollments of pupils at said district school, resident in the Towns of Buckland and Shelburne, as determined by the census of pupils each October 1 for the five most recent years (note: pre-K enrollment will be included in the calculation beginning in FY18 and will include the data from October 1, 2015 and October 1, 2016); and by (2) expressing such ratio as a percentage.

Strike the following language in Section IV(F):

(F) Apportionment of Capital Costs Grades 7-12

and replace said language with the following:

(F) Apportionment of Capital Costs Grades 6-12

Strike the following language in Section IV(J):

The District School Committee shall not interfere with a town's or Local Education Council's use of trust funds or other special funds, including separate town meeting articles, intended for the enhancement of the educational opportunities for that town's pupils at the pre-K-6 grades only. The operations budget shall not be reduced by the receipt of such funds.

and replace said language with the following:

The District School Committee shall not interfere with a town's or Local Education Council's use of trust funds or other special funds, including separate town meeting articles, intended for the enhancement of the educational opportunities for that town's pupils at the pre-K-5 grades only. The operations budget shall not be reduced by the receipt of such funds.

Submitted by the MTRSD

Approved by the School Committee

Article 6. To see if the town will authorize the Assessors to apply \$80,000.00 from Free Cash to reduce the Fiscal 2019 tax rate or take any action relative thereto.

Inserted by the Town Accountant

Recommended by the Finance Committee

Article 7. To see if the town will vote to transfer the amount of \$5,500.00 from Free Cash for a Compactor Roof or take any action relative thereto.

Inserted by the Board of Health

Recommended by the Finance Committee

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to transfer the amount of \$6,450.00 from Free Cash to remove and replace the Compactor Retaining Wall or take any action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the Board of Health
Committee*

Recommend by the Finance

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to transfer the amount of \$15,000.00 from Free Cash for the purchase of a Brush Chipper or take any action relative thereto.

Inserted by the Highway Department

Recommended by the Finance Committee

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to transfer the amount of \$60,080.00 from Free Cash to purchase Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for the Fire Department or take any action relative thereto.

Inserted by the Fire Department

Recommended by the Finance Committee

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to transfer the amount of \$50,000.00 from Free Cash to replace the Highway Garage roof or take any action relative thereto.

Inserted by the Buildings Committee

Recommended by the Finance Committee

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to transfer the amount of \$10,000.00 from Free Cash to replace the Town Hall Fire Escape or take any action relative thereto.

Inserted by the Buildings Committee

Recommended by the Finance Committee

Article 13. To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to borrow up to \$220,000 for up to seven years for a used grader or take any action relative thereto.

Inserted by the Highway Department Recommended by the Finance Committee
Requires a 2/3 vote

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to transfer the amount of \$46,906.65 from Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund or take any other action relative thereto.

Inserted by the Town Accountant Recommended by the Finance Committee

Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to transfer the amount of \$661.48 from Library Sales and Fines to the Shaw Memorial Library or take any other action relative thereto.

Inserted by the Town Accountant

Article 16. To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to apply, accept, and expend for specific purposes provided by any Federal or State Grants or Programs which may be awarded to the Town.

Inserted by the Select Board

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to accept as available funds any and all monies from the Executive Office of Transportation for Fiscal 2019.

Inserted by the Select Board

Article 18. To see if the Town will choose or create, as appropriate, any other Town Committees, Boards, Commissions, Trustees, Offices, etc., and to fix compensation for the same, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to retain legal counsel for the town, or take any other action relative thereto.

Inserted by the Select Board

Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to leave the care, maintenance and repair of the Town Hall, Shaw Memorial Library, Hallock Memorial School Building, Hathaway Hall, Firehouse, Town Garage, Police Station, Public Safety Building, and surrounding areas, in the charge of the Buildings Committee, or take any other action relative thereto.

Inserted by the Buildings Committee

Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to leave the care, maintenance and repair of the cemeteries in the charge of the Cemetery Committee, or take any other action relative thereto.

Inserted by the Cemetery Committee

Article 22. To see if the Town will vote to leave the care, maintenance and repair of the highways, public ways, including the alteration and widening thereof, railings and bridges in the charge of the Select Board, or take any other action relative thereto.

Inserted by the Select Board

Article 23. To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of the Town Officers, Boards, Committees, Trustees, etc. as printed in the Town Report.

Article 24. To see if the Town of Plainfield will vote to adopt the following resolution:

We call on the United States to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by:

--renouncing the options of first strike with nuclear weapons and of the first use of nuclear weapons

--ending the president's sole, unchecked authority to launch an unprovoked nuclear attack

--taking nuclear weapons off a hair-trigger alert

--canceling the plan to replace the United States' entire nuclear weapons arsenal with enhanced nuclear weapons

--actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals

The Town Clerk is directed to send copies of this resolution to the two

Massachusetts U.S. senators, and to the U.S. representative for this district, and

to the President and Secretary of State of the United States, and to the Massachusetts state senator and state representative from this district.

Inserted by Voter Request

Article 25. To see if the Town will vote to transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

You are directed to serve this Warrant by posting four attested copies thereof, one at the Town Hall and one at the Town Offices seven days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Hereof, fail not and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk at or before the time of holding said meeting.

Given under our hands on this, the _____ day of April in the year Two Thousand and Eighteen.

Plainfield Board of Selectmen:

Howard Bronstein

Winton Pitcoff

Hilary Weeks

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to within Warrant, to me directed, I have notified the qualified voters of the Town of Plainfield to meet at the time and for the purpose therein mentioned by posting four copies of said Warrant, one at the Town Hall, one at the Post Office, one at the Town Offices and one at the Recycling Station on this _____ day of April 2018.

Constable