

Approved Minutes
TOWN OF STRATTON SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at 6:00 PM

Present

Board:

Thomas Montemagni
Lorraine Weeks-Newell
Allison Young
Melissa Walker
Kellie D'Elia-Laskin

Administration:

Bill Anton (Superintendent)

Members of the Public:

Alyson Peterson
Candie Bernard
Cricket Mikheev
Jessica Baron

Carson Thurber
Steve Goldfarb
Kristine Koepp
Peter Barus (Recorder)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM.

Modifications to agenda

No pay orders.

Approve School Board Minutes from November 10, 2020

Ms. Weeks-Newell moved to approve the minutes for November 10, as corrected. 2020. Second by Mr. Montemagni. All in Favor.

Superintendents update on Weighting Study

Mr. Anton discussed progress of the Weighting Study with regard to previous discussions about the poverty component, meetings with Representative Pajala, a coalition started in Burlington to advocate for as-is implementation of the study recommendations; upcoming meetings after the House committees are established; and that Ms. Pajala's group of about 15 legislators may ask the Joint Fiscal Office about better poverty indicators; that the statute-required poverty ratio may not be the appropriate one; and that Ms. Pajala had suggested there might be a statewide study from her office or group; more information forthcoming probably mid-December. Mr. Anton noted that other interested parties were looking at the poverty indicators; and will share information as it comes; that if something is implemented a phase-in process is a strong possibility, the usual approach, suggested previously by Sen. Baruth; that there appeared to be no legislative appetite for a one-year implementation.

Review correspondence

- Email from Mr. Anton.

Any other business that may legally come before the board

The board signed the Transportation Policy.

Mr. Thurber discussed the budget two year cap, 50% per student reimbursement, still a 15 student cap; and Stratton Mountain School's intention to make the budget process easy and as close to reality as possible, ready to help with capping for the next two years, ready to submit a letter from the SMS board; planning to offer the cap for the next two years, that the cap won't remain at 15, looking at 20 for the next two years; that with seven Stratton students graduating this year, and covering returning students and admissions process, 15 would not be sufficient; total enrollment is 153 including boarding and day students, middle school and postgrads; no facilities expansion anticipated, and no predictions about Stratton's population, but it would be unlikely to exceed 20; that the SMS board had given a "soft blessing" to this and formalizing would be important; SMS wants to be good community partners. Mr. Montemagni expressed the board's gratitude for Mr. Thurber's efforts. Mr. Thurber appreciated the opportunity to have school choice in the region.

Ms. Weeks-Newell will Warn the budget meeting for December 15, 2020.

Adjournment

Ms. Weeks-Newell moved to Adjourn. Second by Ms. Young. All in Favor.

The meeting was Adjourned at 6:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Peter Barus, Recorder, December 2, 2020