



MINUTES
APPROVED - 2/4/08

Stratham Memorial School - Vision Committee

MONDAY - NOVEMBER 5, 2007 - 6:30 PM

Stratham Memorial School Library

39 Gifford Farm Road

Stratham, New Hampshire



Present: Luke Breton, Stratham School Board-Chair/Committee Co-Chair; John Hazekamp, Stratham School Board/Committee Co-Chair; Tom Fosher, Principal; Laura Batchelder, SMS Teacher Representative; Tony Baldassaro, Joe Kenick III, Judy Merrill, Mark Poirier, Doug Scamman, Travis Thompson, Jeff Wilson.

Absent: Lisa Calandra, Rogers Johnson, Jon Tymann.

Audience: Rebecca Ruel.

Handouts: Minutes - 10/1/07 (unapproved), Agenda - 11/5/07, Related Arts sheet.

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance - Mr. Breton opened the meeting at 6:40 P.M.

2. Approval of Minutes - October 1, 2007 revisions suggested.

3. Visitor Comments - None.

4. Discussion - Related Arts - Principal, Tom Fosher distributed a listing of Related Arts area/personnel criteria and talked about the challenges of administering the classes within the course of a day. The parameters are directly related to state standards (found mostly in section ED 306) and specifically spelled out in the separate SAU16 curriculums on the website. It was pointed out that a classroom's time spent in a related arts activity offers windows of opportunities for utilizing the resulting empty classroom for other necessary pull-out sessions. Changes in the Related Arts schedule therefore have a ripple affect on classroom use in the bigger picture. Much discussion centered around the Enrichment framework and how it is used in a broad "School-wide Enrichment Model" versus a narrower "gifted and talented" focus. With the current co-ordinator out on sabbatical for the year, teachers have taken the lead in offering support for enrichment through new initiatives previously unavailable to the school community.

5. Discussion - Where do we go from here? - The suggestion of wrapping-up the committee charge by March was premature since the committee felt the background discussions thus far have been preliminary to a more in depth brain storming / visioning process that lay ahead. Some possible ideas for further discussion might include topics such as a year-round school year, a four day week, and any of the many other unconventional practices used to maximize space usage within a restricted environment. Members have been challenged to think about where the committee goes from here in considering options for dealing with our space crunch, to email their ideas to all members for consideration, and to come to the next meeting ready to discuss the pros and cons of the ideas brought forward.

6. Old Business - None

7. New Business / Wrap-up - Reminder of no meeting in December and a presentation / discussion of area demographics at the January meeting who's date is yet to be determined.

The SMS Vision Committee's agendas, minutes, and support materials are now available on the SAU16/SMS website with video recorded DVDs of the meetings available through the town's Wiggin Memorial library, courtesy of Minuteman Documentation.

8. Next Meeting Date - January 2007 (date-to-be-determined) - 6:30 PM / Demographics; No December meeting.

9. Adjournment - 8:45 PM