

Stewartstown School Board					
Meeting Minutes					
Date	September 7, 2022				
Time	5:00 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	Debra Taylor
				P	Bridget Cross
Public in Attendance:					

Philip Pariseau, Chairman, opened the meeting at 5:04 pm.

Hearing of the Public: None

Adjustments to the Agenda:

Reading of the Minutes: School Board Meetings of August 1 and August 29, 2022

C. Sierad/B. Gray: To accept the minutes of August 1 and August 29, 2022 as presented.
VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE

Special Reports: None

School Administrator’s Report – Stephanie Humphrey

1. Excited to be back at school. Student enrollment is 51, five of which are new students.
2. Design Studio workshop was held in June. Work will continue throughout the year.
3. Admin Days were held before school commenced.
4. We have the announcement board running in the lobby. Messages are updated daily.
5. Whole school will travel to Colebrook for a BMX Freestyle assembly.
6. Also, the Plymouth University TIGER performers will return to Stewartstown.
7. During August, four staff members and Stephanie attended the Nonviolent Crisis Prevention Institute Training held at Colebrook Academy & Elementary.
8. Welcome to new staff members: Noah Covill, Samantha Thilkey, Amanda LaRoe, Kate Heckler-Lewis, and Karen Kidder-Prehemo.
9. Fall open house will be September 8, 2022.
10. The new parent pick-up procedure has been implemented.
11. Stephanie would like to re-instate parent-teacher conferences. She is proposing to do these on November 9 from 3-7 pm. This would be a 4-hour extension to the day for paraprofessionals. Stephanie would like to give them a half-day off at a later date. All teachers and paras should be present at the conferences. Childcare for younger siblings will be provided. She is proposing that each conference would take 15 minutes and she would train the staff how to do the meetings.

Betsy recommended that the paras not be mandated to attend the conferences and be allowed to work on the early release day.

B. Gray/C. Sierad: To approve the Parent/Teacher conferences from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm on November 9, 2022 and to give the paraprofessionals a choice whether they want to work the Parent/Teacher conferences from 3:00 to 7:00 pm on November 9 or work on the next early release day.

VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Debra Taylor:

1. Superintendent Taylor included the SAU 7 student enrollment as of September 1 in her report. Total for SAU 7 is 495. Some home-schooled students have returned. Four of the eight-grade graduates went to CMHS, others divided between Pittsburg & Colebrook.
2. All staff met at Colebrook Schools on Thursday, August 25 for a 75-minute presentation that focused on welcoming new staff, commendations for employee years of service, well wishes to all, healing, Strategic Plan for SAU 7 and wellness.
3. This fall we welcomed nine new teachers and six new paraprofessionals to our schools.
4. She updated the Board on the CDC COVID 19 Guidance
5. We continue to implement projects and purchase materials funded by ESSER II, III, and other grants awarded to the school districts.
6. Summer schedule was full of professional development opportunities.
7. She also updated the Board on Building aid for Colebrook.
8. Colebrook School Board will host a Board/Staff Social on September 20.
9. There are 19 students in Criminal Justice program, which is not a CTE Program.
10. We may be able to have a School Safety Officer soon. We may share this person with Pittsburg.

Philip questioned whether we must pay extra for students who do CTE in Canaan? "No" it is part of tuition.

The new superintendent in Canaan said that no students from Vermont could attend collaborative classes in New Hampshire schools. Taxpayers cannot support VT students going to NH schools. New Hampshire students who attend Canaan can attend the CTE program in Colebrook.

Business Manager's Report – Bridget Cross:

1. Meal Prices for students: Breakfast \$1.60 / Lunch K-5 \$2.70 / Lunch 6-12 \$2.95
2. Bus Updates: Carol and Bridget are still working out collaboration runs and regular transportation. We are still seeking additional bus drivers and substitute bus drivers.
3. Bids: Heating Oil – C Bean Transport \$4.249/gallon pedal truck

CN Brown \$3.869/gallon*

Both bids were over the budgeted cost of \$2.85/gallon

LP Gas – **CN Brown \$2.299/gallon*** (only bid received)

Budget was \$250 gallons at a cost of \$500.00

C. Sierad/B. Gray: To award the heating oil bid and propane gas bid to CN Brown at the prices noted (*) above

VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE

4. Teachers were sent information to access their own budget balances in our financial software system on 8/30/22

5. Upcoming Tasks: Review of anticipated revenues; submission of Food Service and Fresh Fruit/Vegetable Applications; Completion of DOE 25 and MS 25 forms; Scheduling committee meetings – wellness, safety; Continuation of training new Bookkeeper and prepping Budget Analysis.
6. MPR lights have been installed
7. Parking lot paving is complete
8. We have a benefactor who would like to pay for student meals this year. We are waiting for communication from Child Nutrition so we will follow up with them.
9. Plowing and sanding contractor who has been awarded the bid in the past is requesting the bid specs change to an annual contracted amount instead of a per instance rate. After discussion, consensus of the Board was for the bid specs to be written both ways.
10. We need one additional para at the moment. This may increase to two. Anticipated cost for both positions is \$44,069.51. \$10,000 can be paid out of grants. This leaves \$34,069.51. Does the board wish to use the \$33,385 that was retained per RSA 198:4-b for part of these costs with \$684.51 funded out of the current FY 23 budget?

B. Gray/C. Sierad: To approve using the \$33,385 if needed.

VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE

Deborah Taylor recommended employing Bailey Beres as a 1:1 Paraprofessional

11. CES Mechanical Systems Study with recommendations. ESSER 2 has approximately \$200,000 earmarked for any HVAC work. Anything additional would need to be paid out of the Building Funds, which has a balance of \$177,564.97. We will be withdrawing \$50,000. We have reached out to CES regarding preparation of the RFPs for the recommendations the board deems necessary. If we have CES write the RFP, it will cost extra.
12. Additional Adequacy Aid initially was projected as \$20,245.20. If we want to use this money, we will have to have a public hearing and take action.
13. Bridget updated the Board on the number of tuitioned students.
14. Bridget requested an extension to file the DOE 25 and it has been granted. This will give her and Cheryl time to do a final review.
15. It was project in March that we would turn back \$355,000 to reduce taxes. The actual amount is \$356,500.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

Betsy questioned what was being done to ensure safety in the school.

Stephanie responded that classrooms are now locked all day.

Betsy would like barriers put in front of the doors for safety.

Philip suggested that we invite the Budget Committee to the next meeting to discuss the additional adequacy aid.

Patricia left the meeting at 6:25 as the Board went into nonpublic session.

Non-public Session: RSA 91-A:3 II (c)

B. Gray/C Sierad: Motion to enter nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (c) at 6:28 pm

VOTE: Motion Carried

B. Gray/C Sierad: Motion to return to public session at 6:45 pm

VOTE: Motion Carried

B. Gray/C Sierad: Motion to approve the updated Personnel Fringe Benefit Policy as recommended by the administration.

VOTE: Motion Carried

B. Gray/C. Sierad: Motion to adjourn at 6:47 pm

VOTE: Motion Carried

Meetings:

Next meeting for Stewartstown School Board will be Monday, October 3 at 5:00 pm at SCS.

Patricia left the meeting at 6:25 as the Board went into nonpublic session.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia E. Grover
Minutes Taker

Adopted Minutes: October 3, 2022