

**Stratford School Board
Board Meeting-Public Minutes
January 11, 2017**

The Stratford School Board had a board meeting on Wednesday, January 11, 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, Technology Director Karen Conroy 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 14, 2016 and the joint meeting minutes of December 20, 2016 with the Northumberland board as presented. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

Citizens Comments: There were no comments.

The board asked Joe Hakey if he had any quotes for the mower yet. Joe did not have anything for the board. Mike Lynch told the board he spoke with the town about sharing their mower, but he was told that the departments needed to meet and discuss this request, and they'll get back to Mike Lynch after. Mike Lynch had nothing at this point.

Sandi Adams presented her report and had nothing to add at this time.

Mike Lynch asked about the long distance learning and where they were with that. Sandi Adams replied that there are a few teachers that have long distance learning in their plan books and will be using the equipment. Mike asked that he be notified when and he'd like to come in classroom and view the actual distance learning.

Michelle Mason's report was in the board packet. Mike Kelley added that there have been a few changes since Michelle's report. We are currently looking for two additional paraprofessionals.

Mike Lynch asked if IEPs for new students are reassessed when the student moves here? Mike Kelley responded that IEPs are reassessed every three years and they reassessments are very costly. All IEPs are reviewed annually with their teams. If a student is assigned a paraprofessional, they are in need of one.

Karen Conroy presented her report and informed the board of all the infrastructure changes with the recent upgrades. SPS is doing very well with technology, except for the main server here in the building needs to be replaced. The server is five years old; it was purchased back in January 2012. The proposal is to replace the server and to install adequate power supply for the server.

Mike Lynch commented that there seems to be issues after issues, even after all these upgrades.

Karen Conroy responded that everything will be new after this purchase, so there should be no issues going forward. This is the data server we are replacing; everything is sitting on this one box. The current five year old server crashed twice so far this year; once in November and once in December. It takes days to get the server up and running after a crash.

Wayne Hall asked about warranty of the servers. Karen responded that hardware is typically ten years.

**Stratford Minutes
January 11, 2017
Page 2**

Karen Conroy told the board this new server will triple the space and have five or six times more memory. The new server could be here and installed within two weeks.

A motion was made by Mike Lynch and seconded by Bruce Blodgett to approve the purchase of the new main server and the adequate power supply as presented for the price of \$10,101.93. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

Patty Brown presented her report with an updated proposed budget for 2017-2018. Patty noted that this budget in their board packets does not include the two additional paraprofessionals we talked about earlier tonight. The budget will increase an estimated \$36,000 more for the additional paraprofessionals. The budget will be updated for the budget hearing in February.

Mike Kelley presented his report and briefed the board on the adequacy funding and the loss of the stabilization grant. Stratford is looking to lose around \$20,000 year over the next twenty-five years, equaling about \$500,000. The 4% annual reduction over twenty-five years will directly impact your local property tax payers and come straight from their pockets.

Mike Kelley went on to tell the board that letters need to be sent out to the state and local newspapers. The legislature votes to cut the funding sources to use elsewhere for the state budget. Mike will write a letter and get it out to the state and local levels. All superintendents and school boards need to write letters and contact papers to get the word out.

Wayne Hall asked about the tuition agreement and if we sent a student to Groveton based on their commitment made back in February and they choose to leave half-way through the year. We would not pay Groveton the whole year; it would be pro-rated by day of attendance, correct? This is his understanding.

Mike Lynch confirmed that Stratford would not pay the whole year, if the student was not in attendance the whole year. But if they committed to Groveton and choose to leave on their own, Stratford would not pay for them to go elsewhere because of their commitment made prior to attending Groveton.

Mike Kelley will verify with the attorney that we can refuse to not pay if a student wants to change schools mid-year.

Everyone agreed that if a student moved in or out, no one would be penalized. Moving is beyond the students and families control. When a student moves in, they would still need to commit to the school of their choice for the remainder of the year.

Mike Kelley will schedule for the Stratford School Board and Northumberland School Board to meet again at 5:30 pm on Monday, January 23, 2017. This meeting will be to clarify the prorated tuition for students that leave on their own after they committed. Also, to verify that if a student moves the tuition will be prorated.

Mike Lynch asked where in the contract are they protected if GHS were to keep scaling back and Stratford felt the quality was not there anymore. How could Stratford protect themselves?

**Stratford Minutes
January 11, 2017
Page 3**

Mike Kelley responded that small schools can barely meet minimum standards now, so there is not much there to reduce anyways. The contract states they must be an approved school and meet minimum standards.

The budget hearing will be scheduled for 5:30 pm on Wednesday, February 8, 2017 to accommodate for the town budget hearing at 6:00 pm that same night. The regular board meeting will follow the budget hearing.

Bruce Blodgett asked why we didn't just stick to outsourcing the mowing and never mind buying a new lawn mower.

Mike Lynch wants to look into the option of sharing the town mower and utilizing that resource with the school. If that can't be worked out with the town, he feels the school should continue outsourcing. Mike does not feel trading in the current mower or buying a new mower is an option. That option would not make any sense.

There was a discussion that if the school stayed with the current contractor that the school's expectations be clarified with them, if the job isn't getting done the way we want it. If the school expects more service, the price will increase.

Wayne Hall would like to see what it would cost to trade the current mower in for a zero-turn mower. What happens if we share the town mower and something happens while we have it? Who is responsible for repairs and maintenance and who's paying for the what? Those type of situations could get complicated by sharing equipment.

Everyone agreed that regardless of what the outcome is, if we were to change the current outsourcing we would need to notify the current contractor by April 1, 2017. In the past the current contractor has started mowing in May, so a month notice would be respectful and professional business.

A motion was made by Mike Lynch and seconded by Bruce Blodgett 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