

APPROVED

**TOWN OF STRATTON
STRATTON SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2018**

The Stratton School Board held its monthly meeting on May 3, 2018 at the Stratton Town Office. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M.

ATTENDING: Thomas Montemagni, Chair, Siobhan Eddy Young, Director, William Anton, WCSU Superintendent, and Lorraine M. Weeks-Newell, Secretary.

ALSO ATTENDING: Steve Fletcher, Allison Young, Carol Huber, Abbe Haber, and Michael Culver.

MINUTES:

The minutes from the April 5, 2018 meeting were read. Lorraine Newell motioned to approve and Siobhan Eddy Young seconded. The minutes were approved.

ACT 46

Mr. Culver, a resident and parent of an enrolled student in Stratton, had questions regarding the Boards visit with the VT Board of Education. The meeting was held in Barre, VT on April 10, 2018. Thomas Montemagni and Lorraine Weeks-Newell met with members of the VT Department of Education to offer a sense of Stratton's community make-up in order to support Stratton's request of the state to remain an independent school district.

In answer to Mr. Culver's inquiry, Mr. Montemagni recounted his efforts to present a description of Stratton's population, mostly a blue collared community and a geographical picture of the layout of the town indicating transportation hurdles that may occur for parents as a result of a merger.

In addition, Mr. Montemagni went on to say that for nearly 30 years Stratton has paid full tuition to independent schools who accept all of Stratton's students. This has enabled both the gifted as well as special needs students to receive the best academic opportunities available in education.

Ms. Abbe Haber inquired as to the term, "Accepting all of Stratton's students." Superintendent Anton went on to explain that a student with special needs in speech, language or any of the core subjects receives instruction by a hired

special education teacher. The student has an independent education plan (IEP) which states the services from the special education teacher. Independent or private schools may not have such a teacher on staff which could result in a student not receiving the education that he or she needs and is entitled to. Mr. Anton went on to say that the state is aggressively looking into the use of state education tax dollars to fund tuition to those schools that do not provide these special needs services.

Concerns regarding school choice, a schools continued receipt of state funds as well as property school tax increases were also voiced. Mr. Anton encouraged those attending the meeting to stay informed on the state's day-to-day decisions regarding education by visiting the website: www.vtdigger.org.

In conclusion, the Stratton Board stated that on June 1, 2018, a proposal will have been made by the interviewing committee to the State Board of Education. This proposal will be posted on the State Board of Education website. After the posting, there will be scheduled public hearings at which time state residents will have an opportunity to comment and provide additional information or testimony to the State Board before a final decision is made regarding the individual merging petitions. The hearings will begin in the northern part of the state in July, the central part in August and the southern section (Stratton) in September. Those attending stated that they are willing to offer any support they can if necessary.

RESIDENCY APPLICATIONS:

Mr. Steve Fletcher attended the meeting to submit his completed Residency Application. He has a child who will be attending Pre-K during the 2018/2019 school year. In addition to the completed registration application Mr. Fletcher provided his VT license, registration, property tax bill and electricity bill. He also provided a copy of his wife's VT driver's license.

The Board reviewed the documents and information. The application for tuition assistance was approved.

OTHER SCHOOL BUSINESS:

Mr. Michael Culver informed the Board that his son will be attending SMS School for the 2018/2019 school year. He is a student at MEMS during this school year. Mrs. Allison Young attended the meeting to inform the Board that her son will be leaving Mount Snow Pre-K to attend Pre-K at Dover Elementary School for the 2018/2019 school year.

The Board received the tuition agreement between The Twin Valley Unified Union School District and The Stratton School District. The agreement was reviewed and Thomas Montemagni signed the tuition agreement for the 2018-2019 school year.

BILLING:

Lorraine Weeks-Newell – Travel lunch reimbursement -	\$ 15.02	CK#4403
Manchester School District – 2017/2018 tuition -	\$13,950.00	CK#4404
Manchester School District – School Year 2016/2017		
Allowable tuition –	\$ - <u>989.31</u>	CK#4404

CHECK TOTAL \$ 12,960.69

Check #4404 reflects FY17 allowable **credit of \$989.31.**

Mountain School At Winhall – Pre-K tuition -	\$ 1,589.00	CK#4405
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The total amount of the May 3, 2018 order was \$14,564.71

The order was reviewed, approved and signed.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The Stratton School Board entered into Executive Session at 8:20 to complete the Superintendent's Evaluation.

The Stratton School Board came out of Executive Session at 8:30 after completing the Superintendent's Evaluation.

As there was no other business, Lorraine Newell motioned to adjourn the meeting, Siobhan Young seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40.

Respectfully submitted,



Lorraine M. Weeks-Newell
Stratton School Board Secretary