

OFFICIAL BALLOT
WINDHAM SOUTHEAST SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING NOVEMBER 19, 2019

SAMPLE BALLOT

Instructions to Voters: In the following questions, underlined portions are proposed additions, and strike throughs are proposed deletions from the current Articles of Agreement. Please vote in **FAVOR (yes)** or **OPPOSED (no)** at the end of each question. Please fill in the oval completely.

Question 1. Shall the voters of the Windham Southeast School District (hereinafter referred to as WSESD) approve the addition of the following language to, and at the end of, **Article 11** of WSESD Articles of Agreement:

WSESD Article of Agreement 11. Representation on New Union District Board – *On and After the District’s Annual Meeting in 2020.*

The New Union District Board shall be composed of individuals elected pursuant to the “Hybrid Model” of board representation, in the numbers and allocation set forth for election of the initial members under Article 10(A), unless and until the voters of the New Union District amend this Article 11.

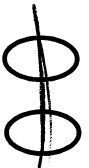
Except as provided for the election of the initial members of the New Union Board in Article 10(B), each New Union District Board member shall serve for a period of three (3) years or until his or her successor is elected and qualified, as required by Vermont law.

Each new member of the New Union Board who serves after the expiration of terms of the initial Board members, shall be elected at either Town Meeting Day, an annual meeting, or special meeting of the New Union District. Terms of office shall begin and expire on the date of the New Union District’s annual meeting. In the event the New Union District’s annual meeting precedes Town Meeting Day, the terms of each Board member shall begin and expire on Town Meeting Day.

If the voters amend this Article 11, the amendment shall ensure that the terms of office are staggered as required by law.

Beginning with the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the number of members on the WSESD Board of Directors shall be increased from eight (8) members to ten (10) members. Four (4) of those ten (10) seats shall be allocated to Brattleboro, and two (2) of those ten (10) seats shall be allocated to each of Dummerston, Guilford, and Putney, with the counting of the ballots being done in the towns in which they are cast, and then transmitted to the WSESD Clerk. Terms of office shall be staggered as required by law, and the process for conducting elections of the members of the WSESD Board of Directors shall otherwise remain as presently established in these Articles of Agreement, to the extent that they are not inconsistent with this paragraph.

If in **FAVOR** of the amendment to Article 11 of the WSESD Articles of Agreement (**yes**), fill in this oval



If **OPPOSED** to the amendment to Article 11 of the WSESD Articles of Agreement (**no**), fill in this oval

TURN BALLOT PAGE AND CONTINUE VOTING



SAMPLE BALLOT

Question 2. Shall the voters of the Windham Southeast School District (hereinafter referred to as WSESD) approve the following amendments to **Article 3** of the WSESD Articles of Agreement.

WSESD Article of Agreement 3. Attendance; Restructuring of Grade Configurations in Academic Years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021

A. Attendance in Academic Years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021

In academic years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, each student in the grades for which the New Union District operates multiple school buildings will attend the school that a student residing in that town would have attended in academic year 2018-2019; provided however, that the New Union District Board may grant a parent’s or guardian’s request for student enrollment in a different school operated by the New Union District based on individual student circumstances and the Superintendent’s determination of the school’s capacity to serve the child.

B. Restructuring of Grade Configurations in Academic Years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021

i. For purposes of these Articles, the words “restructuring of grade configurations,” “restructuring,” and any grammatical variations mean eliminating all classrooms for any grade or grades, prekindergarten through grade 12, operated at one or more schools and requiring children in the grade or grades to attend classrooms located in a different school. This article does not apply to classroom reductions based on student population if at least one class per grade continues to operate. For the purposes of this article, mixed grade classrooms will be considered operating classrooms.

ii. ~~In academic years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, the New Union District Board shall not restructure the grade configuration of any school building conveyed to it by a Forming District.~~

No restructuring of grades operated will be made in the first three (3) years of Unified Union District operation.

C. Proposals to Change Grades to Operate Require That All of the Following Occur:

- Undergo one year of study by the Unified Union District Board to determine impact on the quality of student experiences, particularly regarding travel time and costs and student extracurricular activity participation. The board will especially consider the impact on the most vulnerable students and any impact on food program participation. Broader community impact will also be considered. The board will work to mitigate any negative effects of school closure. This study must include that at least one public forum should take place in the affected community(ies) conducted in the first six (6) months of the year of study to receive community input on the proposed change in grade operation. This study will result in a report to be compiled within three (3) months of the forums and will be presented to the electorate at least thirty (30) days prior to warning a vote to change grade operation.
- Be supported by a Unified Union District Board majority.
- Any grade configuration restructuring proposal shall require the affirmative vote of each town affected by the grade reconfiguration proposal.

D. This article cannot be changed without approval of the electorate of each member town.

If in **FAVOR** of the amendment to Article 3 of the WSESD Articles of Agreement (**yes**), fill in this oval



If **OPPOSED** to the amendment to Article 3 of the WSESD Articles of Agreement (**no**), fill in this oval



CONTINUE VOTING



SAMPLE BALLOT

Question 3. Shall the voters of the Windham Southeast School District (hereinafter referred to as WSESD) approve the following amendment to **Article 4** of the WSESD Articles of Agreement.

WSESD Article of Agreement 4: Closure of School Buildings

~~A. Academic Years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021~~

~~In academic years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, the New Union District shall not close any school building conveyed to the New Union District by a Forming District or cease using the building to provide direct education in at least one grade, prekindergarten through grade 12, unless first approved by the voters residing in the town(s) in which the school is located.~~

~~Provided, however, that if the school building was conveyed by a Forming District that was already a union school district, then the New Union District shall not close the school building or cease using the building to provide direct education in at least one grade in academic years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 unless first approved by the electorate of the New Union District.~~

A. No Schools may be closed in the first five (5) years of Unified Union District Operation.

~~B. Academic Year 2021-2022 and After~~

~~In academic year 2021-2022 and after, the New Union District Board shall not close any school building or cease using the building to provide direct instruction in at least one grade, prekindergarten through grade 12, unless first approved by the electorate of the New Union District~~

B. The New Unified Union District shall not close any school building conveyed to the New Unified District by a Forming District or cease using the building to provide direct education in at least one grade, Prekindergarten-12 unless all of the following occur:

- The Unified District undergoes one year of study to determine student impact on the quality of student experiences, particularly regarding travel time and costs and student extracurricular activity participation. The board will especially consider the impact on the most vulnerable students and any impact on food program participation. Broader community impact will be considered. The board will work to mitigate any negative effects of school closure. This study must include at least one public forum to be conducted in the first six (6) months to receive community input on the impact of school closure. This study will include a report compiled within three (3) months after the forum with impact assessments and may include proposals to mitigate any possible negative effects. This report will be presented to the electorate at least thirty (30) days prior to warning a vote to close a school.
- Be supported by a Unified Union District Board majority.
- The closure is supported by a majority of the voters residing in the Town(s) in which the school is located and each town impacted by the school closure.

C. This article cannot be changed unless approved by the electorate of each individual member town.

If in **FAVOR** of the amendment to Article 4 of the WSESD Articles of Agreement (**yes**), fill in this oval



If **OPPOSED** to the amendment to Article 4 of the WSESD Articles of Agreement (**no**), fill in this oval



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Question 4. Shall the voters of the Windham Southeast School District (hereinafter referred to as WSESD) approve the following additional **Article 15**, to the WSESD Articles of Agreement.

Leadership Councils

The Unified Union District Board shall ensure community input on school board deliberations through local Leadership Councils. The Unified Union District Board recognizes the loss of individual boards in the four communities will diminish community members' opportunity to access the school board. To help mitigate this effect, school-based Leadership Councils shall be established at each school during the first year of Unified Union District operation. Leadership Councils will include school administrators, teachers, parents, community members, and students when appropriate. Unified Union District Board members will attend Leadership Council meetings to increase connections between board members and the schools they serve. The school principal will establish a Leadership Council Code of Conduct and assure members understand applicable laws such as Open Meeting Law and Confidentiality Agreements, if needed. Leadership Councils will post meeting dates and maintain meeting minutes. Unless otherwise agreed upon, Leadership Council terms will be one school year. Each Council will decide upon a chair and a clerk. Leadership Councils are advisory to the Unified Union District Board.

Leadership Council responsibilities will be guided by Council interest and may include:

- Supporting inclusive community-engagement activities
- Communicating community values/expectations to board
- Assisting school board in development of school-based goals for student learning based upon community values.
- Reviewing student learning needs and progress measures
- Assisting in initial budget development
- Reviewing resource priorities
- Providing feedback on policies and procedures
- Providing input on hiring processes
- Supporting school and district communications
- Providing input on learning initiatives (grading, curricula, priorities, etc.)
- Coordinating local school committees and organizations
- Other responsibilities mutually agreed upon by the Unified Board and Leadership Council

If in **FAVOR** of the additional Article 15 to the WSESD Articles of Agreement (**yes**), fill in this oval.



If **OPPOSED** to the additional Article 15 to the WSESD Articles of Agreement (**no**), fill in this oval.

SAMPLE BALLOT

YOU HAVE NOW COMPLETED VOTING