

**DRAFT-SUBJECT TO REVIEW AND APPROVAL AT NEXT BOARD MEETING**

**Stratford School Board  
Board Meeting-Public Minutes**

**August 9, 2017**

The Stratford School Board had a board meeting on Wednesday, August 9, 2017 at 6:00 pm, at the Stratford Public School in Stratford, NH. Present were: Mike Lynch, Wayne Hall and Bruce Blodgett. Also present were Superintendent Mike Kelley, Business Administrator Patty Brown and Principal Sandi Adams.

Wayne Hall called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

A motion was made by Mike Lynch and seconded by Bruce Blodgett to approve the public board minutes of June 14, 2017 as presented. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

Citizens Comments: There were no comments.

Sandi Adams presented her principal report. Sandi added that the summer program ends tomorrow and everyone is invited to their luncheon tomorrow at 11:30 am.

Mike Lynch asked how everything went this summer with the program. Sarah and Sandi both responded that it went great and was well attended. (15-CES, 15-GES & 22-SPS) The numbers were solid; there were typically 45 on average. Seven weeks of programming is a long time and you never would have known there were students here from three different schools working together.

Sandi Adams also mentioned they are working on plans for next year. They are in contact with Groveton Elementary and Colebrook. The church will help financially one more year (year 3 of 3).

Michelle Mason's special education report was in the board packet. There were no changes or additions to the report.

Mike Lynch asked what it meant about the placement change. Mike Kelley responded that if the placement changes or happens, we are only obligated to pay for the educational portion.

Shane Cloutier's technology report was in the board packet. Mike Kelley added that Shane is working hard and getting things organized and getting his feet wet. The board requested that Shane attend the next board meeting so they could meet him.

Patty Brown presented her business report with no changes; she mentioned there \$158,589 left at the end of the year. \$135,719 will be used as a tax reduction and \$22,870 will be the 2.5% retention for emergencies. All end-of-year projects are done, the science windows look great. Jeff Tirey the engineer out of Littleton did come up and look at the front of the building to evaluate the concrete steps, pillars and the separation (tar/building) that lets water seep into the building. The report and specs were included in your board report. What would the board like to do next with this project? Hire Jeff to continue and collect bids for budget purposes?

The board agreed to have Jeff Tirey continue and collect bids. Mike Lynch did ask that Jeff Tirey come up with an estimate for his services. Patty Brown will email that estimate once she receives it. The board also requested that Jeff Tirey attend the October board meeting with the bids, his recommendation and go over the project in detail with the board. Patty Brown will inform Jeff Tirey of this request and have him put it in his schedule and base his bids on this timeline. The project will not happen until next year, the bids are for early planning on our behalf for budgetary purposes.

## **DRAFT-SUBJECT TO REVIEW AND APPROVAL AT NEXT BOARD MEETING**

### **Stratford Minutes**

**August 9, 2017**

**Page 2**

Mike Kelley presented his report and he mentioned the administrator's two-day retreat last week and the SAU staff retreat yesterday. He also told the board that negotiations will be starting soon and the teachers should be contacting us very soon. Mike received a request from a father that will be moving into the area this fall. This family is building in Stark, but their home will not be ready until spring. They will be renting in Stratford until then. They have two kids; one in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and one in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. They would like both kids to start in Groveton, because if they were in Stark this fall, they would both be attending Groveton together. Would Stratford be willing to pay tuition for the 7<sup>th</sup> grader to attend Groveton to make the educational transition easier? The home should be done by March, early spring. We believe the family will be here in Stratford in either September or October to start school.

The Stratford board decided they cannot make an exception for this one family, or they will have to for everyone that asks. If the request was for one month, that would be one thing. Groveton would more than likely allow him to go there tuition free for a month, but we're looking at six months. There is no way we could allow this to happen. Sorry, but the answer has to be no.

A motion was made by Mike Lynch and seconded by Bruce Blodgett to approve the 2017-2018 Staff Handbook as presented. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

The food charging procedure was presented and discussed. These are new regulations that are required by law.

The Board Policies have been updated to match all the recommended policies by the NHSBA. Mike Lynch asked that Mike Kelley put together a summary of any policies that may have been eliminated or changed from the old book to the new book. Mike Kelley will have Carrie Irving put together a spreadsheet and email it out to the board members.

Mike Lynch asked about a couple items in the tuition agreement with the Northumberland School District. Patty Brown explained the end of year balancing based on enrollment and how credits and debits will show up on the first billing the following year. Mike Lynch also requested the GHS have a representative come to present any changes to the schedule and/or curriculum. This has never happened since the agreement was created and it is stated that it will happen in the agreement. Mike Kelley will notify Northumberland School District and GHS of the request.

Mike Lynch then asked how the lawn mowing was going this summer. Mike commented that he thought it looked good, it's rained a lot this summer, but our lawns have looked good. Joe Hakey mentioned that the mowing company missed the dugout when trimming, but he never told them or mentioned it to them. Sandi Adams will contact the company and let them know that it was supposed to be part of the trimming, but we did not mention it all summer until now. Sandi thought the mowing looked great all summer, it was done regularly.

A motion was made by Mike Lynch and seconded by Wayne Hall to go into nonpublic for a personnel issue at 6:43 pm. Wayne-YES, Mike-YES, Bruce-YES

Mike Kelley informed the board of the anticipated teacher vacancy before the end of August. Mike Kelley and Sandi Adams feel strongly that they can fill the position with a qualified candidate. The teacher has been in contact with both Sandi and Mike.

**DRAFT-SUBJECT TO REVIEW AND APPROVAL AT NEXT BOARD MEETING**

**Stratford Minutes  
August 9, 2017  
Page 3**

Mike Kelley also explained a situation where a new hire will need time off during the year to allow for her to complete her student teaching to become certified. Sandi Adams has worked up a substitute for that month and a workable curriculum, the absence will be seamless.

A motion was made by Mike Lynch and seconded by Bruce Blodgett to come out of nonpublic at 6:55 pm. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

A motion was made by Mike Lynch and seconded by Bruce Blodgett to accept the letter of resignation from Stephanie Antonucci as the technology integrator effective July 14, 2017. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

A motion was made by Mike Lynch and seconded by Bruce Blodgett to accept the nomination of Heather Burkham as the technology integrator as presented for the 2017-2018 school year. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

Wayne Hall and Bruce Blodgett both asked about the estimated cost per pupil this past school year. \$25,600 seems like a lot of money to educate a student, is there anything we can do to reduce that cost? Can we consolidate classes? If you average our teachers and students, the average is around 7.2 students per teacher or so. Can't we increase this? Tax payers are going to start noticing this cost per pupil figure and we know what happened the last time, we lost our high school.

Mike Lynch responded that our tax rate is still lower now than it was ten years ago. So even if we are paying more per student, we are still paying less in taxes. Patty Brown mentioned that the taxes should be less because the high school was closed and we reduced the budget significantly then, so the tax rate should have gone down.

Bruce Blodgett feels something has to happen, we can't continue the same direction with these costs. The tax payers are going to start noticing and reacting. If we don't start making changes here, they'll make them for us at March meeting.

A motion was made by Mike Lynch and seconded by Bruce Blodgett to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 pm. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

These minutes were respectfully submitted by Patricia Brown