

# TOWN OF STRATTON SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 6:00 PM

(videoconference)

APPROVED

## In Attendance

### Board:

Thomas Montemagni (Chair)  
Allison Young (Vice Chair)  
Lorraine Weeks-Newell (Secretary)  
Candie Bernard  
Alyson Peterson

Peter Ahlfeld  
Abbe Haber  
Cricket Mikheev  
Michael Culver

### Administration:

Bill Anton (Superintendent)

### Members of the Public:

Carson Thurber  
Peter Barus (Recorder)

## Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM.

## Consider modifications to Agenda

Residency discussion

## Approve School Board minutes for May 5, 2020.

A correction was made regarding tuitions in excess of the fifteen-student cap.

Ms. Weeks-Newell moved to approve the minutes for May 5, 2020, as corrected. Second by Mr. Montemagni  
By roll call vote, All in Favor.

## Communication from the Treasurer:

*June Payroll Voucher, June AP Voucher, June Snapshot, June Spending Summary*

### Approve Order

There was discussion of a surplus; of state aid transportation check sub-grant received; the order received online; a second billing from Rutland re transportation costs, also billed for entire amount that is usually paid in two installments; Ms. Peterson withholding that check pending communications, and will report, and will write to those concerned. Ms. Weeks-Newell discussed tuition, and a loan repaid in full; another order for the school payroll, also paid out; all in good order other than the withheld \$10,000 discussed above.

## Address any correspondence brought before the Board.

Email from a parent, tuition and transportation switching to another school; there was discussion; it had been planned to review the Transportation Policy in general this summer, noting that there will be changes for many students and changes in transportation generally.

## Address any other business that may legally come before the Board.

The Board welcomed Mr. Thurber as a new Resident. Mr. Thurber will complete the necessary paperwork under the Residency Policy and Affidavit.

## Any other items

Ms. Weeks-Newell asked about the Weighting Study. Mr. Anton explained that there is little legislative energy, no action expected until possibly in August, but only as a study of the Study; that no immediate changes are seen for Stratton FY 2021 and FY2022; that there are preparations for an influx of people coming to the area that are not anticipated in the budget; about proposals at the legislative level for FY2022 concerning the penalty waiver, that don't touch FY2021; that 16 more students would be something to think about; that an Economic Development Committee in communication with a state Representative is looking at an influx of population and thinking about legislative waivers or loans. There was discussion of a cap in place this year, and about "sight-unseens" and of second home owners moving here permanently.

Mr. Anton will keep the Board informed.

Mr. Anton responded to a question, that the yield is set as on December 1 and will not affect the Tax Rate; that the legislators are committed that they don't want to tax residents; that there would be long-term borrowing if the Federal COVID19 funds cannot be applied; that House Ways and Means is driving this; that there won't be any shock. There was discussion of legislative activity.

**Draft Minutes**  
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Ms. Young reported discussions with an attorney about a review of the Weighting Study; and not anticipating a tax break in the near future; Mr. Pietro will research how the Weighting Study applies to Stratton and what it had looked at, for discussion next week; and had discussed the influx of students with no budgetary protection, notion that there is no reason not to say something.

There was discussion of proving against the Weighting Study research that a percentage increase is a COVID19 impact. Mr. Anton noted that the Weighting Study is about demographics and poverty, whereas Stratton is shown as a wealthy town in the Study; and suggested talking with other towns about lobbying, mitigating implementation, or a reevaluation of the Study in light of current events; and noted that a majority of districts will benefit, but smaller ones like Stratton will not. There was discussion of the accuracy of the data behind the Study.

The Board will discuss Transportation policy at the July 7, 2020 meeting.

**Adjournment**

Ms. Weeks-Newell moved to Adjourn. Second by Ms. Young.  
By Unanimous Consent, the meeting was Adjourned at 6:46PM.

*Respectfully submitted, Peter Barus, Recorder, June 5, 2020*