

Stewartstown School Board Meeting Minutes					
Date	January 6, 2025				
Time	5:15 pm				
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	Betsy Gray	P	Courtney Sierad	P	Stephanie Humphrey
P	Philip Pariseau			P	Dana Hilliard
				P	Bridget Cross
Z Patricia Grover, Minutes Taker					
Public in Attendance:					

Philip Pariseau opened the school board meeting at 5:15 pm.

Adjustments to the Agenda: None

Reading of the Minutes: School Board Meeting Minutes of December 2, 2024.

B. Gray/P. Pariseau: To accept the School Board Meeting minutes of December 2, 2024 as VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE written.

Special Reports: None

Hearing of the Public: None

School Administrator’s Report – Stephanie Humphrey

1. Stephanie reflected on how the first half of the year had gone.
2. Through the wellness grant, students in grades 6-8 attended a presentation by Ed Gerety.
3. The whole school celebrated Holiday Cheer Week. Each day was a different activity and different theme,
4. Thanks for Nurse Barbara Pires Lynch for leading the SCS giving tree.
5. Our staff’s generosity is incredible They helped a family in need with a gift certificate to Solomon’s,
6. Students will have the midyear check-in with Aimsweb and Star testing.
7. I posted the safe on Facebook and a local man donated \$50.
8. Sue Bergman donated \$75 to help purchase winter gear for students to have here at school if they don’t have any or forget them.
9. New Partnership Program: I met with Kate Greene Estefan and Ann Auger from the NH Statewide Family Engagement Center (NHFEC) last evening to discuss a potential partnership with NHFEC, NNPS (National Network of Partnership Schools), and Stewartstown to strengthen family engagement. This program offers a guide for SCS to create a welcoming climate of partnership and to implement involvement activities linked to school goals for student success. There is a framework from NNPS that includes four essential elements and six types of family involvement. I think bringing in this partnership will help solidify the work that we are already doing and help bring in new ideas that will align with what we already have in place. I have been working with NHFEC, Ann Auger this year with both the Family Village and Strengthening Families programs. Even though the attendance has been low, they are both powerful programs, and I want to be able to offer more to our families.

10. You can read more information about the program by clicking on the link. NNPS Link

Superintendent's Report – Dana S. Hilliard:

1. Safety Audits: I will be requesting we go into non-public at our next meeting to go over the full Homeland Security Safety Audit.
2. **Welcome 2025:** And just like that it is 2025! The start of a new year is always exciting, bringing with it the opportunity for self-improvement and change. I have never been a fan of the saying "If it ain't broke don't fix it". While I am a strong advocate for keeping in place practices that work or make sense, everything in life needs maintenance. Yearly checkups, oil changes or schedule maintenance on our vehicles, lawn and house are worthy routines. These practices ensure things will continue to function in the manner we strive for and that the "systems" we rely upon don't hinder or falter.

As we begin 2025, I am dedicated to continuing our journey of self-evaluation. We will continue to identify what we do well, what we can improve on, and how we can continue to offer and expand 21st century educational opportunities without breaking the bank.

The goals we established for this year will continue to structure and guide our work. We will dig deep and work hard making our mission "To prepare all SAU 7 students for success in whatever path they choose" come to life for each student. The last 6 months we have accomplished a good distance on the path of becoming a true team and honoring the spirit of our unofficial motto "United but Independent". With a new year ahead of us, let us continue to harvest the tremendous resources we have throughout SAU 7 and strengthen the educational system we continue to build.

Each of you comes to the table of governing with different backgrounds, experiences, life skills and education. When we combine those experiences and forge them into a team, we become a model for the North County on how we can achieve success for all members of the SAU 7 family.

So welcome 2025, with clear minds and good intentions in our heart we step forward to embodying our mission as a "United but Independent Team".

3. Annual Report: I, along with all the members of the admin team, are currently working on the Annual Reports. We look forward to providing detailed information to all community members on the great work which has been done at the SAU level and within all three schools.
4. Newsletter: We have begun rolling up our sleeves and getting ready to send out the first SAU quarterly newsletter. We are still on track to have it out by the end of the month.
5. **Goals: Goal #2:** *Academics, Enrichment, ELO's Goal Summary: Utilizing all the resources in all schools and the communities to enhance the academics, enrichment and ELO's for all students. This will provide a well-rounded quality education for all students. While this goal is vast, we have stayed focused since its adoption and mindful to make headway at improving and expanding opportunities for all students throughout SAU 7. Our admin team continues to examine and seek partnerships with the community at large and means of expanding educational opportunities outside of the classroom's walls.*
6. Our neighbor from ENSU in Canaan, Superintendent Jennifer Lawcewicz and I have built a strong partnership and look forward to what future opportunities can be built between our two districts. Career Technical Education, Extend Learning Opportunities, School to Work and online partnerships will continue to be explored. These efforts are needed to ensure that we deliver a wide range of opportunities for our students and that we are hitting the mark with their interest. Too often in education, programs are created without having discussions with the students about their wants and desires. As we explore and expand opportunities, students having a voice in driving the direction of our explorations will become part of the norm beginning this year.

7. Superintendent Students Cabinet: It's a normal life practice to get so wrapped in the daily functions that sometimes we forget who we are serving. That holds true in education. Although each of us work to ensure the success of each student, sometimes we forget to ask them "what they think" or "what opportunities they would like to have". Before the end of the month, I will be creating the Superintendents Student Cabinet. The Cabinet will be comprised of an equal number of students (grade 6-12) from all three schools (I am still pondering that number). The Cabinet will meet monthly on zoom with a "host school" for that month (I will rotate to be in person with the host school). We will have a set agenda (issues that I and the students will place upon the agenda). I will report back to you each month with a summary of some of the issues, discussions and actions we have been working on. I am also planning to have at least one early summit with all the members of the cabinet in person. I will have each Principal announce this opportunity to the students soon. The Principal/Assistant Principal will interview any interested students and select their student representatives. I am excited to start extending the voice in our school governance to our students.
8. Friendly Reminder in the South: I was excited to add my friendly reminder of where part of my Northern roots is being planted to my home in the South.

Business Manager's Report – Bridget Cross

1. Bridget asked the Board if there was anything additional they wanted added to the presentation at the annual meeting.

Other Information:

Philip is the board member who is up for re-election. Filing dates are January 22 till January 31 at 5:00 pm. Candidates may come to my home to file.

Meetings:

Budget Committee Meeting January 15 at 5:00 pm

SAU School Board Meeting: Thursday, January 30, 2025 at 6:00 pm at SCS

Next School Board Meeting will be Monday, February 3, 2025 at 5:15 pm.

Possible dates for the Public Hearing are February 3rd at 6:00 pm and the annual meeting on March 10 at 6:00 pm. Will need school board approval.

B. Gray/C. Sierad: To approve the public hearing and annual district meeting date as noted above.
VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE

Patricia left at 5:45 as the board went into non-public session per RSA 91-A:2C.

B. Gray/C. Sierad: To go into nonpublic session at 5:45 pm
ROLL CALL VOTE: B. GRAY – YES; C. SIERAD – YES; P. PARISEAU – YES

B. Gray/C. Sierad: To come out of non-public session at 5:51 pm.
ROLL CALL VOTE: B. GRAY – YES; C. SIERAD – YES; P. PARISEAU – YES

C. Sierad/B. Gray: To approve the parent request.
VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE

B. Gray/C. Sierad: To adjourn the meeting at 5:59 pm.
VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia E. Grover
School District Clerk/Minutes Taker