

## WARNING

### ANNUAL SCHOOL MEETING

#### WELLS TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

The legal voters of the Wells Town School District in the County of Rutland and State of Vermont are hereby duly warned and notified to meet at the Wells Town Office in said Town of Wells on Tuesday, March 7, 2017, between the hours of 7:00 a.m., at which time the polls will open, and 7:00 p.m., at which time the polls will close, to vote by Australian ballot on the following articles:

**Article I.** Shall the Wells Town School District, which the State Board of Education has found necessary to include in the proposed unified union school district, join with the school district of Middletown Springs, which the State Board of Education has found necessary to include in the proposed unified union school district, for the purpose of forming a unified union school district to be named the Wells Springs Unified Union School District, as provided in Title 16, Vermont Statutes Annotated, upon the following conditions and agreements.

If both necessary districts vote to approve the merger, the Wells Springs Unified Union School District will commence full educational operations and services on July 1, 2018 under the provisions of 16 VSA Chapter 11; provided however, that the votes approving creation of the Unified Union School District shall not become effective unless and until the voters of the Poultney, Proctor and West Rutland School Districts vote to approve formation of the Quarry Valley Unified Union District, thereby enabling the two unified union school districts to form a "Side-by-Side" structure within the same supervisory union.

- (a) **Grades.** The Unified Union School District will offer pre-kindergarten through grade six education to all students in the Unified Union School District and tuition students in grades 7-12.
- (b) **Board of School Directors.** A town district's representation on the Unified Union School District School Board will be determined as an at-large hybrid model. Membership on the School Board is apportioned to each town. Apportionment does not have to be proportional to a town's population. Voters in both member towns vote on the same slate of candidates. The ballot for school directors is categorized to represent each town's apportioned seats on the Union School District School Board. At no time will a town/village corresponding to a pre-existing member school district have less than one board member with a total weighted vote of one on the board of school directors. The at-large hybrid model that determines the board membership will remain in place for the first three years of the new Unified Union. At any time after this the Unified Union School Board shall evaluate and consider the advisability of implementing a town-by-town proportional model.
- (c) **Assumption of debts and ownership of school property.** The Unified Union School District shall assume the indebtedness of member districts and assume all operating deficits and/or surpluses or reserve funds of the member districts; acquire and pay for the school properties of member districts; all as specifically identified and provided for in Articles 4, 7 and 8 in the Final Report. The complete provisions of Articles 7 and 8 regarding operating deficits and/or surpluses, reserve funds, acquisition of school properties are set forth in the Final Report and are incorporated in their entirety by reference herein.
- (d) **School Closing.** After July 1, 2018, no school facility shall be closed without a unanimous vote of the Unified Union School Board and an affirmative vote of the community in which the school is located.
- (e) **Final Report.** The provisions of the Final Report approved by the State Board of Education on January 17, 2017, which is on file in the Middletown Springs Town Clerk's office, shall govern the unified union school district.

**Article II.** To elect seven (7) school directors from the nominees, to serve on the school board of the proposed unified union school district board from the date of the organizational meeting for the following terms:

- One (1) school director for a one-year term who resides in the Town of Wells
- One (1) school director for a one-year term who resides in the Town of Middletown Springs
- One (1) school director for a two-year term who resides in the Town of Wells
- One (1) school director for a two-year term who resides in the Town of Middletown Springs
- One (1) school director for a three-year term who resides in the Town of Wells
- One (1) school director for a three-year term who resides in the Town of Middletown Springs
- One (1) school director at large who resides in either the Town of Middletown Springs or the Town of Wells for a one year term

The legal voters of the Wells Town School District are further notified that voter qualification, registration, absentee voting and voting procedures relative to said meeting shall be as provided in Chapters 43, 51, and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

#### Informational Hearing

The legal voters of the Wells Town School District are warned and notified that a public informational hearing will be held at the Wells Village School multipurpose room in said Town of Wells, Vermont on March 6, 2017 commencing at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of explaining the Articles.

Dated this 22 day of January, 2017 at Wells, Vermont.

Sue Burke  
Sue Burke, Chair

Shane Reed  
Shane Reed, Clerk

Courtney Bishop  
Courtney Bishop, Member

Received for record this 22 day of January, 2017 Wells, Vermont.

Nora Sargent  
Nora Sargent, Town Clerk