

**TOWN OF STRATTON**  
**MINUTES OF**  
**THE ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING OF**  
**MARCH 7, 2023**

The legal voters of the Town of Stratton, Vermont met as warned at the Stratton Town Hall in said town on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 11:00 A.M. Moderator, Boomer Walker, called the meeting to order and immediately asked for a motion to recess the meeting until Laura Sibia, the State Representative for Stratton's District, was finished with her presentation to the voters. Kent Young so moved. Betsy Wadsworth seconded. The Moderator asked for a voice vote to recess with unanimous consent and the meeting recessed. At 11:10AM, the Moderator reconvened the meeting. The Town Clerk took the roll and 28 voters were present (one additional voter arrived during the meeting). A majority of 15 voters will be required.

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

Kent Young nominated Boomer Walker. Chris Liller seconded. Candie Bernard moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. DR Holton seconded. All concurred. Boomer Walker was elected Moderator for the ensuing year.

*ARTICLE 2: To see if the School District will decrease the number of School Directors, elected by the Stratton School District, from the number of five to the number of three. If so voted, the two one-year term positions shall be eliminated.*

Kent Young so moved. Allison Young seconded. Discussion: Allison Young stated that the School Board initially thought it would be a good idea to reduce the board membership back to what it had been a few years ago. Currently, however, members of the board believe it would be better to keep the number of members at five and therefore would ask that the voters reject this Article. The Moderator explained that voting yes / aye would approve the article and reduce the number to three, while voting no / nay would reject the article and keep the number of School Directors at five. He then asked for a voice vote. No one voted to pass the article and so the no / nays rejected the article - Article 2 DID NOT pass.

*ARTICLE 3: To elect all Stratton School District Officers, as required by law:*

*School District Director*

*One three-year term*

*School District Director*

*Two one-year terms (not applicable if Article 2 passed.)*

Melissa Walker nominated Kellie D'Elia-Laskin. Al Dupell seconded. No additional nominations. Candie Bernard moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Alyson Peterson seconded. All concurred and Kellie D'Elia-Laskin was elected School District Director for a three-year term.

*School District Director*

*One one-year term*

Betsy Wadsworth nominated Devon Marcucci. Al Dupell seconded. Candie Bernard 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.

*School District Director*

*One one-year term*

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

*ARTICLE 4: To set the Annual 2023-2024 tuition rate to The Mountain School at Winhall up to the amount of \$18,000.00 for students in grades K-6 and up to \$19,300.00 for students in grades 7-8, who are residents of the school district pursuant to VSA 16 sections 823 & 828.*

Kent Young so moved. Betsy Wadsworth seconded. No discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 4 passed unanimously.

**ARTICLE 5:** *To set the Annual 2023-2024 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 4, who are residents of the school district.*

Kent Young so moved. Jessica Baron seconded. No discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 5 passed unanimously.

**ARTICLE 6:** *To set the Annual 2023-2024 tuition rate to Burr & Burton Academy up to the amount of \$19,987.00 per pupil for students in grades 9-12, who are residents of the school district.*

Kent Young so moved. Al Dupell seconded. No discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 6 passed unanimously.

**ARTICLE 7:** *To set the Annual 2023-2024 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 4 and Article 6, who are residents of the school district.*

Kent Young so moved. Betsy Wadsworth seconded. No discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 7 passed unanimously.

**ARTICLE 8:** *Shall the voters of the School District approve the School Board to expend \$1,382,620.00, 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 \$20,198.86 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 6.16% more/less than spending for the current year.*

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

**ARTICLE 9:** *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 9 passed unanimously.

**ARTICLE 10:** *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. Al Dupell seconded. No discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 10 passed unanimously.

**ARTICLE 11:** *Shall the voters of the Stratton School District authorize moving the operational surplus, if any, from FY 2023 to the Tuition Reserve Fund?*

Kent Young so moved. Al Dupell 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.*

The Moderator stated that there had been much discussion recently regarding some potential legislation regarding School Choice in Vermont. (Although an Article regarding this issue did not make the School District Warning, it seemed appropriate for the voters present to express their opinion, as long as it is known to be only the opinion of the majority of voters present at this meeting and not representative of the entire town.). The Moderator read the following statement and then asked for a voice vote to approve this non-binding request:

*“Do the voters of the Town of Stratton present today advise the Stratton School Board, the Vermont General Assembly including the Windham-2 District Representative, and Governor that:  
Because our district does not operate a public school, students have the ability to choose from a variety of public and independent school options;*

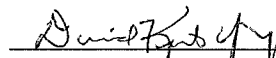
*The majority of voters present do not support the public funding of any school that discriminates against students or staff on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, disability, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity;*

*The majority of voters present support the current structure of independent schools having autonomy over their governance and operations within the current regulatory framework. This structure of oversight has enabled our town to make school education available, as required by the State of Vermont, while maintaining confidence that the public and independent schools serving our students provide a high quality of education; and the majority of the voters present oppose efforts to change the current structure in a way that eliminates educational opportunities made possible by our current practice of school choice. The majority of voters present believe our current local educational system has evolved within this current structure, through a high level of community commitment and an appropriate exercise of local control, to provide high quality, equitable educational opportunities for our students."*


Kent Young so moved. Al Dupell seconded. No further discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote and the above non-binding statement was passed approved unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no other business, the Moderator asked for a motion to adjourn. Kent Young so moved at 11:34am. Al Dupell seconded and the 2023 Annual School District Meeting adjourned.

Minutes by:

  
Town Clerk – David Kent Young

Approved:

  
Moderator – Boomer Walker

Approved by the Stratton School Directors

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Melissa Walker

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Allison Young - Chair

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Kellie D'Elia-Laskin

\_\_\_\_\_  
Devon Marcucci

\_\_\_\_\_  
Claire Sears