

**TOWN OF STRATTON  
MINUTES OF  
THE ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING OF  
MARCH 5, 2019**

The legal voters of the Town of Stratton, Vermont met as warned at the Town Hall in said town on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 11:00 A.M. Moderator, Diana Stugger, called the meeting to order at 11:00AM. The Town Clerk took the roll and 72 voters were present. A majority of 37 will be required. Guests present: Michael Culver, Jessica Marullo, Michael and Abigail Dell Aera, Holly Wendell - Assistant Head Master of the Stratton Mountain School, Peter Ahlfeld - the Head Master of the Mountain School and Mark Tashjian - the Head Master of Burr and Burton Academy.

*ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year, as required by law.*

Chris Liller nominated Diana Stugger. Al Dupell seconded. Larry Bills moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. All concurred. Diana Stugger was elected Moderator for the ensuing year.

*ARTICLE 2: To elect all Stratton School District Officers, as required by law:*

*School District Director            One three-year term*

Lorraine Weeks-Newell nominated Allison Young. Chris Liller seconded. Larry Bills moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. All concurred. Allison Young was elected School District Director for the term of three years.

*ARTICLE 3: To set the Annual 2019-2020 tuition rate to The Mountain School at Winhall up to the announced Vermont Union Elementary School tuition rate for students in grades K-6 and up to the announced Vermont Union High School tuition rate for students in grades 7-8, who are residents of the school district pursuant to VSA 16 sections 823 & 828.*

Boomer Walker so moved. Siobhan Eddy Young seconded. No discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 3 was unanimously approved.

*ARTICLE 4: To set the Annual 2019-2020 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, who are residents of the school district.*

Kent Young so moved. Boomer Walker seconded. No discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 4 was unanimously approved.

*ARTICLE 5: To set the Annual 2019-2020 tuition rate to Burr & Burton Academy up to the amount of \$17,490.00 per pupil for students in grades 9-12, who are residents of the school district.*

Laura Hawksley so moved. Chris Liller seconded. Discussion: Gynne Fitzgerald recommended reducing the tuition rate to the Vermont Union High School Tuition Rate. A general discussion ensued, which implied that Burr and Burton Academy may be able to accept that amount with no additional charge to parents. Gynne Fitzgerald motioned to amend and Jessica Baron seconded. Discussion: Mark Tashjian, Head Master of Burr and Burton Academy, arrived and asked permission to address the assembly. The Moderator asked for approval and he received unanimous approval. Mr. Tashjian discussed the event that had occurred last year when Winhall's student tuition rate was reduced similarly. He said that this was not a fair situation to the other sending towns, who objected last year and therefore, he did not think the Board of Directors would allow it this year. The School Board also recommended voting down the amendment and proceeding with approval of the Article as written. Following the discussion, the Moderator asked for a voice vote to approve the amendment – all voted “No” and the amendment failed. The Moderator then asked for a voice vote to approve the Article as originally presented. All were in favor and Article 5 passed.

**ARTICLE 6:** To set the Annual 2019-2020 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 3 and Article 4, who are residents of the school district.

Kent Young so moved. Boomer Walker seconded. No discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 6 was unanimously approved.

**ARTICLE 7:** Shall the voters of the School District approve the School Board to expend \$1,023,476.00, which is the amount the School Board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$15,835.38 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 2.18% lower than spending for the current year. Boomer Walker so moved. Al Dupell seconded. Discussion: Kent Young stated that there are several unresolved issues, which the school board is still considering and working through. He said he believes the School Board recommends that the budget gets passed as presented here, with the understanding that if it should be changed, then this Article can be petitioned within 30 days for a revote or the School Board can call for a Special School District Meeting to change it. Lorraine Weeks-Newell concurred. Kent Young said that the School Board will be meeting on March 12, 2019 to continue discussion regarding the recent policy that backs this budget. He recommended that those presenting ideas regarding ways to minimize the budget can attend that meeting. With no further discussion, the Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 7 passed.

**ARTICLE 8:** 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.

Boomer Walker so moved. Lorraine Week-Newell seconded. No discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 8 passed.

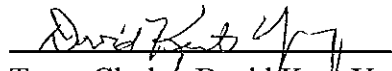
**ARTICLE 9:** To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

No other business was transacted.

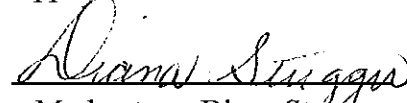
**ADJOURNMENT:** The Moderator asked for a motion to adjourn.

Al Dupell moved to adjourn. Kent Young seconded. All concurred and the School District Meeting adjourned at 11:30AM. Following the meeting, Representative, Kelly Pajala discussed the Homestead Tax Rate and other School issues with the assembly. Peter Ahlfeld also spoke to thank the Town for its support of Mountain School.

Minutes by:

  
Town Clerk - David/Kent Young

Approved:

  
Moderator - Diana Stigger

Approved by the Stratton School Directors

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Thomas Montemagni

  
Allison Young

  
Lorraine Weeks-Newell