

**Stratford School Board
Board Meeting
February 12, 2020**

The Stratford School Board had a board meeting on Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 6:00 pm, at the Stratford Public School in Stratford, NH. Present were: Wayne Hall, James Kennett and Kyle Haley. Also present was Business Administrator Patty Brown.

Wayne Hall called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by James Kennett and seconded by Kyle Haley to approve the public and non-public minutes of January 15, 2020 as presented. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

Reports:

Jason Hook's report was presented and there were questions from the board.

Patty Brown presented her report, noting all her budget information would be covered with a visual presentation in the Budget Hearing later on in the meeting.

All reports were presented to the board with no questions at this time.

Budget Hearing:

Wayne closed the regular board meeting and moved into the budget hearing at 6:05 pm.

Patty Brown presented the budget over many slides explaining the increases and decreases to the budget for next fiscal year (20-21). Several questions from the public were asked throughout the presentation. Patty and the school board responded to those questions about budget and position cuts.

The total operating budget is up \$2,000 (.08%). There are two additional articles on the warrant to deposit money into trust funds for future expenses. One article is to create a Technology Trust Fund (\$10k) and the other is to deposit into current Maintenance Trust Fund (\$40k). These deposits would be coming from increased adequacy aid we are expected to receive. This would help to level off the tax rate and put money away for future expenses. This process would keep the tax rate down in the future when the projects are completed because the board would not ask the tax payers to raise and appropriate the funding.

The estimated tax rate is \$16.89 for the school portion of taxes. The current tax rate is \$16.53, resulting in an estimated increase of \$.36 if all articles were to pass.

Continuing Business:

As a result of the Northumberland School Board agreeing to remove the words New Hampshire from the current tuition agreement as requested by the Stratford School Board, there will be an article on both School District Warrants for the residents to vote on the revised Tuition Agreement.

DRAFT-SUBJECT TO REVIEW AND APPROVAL AT NEXT BOARD MEETING

Stratford School District

February 12, 2020

(Page 2)

Wayne Hall mentioned a letter was sent to the Columbia School Board on December 30, 2019 about accepting their preschool age students. We still have not heard back from them yet. Wayne also noted that the Columbia school board may not receive the letter in time for their last board meeting, but is hoping they are talking about at this month's meeting. The Stratford Board will continue to try and connect with the Columbia board.

Public Comments:

No public comments. Several residents asked questions during the budget hearing.

New Business:

A motion was made by James Kennett and seconded by Wayne Hall to approve the School District Warrant with the seven (7) articles as presented. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

A motion was made by James Kennett and seconded by Wayne Hall to approve the 2020-2021 operating budget of \$2,408,000 as presented. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

Non-Public:

A motion was made by Wayne Hall and seconded by James Kennett to go into nonpublic at 6:40 pm under RSA 91-A3 II-a for personnel. Wayne-YES, James-YES and Kyle-YES.

The board discussed a letter received by personnel.

A motion was made by Wayne Hall and seconded by Kyle Haley to come out of nonpublic at 6:55 pm. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

Continued New Business:

A motion was made by James Kennett and seconded by Kyle Haley to approve the retirement notice from Terry Andritz effective June 30, 2020 as presented. The board also waives the retirement notification date for Terry in order for her to receive her retirement benefit under the presented circumstances. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

The board went down through the warrant and designated each article to board members at the annual school meeting.

Meeting Dates:

The next meeting is Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Wayne Hall and seconded by James Kennett to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 pm. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

Minutes were respectfully submitted by Patricia Brown

Board Approved: April 1, 2020