

**TOWN OF STAMFORD**  
**SELECTBOARD WORK SESSION WITH THE SCHOOL DIRECTORS**  
**May 29, 2024**  
**(UNAPPROVED)**

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, Michael G. Denault, Kurt Gamari, Douglas Wright, and John Dunn.  
School Directors: Erika Bailey, Chair, Phyllis Desautels, Beth Phelps, and Gary Bellows.  
Visitors: Carol Ethier-Kipp and Sheila Pecor.  
Lori Shepard, Selectboard Secretary.

Nancy Bushika opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, welcomed everyone, and read a statement with procedural rules for the meeting. Since this meeting was warned as a work session, no formal decisions will be made.

**DISCUSSION**

1. Last time the boards held a joint meeting it was to discuss the shortfall in the school bank account and the School Board was considering having to borrow money. Tax bills were sent out early and in the end the school did not need to borrow money. Nancy Bushika thanked the town office staff for the extra work involved.
2. The focus of tonight's meeting will be to discuss how the boards can come together to save money for the taxpayers. The Windham Southwest Supervisory Union (WSSU) received one bid proposal for \$30,000.00 to paint the school building. Gary Bellows noted that their bid area is the southern/central Vermont region which is not central to Stamford. Mike Denault asked if the town could solicit bids and look at the North Adams/Williamstown area. Mike Denault felt if the school can obtain grants for projects, that it should go through the school, but if no grant money is involved, it is better for the taxpayers to use town money. He stated that if the town's budget increases \$50,000.00 for instance for these projects, that the school budget should go down \$50,000.00 since this is a joint effort to save the taxpayers money. Kurt Gamari stated that the school and town may be eligible for more grant funding now that the village center district is established. The town already takes care of plowing and sanding the parking lot and mowing the lawn. The phone and internet will need to stay with the school. The board discussed the town paying for the fuel oil and electricity. It didn't seem to make sense to have the town take over paying the custodian position at this time and the boards agreed to start slow and see how things go. Boards will review all utilities (except phone and internet), heating fuel and the painting project.
3. Nancy Bushika asked if the windows project will be completed this year. Erika Bailey will look into it.
4. The safety/liability of the tennis court was discussed. Since it was installed through a grant to the town, it will be the town's responsibility to take care of it. The School Board agreed it was a safety hazard and the board discussed its removal. The storage shed could be moved closer to the school building for school use.

5. There are two elections this year, one in August and one in November. The August election will take place before school starts, but the school will need to coordinate the waxing of the floors. Erika Bailey will speak to WSSU about cancelling school or having a half-day dismissal for the November election as it may be difficult to hire a sheriff.

6. Erika Bailey thanked the board members for the good discussion and a productive meeting.

The meeting ended at 7:30 p.m.

Kurt Gamari  
Clerk

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#### REMINDERS

1. Townspeople should sign up with the state's free communications network, VT-Alert. You can sign up at [vtalet.gov](http://vtalet.gov) to receive notifications. You can choose how you would like to be alerted (phone call, text or email) and can choose what type of alerts you would like to receive, i.e. weather, road closures, public health, etc.

2. The transfer station is open on Wednesday afternoons from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. for the summer months.

3. The town office is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and on Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Closed Mondays.