

Stewartstown School Board Meeting Minutes

Date	May 5, 2025						
Time	5:15 pm						
Location	Stewartstown Community School						
Chairperson	Betsy Gray						
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	Dana Hilliard
P	Philip Pariseau	(5:50 pm)				P	Bridget Cross
P Patricia Grover, Minutes Taker							
Public in Attendance: Heidi Richard from Gear Up							

Betsy Gray opened the school board meeting at 5:15 pm.

Public Hearing: To accept and expend anticipated funds from the NHED Garden Grant in the amount of \$2,500.00

P. Pariseau/B. Gray: To close the public hearing.

VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE

Hearing of the Public: Heidi Richard spoke about the program Gear Up. The program is preparing the students for high school. Next year she will be in Colebrook for 2 days and Stewartstown for 2 days, then home 1 day per week. Pittsburg can join if they wish. She will also do summer school in Stewartstown. She has been working with Brandi at CAES this year to enlighten the students on the types of schools there are for them to attend; Some are colleges and some are trade schools. There will be a scholarship once these students graduate from high school. This will all happen if the program is not discontinued by the current administration. Heidi left the meeting at 5:30 pm.

Adjustments to the Agenda: None

Reading of the Minutes: School Board Meeting Minutes of March 31, 2025 and of April 14, 2025.

P. Pariseau/B. Gray: To accept the minutes of both meetings as written.

VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE

Special Reports: None

School Administrator's Report – Stephanie Humphrey

May 2025 School Board Meeting- Principal Report

1. April showers bring May flowers (hopefully), or at least I am hoping for some sun!
2. This month has been busy. We have been fortunate enough to have Jason Bruek back from SISKIN. Students go outside and learn different lessons, regardless of the weather. This program is fabulous, and the students love it.
3. Sue Bergman has been at SCS this month, and she will be finishing up the year in May. This year she has focused on goal setting, vision boards, and social-emotional lessons with students. As this year has brought many emotions to everyone, the lessons have been very applicable.

4. Seventh- and eighth-grade students attended the Forest Career field trip in Allenstown. They learned about different career paths. SCS students had a wonderful day with outdoor vendors representing various industries, including logging, milling, and fire departments, as well as activities such as tree climbing. There were hands-on opportunities—great opportunities to chat with experts in their fields. On May 16,
5. students will be going to Berlin for the Here to Help expo. This is another opportunity made available to our students through the GEAR UP grant. Students will learn about careers in fields such as law enforcement, fire rescue, and more.
6. The After School Program finished up for the year the week before April break. I would like to thank Alexis Scott, the director, Sharon Ricker, Arlene Allard, and Shelly Crossley for their efforts in ensuring the program's success. I would like to continue to grow this program in the future. It provides students with the opportunity to receive homework help, participate in fun activities, and continue to build positive relationships with their peers and teachers.
7. This month, we celebrated honors, high honors, and transferable skills honors. We had three students achieve honors in transferable skills for the first time this year. Transferable skills are a relatively new concept to students and are assessed separately from academic skills. These are the lifelong skills that students will bring to the workforce when they are in the job market.
8. The week returning from spring break is Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week. I have planned a week of special treats for my staff. Stewartstown Community School boasts some of the best staff, who are dedicated to our students and the learning community. They go above and beyond each day.
9. Additionally, when we return from break, students in grades 3-8 will take the NHSAS assessment. Grades 3 and 4 are scheduled from May 6 through May 8, and students in grades 5 through 8 will participate the following week, from May 13 through May 15. On May 20th, students in grades 5 & 8 will be taking the Science portion of the assessment. After the NHSAS, students throughout the building will take the STAR and Aimsweb end-of-year assessments.
10. On Friday, April 28, 2025, during the early release, teachers worked within their Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), and paraprofessionals attended a professional development opportunity led by Hilary Finedore, the Behavioral specialist from Lily Pad Clinical. Having the opportunity to work within PLCs is crucial to the success of competency-based learning. Teachers are able to collaborate on rubrics, assessments, and discuss issues and share successes.
11. Yearbooks have been ordered for the 24/25 school year. Students in both grades 7 & 8 worked with Mrs. Amy Falconer throughout the year on the yearbook. I would like to thank them for their hard work and dedication.
12. All staff evaluations and observations are done for the year.

Superintendent's Report – Dana S. Hilliard:

1. North Country Superintendents May Meeting has been cancelled. I will be hosting the meeting in June.
2. A Star is Born: We have released video #2 from our grant series on helping to strengthen the practices between home and school. This video is entitled "Best Practices for Home and School". Enjoy.

Colebrook: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B31Gr8ZOJhA>

Stewartstown: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3PU0V7dvNlc>

Pittsburg: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TcKM7X7HESU>

3. Heading Out: As we are aware our commissioner will end his tenure in June. Here is some more information regarding the insight into the decision and potential future directions.

<https://newhampshirebulletin.com/2025/03/19/the-governor-is-going-to-go-in-a-different-direction-an-exit-interview-with-frank-edelblut/>

4. Dana included information on HB 675-FN-LOCAL which has passed the house so that Board members could reach out to their senators if so desired.
5. May is a very packed month with various statewide meetings, conferences and school events which he will be attending.
6. This is teachers' appreciation week. Dana & Bridget will be delivering board gifts to each teacher.
7. Rural Conversations is a conference highlighting rural education and is available to all K-12 professionals and community leaders. The event is taking place on May 22 at NHTI in Concord.
8. There are five policies included in your packet, which have been recommended for approval from the SAU Policy Committee.
9. Superintendent Evaluation Committee: We are seeking a volunteer to serve on the committee. Betsy volunteered.

Business Manager's Report – Bridget Cross

1. Vote on NHED Garden Grant anticipated funds of \$2,500.00.

C. Sierad/P. Pariseau: To accept & expend the anticipated NHED Garden Grant of \$2,500.00

VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE

2. Vote on Projects/Items with Fund Balance

- Stephanie presented different barrier types to protect the front of the school from a vehicle driving into the building. Concrete Block Supply from Gorham, NH had the most appealing block. Stephanie will ask them if they can grind the tops before delivery.
- Stephanie also recommended purchasing a GAGA Pit Kit. It is a piece of playground equipment that has an octagon wooden base, and you use a rubber ball internally to play the game. Cost would be \$661.45 plus \$500.00 for the lumber.
- Other projects for SCS are the partitions in girls bathroom, flooring for MPR and library; hot and cold table for kitchen; and the cameras on the garage overlooking the fields.

C Sierad/P. Pariseau: To approve the projects listed by the Business Manager at an anticipated Cost of \$24,100. Betsy requested we attain other quotes for framing of walls in the multi-purpose room to make two additional rooms

VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE

- Business Manager will check with other contractors for prices on the walls for two rooms in the Multi-Purpose Room.
- Gutters for the back and side of the building will be discussed at the next meeting as the quote was not received prior to the meeting.

3. Vote on 'Food Service Contract

P. Pariseau/C. Sierad: To approve the second renewal of the Food Service Contract.

VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE

4. Vote on Quote for GASB 75 Report

P. Pariseau/C. Sierad: To approve the Actuarial Valuation from Jefferson Solutions, Inc. at a Maximum cost of \$2,950.00

VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE

5. Vote on Quote for HMH into Science

C. Sierad/P. Pariseau: To approve the HMH Into Science 3 – 5, 5-year with 1-year kits at a cost of \$7,397.26.

VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE

6. Vote on General Assurances

P. Pariseau/C. Sierad: To approve the General Assurances FY 2026.

VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE

Assurances were signed by Superintendent and Board Chairman

7. Confidentiality Agreement: This was provided to the board as informational only. They were signed by all employees when contracts were issued for the 25-26 school year.

New Business

- BBBF – Student Members of the School Board (board amended)
- DAGF – Administration of Federal Grants
- EBCA – Crisis Prevention and Emergency Response Plans
- EBCH – Chemical Safety and Chemical hygiene Plan
- IC – School Year and School Year Calendar

P. Pariseau/C. Sierad: To approve Policy BBBF as amended and DAGF, EBCA, EBCH, and IC as written.

VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE

Non-Public:

Other Information:

Reminder that Debbie Boivin's retirement party will be held at SCS on June 4th at 3-4:30 pm.

Meetings:

Next School Board Meeting will be Monday, June 2, 2025 at 5:15 pm.

C. Sierad/P. Pariseau: To adjourn the meeting at 6:47 pm.

VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia E. Grover
School District Clerk/Minutes Taker

Board Adopted: June 2, 2025