

# APPROVED

**TOWN OF STRATTON VERMONT  
STRATTON SCHOOL BOARD  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2019  
STRATTON TOWN OFFICE**

The Stratton School Board held a designation discussion at the Stratton Town Office on Thursday, September 26, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 6pm.

**ATTENDING:**

Chairman-	Tom Montemagni
Vice Chair-	Allison Young
Secretary-	Lorraine M. Weeks Newell
Superintendent-	Bill Anton

Stacie Chiodi	Peter Ahlfeld
Melissa Walker	Betsy LaHue
Candie Bernard	Robert Lahue
Jessica Dell'Aera	Holly Wendell
Carson Thurber	Abbe Haber
Marissa Powers	Kristine Koeppel
Ross Powers	

**DESIGNATION DISCUSSION:**

Bill Anton presented a document highlighting the designation laws, options and processes as per the State of Vermont. This document has been attached to these minutes. The schools potentially available for Stratton designation are Leland & Gray, Twin Valley, Brattleboro and Mt. Anthony.

A general discussion commenced regarding designation and what it means for Stratton. One of the biggest concerns voiced by the community members was that none of our current high school students attend any of the potentially designated schools. Additionally, designation offers no forward movement for the community unless it reduces the number of students receiving tuition assistance.

As Bill Anton is now responsible for the initial residency determinations, he advised that only one family failed to prove residency as a result of the re-application efforts made this summer.

### MOVING FORWARD:

1. The community would like to have additional conversations with both SMS and BBA regarding our future relationships. This will be discussed in upcoming meetings.
2. A committee needs to be created to organize and present numbers at school board meetings. The community members would like to have a rolling snapshot of Stratton's current situation (i.e. How many students are actually enrolled vs phantom students? How many graduating seniors in 2020? Is Stratton only seeing high school growth, or is there more growth in the primary grades?) This committee will also be responsible for providing some forecasting numbers as well.  
(UPDATE: After the meeting, Abbe Haber volunteered to head this committee. Carolyn Beckedorff, Robert and Betsy LaHue will be assisting.)
3. A subcommittee needs to be created to assist the first committee in forecasting. A survey needs to be drafted and mailed to all Stratton community members requesting their opinions on our current situation and how it affects their families. The board requests a subcommittee of 3 people work to have this survey drafted for October 11, 2019, with a proposed mailing date of October 18, 2019. The subcommittee should consist of a parent whose children are currently receiving tuition, a Stratton homeowner without children in the system and a senior member of the community. This request will be made at the October 1, 2019 school board meeting.
4. By any reasonable means, Bill Anton is to take the next steps in verifying residency for any applications he feels warrant further review.

A merging discussion meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at 6pm.

A regular monthly school board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 1, 2019 at 5pm.

Meeting adjourned at 9pm.

Minutes prepared by: Allison S. Young