

APPROVED

**TOWN OF STRATTON
SCHOOL BOARD
JULY 19, 2016**

The Stratton School Board met with members of the Searsburg School Board and WSSU, Windham Southwest Supervisory Union, on Tuesday July 19, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. at the Clock Tower offices at Mount Snow Resort, Dover, VT. Those attending continued discussion regarding Act 46 and conducting an informal investigation in forming a new District consisting of Searsburg, VT and Stratton, VT.

ATTENDING: Stratton School Board members, Thomas Montemagni, Chairman, Siobhan Eddy Young, Director and Lorraine M. Weeks-Newell, Secretary. Searsburg School Board members, Jacki Murano and Annette Hazell. Windham Southwest Supervisory Union Superintendent, Chris Pratt and Karen Atwood, WSSU Business Manager.

Ms. Atwood provided comparison budgets for Searsburg and Stratton for school years 2016/2017. She included similar information for fiscal years 2014 thru 2017. It included individual budgets dealing with revenues, special education rates, VT education tax rates and residential tax rates. A sample of a new single budget with Stratton and Searsburg, should a new school district be formed, was included as well.

Stratton and Searsburg are presently part of a formal study with Winhall and Sandgate to form a RED. At the time of Tuesday's meeting, no information was available regarding the status of the formal study. A sample of what a combined budget would be if a new RED was formed was not available at the time of Tuesday's meeting. Karen Atwood offered to compile the information and make it available to the Stratton and Searsburg School Boards.

Superintendent Pratt gave copies of the Act 156/46 Guidelines and Next Steps, worksheets for a study committee merger and a sample packet consisting of Articles of Agreement Among Searsburg Town School District and Stratton Town School District.

Concerns regarding the number of votes each town would have under a single new district were discussed. Also addressed was the time frame remaining in which to complete a study with Searsburg in forming a new single/side by side district as well as the possibility of forming a RED with Winhall and Sandgate and presenting the findings to the respective towns at a public forum and for final vote at Town Meeting Day in March of 2017. Those attending discussed contacting Winhall to get the status on the study underway with Sandgate. It was agreed that Stratton and Searsburg districts would meet again on August 10, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. at the WSSU offices in Wilmington.

As there was no other business to discuss regarding Act 46, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Lorraine M. Weeks-Newell
Stratton School Board Secretary