TOWN OF STRATTON

MINUTES OF

THE ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING OF MARCH 1, 2022

The legal voters of the Town of Stratton, Vermont met as warned at the Town Hall in said town on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 11:00 A.M. Moderator, Diana Stugger, was not present. Boomer Walker, who had previously been elected Moderator for the Town Meeting, called the meeting to order at 11:00AM. The Town Clerk took the roll and 18 voters were present (one additional voter arrived during the meeting). A majority of 10 will be required. Guests present: Greg Sukiennik a Brattleboro Reformer reporter, Holly Wendell of Stratton Mountain School, Cricket Mikheev of Maple Street School, and Mark Tashjian - Head Master of Burr and Burton Academy.

ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year, as required by law.

Kent Young nominated Boomer Walker. DR Holton seconded. Al Dupell moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Kent Young seconded. All concurred. Boomer Walker 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

Melissa Walker nominated Allison Young. Kent Young seconded. Al Dupell moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Kent Young seconded. All concurred. Allison Young was elected School District Director for the term of three years.

School District Director

One one-year term

Melissa Walker nominated Devon Crowther. DR Holton seconded. Al Dupell moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Kent Young seconded. All concurred. Devon Crowther was elected School District Director for a one-year term.

School District Director

One one-year term

Melissa Walker nominated Claire Sears. Kent Young seconded. Al Dupell moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Kent Young seconded. All concurred. Claire Sears was elected School District Director for a one-year term.

- ARTICLE 3: To set the Annual 2022-2023 tuition rate to The Mountain School at Winhall up to the announced Vermont Union Elementary School tuition rate for students in grades K-6 and up to the announced Vermont Union High School tuition rate for students in grades 7-8, who are residents of the school district pursuant to VSA 16 sections 823 & 828. Betsy Wadsworth so moved. Kent Young seconded. Discussion: The State has not yet set the tuition rates. After a quick check, the Treasurer confirmed that The Mountain School will set their rate accordingly. With no further discussion, the Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 3 was passed unanimously.
- ARTICLE 4: To set the Annual 2022-2023 K-6 tuition rate to all other private or approved independent schools up to the annual 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. Melissa Walker so moved. Kent Young seconded. No discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 4 passed unanimously.
- ARTICLE 5: To set the Annual 2022-2023 tuition rate to Burr & Burton Academy up to the amount of \$19,200.00 per pupil for students in grades 9-12, who are residents of the school district. Kent Young so moved. Alyson Peterson seconded. No discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 5 passed unanimously.
- ARTICLE 6: To set the Annual 2022-2023 tuition rate to all other private or approved independent schools up to the annual 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. Kent Young so moved. Alyson Peterson seconded. No discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 6 passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 7: Shall the voters of the School District approve the School Board to expend \$1,379,648.00, 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 \$19,025.94 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 18.27% more than spending for the current year. Kent Young so moved. Alyson Peterson seconded. Discussion: DR Holton asked why the equalized pupil spending had increased so much. Kent Young stated that this was an average of students from previous years applied to the budgeted amount necessary for this year's projected student count. The Treasurer added that the rate will change little from this year. Melissa Walker added that revenues are also considered to reduce the tuition rate. Betsy Wadsworth asked if the Weighting Study is reflected in this budget's average. Melissa Walker answered that it has not yet gone into effect, but it will affect us in the future. It was suggested by another voter that the Town will need more affordable housing to help offset the future rate. With no further discussion, the Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 7 passed unanimously.

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. Kent Young so moved. Al Dupell seconded. No discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 8 passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 9: Shall the voters of the Stratton School District authorize moving the operational surplus, if any, from FY 2022 to the Tuition Reserve Fund? Kent Young so moved. Al Dupell seconded. No discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 9 passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 10: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting. No additional business was transacted. Lorraine Weeks-Newell asked about the status of the LaMarche Scholarship fund since nothing had been appropriated for it this year. Kent Young said that "Appropriations" are part of "Town" business and not "School District" business, but to answer the question, it is his understanding that no one from the family exists to provide guidance in its distribution. The Town has no jurisdiction over the funds any longer once they are provided as an appropriation and that management of those funds is through the Supervisory Union. Mrs. Weeks-Newell said that it would be nice for Stratton students to know about the availability of that scholarship fund for Tech students. Holly Wendell of SMS, Cricket Mikheev of Maple Street School, and Mark Tashjian of BBA each in turn talked about their individual schools and thanked Stratton's voters for their support.

ADJOURNMENT: With no other business, the Moderator asked for a motion to adjourn. Kent Young so moved at 11:21am. Al Dupell seconded and the 2022 School District Annual Meeting adjourned.

Minutes by:

Town Clark David Kent Voung

Approved by the Stratton School Directors

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Devon Crowther

Allison Young - Chair

ellie D'Elia-Laskin

Moderator – Boomer Walker

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Approved:

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