

**Stratford School Board
Board Meeting
November 13, 2019**

The Stratford School Board had a board meeting on Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at 5:30 pm, at the Stratford Public School in Stratford, NH. Present were: Wayne Hall and Kyle Haley. James Kennett 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 5:31 pm.

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Kyle Haley and seconded by Wayne Hall to approve the public and non-public minutes of October 23, 2019 as presented. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

Jason Hook presented his principal report and highlighted this past month's activities and upcoming events. Jason also noted there were many positive comments about their Halloween Trunk or Treat at SPS. The staff and students are very happy to have Dave Atkinson back in the building teaching math.

Ronna Cadarette presented her superintendent report and summarized numerous updates and school activities across the SAU. Ronna also mentioned the increase in adequacy aid should be around \$100k this year. The board had no questions.

Michelle Mason's student services report was presented with one update that was discussed at last month's meeting about the adult student changing services that will result in a savings this year. The board had no questions.

Patty Brown presented her business administrator report and mentioned the furnace has been ordered and the install is scheduled for after Thanksgiving. There were no other updates at this time.

Shane Cloutier presented his technology report. The board had no questions.

Continuing Business:

Wayne Hall mentioned the Stratford School Board attended Northumberland's board meeting on November 12, 2019. The Stratford School Board requested the current Tuition Agreement be opened for negotiations to omit the words "New Hampshire" for eligible choice schools. Wayne also noted he specifically told the Northumberland Board that was the only change they were requesting.

Wayne Hall felt there were board members ready to vote that night to open negotiations, but a couple board members shut them down. Wayne is hoping Northumberland is willing work together on what is best for their Stratford residents. Stratford's intention was to have choice of any school and this would help to attract people to town. Wayne is not sure where the mix up happened, but they had one parent so far that has missed out on this opportunity.

Kyle Haley thought Groveton and Stratford should be working together with long range planning. He was thinking in the past that Groveton was not willing to come to Stratford. Kyle heard that Groveton Elementary needs a lot expensive work done and he would think that could be an opportunity to combine.

Patty Brown informed Kyle Haley that GES is in good shape and all major structural projects have been done. Any work done now is general maintenance we all need.

Wayne Hall mentioned a few instances where he felt Northumberland was not working as a team with them and he feels Groveton doesn't want to work with them.

Ronna Cadarette let the board know Northumberland School Board is looking at their request and talking with their attorney to make sure everything is within the legal guidelines. They wanted time to discuss before voting on anything. They are looking at it and had discussion at their last meeting.

There were then many questions about the process of the tuition agreement and choice, Columbia students and their current obligations to Colebrook, Vermont student's choice versus Stratford high school student's choice, etc... The board, Ronna Cadarette and Patty Brown all answered the questions to the public.

The Stratford Board will be writing a letter to the Columbia School Board to offer preschool at Stratford School if they so choose. Stratford School Board is willing to put Stratford Public School out there as an educational option to their neighboring students in Columbia.

New Business:

Shane Cloutier presented to the school board the Distance Learning Initiative through NCES. This RUSS grant has a 15% match with technology purchases. The SAU is teaming up with NCES and other SAUs to make major purchases with minimal cost to the district. This grant would get devices into every classroom with video conferencing. The 15% match would need to be budgeted in next year's budget 2020-2021 and the estimate for that is roughly \$9k. The numbers will be firmed up over the next couple months, but what we are receiving for that minimal match is enormous.

Ronna Cadarette spoke to the opportunities with the devices; interactive classrooms with local schools and around the world, virtual field trips, benefits for our students that need more than what we can offer, etc... It's all great and beneficial to our student's growth.

Tim Brooks stated he would like the minutes to reflect that at the march 2018 meeting, he and Kyle Haley had a discussion with there being an amendment made to the tuition article to omit NH and include all public schools as choice. This was never followed through to the article in Groveton that was voted on. Nor is there any reflection of this amendment in the town meeting minutes.

Non-Public:

A motion was made by Wayne Hall and seconded by Kyle Haley to go into nonpublic for personnel and safety discussions RSA 91-A: 3 II (a & c) at 6:30 pm. Kyle-YES and Wayne-YES.

A personnel issues were discussed.

Safety building information was discussed.

Stratford School District
November 13, 2019
(Page 3)

A motion was made by Wayne Hall and seconded by Kyle Haley to come out of nonpublic at 7:30 pm. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

New Business:

Patty Brown went down through the proposed 2020-2021 budget summary explaining all significant increases and decreases. The estimated revenue and tax rate were discussed.

The board had questions about class sizes and positions costs. Ronna Cadarette discussed scenarios with the board and beneficial educational opportunities for Stratford students.

The board directed Ronna Cadarette to come back next month with a couple options on what the educational structure would look like and the financial impact.

The board then lead into other discussions with Dr. Cadarette and Jason Hook was dismissed from the meeting.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

The next meeting is Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at 5:30 pm.

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

A motion was made by Wayne Hall and seconded by Kyle Haley to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

Minutes were respectfully submitted by Patricia Brown