

Stratford School Board
Board Meeting
November 12, 2020

The Stratford School Board had a meeting on Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 5:30 pm. Present were: Kyle Haley (Home-Stratford), James Kennett (Home-Stratford) and Nicole King (Home-Stratford). Absent was: None. Also present were Superintendent Ronna Cadarette (SAU-Groveton), Business Administrator Patty Brown (SAU-Groveton), Student Services Administrator Michelle Mason (Home-Groveton) and Principal Bridger DeWitt (Home-Pittsburg). Absent was: None.

Kyle Haley called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm.

Kyle moved the board meeting into the Public Hearing at 5:35 pm.

Ronna Cadarette spoke to policy JICL-School District Internet Access and the purpose for the public hearing.

A motion was made by James Kennett and seconded by Nicole King to approve Policy JICL-School District Internet Access as presented. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

A motion was made by James Kennett and seconded by Nicole King to move back into the regular school board meeting at 5:38 pm. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

A motion was made by James Kennett and seconded by Kyle Haley to approve the amended public minutes of October 14, 2020 on page one paragraph two under reports to read "This conversation was about grading systems, not classrooms". A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

Kyle Haley spoke to the October 14, 2020 minutes and wanted it noted he was not proposing to eliminate classes, it was about grading systems.

Reports:

Ronna Cadarette presented her report and discussed grading and report cards, competency guidebooks, budgets, Groveton voted to have sports this upcoming season, north country meeting with principals, superintendents and athletic directors this coming Monday to discuss winter sports and determine if there will be any teams to play. Ronna does not recommend winter sports. If we are not allowing visitors into our schools now, we don't want players or adults from other schools coming. We want our kids in the buildings to educate them, let's not put them at risk. Education first... Stratford should not open their building for outside use.

Bridger DeWitt presented his report and updated the board on the building student count of 57 as of today. Trunk and Treat went great. We still have a couple of students without internet. The school Food Drive end on November 23, 2020. The November issue of the School paper is coming out very soon. The buses are now arriving at 7:30 to adjust our schedules. We're having a 50's day on our 50th day of school. Teacher evaluations start next week.

Kyle Haley asked about computer time span during remote learning for each grade. Bridger responded that they have already looked at this and the teachers recognize the length of time the students can handle. Bridger also noted that internet support will be offered to those who do not have it.

Michelle Mason presented her report and mentioned her department goals from Student Services, Michelle joined the Legislature Committee on upcoming bills centered around special education, we have 26 special

education students at SPS, we have reviewed all IEPs and each student qualifies for all written services, SPS increased enrollment has also increased our special education costs with the need of services. My department is working closely with the Math Interventionist and Title I services.

Patty Brown presented her report and spoke to the current budget, negotiations, draft budget and food service. The current tax rate came in at \$16.78, \$.11 less than what we estimated at the March meeting. The SSO meal program through school will continue to provide free breakfast and lunch through June 30, 2021. This program is for all 0-18 years of age in our community. During our three days of remote support Stratford School made and delivered all their own meals to all Stratford students 0-18. We delivered 526 meals over three days in Stratford, we delivered 1,822 SAU-wide across all three towns.

Stratford received \$14,400 additional COVID funds for remote panels at SPS. We are currently communicating with the Stratford Select Board about not taking our school garbage at the transfer station. James Kennett said he would attend their work session meeting on Monday to discuss the situation. Our next pickup for garbage is before their regular schedule board meeting. The school board was in agreement that we are all municipalities and this should not be an issue. Surrounding towns take their schools garbage at no charge, we are basically all one budget coming from the same place.

Shane Cloutier presented his report and reported that ALMA is moving along and report cards will be ready in two weeks. Panels have been ordered and coming very soon. Ryan our new tech guy is fantastic and everyone seems to get along with him and is fitting in very well.

Ronna Cadarette complimented Shane on a job well done balancing his job and department during a pandemic.

Continuing Business:

No questions on current budget at this time.

New Business:

Patty Brown went over the budget summary and estimated tax rate for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. At this time the budget is up \$360k in expenses and the tax rate is up \$5.49.

The board had a lengthy conversation about controllable expenses versus uncontrollable. There were many expenses in this budget that the board had no control over and legally had to be added.

The board then discussed negotiations with STA and walked James Kennett through the process and what was discussed and negotiated. The final figure was presented and the three-year agreement was reviewed by the board.

A motion was made by Kyle Haley and seconded by Nicole King to approve the proposed Stratford Teachers Association 3-year agreement as presented. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

Kyle Haley asked what they could use their building for to generate some income. Ronna Cadarette responded that we continuously think the same thing and work on this. We have a beautiful location and building that should be utilized.

Confirmation of email/phone poll on hiring of Glenn Cassady and Gary Brown as independent contractors to build the garbage shed at \$25 an hour. Kyle-YES, James-YES, Nicole-YES

The board then moved into a discussion on building use during this time of COVID-19 (pandemic).

- We have limited custodial coverage
- We do not allow parents/outside in our building
- Keep board meetings remote
- Keep people out of the buildings
- Education First & Keep our kids in the School and Protect them

A motion was made by Kyle Haley and seconded by James Kennett to limit the building use to essential personnel only and the board will reassess this monthly at board meetings. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 5:30 pm, SPS Board Meeting Remote.

Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 5:30 pm, SAU Board Meeting Remote.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Kyle Haley and seconded by James Kennett to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 pm. A vote was then taken and all were in favor.

Minutes were respectfully submitted by Patricia Brown