

Stratford School Board
Board Meeting
December 11, 2019

The Stratford School Board had a board meeting on Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at 5:30 pm, at the Stratford Public School in Stratford, NH. Present were: Wayne Hall, James Kennett and Kyle Haley. No one was absent. Also present were Superintendent Dr. Ronna Cadarette, Business Administrator Patty Brown and Principal Jason Hook.

Wayne Hall called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance which was led by a student.

A motion was made by Kyle Haley and seconded by Wayne Hall to approve the public and non-public minutes of November 13, 2019 as presented. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

Reports:

Ronna Cadarette presented her superintendent report and summarized numerous updates and explained how Northumberland would like to see all three school districts grouping their policies into one SAU policy book. We would create a policy committee with one board member from each district, along with Ronna and Carrie. The reviewing of policies would happen all at one time and together. If there were building exceptions, we would add on a policy with a specific added letter to recognize that policy being specific for that particular building. Most policies now are boiler plate and duplicates for each district, we're just repeating ourselves and doing it three times over by keeping them all separate.

Ronna updated the board on the GHS principal hiring process and where they were at as of today. There were many certified applicants for GHS and the interviews started today. Also, the GES principal position is also being advertised. We will be moving forward on those applicants after Christmas break.

Ronna then discussed the past professional development days throughout the SAU districts and they have all been focused competency education.

Jason Hook presented his principal report and thanked Matt Woods and Danielle Adams for all their hard work with the upcoming production of Ebenezer Scrooge. Jason also mentioned that Joe Hakey has been working on next week's boiler replacement with the assistance of Patty Brown.

Jason then mentioned there were four students signed up for the Bretton Woods ski program this year, along with four chaperons. There are also four middle school students participating in the GHS basketball program.

Jason also noted that the SPS cafeteria served one-hundred students and parents/adults at their annual Thanksgiving dinner. The meal was great and everyone enjoyed themselves. Great turnout!

Michelle Mason's student services report was presented with no changes. The board had no questions.

Patty Brown presented her business administrator report and discussed the updated budget, \$50k maintenance trust fund additions to help cover boiler and roof expenses, increase of \$9k to the budget for Russ grant

technology purchases as discussed at last month's meeting, creating a new technology trust fund to offset unexpected purchases in the future that weren't budgeted and roof bids are due Monday, December 16th. The estimated tax rate will still be below the current rate with all these discussed changes.

Patty answered roofing and boiler replacement questions directed from the public.

Shane Cloutier presented his technology report and spoke about the Russ grant and how the district must spend fifteen percent (\$9k) on the technology equipment first, then the Russ grant will pay for the remaining eighty-five percent. A technology trust fund would be very helpful to cover unexpected purchases, he had no exact figure to create that fund but he would work with Patty to get that all figured out before the next meeting. One server replacement could cost \$8k and having this trust fund would make it easier to access funding and not going to the tax payers to raise the funds. Some things are not planned for and our budget would not have that kind of money in it.

The board thought the technology trust fund would be a great idea and good planning.

Continuing Business:

Wayne Hall let the board know that the Northumberland School Board had agreed to open negotiations to discuss the current tuition agreement amendment per our request.

Kyle Haley spoke about the Columbia board proposal that was being considered by Stratford. Columbia has a preschool agreement with Colebrook that only allows up to three students to attend their program. Stratford would like to send Columbia a letter saying they are willing to take any students up and above their agreement restrictions with Colebrook. Ronna and Kyle will write up a letter to Columbia and Kyle will send it out on behalf of the Stratford School Board.

New Business:

Ronna discussed with the board again about consolidating all policies by creating a policy committee with one representative from each board reviewing the policies together and getting it, all done at one time. This would alleviate the same process from being done repetitively three to four times over and create one policy manual.

The Stratford board agreed this would make the process easier and they will move forward with this new process. Kyle will be the Stratford representative on the policy committee.

Public Comments:

There were several public comments; basketball students can't make it down to GHS in time for 3:00 practices, a school field trip kept a student from meeting the athletic bus to a game, students not playing in games even after attending practices, ski program gives discounts to Groveton students and not Stratford students, ski

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program is requiring all students to ride the bus to Bretton Woods, GES went to a play in Lancaster and Stratford did not attend, late notifications for anything in Groveton (ski program, sport signups, etc...),

All comments were addressed by administration; students can be released a little early and ride the high school bus down to GHS for early practices (Jay will verify this process and get back to the parents), improved communication with parents is an SAU goal this year and this will be addressed immediately between Groveton and Stratford administration, the day of the play in Lancaster was Stratford's retake picture day and the school made the decision to not attend the production which was offered last minute to all schools and Col Town Players did say they would try to plan in advance next time.

Non-Public:

A motion was made by Wayne Hall and seconded by Kyle Haley to go into nonpublic for discussions RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) at 6:50 pm. Kyle-YES, James-YES and Wayne-YES.

Updates on personnel were discussed.

The budget proposal and options were discussed.

A motion was made by Wayne Hall and seconded by James Kennett to come out of nonpublic at 7:31 pm. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

Meeting Dates:

The next meeting is Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 5:30 pm.

The next SAU meeting is Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at Groveton High School in the library at 6:00 pm.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Wayne Hall and seconded by James Kennett to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 pm. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

Minutes were respectfully submitted by Patricia Brown