

APPROVED

**TOWN OF STRATTON
STRATTON SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
NOVEMBER 10, 2016**

The Stratton School Board held its monthly meeting on November 10, 2016 at the Stratton town office. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

ATTENDING: Thomas Montemagni (Chair), Siobhan Eddy Young (Director) Lorraine M. Weeks Newell (Secretary) Stacie Chiodi (Act 46 Committee) Julianna Moore and Jeremy White.

NO MODIFICATIONS

MINUTES:

Minutes for the Stratton monthly meeting on October 13, 2016 were read. Lorraine Newell motioned to approve and Thomas Montemagni seconded. Minutes from Act 46 meetings held on October 12, 2016 and , October 27, 2016 were read. Lorraine Newell motioned to approve and Thomas Montemagni seconded. The minutes from the October meetings were approved.

OLD BUSINESS: Ms. Moore attended the meeting with concerns regarding her sons tuition assistance to Twin Valley High School. She first met with the Stratton Board on December 3, 2015 for the purpose of applying for residency in Stratton and a request for tuition assistance for her son who was, at that time, attending Twin Valley in Wilmington. Along with her completed paperwork Ms. Moore provided a copy of her lease agreement. The Board requested additional information which was provided on February 2, 2016. Lorraine Newell motioned to approve her application for tuition assistance and Siobhan Young seconded. All concurred. The Board did request that she submit her VT drivers license as soon as it was available. After several attempts in the following months to contact Ms. Moore regarding the drivers license, she did submit it on June 2, 2016.

On November 17, 2015, the Town of Stratton had received a letter from Karen Atwood, Business Manager at the WSWSU in Wilmington and addressed to Julianna Moore. The letter stated that the first semester (2015) tuition for her son attending Twin Valley High School had not been paid. Ms. Atwood had

contacted the WCSU for verification of student residency in Stratton and found none and approval for tuition from the Stratton Board had been denied as there was no record on file of the student or any application for residency. Therefore, Ms. Moore was responsible for the payment of tuition for the first semester for school year 2015/2016. As was previously stated, Stratton did pay the second semester tuition to Twin Valley High School after Ms. Moore applied and was approved for residency in December of 2015. It is the policy of the Stratton School Board that tuition will commence at the time residency is approved. Ms. Moore and Jeremy White discussed their concerns with the Board. Chairman Montemagni will speak with the WCSU and WSWSU regarding the school application at Twin Valley High School and other correspondence regarding this issue. The Board will readdress the situation at the December 8, 2016 meeting.

BILLING:

10/18/16-10/18/16

Stratton Mountain School - Prorated tuition payment - Jacqueline Culver -
\$6,298.79 CK#4340

The order was reviewed, approved and signed.
The total amount of the 10/18/2016 order was \$6,298.79.

11/10/2016

Sullivan, Powers & Co. CPA - Audit Services - \$3,430.00 CK#4341

The order was reviewed, approved and signed
The total amount of the 11/10/2016 order was \$3,430.

ACT 46:

The Board continued conversation regarding Act 46. VT State Representative Oliver Olsen had been in contact with the Stratton Board regarding his concerns with Stratton's decision to enter into a study with Searsberg to form a district. As a result, a conference call including the Stratton Board, Rep. Olsen, Jackie Murano (Searsberg Chair) Jackie Willson (BRSU Superintendent) and Stacie Chiodi (Stratton Act 46 Committee member) was scheduled.

Rep. Olsen stated that in his overview of study committees and regional activity involved with merging districts, it was his hope that Stratton would reconsider a merger with Winhall, Sandgate and Searsberg (all non operating districts) in alignment with the BRSU. Stratton had entered into a study with Winhall to form a district but withdrew when progress was not being made. He voiced concerns regarding school choice and the restrictions down the road which would involve independent schools. The BRSU does not operate a high school which would

make Burr & Burton the choice high school for the newly formed district. He is also wary to be locked into a small district and supervisory union where Stratton students would be obligated to attend the high school in the newly formed district. He stated that Winhall is very interested in working with Stratton and Searsberg. Chair, Thomas Montemagni voiced concerns from the Stratton Study Committee regarding school choice. He stated that Searsberg is very similar to Stratton in that we would continue to send our students to Burr & Burton. The Stratton study committee has voiced their concerns regarding school choice and is not leaning towards a merger with Searsberg and the WSWSU.

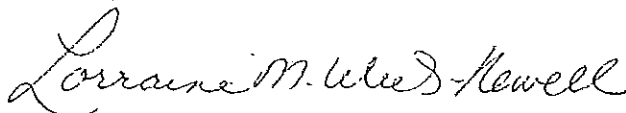
The next step is to caucus Stratton and Searsberg in regards to how they will proceed.

Jackie Murano stated that she will need to meet with her board to discuss all of the new information received at the meeting. Searsberg meets next week and will contact Stratton to schedule a meeting with the study committees. She feels that they are open to options however voiced her concerns regarding geographic difficulties.

Act 46 informational meetings are open to the the public and scheduled meetings will be warned and posted as required.

As there was no other business, Siobhan Young motioned to adjourn, Lorraine Weeks-Newell seconded. the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lorraine M. Weeks-Newell".

Lorraine M. Weeks Newell
Stratton School Board Secretary