

**TOWN OF STRATTON  
MINUTES OF  
THE ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING OF  
MARCH 3, 2020**

The legal voters of the Town of Stratton, Vermont met as warned at the Town Hall in said town on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 11:00 A.M. Moderator, Diana Stugger, called the meeting to order at 11:05AM. The Town Clerk took the roll and 44 voters were present. A majority of 23 will be required. Guests present: Peter Ahlfeld, Head Master of the Mountain School at Winhall, Mark Tashjian - Head Master of Burr and Burton Academy and Cricket Mikheev of Maple Street School.

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

Laura Hawksley nominated Diana Stugger. Chris Liller seconded. Al Dupell moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. DR Holton seconded. All concurred. 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*

Laura Hawksley nominated Lorraine Weeks-Newell. Al Dupell seconded. Larry Bills moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Al Dupell seconded. All concurred. Lorraine Weeks-Newell was elected School District Director for the term of three years.

*ARTICLE 3: To set the Annual 2020-2021 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.*

Kent Young so moved. Betsy Wadsworth seconded. Discussion: Laura Hawksley asked why it was being set at State average and what that means for families with children going there. Alyson Peterson responded that Mountain School is only asking for State Average and, therefore, there is no out-of-pocket expense in regard to tuition for those families. She also gave the State rates as \$14,859 for grades K-6 and \$16,233.00 for grades 7-12. With no further discussion, the Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 3 was unanimously approved.

*ARTICLE 4: To set the Annual 2020-2021 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.*

Laura Hawksley so moved. Kent Young seconded. No discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 4 was unanimously approved.

*ARTICLE 5: To set the Annual 2020-2021 tuition rate to Burr & Burton Academy up to the amount of \$17,990.00 per pupil for students in grades 9-12, who are residents of the school district.*

Kent Young so moved. Larry Bills seconded. No Discussion. The Moderator then asked for a voice vote to approve the Article. All were in favor and Article 5 passed.

*ARTICLE 6: To set the Annual 2020-2021 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 4, 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 was unanimously approved.

*ARTICLE 7: Shall the voters of the School District approve the School Board to expend \$1,241,762.00, 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 \$17,370.00 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 9.85% lower than spending for the current*

year. Kent Young so moved. Laura Hawksley seconded. Discussion: Tom Montemagni presented a Power Point presentation, prepared by the School Board, discussing the calculations for this year's budget, including two alternative calculations with increased numbers of phantom students, which will increase the budget and subsequent tax rates and (if said number of projected students in either case do not materialize) will allow the School District to accumulate those unspent funds for circumstances down the road. The last option would set the budget just under the amount that would result in the district having a penalty applied to the tax rate. The School Directors stated that the State is considering changes in coming years that may greatly affect the District's tax rate – this latest consideration is a result of what is known as the Weighting Study, which will affect tax rates. Our Representative will not be attending today's meeting because of her workload in Londonderry with the Town Vote and the Presidential Primary; however, she will be holding a meeting on March 5 at the Mountain School in Winhall, in the gymnasium from 6pm to 7pm to discuss issues regarding the Town and specifically the Weighting Study and how it might be applied to Districts. Tom Montemagni then said that the School Directors would like the voters to consider the three option given to determine the budget adopted. The Moderator then said that she would take a straw poll to determine which option to vote initially. She asked for those interested in the article as warned – about twenty hands were raised for this option. She asked for those interested in the middle option and approximately ten hands were raised. There was little interest in the third option. With no further discussion, the Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 7 passed as warned, with no voiced opposition.

**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.*

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

**ARTICLE 9:** *To see if the Town will authorize the School Directors to maintain a reserve fund to help reduce tax rate fluctuations from year to year.* Al Dupell so moved. Kent Young seconded.


Discussion: Alyson Peterson said that the Windham Central Supervisory Union had recommended that the District create a formal account for rollover funds. With no further discussion, the Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 9 was unanimously approved.

**ARTICLE 10:** *To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.*

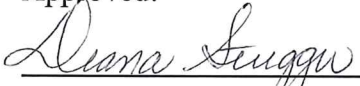
Mark Tashjian of Burr and Burton Academy requested permission to speak. The Moderator asked permission and the assembly agreed. He thanked the District for its support of Burr and Burton Academy. The same process ensued for Peter Ahlfeld of the Mountain School at Winhall. He also thanked the District for supporting said school. Cricket Mikheev made the same type statement for Maple Street School. This concluded other business.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Moderator asked for a motion to adjourn. Al Dupell so moved at 12:05pm. John Nault seconded and the School District Annual Meeting adjourned.


Minutes by:

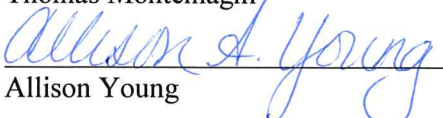
  
Town Clerk – David Kent Young

Approved:

  
Moderator – Diana Stugger

Approved by the Stratton School Directors

  
Thomas Montemagni

  
Allison Young

  
Lorraine Weeks-Newell