

UNAPPROVED

Stamford School Board

Meeting Minutes

986 Main Rd.

Stamford, VT

April 22, 2025

Present at Meeting:

School Board: Phyllis Desautels, Cindy Lamore, Beth Thomas, Danielle Smith, and Brian Rower.

Administration: Bill Bazyk and Julie Swanson

Visitors: Carol Ethier-Kipp, Nancy Bushika, and Aldi Finney

I. Call to Order

Cindy Lamore called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

II. Agenda Additions or Deletions

25/26 School Calendar Discussion to be added to section VII, Input for Bill Bazyk's presentation at the town informational meeting to be added to section VII, Hancock Shaker Village field trip approval to be added to section VIII.

III. Approval of Minutes

Beth Thomas suggested adding absent board members, stating they were absent, to the minutes, Brian Rower added "Phyllis Desautels was absent from the meeting" to the minutes.

Minor correction, add the word "in" after "break-in" in section IX.

With those corrections completed, Cindy Lamore motioned to approve the minutes of the 4/10 meeting. Phyllis Desautels seconded the motion and they were approved by the board in a 5-0 vote.

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IV. Fiscal Matters

Cindy Lamore will go over the warrants and bring a dollar amount for the next meeting.

V. Reports and Updates

Principal Report

Julie Swanson reports that state testing is complete and all went well. The school received funding for a new social-emotional learning program that will be implemented as soon as the materials are secured. Field trips were announced, including a trip to Hancock Shaker Village on 4/28/25. This includes grades K-8 and was funded by the PTG.

A May 9th in-school performance by the *Berkshire Theater Group* was announced; this event includes a *Magic Tree House* book for each student in the school. The performance and book giveaway is being funded and sponsored by the Leo Ethier Scholarship Foundation. Carol Ethier-Kipp was thanked by Cindy Lamore on behalf of the School Board and she was given a minute to speak about the foundation, stating that there will be more focus on Stamford and the Stamford School in future foundation spending.

Julie Swanson updated the board on enrollment, which declined by six students. (5 home-schooled and 1 transfer)

The *Hancock Shaker Village* field trip was discussed and it was determined that a vote needed to be taken by the board for approval because the facility is 1 mile outside the 25 mile radius of the school. This was added to the meeting agenda for a future vote.

VI. Hearing of Visitors

Nancy Bushika, a member of the Stamford Select Board, advised the School Board that she attended a webinar on open meeting laws. It was suggested in the Webinar that chair people of all boards should take a training offered on the Secretary of State website regarding updated laws. There is also an ethics course that should be taken.

Aldi Finney asked the board a question regarding field trips. “When did field trips stop having to be educational?”

He was advised by Cindy Lamore that all field trips, *Ramblewild* in particular, are educational in that they provide team building skills. The 8th grade field trip tends to be less educational, but any field trip can be classified as educational because they offer students the opportunity to experience things they might not otherwise experience.

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VII. Discussion

Informational Meeting/ Town Mailer Writing

There was a discussion as to what would be discussed at the Informational Meeting about the school budget and what would go into the letter to Stamford citizens. The discussion was mainly about formatting the letter and agreeing on the overall tone. There were some corrections on numbers within the letter and the order in which information should be presented. After the discussion Superintendent Bazyk advised the board that he no longer needed input on his presentation because all was covered in the previous discussion.

Cindy Lamore mentioned that there may be new legislation regarding school calendars and she'd like to revisit the calendar if that occurs. Superintendent Bazyk expressed doubt that would occur but conceded that if there were law changes allowing for school's to be changed, we could bring it back up for discussion.

VIII. Items for Discussion with Possible Action

Cindy Lamore was nominated to be the School Board's Negotiation Committee Member by Beth Thomas. This position will be for two future teacher contract negotiations. Phyllis Desautels seconded that motion and it was carried in a 5-0 vote by the board.

Cindy Lamore motioned to approve the field trip to *Hancock Shaker Village*. Beth Thomas seconded that motion and it was carried by a 5-0 vote by the board.

IX. and X. No executive Session Required

XI. Next Scheduled Meetings

May 13th Informational Meeting for the Town 6:30 pm

Regular School Board Meeting May 27th 6:00 pm

XII. Adjourn

Cindy Lamore motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 pm, Phyllis Desautels seconded the motion and the board voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting.