

**TOWN OF STRATTON
MINUTES OF
THE ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING OF
MARCH 4, 2025**

The legal voters of the Town of Stratton, Vermont met as warned at the Stratton Town Hall in said town on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 11:00 A.M. Moderator, Boomer Walker, called the meeting to order. Immediately, the moderator asked for a motion to recess the meeting so that our District Representative, Laura Sibilia, could speak to the voters concerning current state-wide events and take questions. Kent Young so moved. Chris Liller seconded and the meeting recessed. At 11:15, the Moderator reconvened the meeting. The Town Clerk took the roll and 24 voters were present – a majority of 13 voters will be required.

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

Kent Young nominated Boomer Walker. Alyson Peterson seconded. Chris Liller 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:*

<i>School District Director</i>	<i>One three-year term</i>
<i>School District Director</i>	<i>Two one-year terms</i>

Joe Frigo nominated Allison Young. Devon Marcucci seconded. No additional nominations. Chris Liller moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Alyson Peterson seconded. All concurred and Allison Young was elected School District Director for a three-year term.

<i>School District Director</i>	<i>One one-year term</i>
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Melissa Walker nominated Devon Marcucci. Joe Frigo seconded. Chris Liller moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Alyson Peterson seconded. All concurred. Devon Marcucci was elected School District Director for a one-year term.

<i>School District Director</i>	<i>One one-year term</i>
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Melissa Walker nominated Joseph Frigo. Alyson Peterson seconded. Greg Marcucci moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Alyson Peterson seconded. All concurred. Joseph Frigo was elected School District Director for a one-year term.

ARTICLE 3: *To set the Annual 2025-2026 tuition rate to The Mountain School at Winhall up to the amount of \$19,550.00 for students in grades K-6, who are residents of the school district pursuant to VSA 16 sections 823 & 828. Kent Young so moved. Melissa Walker seconded. No discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 3 passed unanimously.*

ARTICLE 4: *To set the Annual 2025-2026 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. Kent Young so moved. Helen Eddy seconded. No discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 4 passed unanimously*

ARTICLE 5: *To set the Annual 2025-2026 tuition rate to Burr & Burton Academy up to the amount of \$21,972.00 per pupil for students in grades 9-12, who are residents of the school district. Kent Young so moved. Melissa Walker seconded. No discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 5 passed unanimously*

ARTICLE 6: *To set the Annual 2025-2026 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 5, who are residents of the school district.* Kent Young so moved. Joe Frigo 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 \$1,060,950.00, 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 \$11,571.65 per pupil, which is 18.61% higher than per pupil education spending for the current year.* Kent Young so moved. Melissa Walker seconded. Discussion: John Nault questioned why per pupil spending is projected to be so much higher this year. Alyson Peterson explained that although the per pupil spending is higher, the homestead education tax rate is projected to remain at approximately 93 cents for FY26, after applying the “cent discount” and Common Level of Adjustment (CLA). She referenced the projected tax rate summary on page 23 of the Town Report. It was also noted that the School Board approved utilizing \$288,000 of available fund balance, in order to buy down the tax rate for FY26. With the Governor's recent proposal to consolidate school districts statewide, the School Board feels it is important to start spending down the fund balance to prevent it from being absorbed by a larger district down the road. Carson Thurber noted that it seems likely that changes are coming and asked if the Board had considered utilizing more of the fund balance to reduce the tax rate rather than keeping it the same. Alyson Peterson stated that both the Superintendent and Business Manager at WCSU felt that the magnitude of these changes would take years to implement. 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. Melissa Walker 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 the School Board to withdraw money from the Reserve Fund to offset the Homestead tax rate, but no more than \$50,000.00?* Kent Young so moved. Devon Marcucci seconded. Discussion: Alyson Peterson explained that this article serves as a safety measure in the event that the State changes the homestead yield after the school district budget has passed. There are many numbers that go into the tax rate calculation which, if changed by the State, could result in an increase to the projected tax rate. Passing this article would authorize the School Board to utilize an additional \$50,000 of fund balance to further buy down the tax rate if necessary. With no further discussion, the Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 9 passed unanimously

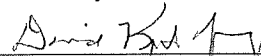
ARTICLE 10: *Shall the voters of the Stratton School District authorize moving the operational surplus, if any, from FY 2025 to the Tuition Reserve Fund?* Kent Young so moved. Joe Frigo seconded. No discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 10 passed unanimously

ARTICLE 11: *To see if the School District will authorize the School Directors to transfer the parcel known as the Stratton Recreation Area (Parcel ID 1100020) consisting of 240 +/- acres for no monetary consideration to the Town of Stratton.* Kent Young so moved. Devon Marcucci seconded. No discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 11 passed unanimously

ARTICLE 12: *To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.* No other business was transacted.

ADJOURNMENT: With no other business, the Moderator asked for a motion to adjourn. Chris Liller so moved at 11:10am. Al Dupell seconded and the 2024 Annual School District Meeting adjourned.

Minutes by:



Town Clerk – David Kent Young

Approved by the Stratton School Directors

Melissa Walker

Devon Marcucci

Approved:

Moderator – Boomer Walker

Allison Young - Chair

Kellie D'Elia-Laskin
