

DRAFT-SUBJECT TO REVIEW AND APPROVAL AT NEXT BOARD MEETING

**Stratford School Board
Board Meeting
December 13, 2017**

The Stratford School Board had a board meeting on Wednesday, December 13, 2017 at 6:00 pm, at the Stratford Public School in Stratford, NH. Present were: Wayne Hall 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 Wayne Hall to approve the public board minutes of November 8, 2017 as presented. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

Citizens Comments: NONE

Sandi Adams presented her principal report. Sandi mentioned the list of salvaged items (TV's & DVD player) that are still taking up space. Sandi asked if she could give them away to anyone that wanted them, so she could get them out of the way. The board agreed that the equipment was old (obsolete) and not being used. The board stated for her to get rid of the equipment.

Sandi Adams also asked the board about getting rid of the team old uniforms that are taking up space and keep getting moved around. The board requested Sandi ask for donations and keep one of each uniform for historical reasons.

Mike Lynch commented that the Thanksgiving dinner at SPS had a great turn out and it's nice to see that people show up to support the school.

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 had no questions.

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 \$76k (3.36%) with the teacher's negotiation's agreement added. The tax rate is estimated to increase \$.96 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 \$16.81. Compared to last year's estimate, this estimate will be a \$.75 decrease.

Patty Brown asked the board how they would like to present the project to the town at the Annual Meeting in March and what would be on the warrant. The board responded that they would like to start with a 50/50 split between taxation and the maintenance trust fund. Patty will put an article on the warrant to raise and appropriate \$70,000 for the building project. The other half of the cost will be withdrawn from the maintenance trust fund, and any unexpected expenses. Mike Lynch asked if these numbers could be changed on the floor. Patty and Mike Kelley responded that yes they could. Mike Lynch wanted the flexibility for the public to change it, if that's what they chose to do the night of the annual meeting.

The board then decided to have another article at the end of the warrant to deposit up to \$70,000 into the maintenance trust fund account at yearend, if funds are available. The purpose of this article would be to cover any funds that are withdrawn for the project. This article could be changed based on how the first article for the project goes.

DRAFT-SUBJECT TO REVIEW AND APPROVAL AT NEXT BOARD MEETING

**Stratford Minutes
December 13, 2017
Page 2**

Mike Lynch suggested an email vote for the teacher's contract. Bruce is not here tonight and he was specifically told we were not voting on anything tonight. Mike feels an email vote would be fine, once the contract agreement is all updated and ready to send out to the board.

The board also discussed the arrangements of articles on the warrant for the annual meeting in March. Start with the Teacher's contract (\$15k), then the Project (\$70k), then the Budget (\$2.2m), and finish with the Maintenance Trust Fund (\$70k).

A motion was made by Mike Lynch and seconded by Wayne Hall to conduct an email vote on the teacher's negotiated contract for 2018-2021. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

Mike Kelley presented his report with nothing to add. Mike did ask that the board complete the SAU survey that was resent this week. The last time it was sent out only two out of eleven members completed it.

The board then discussed the proposed tuition agreement with Northumberland. Mike Kelley mentioned two areas of concern that the Northumberland board had with the proposed agreement.

1. The number of years. Northumberland would like ten, not three.
2. Payments being prorated based on days of attendance, if a student leaves. Northumberland would like payment through that pay cycle, if a student leaves. There are three payments a year (trimesters).

The Stratford board countered and agreed to the ten years, but do not want to pay for time a student is not in attendance at Groveton High School. They want their tuition prorated based on actual attendance at GHS.

If this cannot be agreed upon, the board feels the current contract will be renewed for one additional year. Mike Kelley will present this information to the Northumberland board and let the board know of the result.

A nonpublic was not needed tonight.

A motion was made by Mike Lynch and seconded by Wayne Hall to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 pm. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

These minutes were respectfully submitted by Patricia Brown