

Stewartstown School Board							
Meeting Minutes							
Date		May 4, 2020					
Time		4:15 p.m.					
Location		Stewartstown Community School Multi					
Chairperson		Philip Pariseau					
Attendance							
Attendance Legend: P – Present at SCS A – Absent							
School Board Members			Principals		SAU Members		
P	Jamie Boire	P	Philip Pariseau	A	Jennifer Mathieu	P	Bruce Beasley
P	Betsy Gray			P	Dorothy Stebbins Assistant. Principal	P	Cheryl Covill
Public in Attendance: None							

Philip opened the meeting at 4:15 pm. He asked for Adjustments to the Agenda and noted that no members of the public were present.

Adjustments to the Agenda: None

Hearing of the Public: None

Reading of the Minutes:

Stewartstown Board Meeting of April 6, 2020

B. Gray/J. Boire: To accept the minutes of April 6, 2020 as presented.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS YES

Special Reports: None

School Administrator's Report:

1. The staff has been working to get ready for the May 4, 2020 pick-up/drop-off date. Some staff members have chosen to work strictly from home while others continue to follow a schedule that limits the amount of staff in the building at one time. The pick-up/drop-off went smoothly on April 3, so I am not anticipating any problems or issues on May 4.
2. The lunch delivery is going very well. Toni and Pam along with two paras on each drop-off day have the preparation and delivery well under control.
3. Kathleen will be working back at school, manning the office on May 4, 2020.
4. Dennis has been summer cleaning for a couple of weeks now. The junior high end of the building, including the library, has been completed. Also, at least one elementary end classroom is complete, along with the SAP office. The Main Office are is targeted to be next.
5. The teachers continue to log their parent/student contacts and daily activities. The paras are also logging their daily activities.
6. I am very proud of how our families and staff are handling the remote learning shift. Everyone has really stepped up and is working hard to ensure the success of our students and provide beneficial educational opportunities.

Philip asked if they have the guidelines for 8th grade graduation. Dorothy responded that they are still waiting for guidelines from the state. They may be able to do something small once they find out how many can gather. Nothing will be done before June 1.

Superintendent's Report:

1. Bruce reported that Jen had her baby.
2. Lunches have been extended to June 30.
3. Dorothy has transitioned well, and Kathleen has been out for two weeks.
4. A memo has been sent to hourly staff that last week was vacation. Bruce is looking for work in the schools for the hourly staff.
5. Mandi Hibbard has accepted a SPED position in Hopkinton.
6. Three candidates were interviewed for the IT position. It has been offered to one. Waiting to hear if it has been accepted. Hiring now is not easy.
7. Grading will be discussed for schooling at home. High School students need actual grades, not pass/fail. Especially those doing dual enrollment. Researching how Vermont does this. Students must show they are trying. Remote learning can only help students, not hurt them.

Dorothy asked if schoolwork could be removed from the plate of the student who has been displaced from her home due to fire. Bruce recommended that she talk to the family about how they would like to proceed. We can definitely work with them.

She also mentioned that Colebrook and Canaan are having a teacher parade and wondered if something could be done in Stewartstown. Answer was "Yes" if they want to.

Business Administrator's Report:

1. We have received a food service waiver on fresh fruit and vegetables. Starting this week, the State will reimburse at the free rate. She has to see what costs are. She can extend with the Abbey Group for one more year, but bids have already gone out.
2. Debbie Boivin was recognized by a radio station for her work in the lunch program.
3. Summer "Got Lunch" program wants to continue if they can.
4. Heating fuel bids were awarded to CN Brown at \$1.609 for fuel and \$1.09 for propane.
5. Dennis is doing a great job.
6. We have tiles that are worn down in the office and in the multi-purpose/cafeteria. Cheryl wants to replace them now. This would be done with complementing tiles as we cannot exactly match what is there.
7. Bid is complete for the windows. Betsy asked why we needed to replace windows. These are twenty years old, never worked well, and need to be smaller for the safety of the occupants.
8. Entryway carpets are bad. They need replacing.
9. Some of the furniture needs stickers removed and painting. Betsy asked if paras could possibly do that.
10. Mark is willing to help Dennis and fill in for him when he takes vacation.
11. We have about \$30,000 extra to do some projects.
12. The front entrance needs some kind of a barrier. A car can easily drive through the front doors. At a school Bruce worked at in the past, they had columns that were painted to look like crayons.

B. Gray/J. Boire: To approve the front entrance project.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS YES

13. Due to Covid 19, we can't do fingerprints on new employees now. We can get background checks done.

14. Outside contractors cannot work: OT, PT, and Speech. Philip asked if students were getting services. "Yes", speech. Virtual speech out of Massachusetts. A para is working in the building.
15. Remote learning is showing other ways to learn.
16. Each state is getting money for Cares Act. State must look at how they are allocating it. First it was stated it was Title I funds, but now it's Title II.
17. Our grants end on September 30. There is a million and a half left but Washington hasn't granted any waivers.
18. We received \$346.02 in NFR Funds.
19. Justin and Chris worked over vacation. We now have offsite backup.

Unfinished Business:

1. The Broadband was handled at the SAU meeting.

New Business:

1. Bruce gave a Corona virus update. CE/CA is still set up as a secondary site for the hospital.
2. May 29th has been set as the date for all school equipment that must be returned.
3. June 5 last day for teachers
4. We don't know what will happen in the fall. There are many questions on how to space children, busing, and anxiety about returning.
5. There has been discussion with the Dept of Education on Zoom meetings.
6. We are still responsible for summer school. Everything on IEP must be done over summer. Hard to maintain social barrier.
7. Bruce brought up compensation for Dorothy, who is the assistant principal. Originally Donna Estes was going to come in to assist Dorothy when she was being principal. Due to the current situation, that is not happening. Dorothy is doing both her job as teacher and assistant principal. Bruce recommended paying her an extra \$1,000. Betsy asked that this be discussed in nonpublic session.

B. Gray/J. Boire: To go into nonpublic session at 5:32 pm.

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

Dorothy Stebbins, Patricia Grover, and Cheryl Covill left the room.

B. Gray/J. Boire: To return to public session at 5:47 pm.

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

Dorothy Stebbins, Patricia Grover, and Cheryl Covill return to the meeting

B. Gray/J. Boire: To compensate Dorothy Stebbins \$500 extra as assistant principal.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS YES

8. General Assurances for grants. They now need Board approval, plus the superintendent and chairman of the board need to initial each page. Program Assurances were also discussed.

B. Gray/J. Boire: Board has reviewed and accepted Assurances and grant Philip Pariseau permission to sign for the Board

VOTE: UNANIMOUS YES

- 9. Policies 1: K – L policies
- 10. Policies 2: I policies

In the past policies have been brought to the board twice – the first time for just a reading and the second time for voting and adoption. Now all policies are discussed by the SAU 7 policy committee. This is considered the first reading. Therefore, when policies are brought to each individual board, it is considered the second reading and they are ready to be voted on. All policies will now be posted on the website rather than each board member having a book of policies.

P. Pariseau/B. Gray: To approve the K – L policies and the I policies.
VOTE: UNANIMOUS YES

- 11. A policy representative is needed. No one was voted in at the last meeting. Meetings are on the last Thursday of the month from 6:00 – 7:30 pm at the SAU Office. Jamie Boire volunteered.

Regional Committee

Bruce reported that the committee would be meeting this week via Zoom. They have been in contact with a financial person. Stewartstown’s representatives are Phil Pariseau and Kyle Daley. The vote that Canaan took on their bond was not legal. Bruce has talked to other superintendents who were going to help.

Superintendent Search

The new superintendent, Dr. Debra Taylor, has signed her contract. She called Bruce today. Bruce wasn’t on the search committee and does not know who leaked this information to the newspaper last week. Some staff and board members were upset.

Other Business

Graduation was discussed. Dorothy doesn’t know of any plans yet. Sierra Saari is in charge of graduation. There are eight students. She will let the board know as soon as she learns something.

Bruce stated that High Schools may have a parent give the diplomas rather than the chairman of the board. There will probably be Valedictorian and Salutatorian addresses as well as a guest speaker.

B. Gray/J. Boire: To adjourn at 6:12 pm.
VOTE: UNANIMOUS YES

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia E. Grover
Minutes Taker

Adopted Stewartstown School Board 06/01/2020