

**EUSTIS SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2021
5:30 P.M.
MINUTES**

- I. Call to order – Casey Cote, Chair
J. Brickley by Zoom**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. See if the Board will approve the minutes of the 2/9/21 Board Meeting? D. Richards motioned to approved. S. Strunk seconded. Vote in favor: 4-0.**
- IV. Welcome Guests – Todd Sanders, MSAD #58 Superintendent – was present and presented our board with the MSAD #58 District Overview. Mr. Sanders went over the handout with the board. The board thanked him for coming and for his time.**

It was noted that we should also invite someone from Rangeley Lakes School District to come to a board meeting and do a similar presentation.

Garden Committee – Katie Wuori spoke to the board and introduced the staff present as well as the board members. Katie also handed the board the update on the Stratton School garden. Katie introduced Ryan Parker who spoke on behalf of the Food Corp. Ryan explained the initiative of the Food Corp. Stratton School has been selected for the Food Corp’s next project. This would mean that we would have a full-time person from the Food Corp come to Stratton for next year. Their initiative usually lasts between four and six years. This is a sustainable initiative that will last long after they have assisted us with the project. The Stratton Garden Committee has almost raised enough money for the greenhouse project and the garden shed that will be built this spring/summer. The Food Corp person can take over the Horticulture/Garden Coordinator responsibilities to manage the greenhouse/gardens and work with teachers to develop the curriculum. Ryan mentioned that there are some costs involved. They are not looking for the salary of this person to be provided by Stratton School, just a supply line of approximately \$7,500-\$10,000.

Mike Shea noted that supply money would be put in the budget for this project. Mike as well as Barry mentioned what a great job that the Garden committee has done and are ready to go with it. After the 4-6 years that the Food Corp funds the salary for this person, it is hoped that this will become a permanent position within the school. Mike said that there will be a line item created in the budget for this position in the future.

No further discussion tonight and the board will take action with a vote at the April board meeting.

- V. Superintendent’s Report**
 - 1. Budget – Mike submitted a budget report to the board for review to be approved at the April board meeting. The budget represented that we have spent less than budgeted this year**

and brought more money in than anticipated. Mike reported that this is a good budget with money being put into our reserves.

In our three reserves, Mike reported the current balances:

Capital Reserve - \$196,860

Transportation Reserve - \$158,290

Emergency Reserve - \$135,000

Mike reported that we do need to purchase a new bus this year and suggested using the next round of Covid-19 money allocated to us to purchase the bus. Barry will work out the details on the new bus. It was also noted that we will purchase a good used bus as well using cash from our reserve. Mike mentioned that this is the 7th year in a row with no tax increase but that may be coming to an end as our state subsidy was cut in half for next year.

VI. Principals Report

1. School Updates – Barry mentioned to the board that the unit they were using to zoom for the meeting was the new Touch Board that we recently purchased with covid-19 money. We purchased 2 new Touch Boards, one is with Pearl Butler and the one demonstrated is on wheels and kept in Mrs. Stevens' room. We will be purchasing two more in the near future for the lower end and also for Grade 3 and 4.

Congratulations to Dave Richards as being voted back in as a board member.

Barry mentioned that he had received two heartfelt thank you emails from new Carrabassett Valley parents on what a great job we are doing and also received the surveys back from parents on if they were planning to come back next year so that Carrabassett Valley can plan their budget. Parents commented on how welcome they felt from the first visit to our school.

Barry shared that we received an anonymous \$5,000 donation recently for whatever we chose to use it for. This donation will be deposited into the garden account toward the greenhouse. We will send out a thank you card for this donation. Barry also mentioned that Denise posted on the Website and Facebook page the notes from Friday night's garden meeting.

Barry recently met with Ragan Beauregard regarding teaching French. Currently she is teaching French to Gr. 1 & 2. Next year she will teach from Gr. 1-4.

Katie Wuori and Paula Stevens just received their Maine Guide License. Now we have three staff members with their license, including Barry.

We have two more scheduled remote learning days: March 19th and April 6th.

Barry's goal is to have spring sports and offer Softball and Baseball. It was mentioned to order Bobcat masks.

Barry reported that ski/skate is going well. We have extended the program for two more weeks. The mountain has been very supportive.

Some staff will be receiving their vaccine this Saturday.

Barry let the board know that we have been approved air conditioning and air quality tests. The air conditioning will be in the library to make it more user friendly. The generator is in as well and will be put in once the snow is gone.

Barry/Mike received a letter from Pearl Butler indicating that she will retire at the end of this year. This will be an Action Item for the board to vote on tonight. Barry also noted that Pearl would still coach in Math for next year.

VII. School Board Chair's Report

1. Sidewalk Discussion – Casey reported that the sidewalk to school topic was voted down at the annual town meeting 10-1. Casey spoke with Steven St. Jean and Amanda Brochu and there was talk of a committee in town being formed to discuss other options such as speed bumps, signs and possible trails through the woods to school. They would love to have people from school participate in this committee.

VIII. Public Comment

IX. Discussion Items

1. Adjustment to the Agenda

X. Action Items

1. To see if the board will accept Pearl Butler's letter of resignation? S. Strunk motioned to approve. D. Richards seconded. Vote in favor: 4-0.

XI. Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.