

## Minutes of the Special Town Meeting December 2, 2014

Electors and others qualified to vote at town meeting met at the Bolton Town Hall, 222 Bolton Center Road, Bolton, CT, on December 2, 2014.

Town Meeting Moderator Catherine H. Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM, and read the call of the meeting, the return of notice and the resolution to be voted upon.

Before proceeding, Mrs. Peterson asked those that were not eligible to vote do so by a show of hands. It was noted that there were four people in attendance that were ineligible.

**RESOLVED:** That Pursuant to the Bolton Town Charter Chapter 9, Section 9.3 number 10, the Professional Agreement between the Bolton Board of Education and the Bolton Education Association (teacher's contract) for the period July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2018 be approved.

A motion was made by Mrs. Karen Bergin, and seconded by Mr. Ed Steele.

**Discussion:** Mr. Robert Munroe, Chairman of the Board of Finance asked to be permitted to provide background on the contract to the citizens in attendance. He stated that the Board of Finance has considered the mediated contract and recommends approval. In making the recommendation they considered the following 3 points: 1. The information shows that the Bolton teachers are still in the lowest third of all state teachers in their salaries. 2. There are no funds available to pay for arbitration that could result with an unknown outcome. 3. This settlement is in low end of what other jurisdictions have agreed to. The contract addressed wages, benefits and the conditions of work. Mr. Munroe focused on the wages and benefits of the contract for this discussion. He discussed the choice of the HSA plan and the cost savings to the town in adopting this insurance plan for the BOE. Wages were then discussed. He stated, in his example, that there would be a 2.5% in taxes to cover the cost of the wage increases factoring in the savings from the health plan choice.

Mrs. Karen Bergin thanked Mr. Munroe for discussing the fiscal piece of the contract. She then discussed that everyone on both sides worked hard to reach the current agreement and stated that the town employs some of the best educators in the state, but they are paid in the bottom third. She also stated that the town has an outstanding school system and the children do very well. She commended the Superintendent and faculty and staff. She also stated that Bolton leads the state in insurance bargaining. She feels that the contract serves the community very well and it does justice to the teachers.

No further discussions. Mrs. Peterson called for a voice vote.

**Vote:** unanimous

**Motion passed.**

On a motion by Mr. Ed Steele, seconded by Mr. Toomey, the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth C. Waters  
Town Clerk