

DRAFT-SUBJECT TO REVIEW AND APPROVAL AT NEXT BOARD MEETING

**Stratford School Board
Board Meeting
January 10, 2018**

The Stratford School Board had a board meeting on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 6:00 pm, at the Stratford Public School in Stratford, NH. Present were: Wayne Hall, Bruce Blodgett and Mike Lynch. 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 December 13, 2017 as presented. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

Citizens Comments: NONE

Sandi Adams presented her principal report. Sandi mentioned that six (6) students are attending the skiing program this year.

Wayne Hall mentioned he didn't remember the board talking about the damaged fence around the field. Sandi Adams and Mike Lynch noted it was in the report back in November. Patty Brown added it was caused by the bad storm in October and it was an insurance claim.

Michelle Mason's special education report was presented with nothing to add. The board had no questions.

Shane Cloutier's technology report was presented with nothing to add. The board asked about the wireless access points that were discussed briefly at the SAU meeting last month. Mike Kelley noted that Shane will be getting more quotes for the wireless access points and this equipment is 80% E-Rate reimbursable.

Patty Brown presented her business report with no changes. Patty went over the updated proposed budget for 2018-2019, as of this month the budget is down \$92k (4.04%). When we add the teacher's negotiation's agreement, the project and the maintenance trust fund deposit, the budget is up \$62k. The tax rate is estimated to increase \$1.89 above the current rate because of lost revenue (unreserved fund balance last year). Last March the board presented an estimated tax rate of \$17.56, the estimated tax rate for next year is \$17.71. Compared to last year's estimate, this estimate will be a \$.15 increase.

Patty Brown reminded the board that the maintenance trust fund deposit would only happen if we had unreserved funds as of June 30, 2018. There is no estimated tax impact with this article because we also added the \$70k on the deposit side to offset the increased expense.

Mike Kelley presented his report with and added that the Voucher Bill did pass last week in the house legislature level. It now goes to the senate for attempt of approval. Mike also noted that this bill does have a lot of restrictions in it.

Bruce Blodgett would like to see a time clock used for our hourly personnel. Mike Lynch asked Sandi Adams how the hourly employees report their time and if the process works. Sandi responded that time sheets are submitted to her weekly for approval, if there needs to be time adjustments for hours worked on weekends or extended days, she allows it. Sandi also noted that we do not budget for overtime, so adjusting an employee's hours within that week and letting them go home early avoids that overtime cost. It works and Sandi does not have any problems, if she suspects an issue she addresses it immediately.

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The board then discussed the proposed tuition agreement with Northumberland. Mike Kelley mentioned that the Northumberland board agrees to the ten (10) years, but feels if a student leaves by choice (not moving out of district) the Stratford should still pay that period in full. It will only be prorated if the student moves out of district.

Mike Kelley suggested and presented a new board policy that based on that concept. If a student chooses to leave, the board will only pay the remaining tuition amount (pro-rated Groveton tuition balance) to the choice school. The parents will be responsible for the remaining tuition due at that receiving school. The student can choose to finish that period out that Stratford is responsible to pay or the parents will have to pay it to the new receiving school. The daily prorated amount will only be paid if the student moves out of the district.

The Stratford District will never pay more than the current Groveton tuition rate based on the tuition agreement. The new receiving school will need to know this arrangement and that the parent is responsible for the difference.

A motion was made by Mike Lynch and seconded by Wayne Hall to go forward with the amended tuition agreement to include the length of ten (10) years and the revised choice option of changing schools as discussed (new policy). If this does not pass at the school annual meetings, the board will move forward with extending the current one-year tuition agreement with the Northumberland School District. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

A motion was made by Mike Lynch and seconded by Wayne Hall to approve the proposed negotiation agreement for the teachers with the salaries, benefits and health insurance as presented. The article amount for year one will be in the amount of \$15,001 as negotiated. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

Mike Lynch would like to mention that Northumberland seems to be making many cuts to their budget. At the SAU meeting there was a lot of nit picking over \$3k in raises. He hopes this does not impact their student's quality of education. Mike is concerned with what he is seeing and wants to make sure their tuition students or all students are not being impacted by all these cuts.

A nonpublic was not needed tonight.

A motion was made by Mike Lynch and seconded by Bruce Blodgett to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 pm. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

These minutes were respectfully submitted by Patricia Brown