### Students
- 4,054 (K-12 & CTE)
- 46 different languages spoken by EWSD students
- Second largest district in the state in regards to student population

### Staff
- 936 employees
- 45% of the EWSD workforce are residents of Essex, Essex Junction, or Westford
- 5.4:1 EWSD’s student to staff ratio. The average in Vermont is 4:1

### Technology
- 7,145 network user accounts
- 386 WiFi access points
- 2.1 million Google Docs
- 10,384 total network devices (computers, printers, copiers, projectors, etc.)

### Nutrition
- EWSD is on track to serve 80,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables this school year
- 24% of our student population participate in the federal free and reduced program
- This school year EWSD will serve over a half million meals

### Property
- 987,166 square feet of space
- 430+ acres of land
- $81.7 million in capital assets before depreciation

---

**This is EWSD ...**

10 Schools  
3 Communities  
1 District
**Accomplishments Since Unification ...**

- Adoption of new PreK-12 EWSD Proficiencies and grade span performance indicators
- Adoption of Bridges math program at FMS and EES for Fall 2018 to align with colleague K-5 schools
- Creation of a shared (common) 8th grade Algebra program with common staff
- Creation of a common middle level progress reporting system
- Common professional learning across schools through shared Instructional Coaching, Professional Development Institute (PDI), shared PD providers/consultants and common book reads across schools, etc.
- Supporting schools with administration of two new state assessments (science and fitness)

**Alumni Connection**

“I appreciate the lessons learned in the classroom and through sports at Essex High School, as the challenging curriculum and academics helped me prepare for my further education. Playing football and basketball provided me an opportunity to work hard and learn life lessons. I feel that my teachers at Essex provided me with the educational foundation needed to attend college and then law school.

My teachers and coaches at EHS instilled in me a work ethic, moral values, and an enthusiasm for life. I have been a partner in my own law firm in Pittsburgh for the past 15 years now. I often look back at my time in the classroom and on the fields from high school as guidance and inspiration to improve myself professionally and personally. My experience at Essex High School and influence from my parents has helped me become the husband, father, and attorney that I am today.”

-Bill Witte, EHS class of ‘87

**Performance on State Assessments**

All Vermont students are required to take the state assessments SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) in English Language Arts and Mathematics in grades 3-8 and 11. Students are also required to take a state science assessment which is currently the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) but is transitioning to a new state assessment in 2018. The numbers above indicate the percent of students who received a score of “Proficient” and above.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>Vermont 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade 3</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
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<td>59%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 5</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>55%</td>
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<td>Grade 6</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>52%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 8</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 11</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>Vermont 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade 3</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 4</td>
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<td>47%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 5</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 6</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 7</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 8</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 11</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade 4</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 8</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 11</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**English Language Arts (SBAC)**

**Mathematics (SBAC)**

**Science (NECAP)**

**Current Work (Fall ’18 implementation) ...**

- Finalizing a new EWSD Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP)
- Adoption of a common K-5 Progress Report/Report Card
- Adoption of a common PreK-12 Comprehensive Assessment Plan
- Implementation of a single EWSD Student Assessment Data System
- Implementing a common EWSD Educational Support Team (EST) plan format
- Implementation of a common Personal Learning Plan (PLP) system
- Common PD schedule, calendar and structures

* The mean composite score for EHS students taking the ACT test was 25.3 in 2016-17, while the mean composite score for all students taking the test in Vermont was 23.6.

* Number of Advanced Placement (AP) Exams that 232 students at EHS took in 2016-17, with 51% of them scoring a four or above.

* Percentage of CTE students completing at least one college course via Dual Enrollment or College Attendance in 2016-17.

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2015 2016 2017
Grade 3 58% 69% 63% 49%
Grade 4 59% 65% 65% 49%
Grade 5 64% 71% 70% 55%
Grade 6 70% 66% 64% 52%
Grade 7 76% 73% 70% 55%
Grade 8 70% 78% 70% 55%
Grade 11 72% 73% 65% 59%

2015 2016 2017
Grade 3 56% 69% 66% 52%
Grade 4 59% 56% 59% 47%
Grade 5 47% 59% 49% 42%
Grade 6 50% 44% 56% 39%
Grade 7 63% 65% 53% 44%
Grade 8 58% 61% 61% 41%
Grade 11 57% 53% 45% 37%

2015 2016 2017
Grade 4 47% 56% 56%
Grade 8 34% 40% 42%
Grade 11 51% 51% 45%

English Language Arts (SBAC)  Mathematics (SBAC)  Science (NECAP)
Dear Families and Friends of Essex Westford Schools,

I am honored to serve your community as the Superintendent of the Essex Westford School District (EWSD). Through the budget development process, I am reminded of the strong connection between the financial support we receive from you, as community members, and the success of our schools, and I thank you for that. Our schools are among the best in Vermont.

As you know, July 1, 2017 marked the birth of the EWSD. We are constantly striving for the “promise of the merger,” which is one that provides all of our students the greatest educational opportunities, ensures equity across all of our schools, and provides operational efficiencies that will reduce our costs over time. In the development of the FY’19 budget, we have already seen significant savings at the district office level.

As always, there are statewide fiscal challenges that need to be factored into the building of a budget. Governor Scott’s focus on student staff ratio has been a statewide conversation. We know this is a challenge in many areas of Vermont, but fortunately, we fall in range of his recommended average of five students per one adult. This is not to be confused with class size. New restrictions tied to our federal dollars also bring challenges. We will need to be creative as we tackle the restrictions and know that some of the costs will have be absorbed into our local budget.

A community challenge that we are all facing, is the health crisis of addiction and other mental health issues. This directly impacts our schools, as we see a number of high needs students coming into the system. All of these challenges are real and ones that we deal with on a daily basis. As one district, combining our resources, we are better adept in meeting these challenges.

In this newborn stage of the District, we are getting to know who we are as one community. We are gathering information across our schools on everything from our student demographics to our facilities. This equity audit is helping us to understand who we are and how we are meeting the needs of our students. It is providing us with information so that we can make changes to ensure equity across our district. For example, we have learned that there is a significant difference among our elementary schools in the duration of the school day. This has an impact on learning, as we are always looking to find more time.

Another area where we know we have work to do is aligning our preK-8 system so that students have similar learning expectations and outcomes. This is especially critical as they are all entering one high school. It is proven when professional learning occurs within a system, driven by high
of the graduating class from 2017 had plans of attending college

of CTE students were placed in at least one work site of interest

75%

70%

BETH COBB

expectations, shared goals, professionalism, and peer accountability, the outcome is deep change for students, teachers, and the system. As an administrative team, we are dedicated to finding time for teachers to learn from each other and create similar learning opportunities and outcomes for our EWSD students.

Our administrators and Board members are faced with juggling the financial challenges while being committed to providing quality-learning opportunities for our students. Due to technology and globalization, education is rapidly changing and we understand in order to prepare our students for their future, from the classroom to the board level, that change is essential.

Daily, I am inspired by our administrators, teachers, and support staff who have chosen to dedicate their time and energy to the children of our community. We are committed to improving learning for all students.

Every day brings new challenges, as well as reasons to celebrate. Our celebrations come from watching our students succeed: whether it is listening to a child read a story they authored, seeing them engaged in a science experiment, or watching them succeed at an internship – they make us proud every day.

In closing, I would like to thank our School Board members who devote their energy and countless hours to ensure that our schools provide opportunities for our students to be successful while being fiscally conscientious. Together we support our children in their learning. This truly takes a community and I thank you for your support.

Yours in education,
Beth Cobb

Colleges our students have been accepted at over the last two years:

- Berklee Coll. of Music
- Boston Coll. of Music
- Bowdoin
- Brandeis
- Brown
- Bucknell
- California (Berkeley)
- Univ. of Chicago
- Colgate
- Columbia
- Cornell
- Dartmouth
- Fordham
- Georgetown
- Harvard
- Lehigh
- Michigan
- Notre Dame
- Princeton
- Purdue
- RPI
- RIT
- Stanford
- Tufts
- UVM
- Wesleyan
- Wheaton
- Yale
July 1, 2017 marked the beginning of operation for the Essex Westford School District. Our new Superintendent, Beth Cobb, and our new Chief Operating Officer, Brian Donahue took the reins and began leading our district.

Last year the EWSD School Board was focused on getting the district ready to begin operations. We hired a new superintendent, approved all required policies, and created a budget for FY18 that was approved by voters.

The Board’s work for this year has been focused on creating a vision for the new district. Voices for Education, a grant funded public engagement group, started the work off this summer and fall with the “Four Words” campaign. Students, parents, and community members were asked for four words that would describe their hopes for our new school district. Following the campaign, the words were used to create topics for a month long community engagement effort. Over 50 students, parents, and community members committed to weekly meetings in the month of October. The results of that work informed the discussions of the district’s Leadership Team (Superintendent, COO, Directors, and Principals) and several students in creating a draft vision. This vision will go back to the schools and community for further feedback. The timeline calls for the Board to approve a final vision in the spring.

Following the adoption of a vision, the Board intends to define the student outcomes that we are seeking to ensure so that we are supporting all students in achieving the vision. Methods of assessing student progress toward achieving the outcomes will be developed. The vision will also provide the foundation for the creation of a Continuous Improvement Plan for the district. Our focus is on improving educational outcomes and opportunities for all students.

In addition to improving and expanding the educational experience for our students, the “promise of merger” anticipated cost savings which would result from the efficiencies we could achieve by combining our 10 schools into a single school district with a single superintendent and a single central office staff. This year’s budget furthers that goal with additional reductions in central office personnel. The Board continues to see evidence that the two districts are indeed “better together.”

Our focus is on improving educational outcomes and opportunities for all students.
This year a major topic of discussion for our Board and for school boards at the state level has been equity. We have learned that equity does not mean equal. But rather, educational equity means that each student receives the resources and educational opportunities that they need to learn, thrive, and achieve the desired outcomes.

One fourth grade class may learn music fundamentals and appreciation by learning to play recorders while another may learn by playing ukuleles. The experience isn’t equal because the students are using different instruments, yet the desired outcomes can be the same. Another example is one in which an individual student may need different supports or considerations in order to achieve a similar outcome as another student. The two students won’t receive exactly the same instruction, yet the design of instruction will be aimed toward having both students achieve the desired outcome. We have much more to learn about this topic.

As we explored the topic of equity and diversity in the October community forums, one of the greatest themes that emerged was the importance of student voice in the conversations that affect them most. From that recognition, the EWSD Board worked with students to learn how we could ensure student voice is heard. We arrived at a plan to add two student members to the EWSD Board, one junior and one senior.

Senior Nick Hanna joined our Board in the end of January and we are in the process of appointing a junior to the Board in the coming months. Already, we have benefited from the valuable insight and perspective that Nick has brought to our discussions, and we are grateful for the commitment of all the students that helped to bring this to fruition.

We believe the Essex Westford School District is off to a fine start in its first year of operation. We look for continued growth as we move forward together. Thank you for your support in this journey!

Martha Heath
EWSD Board Chair
As a brand new district, we need a brand new vision. This new vision will be our ‘north star.’ Voices for Education reached out to the community through its #4Words4EWSD campaign last summer and then held a series of community conversations in October. We talked with all the teachers in the district and checked in with students throughout the process. Now we wanted to check in with YOU!!!

Below is the first draft that we have come up with. Tell us what you think, by emailing any feedback to EWSD Communications Coordinator Ben Dickie (bdickie@ewsd.org).

Growing hearts and minds
For a better today and tomorrow ...
Every day, every way, every one

Voices for Education (VFE) is a group of students, school leaders, parents, and community members who are working to make sure Essex Westford students, educators and community members all have a meaningful voice in important decisions about our community's education system. In the spring of 2016, the Essex Westford School District Board received a three-year grant from the Nellie Mae Foundation to help engage the community around school matters and ensure that the community, including people who don't usually have a say, has a voice in important decisions about our education system.

During the month of October, over 50 people including students, parents, community members and educators, participated in five small group dialogues over four weeks to talk about our schools, and more importantly, what they can become. The discussion was centered around developing a shared vision, a north star to guide our new district forward in everything that it does, with the goal of helping the district and our students become the best they can be.
Essex High School, Essex Middle School, and Albert D. Lawton all took part in the Pink Zone on February 9 to help raise money for the UVM Breast Cancer Center.

The three basketball games brought in over $2,500 for the cause, as the Pink Zone has now raised over $25,000 over the last 11 years.

Students, staff, and administrators from the Essex Westford School District took part in the Penguin Plunge on February 3 to help support Special Olympics Vermont.

With 19 team members from various schools and the district office, the EWSD contingent raised $5,245!

Amy Downing’s students at Thomas Fleming took part in the Little Hats, Big Hearts initiative by knitting hats for babies who are in the NICU.

Volunteers from around the country joined the American Heart Association, in connection with The Children’s Heart Foundation, to celebrate American Heart Month by knitting and crocheting red hats for babies born in February at participating hospitals.

Over a two week period, EES, FMS, EMS, and the two EWSD Central Office locations took part in a food drive for Aunt Dot’s Place, with the goal of stuffing a bus full of food.

On February 23, a bus picked up all the food and supplies that were collected, which weighed in at 858.1 pounds! The haul was the biggest one-time donation that Aunt Dot’s has received to date, and on top of that, over $1,000 in cash and gift cards were also collected and donated to the food shelf.

Aunt Dot’s Place Food Drive

Pink Zone Basketball Games

EWSD in the Community

Special Olympics - Penguin Plunge

Little Hats, Big Hearts Initiative
### Essex Westford School District

**FY’19 Proposed Budget**

**Total proposed expenses, before capital allocation, for FY’19, a **1.77% increase** over FY’18 approved budget**

**Total proposed expenses for CTE in FY’19, a **2.8% decrease** from the FY’18 approved budget**

**The proposed Capital Plan for FY’19 is down $209,000, or about 17%, from FY’18**

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**Major Drivers**

* Merger Savings
* Health Insurance
* Food Service Subsidy
* Auditing Services
* Public High School Tuition
* Technical Ed Tuition

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**Audited financial statements from the CCSU/ETSD legacy districts can be found on the EWSD Budget web page.**

For more information on the budget, visit: [www.ewsd.org/budget](http://www.ewsd.org/budget)
**REVENUE**

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<th>Offsetting Revenue</th>
<th>FY18 Approved Budget</th>
<th>FY19 Proposed Budget</th>
<th>$$\ Change</th>
<th>%% Change</th>
</tr>
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<td>Local</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>State Total</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDEA-B/B EEE</td>
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<tr>
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<td>323,000</td>
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<tr>
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<td>35,000</td>
<td>(20,000)</td>
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<td>E-Rate Revenues</td>
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<td>48,000</td>
<td>(24,000)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Total</td>
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<td>920,187</td>
<td>172,558</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**EXPENSES**

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>FY19 Proposed Budget</th>
<th>$$\ Change</th>
<th>%% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special Education</td>
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<td>14,610,359</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Athletics/Extra Curr.</td>
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<td>1,204,443</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instructional Programs Total</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instructional Support</td>
<td>Social Work Services</td>
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<td>443,400</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Guidance/Services</td>
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<td>2,298,435</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Health Serv/Wellness</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Psychological</td>
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<td>382,643</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Speech &amp; Language</td>
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<td>1,449,334</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Occupational Therapy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Physical Therapy</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other Support Svcs</td>
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<td>606,830</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Instruction &amp; Curriculum Services</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Library Services</td>
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<td>Instructional Support Total</td>
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<td>9,823,504</td>
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<td>Administrative/Other Support</td>
<td>Board of Education Services</td>
<td>111,241</td>
<td>115,177</td>
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<td>District Admin Svcs</td>
<td>2,529,059</td>
<td>2,589,076</td>
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<td>Office of the Principal Svcs</td>
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<td>3,110,172</td>
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<td>Administrative Tech Svcs</td>
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<td>Operation and Maint of Plant</td>
<td>6,233,273</td>
<td>6,232,855</td>
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<td>Studt Transp Resident</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Studt Transp Non Resident</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Transp Co-Curr &amp; Extra</td>
<td>199,487</td>
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<td>Food Service Operations</td>
<td>108,712</td>
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<td>Debt Service</td>
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<td>Administrative/Other Support Total</td>
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<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>75,287,014</td>
<td>76,618,154</td>
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Cloutier-Namdar Named Vermont Teacher of the Year

Essex High School English teacher Linda Cloutier-Namdar was named the 2018 Vermont Teacher of the Year by the Vermont Agency of Education in October. Cloutier-Namdar, who teaches ninth grade core at EHS, models the traits of a life-long learner. She is currently also a class advisor, a Flynn Theater Teacher Leader, and a writer for the Essex Westford Education Association. In addition to work on a wide range of school committees, she has taken part in school literacy initiatives and is a member of the English Language Arts (ELA) Vertical Team for the district.

Cloutier-Namdar piloted and helped edit an ELA Transferable Skills Task, working with staff from the Great Schools Partnership and the Vermont Agency of Education. A member of the Vermont Writing Collaborative (VWC), she has presented workshops at VWC Summer Institutes and co-presented a workshop at the 2017 New England Secondary School Consortium School Redesign in Action event.

EWSD Staff Members Help Create Local Food Shelf

Andrea Francalangia, a Student Support Specialist at Founders Memorial, and Elizabeth Ploof, a Special Educator at Essex Middle School, were part of a 12 member group who helped create Aunt Dot’s Place, a food shelf which opened on August 26 and is located on 51 Center Road. This non profit organization operates with a goal in mind to provide food for families in need and hopes to expand its services in the future to include job application assistance, interview preparations, and school supply drives.

O’Neil Selected to the National High School Hall of Fame

Former EHS coach Bill O’Neil is one of 12 individuals who have been selected as part of the 2018 class of the National High School Hall of Fame administered by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). O’Neil retired from coaching last year after winning almost 1,300 games as the boys ice hockey, girls soccer, and girls softball coach at EHS.

One of the top multi-sport coaches in Vermont history, during his 45-year coaching career at Essex High School he coached in nearly 2,000 varsity games and compiled an all-time overall mark of 1,293-592-32 and 24 state championships between the three.

McClintock Volunteers in Africa During the Summer

Over the last four summers, Thomas Fleming Physical Education teacher Kelly McClintock has made an annual philanthropic trip to Africa to volunteer. Her trips have ranged from work at an orphanage, to initiating a sports program for girls in Ghana, to last summer hiking Mount Kilimanjaro as part of the Hike for Education program to raise money for local students in that area.
2018 EWSD
Annual Meeting Warning

ESSEX WESTFORD EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY
UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT #51
ANNUAL MEETING WARNING
Monday, April 9, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. (Polls open for Australian Ballot)

The legal voters of the Essex Westford Educational Community Unified Union School District #51 (hereafter “Unified Union School District #51”) comprising the voters of the Village of Essex Junction, Essex Town and the Town of Westford are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Essex Community Education Center, on Education Drive, in the auditorium of said school, at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, April 9, 2018, to transact any of the following business and to take action upon the following articles not involving Australian Ballot and thereafter to hold a public informational hearing on the fiscal year 2019 budgets:

Article I: To elect the following officers:
• Moderator for one year
• Clerk for one year
• Treasurer for one year

Article II: To hear and act upon the reports of the Unified Union School District #51, Officers and the Board of School Directors.

Article III: To authorize the Unified Union School District #51 to borrow money to be used for the payment of District expenses by the issuance of notes or orders payable not later than one year from date of issuance pending receipt of payments from the State Education Fund.

Article IV: To receive from the Board of School Directors its estimate of expenses of the Unified Union School District #51 for the ensuing year. This time serves as a public informational hearing for public review of the proposed 2018-2019 budget for discussion purposes only.

Article V: To transact any other school business thought proper and lawful when met.

WHEREUPON, after disposition of said business and informational hearing on Monday, April 9, 2018, said meeting shall be adjourned and reconvened on the following day, Tuesday, April 10, 2018, when legal voters are hereby notified and warned to meet at the respective polling places of their member communities as outlined below between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., to vote by Australian ballot on Articles VI-VIII.

Polling Places
The voters residing in each member community will cast their ballots from 7:00 a.m-7:00 p.m. in the polling places designated for their community as follows:

Essex Town: Essex Middle School in the Town of Essex
Town of Westford: The Westford School in the Town of Westford
Village of Essex Junction: Essex Community Educational Center in the Village of Essex Junction

Article VI: Shall the voters of Unified Union School District #51 approve the school board to expend $76,618,154 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018?

It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of $15,814 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 0.82% lower than spending for the current year.

Article VII: Shall the voters of Unified Union School District #51 appropriate $1,000,000 necessary to supplement the Capital Reserve Fund in support of the District’s Capital Plan?

It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of $16,076 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 1.18% lower than spending for the current year.

Article VIII: Shall the voters of the Unified Union School District #51 approve the school board to expend $8,035,801 which is the amount the school board has determined necessary for the support of the Center for Technology, Essex for the ensuing fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018?

Upon closing of the polls, the ballots will be counted by local town/village election officials who shall transmit the voting results to the Clerk of Essex Westford Educational Community Unified Union School District #51, who will then tabulate the final results for the District.

The legal voters of Unified Union School District #51 are further notified that voter qualification and registration relative to said Annual Meeting shall be as provided in Sections 706u of Title 16 and Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Adopted and approved at a duly noticed, called and held meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Unified Union School District #51 this 8th day of March, 2018 by the Unified Union School District #51 Board of School Directors at Essex Junction, Vermont.
ESSEX WESTFORD EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY
UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT #51 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
Essex Community Educational Center Cafeteria | April 10, 2017

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Martha Heath (Chair); Kim Gleason (Vice Chair), Marla Durham (Clerk), Wes McLellan, Diane Clemens, Liz Subin, Keeley Schell, Brendan Kinney, Andre Roy.
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Al Bombardier was absent.
ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Superintendent Judith DeNova; Superintendent, Mark Andrews.

John Sonnick opened the 2nd Annual Meeting of the Essex Westford Educational Community Unified Union School District #51 at 7 PM.

ARTICLE I: To elect a Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer for one year.
MOTION by Kim Gleason, SECOND by Tim Jerman, to nominate John Sonnick as Moderator for one year.
DISCUSSION: There were no other nominations.
MOTION by Dawn Hill-Fleury, SECOND by Liz Subin, to close the nominations. VOTING on close the nominations: unanimous; motion carried.
VOTING on Moderator: unanimous; motion carried.

John Sonnick is Moderator.

MOTION by Kim Gleason, SECOND by Liz Subin, to nominate John Sonnick as Clerk for one year.
DISCUSSION: There were no other nominations.
MOTION by Dawn Hill-Fleury, SECOND by Irene Wrenner, to close the nominations. VOTING on close the nominations: unanimous; motion carried.
VOTING on Clerk: unanimous; motion carried.

John Sonnick is Clerk.

MOTION by Marla Durham, SECOND by Andre Roy, to nominate Susan McNamara-Hill as Treasurer.
DISCUSSION: There were no other nominations.
VOTING on Treasurer: unanimous; motion carried.

Susan McNamara-Hill is Treasurer.

ARTICLE II: To determine and approve compensation if any to be paid to the duly constituted officers of the Unified Union School District #51.
MOTION by Marla Durham, SECOND by Patrick Murray, to approve compensation of $500 per year for the Clerk and $500 per year for the Treasurer.

DISCUSSION: None.
VOTING on Article II: unanimous; motion carried. Article II is approved.

ARTICLE III: To hear and act upon the reports of the Unified Union School District #51 Officers and the Board of School Directors.
MOTION by Mark Drapa, SECOND by Tim Jerman, to accept the reports of the Officers and the Board of School Directors as presented.
DISCUSSION: None.
VOTING on Article III: unanimous; motion carried. Article III is approved.

ARTICLE IV: Shall the Unified Union School District #51 hold its subsequent annual meetings on the second Monday of the month of April at 7 PM to transact business not involving Australian ballot and upon completion of such business said meeting is to be adjourned and reconvened in the respective polling places on the second Tuesday of the month of April from 7 AM through 7 PM to transact any business involving voting by Australian ballot?
MOTION by Rich Maggiani, SECOND by Tim Jerman, to approve Article IV as presented.
DISCUSSION: None.
VOTING on Article IV: unanimous; motion carried. Article IV is approved.

ARTICLE V: To authorize the Unified Union School District #51 to borrow money to be used for the payment of District expenses by the issuance of notes or orders payable not later than one year from date of issuance pending receipt of payments from the State Education Fund.
MOTION by Andre Roy, SECOND by Jason DiRosa, to approve Article V as presented.
DISCUSSION: None.
VOTING on Article V: unanimous; motion carried. Article V is approved.

ARTICLE VI: Shall the voters of the Unified Union School District #51 establish a repair and capital expenses fund in accordance with 24VSA2804 in order to appropriate thereto such sums as approved in annual budgets?
MOTION by Martha Heath, SECOND by Brendan Kinney, to approve Article VI as presented.
DISCUSSION: None.
VOTING on Article VI: unanimous; motion carried. Article VI is approved.

ARTICLE VII: Shall the voters of the Unified Union School District #51 pursuant to the provisions of 16VSA556(10)&(11)(c) authorize the Board of School Directors to provide mailed notice to residents of the availability of the District’s Annual Report and proposed school budget in lieu of distributing the Annual Report and proposed budget?
MOTION by Erin Knox, SECOND by Kim Gleason, to approve Article VII as presented.
DISCUSSION: There was discussion of ensuring people are notified of the availability of the annual report and budget especially those people who do not have or use computers or social media.
AMENDMENT by Rich Maggiani, SECOND by Paul Austin, to add a provision saying: “provided the school board maintains an email list and a list of people who have requested a physical document be emailed to them, and publicizes the list by U.S. mail in each town each year”.
DISCUSSION OF AMENDMENT to maintain a list: There was discussion of what happens when the property owner changes because the property was sold, the information being posted on the school district website on how to receive information, speaking to a bulk mail specialist at the Post Office about mass mailing, and having paper copies available at the school district office and other public places.
FRIENDLY AMENDMENT by Keeley Schell, SECOND by Jason DiRosa, to insert “the existence of”
to the list publicized each year.

**DISCUSSION OF FRIENDLY AMENDMENT** to add “the existence of”: There was mention of getting a legal opinion on whether personal information obtained by the school board for communication of information is different from a public record.

**VOTING** on Friendly Amendment to add “the existence of”: majority of ayes; motion carried. The amendment to add the “the existence of” before “list by U.S. mail in each town each year” is approved.

**CONTINUED DISCUSSION** of amendment to add a provision on maintaining an email and mailing list and publicizing the existence of the list: There was discussion of potentially being limited to doing something more effective than an email or mailing list. There was mention of using a postcard to notify people of the availability of the report or individuals simply calling the school district office and requesting a copy of the material.

**AMENDMENT** by Casey Carmoli, **SECOND** by Kim Gleason, to replace the wording in the original amendment with the following: “provided a postcard is sent with information on obtaining a hardcopy of the report”.

**DISCUSSION OF AMENDMENT** to replace the wording of the original amendment: There was mention of ensuring all residents receive the communication and having the Communications Task Force discuss methods of notification.

**CALL THE QUESTION** by Julia Andrews, **SECOND** by Tim Jerman.

**DISCUSSION OF CALL THE QUESTION**: Discussion will cease on the amendment to replace the wording of the original amendment.

**VOTING** on call the question: unanimous; motion carried. Discussion on the amendment to replace the wording of the original amendment ceased.

**VOTING** on Amendment to replace the wording of the original amendment: Division of the house: 47 ayes, 7 nays; motion carried. The amendment to replace the wording of the original amendment is passed.

**CONTINUED DISCUSSION** of Article VII as amended: Patrick Murray offered new wording as a further amendment, but his motion was not seconded and was withdrawn prior to the vote.

**CALL THE QUESTION** by Tim Jerman, **SECOND** by Julia Andrews.

**DISCUSSION OF CALL THE QUESTION**: Discussion will cease on Article VII as amended.

**VOTING** on call the question: unanimous; motion carried. Discussion on Article VII as amended ceased.

**VOTING ON ARTICLE VII AS AMENDED**: majority of ayes; motion carried. Article VII as amended to send a postcard with information on obtaining a hardcopy of the report is approved.

**ARTICLE VIII**: Shall the ballots be commingled for votes for all public questions held by Australian ballot beginning July 1, 2017?

**MOTION** by Brendan Kinney, **SECOND** by Martha Heath, to approve Article VIII as presented.

**DISCUSSION**: It was explained commingling means the school district will vote as a whole with one vote rather than by each individual town. Concern was expressed that with commingling there is less transparency and the position of each town will not be clear. Having each town vote will show where efforts need to be refocused.

**AMENDMENT** by Rich Maggiani, **SECOND** by Irene Wrenner, to insert “related to UUSD #51” after “for all public questions: in the article.

**DISCUSSION OF AMENDMENT**: None.

**VOTING ON AMENDMENT** to insert “related to UUSD #51”: Majority of ayes; motion carried. The amendment to add “related to UUSD #51” is approved.

**CONTINUED DISCUSSION** of Article VIII as amended: Suggestion was made to place Article VIII on the Australian ballot so the voters can decide on commingling the votes.

**MOTION TO TABLE** by Dennis Bergeron, **SECOND** by Barbara Higgins, until next year’s annual meeting Australian ballot.

**DISCUSSION OF MOTION TO TABLE**: It was noted only articles approved by the voters can be voted by Australian ballot so the motion to table to next year’s Australian ballot is not germane and cannot be considered at this time.

**CONTINUED DISCUSSION** of Article VIII as amended: There was further comment on the need to know how each town feels on issues and not commingling votes. It was mentioned that counting commingled votes is a challenging task and there is question of the legality of moving votes from one area to another for counting.

**CALL THE QUESTION** by Betsy Dunn, **SECOND** by Brendan Kinney.

**DISCUSSION OF CALL THE QUESTION**: Discussion will cease on Article VIII as amended.

**VOTING** on call the question: Majority of ayes; motion carried. Discussion on Article VIII ceased.

**VOTING ON ARTICLE VIII AS AMENDED** (insert “related to UUSD #51”): Division of the house: 25 ayes, 31 nays; motion did not carry. Article VIII is not approved.

**ARTICLE IX**: To receive from the Board of School Directors the estimate of expenses of the Unified Union School District #51 for the ensuing year.

Martha Heath reported the budget shows a 2.41% increase. The budgets from the school districts were combined and expenditures reorganized to meet state requirements. Busing is the largest increase in the budget. Public engagement sessions will be held to work out the details on busing. After the initial two years of busing the school district be reimbursed for 45% of the expenditure. Projected tax impact of the budget is a decrease due to the merger.

Dennis Bergeron asked about enrollment figures for preschool and the budgeted cost of $198,760. Martha Heath explained the dollar figure represents under-budgeted costs in the district incurred in FY17. Also, the state is mandating $100 more per student be paid. The state reimburses .465 FTE for each student in the equalized pupil count. Dennis Bergeron asked if there is a savings from the transfer of Park Street School. Martha Heath said with the sale of Park Street School the school district will no longer receive revenue from rent paid by the village and the village recreation department.

**ARTICLE X**: To transact any other school business thought proper when met. Beth Cobb, new Superintendent of UUSD #51, was introduced.

Thanks and appreciation were given to Judy DeNova and Mark Andrews for their work on UUSD #51, and to the school district board members for all their time and effort.

Voting on Articles XI, XII, and XIII by Australian ballot will be held on April 11, 2017 from 7 AM to 7 PM at the respective polling place in member communities.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Mary Jo Engel, **SECOND** by Mark Ward, to adjourn the meeting. **VOTING**: unanimous; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 PM.

RScy: MERiordan
Annual Meeting

EWSD ANNUAL MEETING
Monday, April 9 (7 pm)
In the EHS Auditorium

Tuesday, April 10 (7am-7pm)
• Essex Junction residents vote at Essex High School
• Essex Town residents vote at Essex Middle School
• Westford residents vote at Westford School

Hard copies of the EWSD Annual Report are also available at the following locations: Brownell Library, Essex Free Library, Essex Junction Village Office, Essex Town Office, EWSD Central Offices, Westford Public Library, and the Westford Town Office.

Request a hard copy by calling the EWSD Central Office at: 802-878-8168.

For more information on the proposed 2018-2019 EWSD budget, please visit: www.ewsd.org/budget

Join us on the Web!

Along with a new web presence for the district (www.ewsd.org) and the 10 schools in it, EWSD launched many fresh ways to stay up to date and receive instant access since over the past year. Follow all the amazing accomplishments and hard work of the students and staff in our community through social media!

Find EWSD on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram using the @EssexWestford handle.
Download the EWSD app! Find our mobile app in the Apple App Store and Google Play Store, or find district videos on YouTube by searching ‘EssexWestford.’