

Stewartstown School Board

Public Hearing Minutes

Date	February 5, 2024					
Time	6:00 pm					
Location	Stewartstown Community School					
Chairperson	Philip Pariseau					
Attendance						
Attendance Legend: P – Present at SCS A – Absent Z – Via Zoom C – Cell Phone Representatives: B – School Board S – Selectman W – Water Precinct						
School Board		Budget Committee		Public		SAU Members
P	Betsy Gray	P	Allen Coats	P	Joan Coats	P Debra Taylor
P	Philip Pariseau	P	Landon Placey	P	Harry Brown	P Bridget Cross
P	Courtney Sierad	P	Robert Ladd	P	Dwayne Covell	SCS Principal
						P Stephanie Humphrey
Public in Attendance: Patricia Grover, School Board Minutes Taker						

Philip Pariseau opened the meeting at 6:00 pm and asked SAU 7 Business Manager, Bridget Cross, to present the warrant and the budget for the 2024-2025 school year.

Bridget Cross, SAU 7 Business Manager, introduced herself and proceeded to present the proposed warrant and budget to those present.

1. She reviewed the warrant articles. Warrant Article 3 is to raise and appropriate \$3,241,130.00. Article 4 is to raise and appropriate \$50,000.00 to be deposited into the School District School Bus Capital Reserve Fund.
2. The Executive Summary showed the budget increase, projected revenues, and local tax rate.
3. The projected State Adequacy Aid
4. The Pupil Report, which shows the project number of students in each school for a total of 95 students. This also included the projected per student tuition rates for each school: Canaan Memorial High School - \$23,000; Canaan CTE - \$11,500; Colebrook Academy - \$22,900; Pittsburg High School - \$21,100; Unanticipated Tuition - \$23,000 (students in high school who may move into Stewartstown during the school year) We will also have one student at the Charter Academy - \$6,219.00 and one who is an out-of-district placement. She explained how tuition is calculated.
5. Next report was the Budget Variances Explanation for the FY25 proposed budget. We are looking for a part-time Physical Education teacher as Colebrook cannot share their teacher next year. The Pittsburg teacher is also not available.
6. Lastly, she recognized Dorothy Lapoint, who will be retiring in June after teaching at SCS for 26 years.

The floor was then opened for questions.

1. Dwayne Covell asked about the Facilities Maintenance Position that would be a contracted service. Bridget explained he would write the improvement plan that the state is requiring. He would also be a resource person for Dennis when maintenance issues came up. Allen responded that the Board and the Administration had always done this in the past.
2. Allen Coats asked about Health Insurance costs. Response was that we are facing a 25% increase across SAU 7.
3. Joan Coats asked if paraprofessionals get insurance. Answer was “No”.
4. Harry Brown asked for the per pupil cost for each school. Colebrook - \$22,346.35; Pittsburg - \$41,612.45; and Canaan - \$38,035.70.

5. Debra Taylor stated that Property Tax is the only way we have to fund education.
6. Bridget and Stephanie spoke about the After School Program that is being reinstated next school year. All students in grades 1-8 are eligible to participate. Students missed the program this year.

Landon Placey stated that a sales tax would raise more money, but no one seems to be in favor of that.

B. Gray/C. Sierad: To adjourn the public hearing at 6:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia E. Grover
School Board Minutes Taker

Minutes Accepted by Board: March 11, 2024