

Board of Education Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, February 8, 2010, 7:00 PM
Stafford Elementary School Cafetorium

- I. Call to Order- Establishment of Quorum
- II. Secretary's Report- Approval of Minutes
 - A. Special Meeting Minutes, January 20, 2010 2
 - B. Special Meeting Minutes, January 20, 2010 6
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- III. Treasurer's Report
 - A. Board Bills
 - 1. January 27, 2010- \$4,985.55
 - 2. January 29, 2010- \$20,324.73 (Grants)
 - 3. February 2, 2010- \$1,289,159.26
- IV. Correspondence
- V. Board Reports
 - A. EASTCONN Executive Board Report
- VI. Superintendent Reports
 - A. Head Start Report through January 2010
Dr. Therese G. Fishman, Superintendent of Schools
 - B. Cafeteria Profit and Loss through December 2009
Dr. Therese G. Fishman, Superintendent of Schools
 - C. Revised Proposed 2010 - 2011 Budget for the Stafford Public Schools
Dr. Therese G. Fishman, Superintendent of Schools
- VII. Public Forum
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
 - A. Disposition of Bid- Health Insurance
Dr. Therese G. Fishman, Superintendent of Schools
 - B. Review and Possible Approval of 2010 - 2011 School Calendar
Dr. Therese G. Fishman, Superintendent of Schools
 - C. Review and Possible Approval of a Perkins Innovation Grant Proposal
Dr. Therese G. Fishman, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Michael Bednarz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
 - D. Dropout Prevention Committee
Dr. Therese G. Fishman, Superintendent of Schools
- X. Personnel Matters
- XI. Student Matters
 - A. Community Concern Regarding Racism

**Special Meeting
Stafford Board of Education
Pinney Administration Building
Wednesday, January 20, 2010, 6:45 p.m.**

Present: Mr. Mark Fontanella, Chairperson
Mrs. Lisa Bradway
Mrs. Lisa Finch
Mrs. Tracy Rummel
Mr. Steve Szymanski

Absent: Mrs. Sandy Fowler, Secretary
Ms. Julie Stafford

Also Present: Dr. Thérèse G. Fishman, Superintendent of Schools
Attorney Peter A. Janus, Counsel for the Board of Education
Attorney Susan Freedman, Counsel for the Administration
Attorney Mark Mercier, Counsel for the Student
Mr. Francis Kennedy, Principal, Stafford High School
Mr. Damian Frassinelli, Director of Athletics and Recreation
Student F
Mother and Father of Student F

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:59 p.m. A quorum was established.

2. Executive Session

- a. **Board Inquiry into the Continued Enrollment and Attendance of Student F**
- b. **Board Consideration of the Recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools regarding the Expulsion of Student F from Stafford High School Pursuant to CGS 10-233d**

3. Action by the Board in Response to the Superintendent's Recommendation or Motion regarding the Expulsion of Student F

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, that the Board enter executive session to discuss material that would result in the disclosure of public records or the information contained therein as described in Connecticut General Statutes Sections 1-200(6)(E), subsection (b) of Section 1-210, specifically, personnel, student or medical and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute an invasion of privacy, and / or names and addresses of students enrolled in public school. Only those invited by the Board may be present in the executive session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The Board entered executive session at 7:00 p.m.

The Board invited the following individuals into the executive session:

Dr. Thérèse G. Fishman, Superintendent of Schools
Attorney Peter A. Janus, Counsel for the Board of Education
Attorney Susan Freedman, Counsel for the Administration
Attorney Mark Mercier, Counsel for the Student
Mr. Francis Kennedy, Principal, Stafford High School
Mr. Damian Frassinelli, Director of Athletics and Recreation
Student F
Mother and Father of Student F
Mrs. Christine Marinelli, Recording Secretary

The Board took a recess to deliberate at 7:12 p.m. All invited individuals, with the exception of Attorney Janus, left the meeting room.

All invited individuals returned to the meeting room at 7:25 p.m.

Mr. Fontanella stated that the Board has accepted the joint stipulation agreed to by the parents and the administration. Mr. Fontanella called for another brief recess at 7:26 p.m.

All invited individuals returned to the meeting room at 7:30 p.m.

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, to return to regular session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The Board returned to regular session at 7:31 p.m.

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, that based on the evidence and testimony received after a due process hearing, it is the finding of the Stafford Board of Education that between November 30, 2009, and December 23, 2009, Student F committed an expellable offense, namely that Student F threatened and bullied two fellow students; Student F physically harmed two fellow students; Student F sexually harassed two fellow students; Student F held one student down while that student was sexually assaulted by a third student; and Student F violated the Board of Education's Policy 5114 (a)-(l), Board Policy 5131.911 (a)-(c) and Regulation (a)-(h), Board Policy 5145.5 (a)-(c) and Regulation (a)-(c), and the disciplinary guidelines, as outlined in the Stafford High School 2009 – 2010 Student – Parent Handbook. It is the further finding of the Stafford Board of Education that such action constitutes conduct which is detrimental and an endangerment to the health, safety and welfare of other students, that such conduct is seriously disruptive of the educational process and that such conduct also violates a publicized policy of the Stafford Board of Education. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried.

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, to enter executive session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The Board entered executive session at 7:33 p.m.

At approximately 8:09 p.m., all individuals invited to attend executive session by the Board, with the exception of Attorney Peter Janus, left the conference room so that the Board of Education could deliberate.

All invited individuals returned to the Board of Education conference room at approximately 9:03 p.m.

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, to return to regular session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The Board returned to regular session at 9:04 p.m.

Mrs. Bradway made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, that based on the previous decision of the Stafford Board of Education that Student F had committed an expellable offense, and based upon the evidence and testimony received as to the length of any expulsion to be imposed for the offense by Student F, it is the finding of the Stafford Board of Education that Student F shall be expelled from the Stafford Public Schools, from any and all school privileges and premises, and all school-sponsored activities for disciplinary reasons, effective immediately, for a period of one calendar year.

However, Student F may apply for early readmission to school at the beginning of the second quarter of the 2010 – 2011 school year, by submitting an application to the Superintendent of Schools for consideration by the Board of Education no later than at its scheduled meeting on or about October 25, 2010. The Board will condition Student F's readmission on satisfactory performance in tutoring with no unexcused absences; maintaining a satisfactory academic record; attending counseling sessions previously committed to and scheduled by the parents at their own expense independently of these expulsion proceedings; completion of Student F's commitment to the six month program with the Eastford Baptist Church, as outlined by Pastor Vamosi; completion of a personal reflection essay discussing the seriousness of bullying and its impact on victims; and completion of sixty hours of community service in addition to the community service hours performed with the Eastford Baptist Church.

If Student F is granted early readmission and subsequently commits a violation of the Board of Education's policies and regulations warranting suspension or expulsion, then the original period of this expulsion shall be reinstated without further hearings.

Moved further that the Administration provide Student F with an alternative educational opportunity during the expulsion period.

Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion. Mrs. Rummel opposed the motion. The motion carried by majority vote.

4. Adjournment

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Marinelli
Recording Secretary

Mark Fontanella, Chairperson

Mrs. Sandy Fowler, Secretary

DRAFT

**Special Meeting
Stafford Board of Education
Pinney Administration Building
Wednesday, January 20, 2010, 8:00 p.m.**

Present: Mr. Mark Fontanella, Chairperson
Mrs. Lisa Bradway
Mrs. Lisa Finch
Mrs. Tracy Rummel
Mr. Steve Szymanski

Absent: Mrs. Sandy Fowler, Secretary
Ms. Julie Stafford

Also Present: Dr. Thérèse G. Fishman, Superintendent of Schools
Attorney Peter A. Janus, Counsel for the Board of Education
Mr. Francis Kennedy, Principal, Stafford High School
Mr. Damian Frassinelli, Director of Athletics and Recreation
Student G
Mother and Stepfather of Student G

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:11 p.m. A quorum was established.

2. Executive Session

- a. **Board Inquiry into the Continued Enrollment and Attendance of Student G**
- b. **Board Consideration of the Recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools regarding the Expulsion of Student G from Stafford High School Pursuant to CGS 10-233d**

3. Action by the Board in Response to the Superintendent's Recommendation or Motion regarding the Expulsion of Student G

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, that the Board enter executive session to discuss material that would result in the disclosure of public records or the information contained therein as described in Connecticut General Statutes Sections 1-200(6)(E), subsection (b) of Section 1-210, specifically, personnel, student or medical and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute an invasion of privacy, and / or names and addresses of students enrolled in public school. Only those invited by the Board may be present in the executive session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The Board entered executive session at 9:12 p.m.

The Board invited the following individuals into the executive session:

Dr. Thérèse G. Fishman, Superintendent of Schools
Attorney Peter A. Janus, Counsel for the Board of Education
Mr. Francis Kennedy, Principal, Stafford High School
Mr. Damian Frassinelli, Director of Athletics and Recreation
Student G
Mother and Stepfather of Student G
Mrs. Christine Marinelli, Recording Secretary

The Board took a recess to deliberate at 10:06 p.m. All invited individuals, with the exception of Attorney Janus, left the meeting room.

All invited individuals returned to the meeting room at 10:12 p.m.

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, to return to regular session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The Board returned to regular session at 10:13 p.m.

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, that based on the evidence and testimony received after a due process hearing, it is the finding of the Stafford Board of Education that culminating on or about January 4, 2010, Student G committed an expellable offense, namely that Student G threatened and bullied two fellow students; Student G physically harmed two fellow students; Student G sexually harassed two fellow students; Student G sexually assaulted two fellow students; and Student G violated the Board of Education's Policy 5114 (a)-(l), Board Policy 5131.911 (a)-(c) and Regulation (a)-(h), Board Policy 5145.5 (a)-(c) and Regulation (a)-(c), and the disciplinary guidelines, as outlined in the Stafford High School 2009 – 2010 Student – Parent Handbook. It is the further finding of the Stafford Board of Education that such action constitutes conduct which is detrimental and an endangerment to the health, safety and welfare of other students, that such conduct is seriously disruptive of the educational process and that such conduct also violates a publicized policy of the Stafford Board of Education. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried.

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, to enter executive session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The Board entered executive session at 10:15 p.m.

At approximately 10:34 p.m., all individuals invited to attend executive session by the Board, with the exception of Attorney Peter Janus, left the conference room so that the Board of Education could deliberate.

All invited individuals returned to the Board of Education conference room at approximately 10:46 p.m.

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, to return to regular session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The Board returned to regular session at 10:47 p.m.

Mr. Szymanski made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, that based on the previous decision of the Stafford Board of Education that Student G committed an expellable offense, and based upon the evidence and testimony received as to the length of any expulsion to be imposed for the offense by Student G, it is the finding of the Stafford Board of Education that Student G shall be expelled from the Stafford Public Schools, from any and all school privileges and premises, and all school-sponsored activities for disciplinary reasons, effective immediately, for a period of one calendar year.

However, Student G may apply for early readmission to school at the beginning of the second quarter of the 2010 – 2011 school year, by submitting an application to the Superintendent of Schools for consideration by the Board of Education no later than at its scheduled meeting on or about October 25, 2010. The Board will condition Student G's readmission on satisfactory performance in tutoring with no unexcused absences; maintaining a satisfactory academic record; attending counseling sessions as scheduled by the School Social Worker; completion of a personal reflection essay discussing the seriousness of bullying and its impact on victims; and completion of one hundred (100) hours of community service.

If Student G is granted early readmission and subsequently commits a violation of the Board of Education's policies and regulations warranting suspension or expulsion, then the original period of this expulsion shall be reinstated without further hearings.

Moved further that the Administration provide Student G with an alternative educational opportunity during the expulsion period.

Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried.

4. Adjournment

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Marinelli
Recording Secretary

Mark Fontanella, Chairperson

Mrs. Sandy Fowler, Secretary

**Special Meeting
Stafford Board of Education
Pinney Administration Building
Wednesday, January 20, 2010, 9:15 p.m.**

Present: Mr. Mark Fontanella, Chairperson
Mrs. Lisa Bradway
Mrs. Lisa Finch
Mrs. Tracy Rummel
Mr. Steve Szymanski

Absent: Mrs. Sandy Fowler, Secretary
Ms. Julie Stafford

Also Present: Dr. Thérèse G. Fishman, Superintendent of Schools
Attorney Peter A. Janus, Counsel for the Board of Education
Mr. Francis Kennedy, Principal, Stafford High School
Mr. Damian Frassinelli, Director of Athletics and Recreation
Student H
Mother and Father of Student H

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:59 p.m. A quorum was established.

2. Executive Session

- a. **Board Inquiry into the Continued Enrollment and Attendance of Student H**
- b. **Board Consideration of the Recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools regarding the Expulsion of Student H from Stafford High School Pursuant to CGS 10-233d**

3. Action by the Board in Response to the Superintendent's Recommendation or Motion regarding the Expulsion of Student H

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mr. Szymanski, that the Board enter executive session to discuss material that would result in the disclosure of public records or the information contained therein as described in Connecticut General Statutes Sections 1-200(6)(E), subsection (b) of Section 1-210, specifically, personnel, student or medical and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute an invasion of privacy, and / or names and addresses of students enrolled in public school. Only those invited by the Board may be present in the executive session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The Board entered executive session at 11:00 p.m.

The Board invited the following individuals into the executive session:

Dr. Thérèse G. Fishman, Superintendent of Schools
Attorney Peter A. Janus, Counsel for the Board of Education
Mr. Francis Kennedy, Principal, Stafford High School
Mr. Damian Frassinelli, Director of Athletics and Recreation
Student H
Mother and Father of Student H
Mrs. Christine Marinelli, Recording Secretary

The Board took a recess to deliberate at 11:42 p.m. All invited individuals, with the exception of Attorney Janus, left the meeting room.

All invited individuals returned to the meeting room at 11:52 p.m.

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, to return to regular session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The Board returned to regular session at 11:53 p.m.

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, that based on the evidence and testimony received after a due process hearing, it is the finding of the Stafford Board of Education that culminating on or about January 4, 2010, Student H committed an expellable offense, namely that Student H threatened and bullied two fellow students; Student H physically harmed two fellow students; Student H sexually harassed two fellow students; and Student H violated the Board of Education's Policy 5114 (a)-(l), Board Policy 5131.911 (a)-(c) and Regulation (a)-(h), Board Policy 5145.5 (a)-(c) and Regulation (a)-(c), and the disciplinary guidelines, as outlined in the Stafford High School 2009 – 2010 Student – Parent Handbook. It is the further finding of the Stafford Board of Education that such action constitutes conduct which is detrimental and an endangerment to the health, safety and welfare of other students, that such conduct is seriously disruptive of the educational process and that such conduct also violates a publicized policy of the Stafford Board of Education. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried.

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, to enter executive session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The Board entered executive session at 11:55 p.m.

At approximately 12:13 a.m., all individuals invited to attend executive session by the Board, with the exception of Attorney Peter Janus, left the conference room so that the Board of Education could deliberate.

All invited individuals returned to the Board of Education conference room at approximately 12:26 a.m.

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, to return to regular session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The Board returned to regular session at 12:27 a.m.

Mr. Szymanski made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, that based on the previous decision of the Stafford Board of Education that Student H committed an expellable offense, and based upon the evidence and testimony received as to the length of any expulsion to be imposed for the offense by Student H, it is the finding of the Stafford Board of Education that Student H shall be expelled from the Stafford Public Schools, from any and all school privileges and premises, and all school-sponsored activities for disciplinary reasons, effective immediately, for a period of one calendar year.

However, Student H may apply for early readmission to school at the beginning of the 2010 – 2011 school year, by submitting an application to the Superintendent of Schools for consideration by the Board of Education no later than at its scheduled meeting on or about August 23, 2010. The Board will condition Student H's readmission on satisfactory performance in tutoring with no unexcused absences; maintaining a satisfactory academic record; and completion of fifty (50) hours of community service.

If Student H is granted early readmission and subsequently commits a violation of the Board of Education's policies and regulations warranting suspension or expulsion, then the original period of this expulsion shall be reinstated without further hearings.

Moved further that the Administration provide Student H with an alternative educational opportunity during the expulsion period.

Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried.

4. Adjournment

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 12:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Marinelli
Recording Secretary

Mark Fontanella, Chairperson

Mrs. Sandy Fowler, Secretary

**Regular Meeting
Stafford Board of Education
Pinney Administration Building
Monday, January 25, 2010**

Board Members Present: Mr. Mark Fontanella, Chairperson
Mrs. Lisa Bradway
Mrs. Tracy Rummel
Mr. Stephen Szymanski

Absent: Mrs. Lisa Finch
Mrs. Sandy Fowler, Secretary
Ms. Julie Stafford

Also Present: Dr. Thérèse G. Fishman, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Michael Bednarz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Mr. David Bartlett, Principal, Staffordville School
Mr. Robert Campbell, Assistant Principal, Stafford High School
Mrs. Meg Devlin, Financial Analyst
Dr. Marcia Elliott, Principal, West Stafford School
Mr. Damian Frassinelli, Director of Athletics and Recreation
Mr. Francis Kennedy, Principal, Stafford High School
Mrs. Susan Linder, Director of Building Services
Mr. Marco Pelliccia, Assistant Principal, Stafford Middle School
Mr. Hank Skala, Principal, Stafford Elementary School
Mr. Thomas Szymanski, Student Representative
Mr. Kenneth Valentine, Principal, Stafford Middle School

ITEM I. Call to Order- Establishment of Quorum

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. A quorum was established.

ITEM II. Secretary's Report- Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting, January 11, 2010

A consensus of the Board approved the Secretary's Report for the regular meeting held on January 11, 2010, as presented.

ITEM III. Treasurer's Report

Board Bills:

January 13, 2010	\$114,894.08
January 19, 2010	\$811,646.68

After a question from Mrs. Rummel, a consensus of the Board approved the Board bills, as presented.

ITEM IV. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

ITEM V. Board Reports

Mr. Thomas Szymanski, Student Representative, reported on the following topics:

- ✓ Mid terms are over, and today (1/25/10) is the first day of second semester
- ✓ Sports Update
- ✓ NCCC meet on Thursday in New Haven
- ✓ Student Faculty Volleyball Game
- ✓ Stafford's Got Talent- Auditions were held on Thursday and Friday. The event will take place at the high school on Saturday, 2/13/10.

ITEM VI. Superintendent's Reports

A. Proposed 2010 – 2011 Budget for the Stafford Public Schools

Dr. Fishman presented the proposed 2010 – 2011 Budget for the Stafford Public Schools. She stated that the proposed 2010 – 2011 budget is a .70% increase over the budget from 2008 – 2009, since last year's budget was a 0% increase.

STAFFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION			
2010-2011 BUDGET			
SUMMARY			
ITEM	2009-2010	2010-2011	VARIANCE
	APPROVED	PROPOSED	
100 - PERSONNEL SERVICES - SALARIES	14,836,371	15,003,761	167,390
200 - PERSONNEL SERVICES - BENEFITS	4,044,772	4,118,585	73,813
300 - PURCHASED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	326,361	359,380	33,019
400 - PURCHASED PROPERTY SERVICES	512,967	556,799	43,832
500- OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	3,244,816	3,129,355	-115,461
600 - SUPPLIES	1,322,807	1,270,471	-52,336
700 - PROPERTY	161,567	178,980	17,413
800 - OTHER OBJECTS	39,145	43,031	3,886
TOTAL	24,488,805	24,660,361	171,556
PERCENTAGE OF INCREASE			0.70%

The district's proposed budget is available on our web site at www.stafford.ctschool.net, under the Board of Education link.

Dr. Fishman said that in order to obtain a 0% increase last year, the district had to make the following adjustments to the budget:

- ✓ Cut 7.5 FTE certified positions, 1.0 FTE in administrative staff, and 4.0 FTE in non-certified staff. She noted that cuts to certified staff could have been much higher if the district did not introduce the retirement incentive.
- ✓ Cuts were made to supplies, textbooks, professional development, technology and repairs and maintenance.
- ✓ Savings were realized in medical insurance, life insurance and long-term disability insurance.
- ✓ The district was able to keep all of the athletic programs by introducing a transportation fee for traveling athletes.

Dr. Fishman highlighted the major reasons that she was able to keep the 2010 – 2011 budget at a .70% increase this year, as follows:

- ✓ During contract negotiations with the teachers, the teachers agreed to a 0% increase in 2010-2011.
- ✓ Administrators did an excellent job budgeting for equipment, textbooks, and supplies. Three of the five schools' budgets came in below last year's budget.
- ✓ Medical insurance bid came in at a 0% increase for next year.
- ✓ Savings in electricity due to a new consortium and projected fuel savings.

She also noted that there are needs that must be met in the 2010-2011 budget season, as follows:

- ✓ Scientific-Based Response to Intervention (SRBI), Connecticut's response to the federal NCLB law, which prescribes levels of intervention to meet student achievement needs in reading and math.
- ✓ The addition of a technician position to keep all of our technology, which has expanded beyond computers to interactive white boards and projectors, in repair. This is the only proposed new position in the 2010-2011 budget.

Dr. Fishman reviewed the district's accomplishments, goals and test scores for 2009-2010. Dr. Fishman then reviewed the entire proposed budget in detail. Mr. Bednarz gave a detailed presentation on the technology budget, Mr. Frassinelli gave a detailed presentation on the athletics budget, and Mrs. Linder outlined the upcoming capital projects. Dr. Fishman said that Dr. Lefebvre will be giving a presentation on the credit re-entry program to the Board in February.

Dr. Fishman summarized by stating that the proposed budget is a \$171,556 increase over the budget that the district had two years ago. She said that she and her staff have been very prudent and have worked very hard to prepare this budget, which is very responsible.

Mrs. Rummel had several questions about the budget. Dr. Fishman and Mrs. Devlin were able to answer most of them. Mrs. Devlin said that she would get back to Mrs. Rummel regarding the current cost of heating oil, and what costs are being offered for next year. There were no other questions from the Board members. Dr. Fishman asked that if Board members had any additional questions, they e-mail them to her as soon as possible so that she can prepare a response for the next Board meeting on Monday, February 8, 2010.

B. Audit Report for Fiscal Year July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

Dr. Fishman stated that Board members received an electronic copy of the audit report for the 2008-2009 school year, which is an addendum to the report for the Town of Stafford for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, as prepared by O'Connell, Pace, and Company, Certified Public Accountants. The report for the Stafford Board of Education relates to school year grant applications (Forms ED001 and SEDAC-G Data Adjustment Forms).

Dr. Fishman said that the first set of findings relate to the ED001 Educational Grant. The first two findings by O'Connell, Pace are entitled *Changes due to misstated expenditures*. She said that the first relates to adjusted information from school construction reports received from the Treasurer's office and the second relates to the way benefits are reported for the cafeteria. The third finding is entitled *Changes due to misstated tuition income*. She said that income to the Town of Stafford from the Town of Union was misstated by \$1,000. Findings four and five are related and are entitled *Changes due to misstated total appropriated expenditures*. She said that these errors occurred because a transaction was posted as a deposit on the Board side, but mistakenly reported as an appropriation on the Town side.

Dr. Fishman said that the second set of findings relate to SEDAC-G Data. There was an error in the report on two students who are serviced by programs for special education, which affected Excess Cost grant reimbursement.

Dr. Fishman said that these errors were minor and involved very little money.

Item VII. Public Forum

There was a question regarding why the expelled students can't be tutored at the credit re-entry program to save money. Dr. Fishman said that since this is a re-entry program, which is still a part of the high school, the expelled students are not allowed to attend since they are prohibited from all school grounds and school-sponsored activities.

Item VIII. Old Business

There was no Old Business.

Item IX. New Business

There was no New Business.

Item X. Personnel Matters**A. Authorization of Superintendent of Schools to Give Written Notice of Non-Renewal**

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent of Schools to notify in writing before April 1 any non-tenured teachers whose contract will not be renewed for the next school year. Mr. Fontanella, Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried.

Item XI. Student Matters

There were no Student Matters.

Item XII. Adjournment

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Marinelli, Recording Secretary

Mark Fontanella, Chairperson

Sandra Fowler, Secretary