

**Stratford School Board
Board Meeting
Public Minutes
August 10, 2016**

The Stratford School Board had a board meeting on Wednesday, August 10, 2016 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 6:03 pm.

A motion was made by Mike Lynch and seconded by Bruce Blodgett to approve the public minutes of June 8, 2016 as amended. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

Charlie Goulet recommended that the citizen's comments be at the end of the meeting. Charlie also asked what was going on with the construction around the school property. Mike Lynch replied there are several projects going on for the town and the school. The sewer is both for the school and town and the ditching is for the town. The bank is being taken out for the new sign. The sign was purchased last year and it was agreed to put the sign in a different angle so it could be seen. In order for this to happen, the bank needs to be taken out, which in return will also be safer for the buses pulling out. The school path was taken out free of charge, the school only needs to provide the seed. There have been no charges to the school except the supplies.

Tim Brooks was here to let the board know about summer program this year. There was an average of 46 students participating daily, with 35 students having perfect attendance. The program was successful and we look forward to doing it again next summer. The attendance was 50/50 Groveton and Stratford students with a couple Stark students. Their curriculum focus was math, science and social studies.

Sandi Adams presented her report and highlighted the summer activities hosted at the school. Terry Scott will be joining us as our school nurse. Dawn Hall will be the library advisor/mentor for state licensure reasons, because Stephanie Antonucci is not certified as a media specialist. Sandi also requested that the 3rd floor be added to the Cat6 project and get the whole building wired at one time. The added floor will cost an additional \$6,310; a quote was received by Ray's Electric.

A motion was made by Mike Lynch and seconded by Bruce Blodgett to approve the additional installation of the Cat6 to the third floor, for \$6,310. The whole school will then be done completely with the updated wiring/cables. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

Mike Lynch thanked Sandi Adams and her staff for a great summer program. The board hopes it continues.

Michelle Mason did not supply a special education director's report. Michelle is not contracted to work during the summer months.

Karen Conroy's technology director's report was presented in the board packet. There were not questions or comments.

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Patty Brown presented her report and highlighted on the yearend reports. The fund balance as of June 30, 2016 was \$242,589; \$24,479 will be withheld for the 2.5% retention policy leaving \$218,110 for a tax reduction this fall. There were no trust fund deposits voted on at the March 2016 meeting. Charlie Goulet asked where the savings (fund balance) was coming from. Patty responded that majority of it was tuition (135k) and salary and benefits (\$61k). The board was provided with a line by line report showing all the lines that were over and under spent.

Mike Kelley presented his reported and highlighted the first time ever SAU office retreat and annual SAU administrator's retreat. The SAU office set goals specifically for the office. The administrators worked on their goals and made some changes/adjustments. All the goals will be presented to the SAU board at the October meeting.

Mike Kelley also spoke about the North Country and the work/education/training possibilities. He did try to contact WMCC to speak about job training/educating in our area, but did not hear back from anyone. He did speak with Michael Power from the NH Workforce Opportunity Council. The NHWOC is interested in manufacturing, healthcare, hospitality and information technology areas. New England Wire out of Lisbon is leading the charge on this for the North Country. Mr. Powers did say that the industries are expected to have some skin the game. This statement kind of leaves us out of it, because schools are not an industry. They are basically looking for businesses to get involved and invest into this idea of promoting this all into the North Country.

Bruce complimented on the gym floor, it looks great. Bruce asked about the shop classroom and all the equipment in there. Sandi Adams replied that the art class is being moved into the old shop classroom. They still use some the shop equipment. All the rooms in the building are being used except the 3rd floor classrooms. The counters in the shop/art classroom will be used for working on art projects. Bruce asked if an inventory has ever been done on all the shop tools and equipment. No one is aware of an inventory list, but Sandi and Joe Hakey will work on getting that done.

Mike Lynch spoke to the sewer issues and what still needs to be addressed next year. The old line still needs to be replaced up to the new connection, all the old lines could be replaced, but that's a board decision. Mike recommends at least the one line (roughly 200 feet), but if all the pipe was replaced it would be roughly 600+/- feet. The road/drive needs to be replaced and the pipe needs to be set much lower into the ground to avoid the winter heaves, at the time Mike would recommend replacing that specific line. It would only make sense to do the road and pipe at the same time.

Charlie Goulet asked how much we have spent so far on the sewer issues. Patty Brown did not know the amount, but would look it up and provide them with the information. The vendors/contractors paid were Bolen's, Al's Plumbing, Town of Stratford and Mike Lynch.

Bruce Blodgett asked about the school's lawn mower. Joe Hakey responded that it's a John Deer and has a 54" mowing deck. There was a discussion on Joe mowing town property during his lunch break, people thinking he's doing it on paid school time. Joe works 8 hours a day and his half hour lunch is his time to do what he wants, Joe always let's Sandi Adams know when he is out of the building.

Mike Lynch asked about setting a date for the public hearing on school choice. It was discussed to have it at the next board meeting. Mike suggested having the board meeting 30 minutes earlier at 5:30

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pm, starting with the hearing, then moving into the regular board meeting. The board and staff were in agreement that the time and date sounded good.

Wayne Hall asked how we were going to advertise for this hearing and its purpose. Sandi Adams will send notices home with the kids and she will also do a couple One-Calls to parents. Patty Brown stated the hearing would be added to the normal advertising of the monthly board meeting in the newspapers.

Mike Lynch also asked about French being taught in the high school, instead of Spanish. He would think French would be more useful being so close to the Canadian border.

A motion was made by Mike Lynch and seconded by Bruce Blodgett to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 pm. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

These minutes were respectfully submitted by Patricia Brown