

Stewartstown School Board Meeting Minutes

Date	October 4, 2021						
Time	5:00 p.m.						
Location	Stewartstown Community School						
Chairperson	Philip Pariseau						
Attendance							
Attendance Legend: P – Present at SCS A – Absent Z – Via Zoom C – Cell Phone							
School Board Members			Principals		SAU Members		
P	Christina “Nina” Brochu	P	Philip Pariseau	P	Stephanie Humphrey	P	Debra Taylor
P	Betsy Gray					P	Cheryl Covill
Public in Attendance: Jennifer Mathieu, Curriculum Director							

Philip opened the meeting at 5:08 pm after the Board had signed the vouchers.

Adjustments to the Agenda: Nonpublic session at the end of the meeting.

Hearing of the Public: Public Hearing to present information and respond to questions concerning the upcoming 2021 Special District Meeting for changes in the Education Funding, an increase in the district’s Adequacy Aid Grant.

Although no voting public was present, Cheryl explained to those present that she and Philip had met with the Budget Committee and their recommendation was to hold a Special District Meeting.

C. Brochu/B. Gray: To hold a special district meeting on October 18, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE

Reading of the Minutes: School Board Meetings of September 8 and 27, 2021

Betsy questioned why a retired staff member has been employed as full-time substitute without advertising the position. Answer was she came back to work with a person who has been employed but is waiting for background check results to come back. Despite frequent advertising, we do not have enough subs. Stewartstown has only three available and is still looking for a paraprofessional.

C. Brochu/P. Pariseau: To accept the minutes of September 8 & 27, 2021 as presented.

VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE

Special Report: Jen Mathieu was present to explain what her position entails and what has been accomplished so far. Worked over the summer participating in professional development activities. Another of her goals is to assist the principals with grant writing. A third is the teacher mentor program. She sees this as very important to new teachers. Mentoring provides support to them. Teachers need time to work on everything they learned through professional development. Jen developed a calendar over the summer to do curriculum work. She also developed a website for the teachers/staff to form a professional learning community. Peers get together over Zoom to work on curriculum. Teachers are provided time during the day with coverage for their classes to do this. Aligning the curriculum in all the area schools is best for the students. Teachers don’t have to teach the same way, just get the same results.

Jen maintains weekly office hours and is able to be in all the schools each week. Teachers are coming to her with questions, either in person, on the phone or via email. Stewartstown teachers are on board with the position. Not the same everywhere.

She has one course to take to get her endorsement as a Curriculum Director.

Jen left the meeting at 5:28 pm.

School Administrator's Report – Stephanie Humphrey

1. Stephanie presented her written report.
 - A. The beginning of the school year went very well.
 - B. Students have completed their AIMSweb and Star testing.
 - C. On October 14, we will be hosting both an Open House and Book Fair. Under COVID protocols, visitors will have to wear masks and the times will be staggered.
 - D. We had a modified evacuation drill on September 27. Students evacuated and walked to and from the Hope Baptist Church, doing so quickly and safely.
 - E. Stephanie met with the safety committee to review the school's safety procedures.
 - F. Teachers have been meeting in the Professional Learning Committees (PLCs) on competency-based work.
 - G. In October, the White Mountain Science Institute will begin coaching three teachers: John Kennedy, Jeanette Damato, and Sharon Ricker on project-based learning, STEM projects and curriculum development.
 - H. We have ordered over 50 pairs of snowshoes for the students.
 - I. Alexis Scott is running the after-school program.
 - J. Stephanie included her goals with updates.
 - K. She enjoys working with Jen. She also has an open door for staff to come to her as needed. New teachers are adapting well.

Nina asked if the principal knows how much homework the students are getting. Her third grader is doing 45 minutes each night. Debra suggested that she talk with the teacher. Stephanie stated that she had just had a great discussion with Jr. High teacher about this.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Debra Taylor:

1. Dr. Taylor included a written report in the packet.
 - A. SAU 7 Strategic Plan is now ready to plan and implement ESSER grant projects.
 - B. Budget Process is starting
 - C. Leadership team is meeting biweekly
 - D. COVID cases are increasing. We will follow the Board approved protocols and recommendations of NH DHHS. We cannot close schools without Commissioner of Education or Governor's approval. We will need to make up days if we must close schools this year.
 - E. Curriculum Coordinator, Jen Mathieu, has been visiting schools and classrooms, supporting our sixteen new teachers, leading our professional learning community work and presenting at school board meetings.
 - F. Teachers will participate in professional development during the early release on October 7 and a full day Inservice on October 8.
 - G. Cheryl Covill has announced her decision to retire at the end of the school year on June 30, 2022. Position will be posted in October and the interview process will commence this winter.
 - H. SAU Policy Committee will meet on October 12. CRCC will begin meeting in October.

- I. Vaccines for children are coming this fall. Delta variant may increase cases for a while. May have to go to mask mandate if large outbreak occurs. Groveton, Berlin, and Gorham now mandate them.

Betsy expressed that we should advertise for a full-time sub.

6:00 pm the Board took a short break to allow Nina to pick up her children. 6:08 pm meeting resumed.

Business Administrator's Report – Cheryl Covill:

1. Cheryl's written report was included in the packet
 - A. Kyle Daley will moderate the special district meeting on October 18.
 - B. Request for proposals - Viewboards & Accessories are due back October 8. Cheryl requested permission for SAU 7 personnel to award the bid.

B Gray/C. Brochu: To allow the SAU 7 personnel to award the bid.

VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE

- C. Budgeting FY 2022-2023 has begun. Cheryl presented the list of ongoing Capital Projects and other items that will be in the preliminary budget.
- D. Meals have increased approximately 35%
- E. She presented a summary of additional grant activities added to the ESSER II since the Public Hearing. We have to be careful when adding programs to the grants because when the grant ends, we lose the programs that were paid for by the grant.
- F. Snowplow Bids: (all bids by hour)

	Plowing	Sanding	Snow Removal
Rancourt Sand & Gravel	95.00	135.00	200.00
Belknap Septic	70.00	85.00	85.00
G V Graves	60.00	80.00	60.00

Discussion ensued of whether to award the bid to the lowest bidder who is new to the job or to Belknap Septic who has done it since 2005.

C. Brochu/P. Pariseau: To award the bid to Belknap Septic based on longevity and dependability of service in the past years.

VOTE: 2 YES / 1 ABSTAINED

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: Debra presented a request from Canaan for a CTE Advisory Board Representative to attend monthly meetings. First meeting will be via Zoom on October 7. Chris Damato is the director. Betsy volunteered.

CONNECTICUT RIVER COLLABORATIVE COMMITTEE

The committee will begin meeting in October

Other Business:

Meetings:

Special School District Meeting: Monday, October 18 at 6:00 pm
Stewartstown School Board: Monday, November 1 at 5:00 pm.

Patricia left the meeting at 6:44 pm as the Board was going to enter nonpublic session.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia E. Grover
Minutes Taker

Adopted 11/01/2021