

Board of Education Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, June 21, 2010, 7:00 PM
Pinney Administration Building

- I. Call to Order- Establishment of Quorum
- II. Secretary's Report- Approval of Minutes
 - A. Regular Meeting- 6/7/10
- III. Treasurer's Report
 - A. June 8, 2010- \$312,042.99
- IV. Correspondence
- V. Board Reports
- VI. Superintendent Reports
 - A. Technology Plan and Technology Presentation
 - B. Summer Reading Program
 - C. Head Start Report through May 31, 2010
 - D. Cafeteria Profit and Loss through May 2010
 - E. Witt School Project Update and Investigation of Alternative High School Program
 - F. 2010 - 2011 Budget Update and Cuts (including sports)
- VII. Public Forum
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
 - A. Review and Possible Approval of Algebra I Textbook
 - B. Review and Possible Approval of an Ice Hockey Co-op
- X. Personnel Matters
 - A. Appointments- Certified Staff Members
 - B. Rescind Non-Renewals (Executive Session Anticipated)
- XI. Student Matters

**Regular Meeting
Stafford Board of Education
Stafford Elementary School
Monday, June 7, 2010**

Board Members Present: Mrs. Lisa Bradway
Mrs. Lisa Finch
Mrs. Sandy Fowler, Secretary
Ms. Beth Ann Morhardt
Mrs. Tracy Rummel
Mr. Stephen Szymanski

Absent: Mr. Mark Fontanella, Chairperson

Also Present: Dr. Thérèse G. Fishman, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Robert Campbell, Assistant Principal, Stafford High School
Mrs. Meg Devlin, Financial Analyst
Mr. Francis Kennedy, Principal, Stafford High School
Dr. David Mordasky, Vocational Agriculture Consulting Committee Rep.
Mr. Thomas Szymanski, Student Representative
Mrs. Gail Tishler, Guidance Counselor, Stafford Middle School

Item I. Call to Order- Establishment of Quorum

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was established. Mrs. Fowler ran the meeting in Mr. Fontanella's absence.

Item II. Secretary's Report- Approval of Minutes

Special Meeting, May 24, 2010
Regular Meeting, May 24, 2010

A consensus of the Board approved the Secretary's Report for the special and regular meetings held on May 24, 2010, as presented.

Item III. Treasurer's Report

Board Bills and Grants:

May 24, 2010- \$34,715.73 (Grant)
May 26, 2010- \$123,512.55
June 2, 2010- \$69,579.22

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

Item IV. Correspondence

Mrs. Fowler read the highlights from a letter that Mr. Dunn sent to the Board thanking them for the retirement bell.

Mrs. Fowler read the highlights from a letter from Commissioner McQuillan thanking the district for their participation in Connecticut's Race to the Top application.

Item V. Board Reports

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

- ✓ The last day of school is Monday, June 14, 2010
- ✓ A Sports Update- The Spring Sports Awards will be held on Wednesday, June 9, 2010
- ✓ Graduation will be held on Wednesday, June 16, 2010
- ✓ The final exam schedule

Dr. Fishman and Mrs. Fowler reminded the audience that the budget referendum would be held on Wednesday, June 9, 2010, from 6 a.m. – 8 p.m., at the Stafford Public Library.

Item VI. Superintendent's Reports

A. Presentation of Graduating Seniors- Rockville Vocational Agriculture Program

Dr. Fishman introduced Dr. David Mordasky, one of two representatives on the Vocational Agriculture Consulting Committee, who was present at the meeting to introduce the graduating seniors from the Rockville High School Vocational Agriculture Program. Mrs. Tishler, Guidance Counselor at Stafford Middle School, was also present at the meeting to speak about the students.

Dr. Mordasky gave the Board a brief overview of the rigorous program at the Rockville High School Vocational Agriculture Program. He stated that three of the four graduating seniors were present at the meeting.

Mrs. Tishler introduced the three seniors that were present- Chelsea Barnett, Chon Leng Lo and Benjamin Mclean. She said that these students were an excellent representative of Stafford Middle School. Each student spoke of his / her plans for the future. Dr. Mordasky presented each student with a certificate.

B. Spring Sports Presentations

Mr. Damian Frassinelli, Director of Athletics and Recreation, was unable to attend the meeting to introduce the spring sports team coaches, team captains and players that were present at the Board meeting. Coach Scott Martin did so in his absence. Coach Martin and Coach Dunn also thanked the Board, the Administrators and the Athletic Director for their support.

Each team gave a brief overview of their season. The following is a list of coaches, team captains and players that were present:

Coach Dunn– indoor track; Coach Budaj and Jody Buckley, Katie Trinique and Samantha Parlapiano- girls' softball; Coach Shearer and Tyler Blanchard, Stefanie Szepanski and Beau Weed- golf; and Coach Martin and Matthew McCloskey and Michael Cormier- baseball.

The Board took a brief recess at 7:30 p.m., for refreshments. The meeting was called to order at 7:50 p.m.

C. Financial Report through May 31, 2010

Dr. Fishman presented the financial report through May 31, 2010. She noted that the deficit this month is \$145,211, which is a slight decrease since the last report, but includes a credit of \$191,000 in just received one-time-only additional Excess Cost Funds. Dr. Fishman reported that several of the factors that contributed to this deficit are tutoring costs, out-placed student tuition and transportation.

Mr. Szymanski asked if the salaries line already includes encumbrances for the retro-active pay owed to the non-certified staff. Mrs. Devlin stated that it does include the encumbrances, but that the overage in the account could easily disappear due to the cost of substitutes, tutors and the teachers for the IEA program.

Dr. Fishman stated that the Board would receive a final report in July or August.

D. Planning Process Update for Alternative School

Dr. Fishman stated that at the December 8, 2008, Board of Education meeting, Board members approved a pilot program for credit retrieval involving intensive tutoring aimed at those high school students who were repeating freshman or sophomore year with few credits. She noted that after about six months of running the program, they found a model that was very successful and that twelve students currently enrolled have gained sufficient credits to move to the next grade level. However, she said that there are other students who need small group, hands-on, project-based instruction who, she feels, would be more successful in an alternative school. She noted that there would be a cost associated with the program, as it would require two teachers and one paraprofessional.

Mr. Kennedy, Principal of Stafford High School, stated that the high school already has in place many programs to help students achieve, which he has presented before this Board in the past. He also noted that as part of high school reform, the State has said that it is acceptable if students take five years to finish high school, but the same group has also stated that any student that doesn't graduate in four years will be considered a drop-out. Mr. Kennedy reported that the alternative program being presented to the Board would engage and reach students that don't fit the typical high school learning model (approximately 18 students out of 500, at this time). He noted that classes, such as gym, would be provided at the high school and that co-curricular activities at the high school would be available to these students.

Mr. Campbell, Assistant Principal of Stafford High School, stated that he has visited two very successful alternative school programs and shared with the Board what worked in those two programs and what didn't.

Ms. Morhardt asked about social worker / guidance components and if they would be provided by the current high school staff. She also noted that she would continue to attend any future

meetings with the Superintendent and report back to the Board, as long as her schedule allows.

Mrs. Finch stated that she has huge concerns about the cost of the entire project. She also asked if the identified students could attend the high school in a group. Mr. Campbell stated that on-campus programs don't work. The students need a different learning environment.

Mrs. Fowler said that she is concerned about the cost of things that weren't considered, such as equipment and curriculum writing. She also thinks that the program is expensive for 18 students, and that it would be at the expense of the other students. She said that she thinks that it would be more effective to identify twenty-first century skills, write them into the curriculum and serve those students within the high school, which would benefit more students. She said that she would like the Board to compile a list of questions for the administration to research.

Mrs. Rummel said that she doesn't feel that the Board is in a position to make a commitment quickly. She said that looking at the financial implications of this type of school and creating and approving an acceptable program and curriculum takes time.

Mr. Szymanski stated that the Board needs time to work through this process deliberately. He said that the Selectmen need to work with the Board of Education on a timeline that works for both sides if they are looking for reimbursement for the project from the School Facilities Unit. Mr. Szymanski asked the Superintendent to get that message back to the Selectmen. He said that the Board wants to be collaborative, but not at the cost of rushing a decision on this type of program.

Dr. Fishman suggested that she work with the administrators to develop a list of questions for the Board to react to and present them at the June 21 Board meeting. The Board agreed.

Item VII. Public Forum

A member of the audience had a question about the alternative school proposal.

Item VIII. Old Business

There was no Old Business.

Item IX. New Business

A. Review and Possible Approval of Stafford High School Proposal for a Trip to France and Switzerland

Dr. Fishman stated that Ms. Deb Bileca, Chair of the Stafford World Language Department, and Mr. Kennedy, Principal of Stafford High School, submitted a proposal for a 14 day trip to France and Switzerland, from June 28, 2011 through July 11, 2011. While in France, students will visit Nice, Monaco, Eze, Paris, Normandy, Mont St. Michel, and St. Malo. In Switzerland, students will visit Lausanne, the Chateau de Chillon in Montreaux, and Montreaux itself, as well as Zurich. Dr. Fishman noted that the cost of the trip is \$3,800 per student, if they reach

the target number of 25 participants. Dr. Fishman said that although the cost of the trip is high, there is still interest among parents and students.

Ms. Bileca was present at the Board meeting to speak to the Board about the trip and answer questions from Board members. She said that she is aware that the cost is high and will be working to minimize cost, while still providing a wonderful trip and educational opportunity.

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, that the Board of Education approve a trip to France, and possibly Switzerland, for Stafford High School students for June 28, 2011 through July 11 or 13, 2011. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Ms. Morhardt, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried.

Item X. Personnel Matters

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Ms. Morhardt, that the following candidates for teaching positions be appointed, as follows:

NAME	CERTIFICATION AREA	SCHOOL/ ASSIGNMENT	REPLACING/ NEW	SALARY	EFFECTIVE DATE
Pasquarelli, Sabrina	Special Education, PK-12 (065), Remedial Reading / Language Arts, 1-12 (102)	Staffordville School / St. Edward School / Remedial Reading	Theresa O'Brien (.50) / New (.30)	\$50,591 (Sixth Year, Step 10, .80 FTE)	8/25/10
Peets, Thomas	Special Education, K-12 (165), History and Social Studies, 7-12 (026), Elementary, K-6 (013)	Stafford Elementary School / Special Education	Jackie Hethcoat	\$55,505 (Sixth Year, Step 7)	8/25/10

Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Ms. Morhardt, 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 Ms. Morhardt, to adjourn. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Ms. Morhardt, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Marinelli, Recording Secretary

Mark Fontanella, Chairperson

Sandra Fowler, Secretary