

Stratford School Board
Board Meeting
October 14, 2020

The Stratford School Board had a meeting on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 5:30 pm. Present were: Kyle Haley, and Nicole King. Absent was: James Kennett. Also present were Superintendent Ronna Cadarette, Business Administrator Patty Brown, Student Services Administrator Michelle Mason and Principal Bridger DeWitt. Absent was: None.

Kyle Haley called the meeting to order at 5:43 pm.

Everyone stood and did the pledge of allegiance.

A motion was made by Nicole King and seconded by Kyle Haley to approve the September 9, 2020 public minutes as presented. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

Reports:

Ronna Cadarette presented her report and discussed home school students and the loss of adequacy aid (\$4k) per student, free and reduced applications for NSLP and how important those counts are for our grant allocations, striving to continue our focus on competencies, ALMA platform (SIS) had a slow start but is getting better. We're taking the time to make sure things are done right the first time around when it comes to our student information system (SIS).

Kyle Haley asked about widening our grad spans and combining classes. Ronna responded that differentiating instruction is even easier in multi-grade classrooms. Stark is a good example of that and they have been doing that all along with their grad structures. Budgeting is just starting and we will all look at our options.

Bridger DeWitt presented his report and updated the board on the building student count of 52 as of today. Current and upcoming student activities include a mock debate, decorating the front lawn for "Spooky Season", Scarecrow Week is also coming up, along with fire prevention week, shake out drill and testing week at the end of the month. The first edition of the school newspaper has been completed and a copy was given to everyone in attendance.

Bridger requested that Policy JICCR-School Bus be changed to match the handbook and current practice. The board agreed that the handbook and current practice should be followed. The policy change will be brought forward for at the next meeting for approval.

Michelle Mason presented her report and noted a placement change back into a residential status at an estimated cost of \$111k. Currently there are 16 Stratford and 3 Vermont identified students at SPS. Plus, one 504 student. One special education teacher is not able to manage all these services effectively and the need to hire an additional teacher is evident. Our current teacher is short over 29 hours in services each week. This teacher could also pick up any 504 students within their caseload.

Ronna discussed the current savings within the budget with new hires, not hiring one position and combining the teaching principal position.

A motion was made by Kyle Haley and seconded by Nicole King to approve the hiring of an additional special education teacher at SPS for this current school year (20-21). A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

Shane Cloutier presented his report and excitedly announced he hired a new assistant that started this week. Shane also discussed the equipment budget for the RUSS grant to purchase panels with \$9,800. His goal is to get six panels into classrooms this year. The RUSS grant is on hold but we want to move forward with using the funding to purchase what we can now.

Patty Brown presented her report and spoke to the current budget, negotiations coming up, draft budgets should be ready for next month's meeting and the plowing contract for this school year.

A motion was made by Kyle Haley and seconded by Nicole King to continue Mike Lynch's plowing contract for the 2020-2021 school at the current price of \$6,000 as presented. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

Continuing Business:

Policies were discussed; D (only those that were changed during the NHSBA updates), E, F and H. Policy-EEAG Use of Private Vehicles to Transport Students will not change from the last approval. This policy within the "E" group will not change from its last approval; we will not change to the NHSBA recommendation update.

A motion was made by Kyle Haley and seconded by Nicole King to approve Policies D, E, F and H as presented. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

New Business:

A motion was made by Kyle Haley and seconded by Nicole King to approve the Stratford Public School Goals for 2020-2021 as presented. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

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

Negotiation meetings with STA were set on October 21st, October 29th and November 9th at 5:30 pm.

SPS will be having a Halloween fun event from 1:00-2:30 on Friday, October 30th with games, trunk a treat and many other fun things with teachers and staff.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 5:30 pm, SAU Board Meeting at SPS.

Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 5:30 pm, SPS Board Meeting at SPS.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Kyle Haley and seconded by Nicole King to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

Minutes were respectfully submitted by Patricia Brown