

# DISTRICT TOWN OF STRATTON ANNUAL SCHOOL MEETING

MARCH 5, 2013

The legal voters of the Town of Stratton School District met as warned at the Town Hall on Tuesday, March 5, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. and transacted the following business:

Nancy Ferrucci called the meeting to order. The Clerk took the roll. 23 voters were present (requires a 12-vote majority). Non-resident guest-speakers from the Mountain School at Winhall, Daren Houck, headmaster, Peter Ahlfeld, assistant headmaster and Laurie Caplan, member of the Board of Trustees, were present and had previously thanked the Town for their continued support of the school and were available to answer any questions concerning the Mountain School.

The Moderator read the opening statement of the Warning.

**ARTICLE 1:** *To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year as required by law.* Kent Young nominated Nancy Ferrucci. Chris Liller seconded. Al Dupell moved that the nominations be closed and the Clerk cast one ballot. Laura Hawksley seconded. All concurred and Nancy Ferrucci was elected Moderator for the term of one year.

**ARTICLE 2:** *To elect all Stratton School District Officers as required by law. School District Director, 3 Year Term (2013-2016).* Lorraine Weeks Newell nominated Siobhan Eddy Young. D. R. Holton seconded. Laura Hawksley moved that nominations be closed and the Clerk cast one ballot. Kent Young seconded. All concurred and Siobhan Eddy Young was elected School Director for the term of three years.

**ARTICLE 3:** *To set the Annual 2013-2014 tuition rate to The Mountain School at Winhall up to the amount of \$13,550 per pupil for students in grades K-6 who are residents of the school district pursuant to VSA T.16 sections 823 & 828.* Laura Hawksley so moved. Al Dupell seconded. No discussion. All concurred and the motion passed.

**ARTICLE 4:** *To set the Annual 2013-2014 tuition rate to The Mountain School at Winhall up to the amount of \$13,750 per pupil for students in grades 7 & 8 who are residents of the school district pursuant to VSA T.16 sections 823 & 828.* Laura Hawksley so moved. Al Dupell seconded. No discussion. All concurred and the motion passed.

**ARTICLE 5:** *To set the Annual 2013-2014 K-6 tuition rate to all other private or approved independent schools up to the announced Vermont Union Elementary School tuition rate for students in grades K-6, excluding those students covered in Article 3 & Article 4, who are residents of the school district.* Lorraine Weeks-Newell so moved. Siobhan Eddy Young seconded. Discussion: Lorraine Weeks-Newell stated that the announced rate is \$11,520.00. No further discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote to indicate approval. All concurred and the motion passed.

**ARTICLE 6:** *To set the Annual 2013-2014 tuition rate to Burr & Burton Academy up to the amount of \$14,875.00 per pupil for students in grades 9-12 who are residents of the school district.* Siobhan Eddy Young so moved. Lorraine Weeks-Newell seconded. All concurred and the motion passed.

**ARTICLE 7:** *To set the Annual 2013-2014 tuition rate to all other private or approved independent schools up to the announced Vermont Union High School tuition rate for students in grades 9-12, excluding those students covered in Article 6 who are residents of the school district.* Siobhan Eddy Young so moved. Laura Hawksley seconded. Discussion: Lorraine Weeks-Newell stated that the announced Vermont Union High School tuition rate is \$13,078. Kent Young stated that the Article has a typo and should be corrected. He motioned to amend the article to read: *To set the Annual 2013-2014 tuition rate to all other private or approved independent schools up to the announced Vermont Union High School tuition rate for students in grades 7-12, excluding those students covered in Article 6 who are residents of the school district.* Laura Hawksley seconded. A voice vote was taken – all concurred and the Article was amended. Kent Young moved to approve the Article as amended. Laura Hawksley seconded. A voice vote was taken and all concurred. Article 7 was passed as amended.

**ARTICLE 8:** *To authorize the School Board to expend \$637,475 to defray expenses and liabilities for the 2013-2014 school year.* Siobhan Eddy Young so moved. Al Dupell seconded. Discussion: Laura Hawksley stated that she believed it was time to eliminate the parents' stipends of \$300.00 per year for transportation, as it would remove \$6600 from the budget at a time when minimizing the budget is critical with several new children being enrolled in schools this year. Kent Young stated that as a parent entitled to the stipend, he agreed with eliminating it, since it greatly affects the tax rate, although it seems to be a small amount. Judith Morse also agreed. John Wadsworth strongly disagreed, as it is a big help to parents in the community. Kent Young stated that the tax burden to all resident taxpayers is disproportionate to the benefit provided. He said this small amount of money greatly drives the tax rate upward, but he could not give an example of how much the rate would be reduced if the stipend was eliminated. Laura Hawksley reiterated that we have a large increase in our student count this year over last year which will adversely affect the tax rate and therefore every savings will help greatly. The discussion ended. Kent Young motioned to amend the article to: *To authorize the School Board to expend \$630,875 to defray expenses and liabilities for the 2013-2014 school year.* Laura Hawksley seconded. A voice vote was taken with one person against it. The Moderator stated that the article was amended and asked for a motion to approve the article as amended. Kent Young so moved. Laura Hawksley seconded. No further discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote on the article as amended. A majority of the voters were in favor and the article passed as amended.

**ARTICLE 9:** *Shall the voters authorize the School Board to establish a reserve account for future tuition.* Laura Hawksley so moved. Tom Montemagni seconded. All concurred and the Article passed.

**ARTICLE 10:** *To see if the Town will authorize the School Directors to borrow money for the school district in anticipation of taxes and state money allocated to the district.* Laura Hawksley so moved. Al Dupell seconded. No discussion. A voice vote was taken – all concurred and the article passed.

**ARTICLE 11:** *To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.* Tom Montemagni addressed the issue of Out-of-State tuition and explained that it was now illegal for towns to pay out-of-state tuition for elementary school. The school board also has revised their policy to refuse out-of-state tuition for high school students as well. Currently one family has a high school student attending out of state, and the board has allowed for this student to continue in this specific circumstance. Another parent stated that they may be requesting out-of-state tuition as well. Tom Montemagni said that they would have to bring that request before the board at the appropriate time.

With no further discussion and no further business, the Moderator asked for a motion to adjourn. Al Dupell so moved. Laura Hawksley seconded. All concurred and the meeting adjourned at 1:37PM.

Minutes by:

David Kent Young  
Town Clerk - David Kent Young

Approved

Nancy Ferrucci  
Moderator - Nancy Ferrucci

Approved by the Stratton School Directors:

Thomas P. Montemagni  
Thomas Montemagni

Lorraine Weeks-Newell  
Lorraine Weeks-Newell

Siobhan Eddy Young  
Siobhan Eddy Young