

**TOWN OF STRATTON  
STRATTON SCHOOL BOARD  
OCTOBER 1, 2019, 5:00PM  
STRATTON TOWN OFFICE**

The Stratton School Board held a residency hearing and regular monthly meeting at the Stratton Town Office on Tuesday, October 1, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 5:06pm.

**ATTENDING:**

Chairman- Tom Montemagni  
Vice Chair- Allison Young  
Secretary- Lorraine M. Weeks Newell  
Superintendent- Bill Anton  
Attorney Pietro Lynn was present via phone for the residency hearing.

Melissa Faucher	Betsy LaHue	Peter Ahlfeld	Abbe Haber
Martin Nadler	Michael Culver	Andrea Fornier	Melissa Walker
Holly Wendell	Candie Bernard	Carol Huber	Stacie Chiodi
Alyson Peterson	Kent Young	Kristine Koeppe	

**RESIDENCY HEARING:**

A residency hearing was held for Melissa Faucher to appeal the superintendent's determination of non-residency based on her application.

Bill Anton opened with a review of his findings. He presented the following:

- His letter to Ms. Faucher dated August 30, 2019 advising of his decision.
- The Stratton Affidavit Concerning Pupil Residency: highlighting the residency section (#21, #22) and Ms. Faucher's signature.
- The job offer from SMS to Ms. Faucher indicating her temporary employment dates: 11/11/19 - 3/27/20.
- A copy of Vermont's residency statute 16 V.S.A § 1075 (Please see below for the highlights. The full document has been attached to these minutes.)

*(3) For the purposes of this title, "resident" of the State and of a school district means a natural person who is domiciled in the school district and who, if temporarily absent, demonstrates an intent to maintain a principal dwelling place in the school district indefinitely and to return there, coupled with an act or acts consistent with that intent.*

Marty Nadler assisted Melissa Faucher in presenting her points:

- Their stated it is their belief that Ms. Faucher qualifies as a "natural person who is domiciled in the school district".
- They stated their opinion that 16 V.S.A § 1075 had been misinterpreted and that it was actually two separate statements (see above highlighted statute (...domiciled in the school district [begin second statement] and who, if temporarily absent...)).
- In his capacity as the Winhall school board chair, Mr. Nadler had referred to this statute in two different residency cases. The determination of two separate statements was made after consulting with two different superintendents. No further documentation regarding those cases was provided.
- Ms. Faucher advised that she currently owns a home in Darien, CT. It is a 4 bedroom home. It is not currently listed, but it is her hope to be able to sell it. She would reside in a (roughly) 400 square foot, 1 bedroom condominium in Stratton. Her parents permanently reside in Winhall. They have storage space available to her.
- Ms. Faucher is unaware of the residency requirements of Darien, CT, but advised that, in years past, they had to unenroll and then re-enroll her older daughter when she had been away for one month. They could not keep her enrolled during a temporary absence.

A deliberative session called at 5:20pm. A formal written decision will be mailed to Ms. Faucher and will be made public at a later time. Session concluded at 5:50pm.

**MODIFICATIONS TO AGENDA:**

- Discussion of the formation of two committees to assist the school board
- Review and approve school board minutes from September 26, 2019

**APPROVE SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 26, 2019, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019 AND AUGUST 28, 2019 AND AUGUST 26, 2019:**

Lorraine Weeks-Newell read the minutes from August 26, 2019. Lorraine Weeks-Newell motioned to approve the minutes. Allison Young second. Both concur. Motioned carried.

Lorraine Weeks-Newell read the minutes from August 28, 2019. Lorraine Weeks-Newell motioned to approve the minutes. Allison S. Young second. Both concur. Motioned carried.

Lorraine Weeks-Newell read the minutes from September 3, 2019. Lorraine Weeks-Newell motioned to approve the minutes. Allison S. Young second. All concur. Motioned carried.

Lorraine Weeks-Newell read the minutes from September 26, 2019. Lorraine Weeks-Newell motioned to approve the minutes with the following changes. Allison S. Young second. All concur. Motion carried.

- Page 2, MOVING FORWARD, #2 now to read: A committee needs to be created to organize and present numbers at school board meetings. Detailed of this committee to be determined at a later meeting.

**ADDRESS AND DISCUSS THE GENERAL PETITION BY THE VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF STRATTON TO VERMONT'S GOVERNOR, STATE SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES REQUESTING REVISIONS TO THE METHOD BY WHICH VERMONT'S HOMESTEAD EDUCATION TAX RATE IS DETERMINED:**

Kent Young read and explained the above-referenced petition. General discussion followed. No action from the board at this time.

**CONTINUE DISCUSSION REGARDING DESIGNATION OF HIGH SCHOOLS:**

No further questions or discussion at this time.

**DISCUSS ANY CORRESPONDENCE BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD:**

Email correspondence received from Chris Medina, Director of Operations regarding bussing issues as they pertain to Stratton. Bussing issues to be addressed within the survey (see below).

**SURVEY COMMITTEE:**

A general explanation of the survey committee request was provided. Volunteers are needed to draft a town-wide survey. A rough draft of this survey to be available for the November 5, 2019 school board meeting.

- Lorraine Weeks-Newell made a motion to appoint a temporary committee to assist in the drafting of a community survey. Tom Montemagni second. All concur. Motion carried.
  - o Kristine Koeppel volunteered, as the parent volunteer, to head the committee and the board accepted.
  - o The committee is still in need of both Homeowner without children in the district and a senior community member. Kristine Koeppel is authorized to consult with and work with other volunteers.
  - o Volunteers wanted poster to be posted at the transfer station, post office, town offices, Stratton Parsonage, Employee board at Stratton Mountain (courtesy of Carol Huber).

**DATA COMMITTEE:**

- Lorraine Weeks-Newell made a motion to authorize the formation of a temporary committee charged with organizing school district data. Tom Montemagni second. All concur. Motion carried.
- Abbe Haber volunteered to head the committee. The board agreed and authorized her to pick her committee members. Ms. Haber to have a rough draft outline of the organized data available for the school board review at the October 22, 2019 meeting.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY LEGALLY COME BEFORE THE BOARD:**

- Peter Ahlfeld advised that the Mountain School will happily work with the board in supporting their residency efforts and decisions.
- Candie Bernard advised that a family receiving tuition has not established their Homestead as of this date.
  - o The board will contact the superintendent regarding this issue.

**REVIEW/APPROVE ORDER:**

Billing received from the following. All reviewed and approved.

- |                                    |               |             |
|------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| - Mountain School                  | \$ 135,970.00 | Check# 1010 |
| - Burr & Burton                    | \$ 96,195.00  | Check# 1011 |
| - Lynn, Lynn, Blackman & Manitsky: | \$ 697.50     | Check# 1012 |
| - SMS                              | \$ 119,497.50 | Check# 1013 |
| - Sullivan Powers & Co:            | \$ 1,242.00   | Check# 1014 |
- Maple St. billing received after the above voucher was created. The board authorizes the Maple St. payment of \$38,162.50 prior to the November meeting, assuming the supervisory union is able to issue the check prior to that date.

A special meeting to review Bill Anton’s findings on merging is scheduled for October 22, 2019 at 6pm.

A regular monthly meeting was confirmed for November 5, 2019 at 6pm.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Minutes prepared by: Allison S. Young