

Stewartstown School Board Meeting Minutes							
<b>Date</b>		May 1, 2023					
<b>Time</b>		5:15 pm					
<b>Location</b>		Stewartstown Community School					
<b>Chairperson</b>		Philip Pariseau					
Attendance							
Attendance Legend: <b>P</b> – Present at SCS <b>A</b> – Absent <b>Z</b> – Via Zoom <b>C</b> – Cell Phone							
School Board Members			Principals		SAU Members		
P	Betsy Gray	P	Courtney Sierad	P	Stephanie Humphrey	P	Debra Taylor
P	Philip Pariseau					A	Bridget Cross
<b>Public in Attendance:</b> Joan Coats							

Philip Pariseau, Chairman, opened the meeting at 5:15 pm.

**Hearing of the Public:** Joan asked if any consideration had been made to consolidate Clarksville, Pittsburg, and Stewartstown into one school. This generated discussion on what is currently happening. Example: Stewartstown 8<sup>th</sup> graders went to Pittsburg first semester for Woodworking and Consumer Science and are going to Colebrook for second semester for Art and Spanish. Different scenarios were discussed, but the bottom line was cost. It seems to be very effective for the high school students to take classes in whatever school is offering what they need. Example: a student can attend Canaan High School, but can take a class that is only offered in Pittsburg or Colebrook at that school. Busses transport the students throughout the day. Stewartstown only pays tuition to the school that the student is attending full time unless there is an extra charge for a CTE class. This is more cost effective than building a new high school in one town.

Joan mentioned that Colebrook is big enough, so they do not seem to want to merge with the other towns. She also thought Canaan should be in the mix.

We're merging in our own way without labeling it and it appears to be working for the students. They do not have the mindset that the older generations do and are willing to work with each other no matter which building their class is being held in.

Joan left at 5:37 pm.

**Adjustments to the Agenda:** There will be a nonpublic session at the end of the meeting.

**Reading of the Minutes:** School Board Meeting Minutes of April 3, 2023, 2023

B. Gray/C. Sierad: To accept the minutes of April 3, 2023 as presented.

VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE

**School Administrator's Report – Stephanie Humphrey**

1. During April, students in grades 3-8 completed the spring STAR and AIMSweb testing.
2. In May, grades 3-8 will take the NHSAS test from May 9 until May 18. On May 23, students in grades 5 & 8 will take the science assessment.
3. On April 12, students and staff attended the Recycled Percussion, Chaos and Kindness performance at CAES. Everyone loved the show. We also had five SCS students perform

in “Alice in Wonderland” in Pittsburg. On April 13, students in grades K-3 watched the dress rehearsal.

4. During the April early release, teachers continued working with Brian and Jan for V&S and within their respective PLC groups.
5. The week before vacation, we had a bus evacuation and lockdown drill. Thank you to Mr. Towle and Mr. Rainville for helping our students be safe on the bus. As a district, we follow the ALICE system. The drill lasted five minutes and students helped secure classrooms and kept very quiet to listen and follow the teacher’s directions. Officer Stepanian and I made noises in the hallways and tried to open doors. Practicing lockdowns can be very scary to students and staff, but it does help everyone be prepared in an emergency. We plan to do another one in May. ALICE stands for: Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate. Officer Stepanian has been a great asset to the school. We also had a state trooper visit the school and let the students see everything in his cruiser.

**Superintendent’s Report – Dr. Debra Taylor:**

1. Dr. Taylor gave an overview of the school year in perspective.
2. She emphasized the progress toward strategic plan goals:  
Goal #1: All students reach their maximum potential.  
Goal #2: Employ, Retain and Support Highly Effective Staff  
Goal #3: Establish Community Relationships and Partnerships that Support Successful Students
3. SAU Report – 2022-2023: We have met the goals of our SAU 7 strategic plan for this year through our focus on student growth and development.
4. She presented School highlights for each of the schools in SAU 7. Each of the schools has a Facebook page and highlights are posted there as they happen.
5. Mark your calendars for these important dates:  
Last day of school for students: June 14<sup>th</sup> (half day)  
Professional Development Day for Teachers & Staff: June 15<sup>th</sup>  
Colebrook HS Graduation: June 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm  
Pittsburg HS Graduation: June 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm  
Stewartstown Eighth Grade Graduation: June 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm
6. Debra gave an overview of the employees in the SAU Office. Today is Principals’ Day. Next week is Staff Appreciation.
7. In January, the law changed RSA 189:1-c to the School Board shall have a nonvoting student member from a high school in their district. Jolene Carlson is Pittsburg’s member and Tyler Young is Colebrook’s.

**Business Manager’s Report – Bridget Cross:**

1. Bridget was unable to attend the meeting, so Debra presented her information. Bridget will have the budget analysis for the next meeting.
2. Included in the packet was information concerning Domestic Partners on Health Insurance Plans – Effective July 1, 2023. Board vote is required for this.

B. Gray/C. Sierad: To approve insurance coverage for domestic partners (and their children) on our medical health insurance plan.

VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE

3. There was an error in the Teachers’ Salary Schedule presented at the last meeting. A revised schedule is included in this packet. Contracts have gone out according to the corrected schedule.

B. Gray/C. Sierad: To adopt the salary schedule as revised.

VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE

4. We only received one Food Service Bid. It was from the Abbey Group, who is our current school meals provider. We had \$58,926.00 in the budget, but the bid came in at \$68,926.49. Bridget said we will be able to cover this within the budget. This is a one-year contract, which could continue for four years if you choose. Budget would be voted on each year.

B. Gray/C. Sierad: To move forward with the Abbey Group.

VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE

**Unfinished Business:** Philip asked Debra to let Bridget know that when the roofer starts on the garage roof, we can get a dumpster through the town at a better price.

Courtney discussed grading the road into the school. Even though we do not own the road, we take care of getting it graded when necessary. Administration needs to call Aaron Joos, town road agent, to get the school road on his schedule for grading.

**New Business: None**

**Meetings:**

Next meeting is June 5, 2023 at 5:15 pm.

B. Gray/C. Sierad: To go into nonpublic session at 6:30 pm.

ROLL CALL VOTE: B. GRAY – YES; C. SIERAD – YES; P. PARISEAU – YES

B. Gray/C. Sierad: To return to public session at 6:55 pm.

ROLL CALL VOTE: B. GRAY – YES; C. SIERAD – YES; P. PARISEAU – YES

B. Gray/C. Sierad Motion to declare a local critical teacher shortage for elementary teacher.

VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE.

B. Gray/C. Sierad Motion to appoint Isabella DeSimone as Title I Elementary Teacher for the 2023-2024 school year.

VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE.

B. Gray/C. Sierad: To adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm.

VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia E. Grover  
Minutes Taker

Adopted: June 5, 2023