

Board of Education Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, October 25, 2010, 7:00 PM
Pinney Administration Building

- I. Call to Order- Establishment of Quorum
- II. Secretary's Report- Approval of Minutes
 - A. Regular Meeting Minutes- 10/4/10 2
 - B. Special Meeting- 10/14/10 7
- III. Treasurer's Report
 - A. Bills- 10/6/10, \$126,034.95
 - B. Grants- 10/13/10, \$1,092.68
 - C. Bills- 10/13/10, \$81,407.41
 - D. Bills- 10/14/10, \$38,346.93
 - E. Bills- 10/20/10, \$158,812.54
- IV. Correspondence
- V. Board Reports
- VI. Superintendent Reports
 - A. ERASE Survey Results
Bonnie Smith, ERASE
 - B. Head Start Report through September 30, 2010
 - C. Official Enrollment Report- 10/1/10
 - D. Honor Roll Criteria- High School and Middle School
 - E. Cafeteria Profit and Loss through September 2010
 - F. Discussion Regarding Draft 2011 - 2012 School Calendar Survey
- VII. Public Forum
- VIII. Old Business
 - A. Update on Parent Plans to Fundraise to Provide Boys and Girls Basketball at Stafford Middle School
- IX. New Business
 - A. Update and Possible Action on Proposal from Stafford Energy Committee
- X. Personnel Matters
 - A. Evaluation of Superintendent of Schools (Executive Session Anticipated)
- XI. Student Matters
 - A. Consideration of Superintendent of Schools' Recommendation for Early Readmission of Student F (09-10) to Stafford High School (Executive Session Anticipated)

**Regular Meeting
Stafford Board of Education
Pinney Administration Building
Monday, October 4, 2010**

Board Members Present: Mr. Mark Fontanella, Chairperson
Mrs. Sandy Fowler, Secretary
Mrs. Tracy Rummel
Mr. Stephen Szymanski

Absent: Mrs. Lisa Bradway
Mrs. Lisa Finch
Ms. Beth Ann Morhardt

Also Present: Dr. Thérèse G. Fishman, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Meg Devlin, Financial Analyst
Mr. Damian Frassinelli, Director of Athletics and Recreation
Dr. Neil Hoss, Parent
Mrs. Dana Hurley, Teacher, Stafford High School
Mrs. Amy Stevenson, Director of Pupil Services

Item I. Call to Order- Establishment of Quorum

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. A quorum was established.

Item II. Secretary's Report- Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting, September 27, 2010

A consensus of the Board approved the Secretary's Report for the regular meeting held on September 27, 2010, as presented.

Item III. Treasurer's Report

Bills- 9/23/10, \$208,755.25
Bills- 9/28/10, \$266,491.06
Grants- 9/28/10, \$11,422.79

A consensus of the Board approved the Board Bills and Grants, as presented.

Item IV. Correspondence

There was no Correspondence.

Item V. Board Reports

There were no Board Reports.

Item VI. Superintendent's Reports

A. Discussion of Boys and Girls Basketball at Stafford Middle School

Dr. Fishman gave the background regarding how the middle school athletic program was cut during the budget process in the spring.

Mr. Frassinelli, Director of Athletics and Recreation, stated that Dr. Hoss came to him with a plan for parents to fundraise the \$8,000 needed to reinstate the boys and girls basketball teams at the middle school level. Mr. Frassinelli stated that he informed Dr. Hoss that if this plan went forward, the money would have to be donated to Stafford Public Schools and would be overseen by the district, in the same manner that other sports budgets were managed. Additionally, he informed Dr. Hoss that both the boys and girls teams would have to be supported by the fundraising.

Dr. Hoss stated that he has taken over as the director of the Recreational Basketball Program in Stafford. He was very concerned when he heard that middle school basketball was cut during the budget process last spring. After speaking with parents, he contacted Mr. Frassinelli about fundraising to reinstate the teams. Dr. Hoss said that he was coming before the Board to see if they will support his efforts. He said that he already knows the amount that is needed, but needs to have some kind of a timeline for when the district would need the money. Dr. Hoss stated that he understands that if this plan doesn't work, there is a good intramural plan in place for students.

Mrs. Fowler expressed concerns about allowing parents to fundraise to reinstate a program that the Board cut from the budget. She said that she is worried that this may be viewed as "exclusive" and that there could be some community fallout from this type of plan. She also asked what would happen with the intramural team that was discussed, as she liked that plan very much. Mr. Frassinelli stated that if the basketball teams were reinstated at the middle school, the intramural sports would not be run in the winter, only in the spring.

Mr. Szymanski stated that he does not have a problem with this plan, as it is very similar to the fundraising that the boosters do. He also stated that the Board should look at this as a challenge to get that \$8,000 back in the budget next year for middle school basketball so that these teams do not become fundraiser-driven.

Mrs. Rummel said that she feels that if parents are willing to fundraise to reinstate this sport, she will support the plan.

Dr. Hoss clarified that he was coming before the Board to be sure that they were willing to support his efforts to pursue this further.

The Board agreed to add this item to New Business so that they could take action on it.

B. Presentation on the Stafford Transition Program

Dr. Fishman informed the Board that Mrs. Dana Hurley, special education teacher at Stafford High School, developed the Stafford High School Transition Program. She introduced Mrs. Stevenson, Director of Pupil Services, and Mrs. Dana Hurley.

Mrs. Stevenson stated that this program is for special needs students 18-21 who have met all of the requirements at the high school, but who need more support to transition to the real world. They receive help with workplace and social skills. Mrs. Stevenson informed the Board that more and more districts have in-house transition programs, and that she has been observing their programs and inviting other districts to visit our program. She said that our program is structured with a class at the beginning of the day, taught by Mrs. Hurley, and then the students continue the day in the work-study program.

Mrs. Stevenson introduced Mrs. Dana Hurley. Mrs. Hurley informed the Board that community support for this program has been amazing. She said that there are seven students in the program, ranging in age from 18 – 20 and that the program has been very successful so far this year. She said that the students are responding very well to the new program and seem to enjoy it very much.

Mrs. Fowler asked what the cost savings is for having this program in-house. Mrs. Devlin stated that it is a substantial savings versus using Project Genesis, but that she didn't have the exact numbers. Mrs. Stevenson said that in addition to the cost savings, the students feel better staying within the community to work. She also noted that Mrs. Hurley lives in town, so she is very familiar with the community.

C. Financial Report through September 30, 2010

Dr. Fishman presented the financial report through September 30, 2010, as prepared by Mrs. Meg Devlin, Financial Analyst. She stated that, to date, we have expended / encumbered \$7,053,866, or 28% of the 2010 – 2011 budget. She noted that not all of the funds have been encumbered yet, but that Mrs. Devlin will be working on the encumbrances over the next few months.

A Board member had a question regarding the price for heating oil and fuel for this year. Mrs. Devlin said that the district was able to lock in at a price that was lower than was budgeted for.

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Fowler to add Item VI.D.- Stafford High School Class of 2010 SAT Comparison with DRG. Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel, and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried.

D. Stafford High School Class of 2010 SAT Comparison with DRG

Dr. Fishman presented the Board members with a packet of information regarding the Stafford High School Class of 2010 SAT results, as compared with the DRG. She explained that this information was only recently sent to the district, which is why the report was not included during the SAT presentation at the last Board meeting.

Dr. Fishman reported that Stafford exceeded all schools in DRG F on SAT performance, except for the math test, where the district tied Montville (score of 510) and was exceeded by Fermi High School (score of 511). She noted that while the district is always striving to improve scores, it is important to note how well Stafford's students are performing in comparison with students in the same socioeconomic group. She said that this is most important for the SAT results, as this standardized test is the most strongly tied to socioeconomic status.

Item VII. Public Forum

There were no questions or comments from the public.

Item VIII. Old Business

There was no Old Business.

Item IX. New Business

A. Discussion of Boys and Girls Basketball at Stafford Middle School

Mr. Szymanski made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fontanella, to allow Dr. Hoss, in communication with Mr. Frassinelli, to pursue fundraising possibilities to reinstate middle school basketball, with an update at the October 25, 2010, Board meeting. Mr. Fontanella, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried.

Item X. Personnel Matters

There were no Personnel Matters.

Mrs. Fowler made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, to place **Item XI.A- Review and Possible Approval of Superintendent of School's Recommendation for Early Readmission of Student G (09-10) (Executive Session Anticipated)** into executive session. Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried.

The Board took a brief recess at 8:06 p.m. The meeting was called to order at 8:12 p.m.

Mrs. Fowler made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, to enter executive session. Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. Dr. Fishman, Mrs. Marinelli, Student G, the mother and step-father of Student G, and Student G's brother were invited to attend executive session. The Board entered executive session at 8:13 p.m.

At approximately 8:25 p.m., all invited guests left the boardroom so that the Board could deliberate.

At approximately 8:35 p.m., all invited guests returned to the boardroom.

Mrs. Fowler made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, to return to regular session. Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The Board returned to regular session at 8:36 p.m.

Item XI. Student Matters**A. Review and Possible Approval of Superintendent of School's Recommendation for Early Readmission of Student G (09-10) (Executive Session Anticipated)**

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Fowler, that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of School's recommendation for early readmission of Student G (09-10) to Stafford High School, effective November 8, 2010. Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried.

The Board reminded Student G that Student G will be on probationary status for the duration of the original expulsion period and must abide by the Board's policies and disciplinary guidelines. If Student G violates these conditions of probation, then the full period of the original expulsion shall be automatically reinstated.

Item XII. Adjournment

Mrs. Fowler made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, to adjourn. Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Marinelli, Recording Secretary

Mark Fontanella, Chairperson

Sandra Fowler, Secretary

**Special Meeting
Stafford Board of Education
Stafford High School Conference Room
Thursday, October 14, 2010**

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

Absent: Ms. Beth Ann Morhardt

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:55 p.m. A quorum was established.

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, to enter executive session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The Board entered executive session at 6:57 p.m.

2. Discussion of Superintendent of Schools' Evaluation

Mrs. Bradway made a motion, seconded by Mr. Szymanski, to return to regular session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The Board returned to regular session at 8:59 p.m.

3. Adjournment

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Fowler, Recording Secretary

Mark Fontanella, Chairperson

Sandra Fowler, Secretary