

**Stratford School Board**  
**Board Meeting**  
**September 9, 2020**

The Stratford School Board had a meeting on Tuesday, September 9, 2020 at 5:30 pm. Present were: Kyle Haley, Nicole King and James Kennett. Absent was: None. Also present were Superintendent Ronna Cadarette, Business Administrator Patty Brown and Principal Bridger DeWitt. Absent was: Student Services Administrator Michelle Mason.

Kyle Haley called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

Everyone stood and did the pledge of allegiance.

A motion was made by James Kennett and seconded by Nicole King to approve the August 4, 2020 public and nonpublic minutes as presented. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

**Reports:**

Ronna Cadarette presented her report and noted she has been visiting the schools this week. The kids are happy to be back and the staff is happy to be here. We had two public work sessions on our school reopening plans. We're working hard on correcting any misinformation out there and getting all our kids back here in person.

Policies are looking good and we'll continue updating them. Soccer is happening and we're only playing teams above the notch. We'll work to push our seniors to apply for the local Rotary Scholarships next spring. There is money out there for our kids, we need to do better on getting the information to them and pushing them to apply.

Emergency to hire employees will still need to take the praxis and pass it, if not they may be out on administrative leave. New hires are still required to achieve a statement of eligibility even if an emergency to hire, they will not go a whole year without it being addressed.

Ronna will also cover competency monthly to let the boards know where the schools are at and to remind everyone all the work that's being done by staff and students. As a reminder our student's competency is being measured based on 20% practices and 80% assessments. It's important for the board to be well informed on competency and educated for public conversations that could happen.

SAU #58 received mask lanyards donated by Reverend Tim Brooks for all three school districts for staff and students to use. This was a wonderful gift, great idea and huge savings to the districts.

Ronna let the board know that Jessica Riendeau one of Northumberland Board members volunteered her time as a trainer for professional development on diversity for all our SAU staff. We had nine days of professional development before school started, it was great training for our nursing, disinfection, classroom setups, curriculum, Alma, etc...

Bridger DeWitt presented his report and updated the board on the building student count of 53 as of today. Chromebooks are going home for grades 6-8 this year. Middle School will be implementing a school newspaper this year and the first edition will be out by the end of September.

State Student testing will be happening in October. Our staff is working with the students on training for the state test with a program that helps the students to perform better by reading and responding to the questions better with preparation practice.

Bridger requested two more cameras from Lufkin security for two areas around the school that had no coverage. The cost was minimal and in the budget.

Michelle Mason's report was presented. There was one update with one DCYF student placement being moved and could possibly create a \$50k reduction.

Kyle Haley asked how many students are being homeschooled this year? Bridger and Ronna responded that as of today we have been notified of five students being homeschooled.

Patty Brown presented her report and mentioned the need to lend furniture out to north country schools when needed and not wait for meetings. There was a request a few weeks ago by SAU #7 to borrow desks and Stratford had plenty of desks to borrow, but we did not have a meeting for us to get permission until tonight. We would like to board to grant Ronna and I permission to lend out school furniture, take inventory, mark each piece with our name as needed without getting permission first for any future requests.

A motion was made by Kyle Haley and seconded by James Kennett to give the superintendent and the business administrator permission to lend out school furniture to other north country schools as presented. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

Patty then discussed with the board changing disposal companies. Patty compared current costs, pickups, recycling costs, purchasing a new shed, employee cost savings, disposal savings, change in services, etc... The new vendor will take everything; garbage and all recycling to our transfer station in Stratford weekly. Our current vendor only takes garbage biweekly and our employee takes all recycling to our transfer station weekly. The change will be beneficial to us financially and less time consuming to our employees. Patty did call around to get pricing and chose to go with a company she does business with at two other schools and has a great history with.

A motion was made by James Kennett and seconded by Kyle Haley to give the business administrator the authority to make all disposal protocol decisions from now on. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

Patty also mentioned there will be negotiations this fall for the teachers.

Shane Cloutier verbally presented his report and updated the board on his assistants' resignation. He let the board know he is looking for someone to replace Matt, so if they know someone please send them his way to apply. We need to fill this vacant position quickly. ALMA is our big focus, uploading curriculum and competencies and getting it out to staff, students, eventually out to parents.

### **Continuing Business:**

### **New Business:**

Confirmation of phone poll on a parent request for a child to attend SPS before new home purchase on 9-25-20 in Stratford. Purchase and Sale Contract was attached as evidence. Kyle-YES, James-YES, Nicole-YES

### **Next Meeting:**

Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 5:30 pm, Board Docs Training Online at home.

Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 5:30 pm, Board Meeting at SPS.

### **Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Kyle Haley and seconded by James Kennett to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 pm. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

Minutes were respectfully submitted by Patricia Brown