

Stewartstown School Board							
Meeting Minutes							
Date		December 7, 2020					
Time		4:15 p.m.					
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	
C	Jamie Boire	P	Philip Pariseau	P	Jennifer Mathieu	P	Debra Taylor
Z	Betsy Gray					P	Cheryl Covill
Public in Attendance: None							

Philip opened the meeting at 4:26 pm. He asked for Adjustments to the Agenda.

Adjustments to the Agenda: None

Hearing of the Public: To accept and expend the Supplemental Public School Response Act money from the State of NH DOE in the amount of \$19,200.00 to assist the schools through the impact of COVID-19.

J. Boire/B. Gray: To accept the Supplemental Public School Response Act money from the NH DOE in the amount of \$19,200.00 to assist the schools through the impact of COVID-19.

VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE

Reading of the Minutes:

B. Gray/J. Boire: To accept the minutes of November 2, 2020 as presented.

VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE

Special Reports: None

Policy Review: None

School Administrator’s Report – Jennifer Mathieu

1. Things are going as well as can be expected. As I write this report, on the day before Thanksgiving, I can honestly say that people are *tired*. The majority of parents who have come to school today to pick up materials have shared that they are feeling overwhelmed, exhausted, and have expressed that they “can’t find a balance.” Students of all ages have expressed the same things. “All I want for Christmas this year is to be back in school!” one little girl told me in a Zoom today. What I *can* say is, this experience is certainly helping us to realize how fortunate we were/are and it’s important to find the good in every day. I’ll continue to help the staff, students, and families in any way I can.
2. We have had scheduled pick-up dates and times for parents, which seems to be working well.
3. Teachers have discussed a return-to-school date and they want to wait until after Christmas break. Jaime Boire agreed.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Debra Taylor:

1. Dr. Taylor included a written report in the packet.
2. She stated that the teachers are working very hard.
3. It has been discussed to have the students in Grades Pre-K through 5 return December 14, but no decision has been made.
4. Active COVID cases are dropping. She joined a regional COVID meeting. We still may see some additional numbers.
5. Students who are home alone or are reading challenged may need to come back.

Philip asked about the survey results.

Betsy asked why just bring back Pre-K – 5. Is it a staffing issue? In her house, this would mean one child would return to school and one would have to stay home. Betsy also asked how does a teacher balance when they have some students remote and some in school?

Jenn responded they have discussed possibly sharing the Pre-K – Grade 1 teachers: one teacher for remote learning and one for the students in school. But, if we go back, it won't be mandatory for students to be in school.

Jamie and Betsy both felt we should wait until after the holidays and bring back all the students at once.

Betsy stated that COVID has now hit her family.

Jamie stated that the governor has mandated that masks must be worn at all times. The SAU board has also voted this.

Debra said the State recommends K – 5 return rather than K – 8. The older students are able to stay home without parental supervision. They would remain on remote learning for a while.

Philip mentioned that our numbers have dropped. He believes the best place for the students is in school, but safely.

Betsy asked how the teachers feel about a return to school date. Jenn responded they are split 50/50 whether they return on January 4 or January 11.

The SAU public hearing is on the 10th in Pittsburg either via Zoom or in person. Cheryl asked for a head count: Jamie will Zoom; Betsy will be there in person if she does not test positive for COVID; Philip is not sure which way he will attend.

Business Administrator's Report – Cheryl Covill:

1. The custodians are working on keeping the building in shape. Mark is working days and Dennis after school hours.
2. We are still waiting for plates for the new bus. We had to mail the information to Concord.
3. The Food Service is going well. The Abbey Group asked if we would return to seven days a week. The weekend meals would be frozen. This is if we stay remote.
4. Cheryl noted that we need more families to return their school meals application. The more applications we have, the more reimbursement we get. Applications aren't being returned because all students are receiving free meals.

5. The stipend for teachers that take insurance. Are we going to pay it this year? Betsy felt that we should include everyone who has insurance, not just the teachers. Jamie agreed. Betsy then reclused herself from voting on this as it affects a family member.

J. Boire/P. Pariseau: To pay the \$250 stipend to all employees who have insurance.
VOTE: 2 YES

6. Last meeting Philip asked about air purifiers for the classrooms. Cheryl checked on this and found that due to the air handlers, the purifiers would only benefit the person right next to it.
7. The governor has released \$10,000,000 for COVID. Funds must be expended by December 30, 2020. Funds are being used to purchase more Interactive White Boards, Electrostatic sprayers, carts for food delivers, and teacher laptops. These total \$8,361.00

Unfinished Business:

Dedication plaques. Aaron Joos has not had time to respond yet. We are still looking for a plaque for the multi-purpose room. We need a long sign. Philip knows someone who can possibly do it and he will contact him.

The connection with Jamie was lost at approximately 5:10 pm.

New Business:

1. Philip stated he had received a letter from Candace Placey stating that she will retire in June 2021. She has worked at SCS for 33 years.

2. BUDGET

Cheryl then went through the variances in the 21-22 proposed budget.

Jenn left the meeting at 5:36 pm.

3. Debra asked the Board to refer to the Superintendent's written report for her goals. She asked if the Board has any thoughts on these goals.

Betsy thanked Debra for her Board contact and support of the staff.

Betsy then asked if we have ever sent Christmas cards to the staff. She offered to make them out and get them to the other board members to sign.

CONNECTICUT RIVER COLLABORATIVE COMMITTEE

Debra reported that the meeting had been postponed to the 21st so there was nothing to report.

Meetings:

SAU 7 Public Hearing: December 10 at 6:00 pm at the Pittsburg School.

January 18 will be the date for meeting with the Budget Committee.

Question was raised on how we are going to get the information out to the public if we are unable to hold a school district meeting due to COVID.

Next meeting for Stewartstown School Board will be January 4, 2021 at 4:15 pm.

Debra then asked the Board to go into nonpublic session at 5:50 pm.

B. Gray/P. Pariseau: To go into nonpublic session.

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

Cheryl Covill and Patricia Grover left the meeting at this time.

B. Gray/P. Pariseau: To return to public session at 6:10 pm.

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

B. Gray.P.Pariseau: To adjourn the meeting at 6:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia E. Grover
Minutes Taker

Adopted 01/12/2021