

**Minutes of the Special Calais Elementary School Meeting**  
**September 26, 2015 9:00 AM**  
**Calais Elementary School**

Moderator Craig Line called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. Craig explained voting procedures and Robert's Rules of Order. Andrew Nemethy called a point of order and asked to call the question. Craig explained the article must be moved and seconded first. Craig read the article:

"Article 1. Shall the School District of Calais adopt its budget article or articles by Australian Ballot?"

Andrew moved the article. Marianne Miller seconded.

Andrew said the issue had already been debated, the town had voted democratically already, heard both sides of the issue and nothing new could be added at this meeting. Craig stated he did not want to limit debate at this point, but his decision could be challenged. Doug Lilley said the article was directed to the right to vote, not to vote down a budget. Fletcher Dean asked how much the last school budget was. Clerk Donna Fitch responded: \$2,013, 965. Tim Celley complimented Craig on how he was conducting the meeting and said he felt the division over the issue was about power and control. Stating that we may not have the perfect system, John ? said that, to be fair, if one issue is voted by Australian ballot, all should be voted by ballot and that would destroy town meeting in Vermont. The point is, Elaine Fitch said, we need discussion so we understand what the school needs – not just a monetary amount to vote on. Stating he was pro Australian ballot, Grant Ornstein pointed out a meeting can be held before election day to discuss the issues on the ballot. Susan Shedd said "access" is her profession and she served on the town committee that researched how to increase attendance at town meeting. We elect board members by Australian ballot, she said, they work on budgets for a long time, they listen to attendees at school meetings which are open to the public. Residents have all year to have input on the budget. Nedene Martin, speaking on behalf of both herself and town constable/animal control officer Wilson Hughes who could not get the day off from work, said she supports Australian ballot because it gives the opportunity to vote when you cannot get the day off to attend a meeting. Geraldine Gilman pointed out that the U-32 Jr/Sr High School budget is voted by ballot and one can go to the pre-meeting at U-32 to discuss the budget.

Linda Gray called the question. By hand count, five people voted no, the rest voted yes to call the question. A ballot vote was called for. The results of the vote were **106 YES** and **103 NO**. The ballots were counted twice since the outcome was so close, and the results were the same both times. The motion passed to vote the school budget by Australian ballot. Craig read the Vermont law regarding reconsideration of an article. Diane Fitch asked what the process was for the revote today. Craig explained that a petition can be brought forth if it is signed by 5% of the legal voters of the town.

"Article 2: To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting."

There was no further discussion.

Harvey George made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was moved and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:06 AM.

A true record,

Attest,

Town Clerk and Treasurer

Attest,

Calais Elementary School Board

Attest,

Moderator