Board of Education Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, May 24, 2010, 7:00 PM
Stafford Middle School Auditorium

I. Call to Order- Establishment of Quorum

II. Secretary's Report- Approval of Minutes
   A. Regular Meeting, May 10, 2010 2

III. Treasurer's Report
   A. May 12, 2010- $72,323.31
   B. May 19, 2010- $98,455.69

IV. Correspondence

V. Board Reports

VI. Superintendent Reports
   A. Teacher of the Year 2011
   B. Non-Certified Staff Members of the Year 2009 - 2010
   C. Recognition of Stafford Public Schools' Retiring Staff Members
   D. Presentation of 2009 - 2010 CABE Student Leadership Awards
   E. Recognition of Student Representative to the Board of Education
   F. Obsolete Computer Lottery
   G. Perkins Innovation Grant Proposal Adjudication
   H. Internet Safety Program for Parents / Guardians
   I. Cafeteria Profit and Loss Statement through April 2010

VII. Public Forum

VIII. Old Business
   A. Review and Possible Approval of the Visual Arts Curriculum, PK-12

IX. New Business
   A. Review and Approval of Cuts to the 2010 - 2011 Board of Education Budget

X. Personnel Matters
   A. Resignation- Certified Staff Member
   B. Appointments- Certified Staff Members
   C. Possible Ratification of CSEA Contract (Executive Session Anticipated)
   D. Interview Candidate for the Position of Principal of Staffordville School (Executive Session Anticipated)
   E. Possible Appointment of Principal of Staffordville School

XI. Student Matters

Regular Meeting
Stafford Board of Education
Pinney Administration Building
Monday, May 10, 2010

Board Members Present: Mrs. Lisa Bradway, arrived at 7:05 p.m.
Mrs. Lisa Finch
Mrs. Sandy Fowler, Secretary
Mrs. Tracy Rummel
Mr. Stephen Szymanski

Absent: Mr. Mark Fontanella, Chairperson

Also Present: Dr. Thérèse G. Fishman, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Meg Devlin, Financial Analyst
Ms. Tannis Longmore, Art Teacher
Mrs. Dee Paradis, Art Teacher
Mr. Thomas Szymanski, Student Representative
Mrs. Liz Vannelli, Art Teacher

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<u>Item I. Call to Order- Establishment of Quorum</u>

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. A quorum was established. Mrs. Fowler ran the meeting in Mr. Fontanella's absence.

<u>Item II. Secretary's Report- Approval of Minutes</u>

Regular Meeting, April 26, 2010
Special Meeting, May 3, 2010
Special Meeting, May 3, 2010
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A consensus of the Board approved the Secretary's Reports for the regular meeting held on April 26, 2010, and the special meetings held on May 3, 2010, as presented.

<u>Item III. Treasurer's Report</u>

<u>Board Bills and Grants</u>:

April 28, 2010- $242,667.67
April 29, 2010- $11,876.21 (Grants)
May 5, 2010- $138,501.57

A consensus of the Board approved the Board bills and grants, as presented.

Item IV. Correspondence

A copy of a letter from Mr. and Mrs. Ted Rummel regarding the parking situation / towing at the high school was discussed with the Board. Mrs. Tracy Rummel asked who would be responding to the letter. Dr. Fishman said that either the Board chair should respond, or she could respond if the Board gave her direction. The Board decided that they would like Dr. Fishman to respond.

Mrs. Fowler stated that she would like an administrative regulation created and attached to the policy and that the district needs to make it clear that we are going to enforce the rules contained in the regulation, including towing offenders.

Item V. Board Reports

Mr. Tom Szymanski, Student Representative, reported on the following:

- ✓ A Music / Drama Update- Thespian Induction on Thursday, May 13, 2010
- ✓ A Sports Update- The teams are doing really well this year, especially softball.
- ✓ The mock car crash and speaker at the high school last week were really powerful.
- ✓ Progress reports will be released this Wednesday, May 12, 2010.
- ✓ The Junior Prom went very well and was well planned.

Item VI. Superintendent's Reports

A. Exchange Student Presentations

Dr. Fishman informed the Board that Nene Yokoyama was unable to attend the Board meeting due to another commitment. She introduced Miss Lisa Wiegmann from Germany, who gave a presentation to the Board and then answered questions from the Board and audience. Miss Wiegmann distributed gifts to those in attendance at the meeting.

Mrs. Rummel, who is also a host for an exchange student, thanked the Superintendent and the Board for their support of the exchange student program.

B. Head Start Report through April 2010

Dr. Fishman presented the Head Start expense report to the Board, as prepared by Mrs. Devlin, Financial Analyst. She stated that we have spent $31,708 of the Head Start Grant, which totals $49,931. She said that the grant period extends through June 30, 2010.

Mrs. Fowler asked if reporting was required for the Early Head Start grant. Mrs. Devlin said that reporting to the Board was not required.

Item VII. Public Forum

There were no questions or comments.

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Item VIII. Old Business

There was no Old Business.

Item IX. New Business

A. Review and Possible Approval of TEAM Three-Year Plan

Dr. Fishman stated that the new TEAM (Teacher Education and Mentoring) program would replace the BEST program, as mandated by a legislative decision made in the fall of 2009.

Dr. Fishman stated that the BEST portfolio of student work, teacher reflection, and videos of a unit of lessons, which each beginning teacher had to submit to the Connecticut State Board of Education (CSDE) for scoring, has been replaced by a system of professional growth modules together with reflective pieces, which each beginning teacher will have to complete. She noted that the TEAM modules have to be reviewed and scored by the school district or by a regional review committee (EASTCONN). Dr. Fishman reported that Stafford has chosen to go with the regional review committee option, because, although we will have to provide a group of teachers to serve on this committee, we will not be placed in the position of making a decision about teacher licensure and a decision about teacher tenure for each of our beginning teachers. Dr. Fishman introduced Mr. Bednarz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, who worked on the district's TEAM three-year plan.

Mr. Bednarz informed the Board that everything that the State used to do for the BEST program is now the responsibility of each district. He noted that the TEAM program is new, so he receives changes and updates from the state frequently. He noted that this is a legislative mandate, not a State level mandate.

Mr. Bednarz reported that the district now has to have a three-year plan for TEAM. He noted that the template was provided by the State and that a committee consisting of himself, Sandi Bidwell, Kathy Witkowski, Donna Bourque, and Cathlin Palmer worked very hard to create the three-year plan.

Mr. Bednarz reviewed portions of the three year plan, as follows:

- The TEAM Job Description and stipend
- The resources needed for the program and budget
- Training required to become a mentor
- Principals will be more involved in the professional development plan of each beginning teacher

He stated that the district is required to submit a plan to the State by June 1, 2010.

Mr. Szymanski asked what the cost to the district will be. Mr. Bednarz said that there isn't a cost associated with having EASTCONN score our portfolios because each mentor teacher will be scoring two portfolios from other districts. He said that the "cost" will most likely be in using existing resources. Dr. Fishman said that even though BEST wasn't in place, the district was still providing new teachers with mentors.

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Mrs. Bradway asked a question about how many mentors the district will need.

Mrs. Rummel asked when the Board could expect an update. Mr. Bednarz said that he would report back, but he'd have to get back to the Board with a date.

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, that the Board of Education approve the three-year TEAM plan for 2011-2014, as presented. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried.

B. <u>Review and Possible Approval of the Visual Arts Curriculum</u>

Dr. Fishman introduced the art teachers who were in attendance at the meeting- Mrs. Liz Vannelli, Mrs. Dee Paradis and Mrs. Tannis Longmore. She then introduced Mr. Bednarz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

Mr. Bednarz noted that Mrs. Fischetti, the art teacher at the high school, was attending another professional development opportunity, which was planned before the presentation of the curriculum. He stated that revising curriculum is a two-year process. He thanked the art teachers for their hard work and complimented them on a well-prepared revision of the curriculum.

Mr. Bednarz highlighted enhancements to the proposed curriculum, as follows:

- Utilized the CT Standards for Visual Arts and the CT Pre-School Framework
- Essential questions for each unit
- Scope and sequence has been revised
- Matrix of all of the units of study by grade
- Technology-rich

Mr. Bednarz asked the Board members if they had any questions. Mrs. Bradway asked if the art teachers included the other teachers in the creation of the art curriculum. Mrs. Paradis stated that she does work with other teachers to incorporate other subjects into her projects.

This item was tabled until the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

C. <u>Review and Possible Approval of the Memo of Understanding on Connecticut's Race to the Top Application</u>

Dr. Fishman stated that Connecticut, as well as all the other states, applied for federal Race to the Top funding in late winter. Only two states, Tennessee and Delaware, received the federal funding.

Dr. Fishman reviewed each of the four goals addressed in Connecticut's Race to the Top grant application and discussed what each would mean for the district. The four goals are Standards and Assessments, Data Systems to Support Instruction, Great Teachers and Leaders and Turning Around the Lowest Achieving Schools. Dr. Fishman stated that since the district will have to comply with the initiatives whether or not the district signs the memorandum of understanding, she recommends that the district signs on and benefits from the grant funds, if the State wins the grant.

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mr. Szymanski, that the Board of Education participate in Connecticut's Race to the Top application. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried.

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, that the Board of Education authorize Mr. Mark Fontanella, Chair of the Board of Education, to sign the memo of understanding on behalf of the Stafford Board of Education. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried.

Item X. Personnel Matters

A. Resignation- Administrative Staff Member

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, that the Board of Education accept the resignation of the following staff member:

NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	EFFECTIVE DATE	REASON
Lefebvre, Daniel	Director of Pupil Services	District-wide	6/30/10	Personal.

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

Item XI. Student Matters

There were no Student Matters.

Item XII. Adjournment

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, to adjourn. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Marinelli, Recording Secretary

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Mark Fontanella, Chairperson

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Sandra Fowler, Secretary

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