

**TOWN OF STRATTON
ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING
March 7, 2017**

The legal voters of the Town of Stratton, Vermont met at the Town Hall in said town on Tuesday, March 7, 2017. Diana Stugger, the Moderator, called the meeting to order at 11:00AM. The Clerk took the roll and 34 voters were present. 18 votes constitute a majority.

The Moderator read the following Articles and conducted the meeting as follows:

ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year, as required by law. Al Dupell nominated Diana Stugger. Kevin Robinson seconded. Larry Bills moved the nominations be closed and the Clerk cast one ballot. Kevin Robinson seconded. All concurred and Diana Stugger was elected Moderator for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 2: To elect all Stratton School District Officers, as required by law: School District Director - One three-year term. Siobhan Eddy Young nominated Lorraine Weeks-Newell. Tom Montemagni seconded. Larry Bills moved the nominations be closed and the Clerk cast one ballot. Kevin Robinson seconded - all concurred and Lorraine Weeks-Newell was elected School Director for a three-year term.

ARTICLE 3: To set the Annual 2017-2018 tuition rate to The Mountain School at Winhall up to the amount of \$15,000.00 per pupil for students in grades K-8, who are residents of the school district pursuant to VSA T.16 sections 823 & 828. Boomer Walker so moved. Betsey Wadsworth seconded. No Discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote - all were in favor and the article passed.

ARTICLE 4: To set the Annual 2017-2018 K-6 tuition rate to all other private or approved independent schools up to the announced Vermont Union Elementary School tuition rate for students in grades K-6, excluding those students covered in Article 3, who are residents of the school district. Al Dupell so moved. Boomer Walker seconded. No discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote - all were in favor and the article passed.

ARTICLE 5: To set the Annual 2017-2018 tuition rate to Burr & Burton Academy up to the amount of \$16,700.00 per pupil for students in grades 9-12, who are residents of the school district. Boomer Walker so moved. Betsey Wadsworth seconded. No discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote - all were in favor and the article passed.

ARTICLE 6: To set the Annual 2017-2018 tuition rate to all other private or approved independent schools up to the announced Vermont Union High School tuition rate for students in grades 7-12, excluding those students covered in Article 3 and Article 5, who are residents of the school district. John Waite so moved. Boomer Walker seconded. No discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote - all were in favor and the article passed.

ARTICLE 7: Shall the voters of the School District approve the School Board to expend \$690,592.00, which is the amount the School Board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$15,944.00 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 11.0% higher than spending for the current year. Chris Liller so moved. Boomer Walker seconded. No discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote - all were in favor and the article passed.

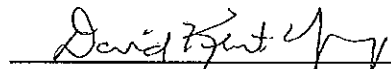
ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will authorize the School Directors to borrow money for the school district in anticipation of taxes and state money allocated to the district. Larry Bills so moved. Al Dupell seconded. No discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote – all were in favor and the article passed.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will authorize the Stratton School Board to apply to the Vermont State Board of Education for approval to adjust the district's supervisory union from the Windham Central Supervisory Union (WCSU) to the Bennington Rutland Supervisory Union (BRSU) pursuant to 16 VSA 261 (b). Kent Young so moved. Al Dupell seconded. Discussion: Sian Read asked what is the purpose of this change. Tom Montemagni explained that currently the State is implementing Act 46, which requires School Districts to meet certain goals and will require many school districts to merge with other school districts with similar educational systems. He stated that Stratton has organized an Act 46 Study Committee, which is a requirement of Act 46. It consists of himself, Stacie Chiodi and Melissa Walker. The School Board has also interviewed an attorney familiar with Act 46, John Everett, for guidance in complying with Act 46. The Board and Committee currently intend to pursue an independent status, and will develop a presentation for this decision to present to the State. Meanwhile, they also had decided to pursue this changeover from the WCSU to the BRSU, because nearly all of our students attend schools in the BRSU. Therefore, if Stratton is forced to merge with other districts, we will be aligned with the correct Supervisory Union. Mr. Montemagni went on to explain that we had, over the past year, considered merging with districts similar to Stratton, i.e. Winhall, Sandgate and Searsburg, all tuitioning towns, but that those choices had drawbacks, including the fact that currently, at their Annual School Meeting, Winhall intends to pay only State average to independent elementary schools, including the Mountain School, meaning that parents will have to pay the difference, unless they vote it differently today.

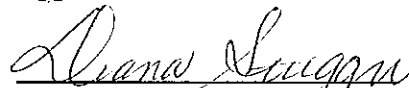
With no further discussion, the Moderator asked for a voice vote. All were in favor and the Article passed.

ARTICLE 10: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting. With no further business, the Moderator asked for a motion to adjourn. Al Dupell so moved. Larry Bills seconded – all concurred and the meeting adjourned at 11:25a.m..

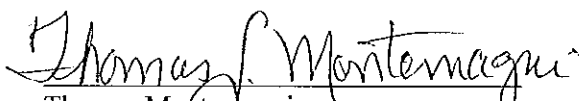
Minutes by:


Town Clerk – David Kent Young

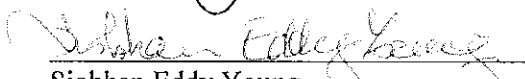
Approved:


Moderator – Diana Stugger

Approved by the Stratton School Directors


Thomas Montemagni


Lorraine Weeks-Newell


Siobhan Eddy Young