

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING, BUDGET VOTE AND ELECTION – *COVID-19 UPDATE*

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a public hearing of the qualified voters of the Minerva Central School District will be held on June 2, 2020. Copies of the budget and the text of any proposition that will be presented to the voters will be available for review by any qualified voter beginning May 26, 2020, upon request by email, to the District Clerk at obrienn@minervasd.org

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the annual meeting of the qualified voters of the Minerva Central School District will be held on Tuesday, June 9, 2020, by absentee ballot exclusively, upon the following items:

1. To adopt the annual budget of the Minerva Central School District for the fiscal year 2020-2021 and to authorize the requisite portion therefore to be raised by taxation on the taxable property on the District.
2. To adopt the following proposition:
To authorize the Board of Education to establish a Capital Reserve Fund effective June 1, 2020, the purpose of which is to finance the cost of bus purchases commencing with the 2019-2020 school year and in each of the next nine years, deposit into said Capital Reserve Fund monies from such sources as funds received from such portion of the unallocated fund balance as determined by the Board of Education, transfers from any other authorized reserve fund or any other amount authorized by the District voters. The ultimate amount of such Fund is \$500,000. The probable duration of such Fund is ten (10) years.
3. To elect one (1) member of the Board of Education for a 5-year term commencing July 1, 2020 and expiring on June 30, 2025 to succeed the seat now held by Hayley Killon, whose term expires on June 30, 2020.
4. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting pursuant to the Education Law of the State of New York.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required to fund the School District's budget for the 2020-2021 school year, exclusive of public monies, may be obtained by any taxpayer in the District during the fourteen (14) days immediately preceding June 9, 2020 via email request.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that petitions nominating candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education to fill one expired term of five years each shall be received by the District Clerk at Minerva Central School, P O Box 39, Olmstedville, NY 12857, New York, or by email to obrienn@minervasd.org not later than May 11, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Each petition shall be directed to the District Clerk and must state the full name and residence of the candidate (signatures are not required for the petition to be deemed valid, pursuant to Executive Order 202.26). A copy of such petition and information packet, may be obtained by email request to the District Clerk.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the qualified voters of the School District shall be entitled to vote in said annual vote and election by absentee ballot exclusively due to the prevalence and community spread of COVID-19, that the potential for contraction of the COVID-19 virus shall be deemed temporary illness for all qualified voters. All qualified voters shall receive an absentee ballot with a postage paid return envelope. Completed ballots must be mailed and received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m on Tuesday, June 9, 2020. **A qualified voter is one who is (1) a citizen of the United States of America, (2) eighteen (18) years of age or older, (3) resident within the School District for a period of thirty (30) days preceding the annual vote and election and (4) not otherwise disqualified under the Election Law.** If a resident of the School District meets the definition of a "qualified voter" but has not registered to vote, (s) he must register to be eligible to receive a ballot. A qualified voter may register with the county or at the District.

The Education Law makes special provisions for absentee voting by “permanently disabled” voters of the District and any questions regarding these rights should be directed to the Clerk of the Board. All completed ballots shall be mailed to the Office of the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 9, 2020.

The Education Law also makes special provisions for absentee voting for “military” voters of the District. Specifically, the law provides a unique procedure for “military ballots” in school district votes. Whereas absentee ballots must be received by the voter by mail, a military voter may elect to receive his/her absentee ballot application and absentee ballot by mail, email or facsimile. The military voter must, however, return his/her original military ballot application and military ballot by mail or in person. The Clerk of the Board shall transmit the military voter’s military ballot in accord with the military voter’s preferred method of transmission not later than May 15, 2020. The Clerk of the Board must then receive the military voter’s military ballot by mail not later than 5:00 p.m. on the day of the vote.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to §2014 of the Education Law or pursuant to Article 5 of the Election Law the School District provides personal registration of all voters at school meetings or elections. If a voter has already registered pursuant to the Education Law and has voted at an annual or special district meeting within the last four (4) calendar years, he or she is eligible to vote at this election; if a voter is registered and eligible to vote under Article 5 of the Election Law, he or she is also eligible to vote at this election. All other persons who wish to vote must register.

The Board of Registration will meet for the purpose of registering all qualified voters of the District pursuant to the Education Law at Minerva Central School, 1466 County Rte. 29, Olmstedville, NY 12857 on May 26, 2020 between the hours 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m., prevailing time, at which time any person will be entitled to have his or her name placed on such Register, provided that at such meeting of the Board of Registration he or she is known or proven to the satisfaction of said Board of Registration to be then or thereafter entitled to vote at such election for which the register is prepared. The register so prepared pursuant to §2014 of the Education Law will be filed in the Office of the Superintendent of Schools at the School District and will be available, upon request to the District Clerk.

A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots shall have been issued will be available upon request to the District Clerk on each of the five days prior to the day of the election, except Saturday or Sunday, and the day set for the election. Any qualified voter present in the polling place may object to the voting of the ballot upon appropriate grounds by making his/her challenge and reasons therefore known to the Inspector of Election before the close of the polls.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a rule adopted by the Board of Education in accordance with Education Law §§ 2035, 2008, any referenda or propositions to amend the budget, or otherwise to be submitted for voting at said election, must be filed with and directed to the District Clerk at the District Office, on or before May 8, 2020; must be typed or printed in the English language. However, the Board of Education will not entertain or place before the voters any petition or any proposition if its purpose is beyond the power of the voters or is illegal, or any proposition requiring the expenditure of monies which fails to include specific appropriations for all such expenditures required by the proposition.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE MINERVA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW YORK.

Nancy O'Brien
District Clerk