

Minutes
TOWN OF STRATTON SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 6:15 p.m.

Present

Board:

Allison Young (Chair)
Melissa Walker
Kellie D'Elia-Laskin
Claire Sears

Administration:

Bill Anton (Superintendent)

Members of the Public:

Colleen Palmer
Peter Barus (Recorder)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m.

Modifications to agenda

After correspondence, BBA driver education update.

Approve school board minutes from September 6, 2022

Ms. Sears moved to approve the minutes for September 6, 2022. Second by Ms. D'Elia-Laskin. All in favor.

Review/approve order

The order was signed, dated September 27, 2022, in the amount of \$231,220.97.

Review correspondences

BBA Driver Education Update

Mr. Anton explained that the River Valleys district had received the request and sought legal guidance; that the AoE had determined that a school was solely responsible to make driver education available for attending students, and the superintendent where that school was physically located should make arrangements; that the BRSU superintendent was responsible for BBA's solution and implementation, whether hiring instructor(s), outsourcing with a contractor, or giving parents vouchers for their own arrangements; that schools could invite sending districts to participate in funding the program, but were still responsible to make driver education available to their students; that the statute did not say when or how; that the information had been forwarded to BBA, and meetings had been held with the superintendent, who met with BBA to review their plan; they may ask districts for funds, and the process BBA decides and their superintendent oversees will be done, and Stratton may make their own decision.

There was discussion; of the costs of DE; of reimbursing parents; of state law; that the school is responsible to provide availability by statute. Mr. Anton clarified that whether or not Stratton wanted to contribute; it would not make the program more or less affordable, and paying for DE was not the parent's responsibility. It was noted that programs were hard to find.

Ms. Young will notify the treasurer not to make any payments yet; and noted that a response had already gone to Dennis Philipi (BBA Dir. Finance) that Stratton would pay. Mr. Anton noted that a

Minutes

TOWN OF STRATTON SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 6:15 p.m.

follow-up letter should say that Stratton will wait before paying up to \$350 per student.

Pre-K Tuition policy discussion

Ms. Young discussed the issues; equity for pre-k students; most programs were not ten hours (which is paid); that Mr. Anton had researched programs and advised it would be ok to go ahead, and had obtained language saying the district shall comply... and extend pre-k payments to resident 3- and 4-year-olds... and extend the hours beyond the ten hours per week, if the approved program offers additional weekly hours. There was discussion of eligibility.

Mr. Anton noted that it would not matter if a student was 3 or 4 or 5 year old; that "resident students enrolled in an approved pre-k program" would be matched to the act 166-required ten hours of pre-k, adding a possible 25 hours to that, up to total of 35 hours per week; seven hours a day maximum; and suggested for budgeting purposes, based on the spread of programs, budgeting \$10,000 per pre-k student; that it could be more or less, but for budget purposes, \$10,000 was appropriate. It was noted that it had gone into effect for this year; that although budgeting for five, there was only one pre-k student.

Mr. Anton explained that the policy Warning should be posted for ten days; and that the board may also pay for the entire year, retroactively.

Ms. Walker **moved** to Warn the Tuition Policy with the additional language (as discussed). Second by Ms. Sears. All in favor.

Any other business that may legally come before the board

Scheduling will be changed to accommodate Ms. Sibia, November 1 (next meeting): start 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Young suggested a work session; there was consensus on Thursday, October 20, 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Anton noted that if a quorum is present the meeting must be Warned, but a work session is allowed short of that number.

Dr. Palmer offered a tour of the Mountain School for members, at their convenience.

Adjourn

Ms. D'Elia-Laskin moved to Adjourn. Second by Ms. Walker. All in favor.

The meeting was Adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Peter Barus, Recorder, October 12, 2022