

Board of Education Special Meeting
Monday, April 12, 2010 7:00 PM Eastern

Stafford Elementary School
16 Levinthal Run
Stafford Springs, CT 06076

I.	Call to Order- Establishment of Quorum
II.	Secretary's Report- Approval of Minutes
II.A.	Regular Meeting, March 22, 2010
III.	Treasurer's Report
III.A.	March 24, 2010- \$160,008.53
III.B.	March 31, 2010- \$154,510.56
IV.	Correspondence
IV.A.	EASTCONN Update
V.	Board Reports
VI.	Superintendent Reports
VI.A.	Update on High School Assembly Against Racism and Outcomes of Parent and Community Discussion on Diversity
VI.B.	Head Start Report through March 2010
VII.	Public Forum
VIII.	Old Business
IX.	New Business
IX.A.	Review and Approval of Cuts to the 2010 – 2011 Board of Education Budget in Accordance with Directive from Board of Finance
X.	Personnel Matters
X.A.	Update on CSEA Contract Negotiations (Executive Session Anticipated)
X.B.	Attorney-Client Privileged Communication (Executive Session Anticipated)
XI.	Student Matters

**Regular Meeting
Stafford Board of Education
Stafford Elementary School
Monday, March 22, 2010**

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

Also Present: Dr. Thérèse G. Fishman, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. David Bartlett, Principal, Staffordville School
Mr. Michael Bednarz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Mrs. Meg Devlin, Financial Analyst
Mrs. Laurie Dillon, Teacher, Stafford High School
Dr. Marcia Elliott, Principal, West Stafford School
Mr. Damian Frassinelli, Director of Athletics and Recreation
Mr. Francis Kennedy, Principal, Stafford High 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 7:03 p.m. A quorum was established.

Item II. Secretary's Report- Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting, March 8, 2010
Special Meeting, March 9, 2010

A consensus of the Board approved the Secretary's Reports for the regular meeting held on March 8, 2010, and the special meeting held on March 9, 2010, as presented.

Item III. Treasurer's Report

Board Bills and Grants:

March 16, 2010- \$123,324.91
March 18, 2010- \$102,611.90 (Grants)

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

Item IV. Correspondence

Mr. Fontanella read an invitation that Mrs. Rummel requested be shared with the Board. It was an invitation to the Northeast Connecticut Summit on Regional Collaboration II, which will be held on April 1, 2010, at EASTCONN. Dr. Fishman and Mrs. Rummel said that they will be

attending. Mrs. Bradway was unable to attend because she will be attending the School Board Leadership through Effective Policy workshop on the same date at CABE.

Mrs. Bradway read an invitation that was sent to all of the Board members from Mrs. Amy Losee, grade four teacher at Stafford Elementary School, to an art production at the Board Office on Tuesday, March 23, 2010.

Item V. Board Reports

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

- ✓ The District Concert, which is scheduled for March 30, with a snow date of March 31
- ✓ An Update on Spring Sports at the High School and the Sports Banquet
- ✓ A Music Update
- ✓ March Madness on 3/26/10
- ✓ The Blood Drive at SHS on March 25

Item VI. Superintendent's Reports

A. Winter Sports Presentation

Mr. Damian Frassinelli, Director of Athletics and Recreation, introduced the winter sports team coaches, team captains and players that were present at the Board meeting.

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, Damon Rummel and Jody Buckley, team captains– indoor track; Coach Ahmadi and Tucker Fontanella- wrestling; and Coach Morhardt, Beau Weed and Tyler Murray– basketball.

Mr. Fontanella thanked the coaches and players for taking the time to attend the meeting.

B. Board of Education Appreciation

Dr. Fishman stated that March is Board of Education appreciation month, and she thanked the Board of Education for their service to the district. Mrs. Dillon and students from the music department gave an overview of the different facets of the program, and then the students performed for the Board. Dr. Fishman presented each of the Board members with a collage of photos taken at each school.

The Board took a brief recess at 7:41 p.m. to enjoy refreshments, some of which were prepared by students at the middle school. The meeting reconvened at approximately 7:57 p.m.

C. Update on Student Transportation Services Bid

Dr. Fishman stated that the district will be going out to bid for student transportation services. She said that the bid process will close on March 30, 2010. Mr. Fontanella, Mrs. Bradway and Mrs. Finch offered to serve on the committee that will review the bids.

D. Cafeteria Profit and Loss Statement through February 2010

Dr. Fishman presented the cafeteria profit and loss statement through February 2010, as prepared by Mrs. Mary Folker, Food Services Coordinator, and reviewed by Mrs. Susan Linder, Director of Building Services, and Mrs. Meg Devlin, Financial Analyst. She said that it still shows a healthy year-to-date profit of \$11,000 through the end of February. However, she noted that there was a loss of \$6,018 in February due to the increased cost of propane and a change in an employee's health insurance coverage. She said that employees can change from not taking insurance to taking insurance during the school year because of a "qualifying event".

E. Financial Report

Dr. Fishman said that this month's report isn't nearly as good as it was last month, which shows how much the financial report can fluctuate. She noted that the deficit this month is \$159,725, which is an increase of \$99,167 since the last report. Dr. Fishman reported that several of the factors that contributed to this deficit are the outplacement of a special education student and the addition of paraprofessional support for two other special education students who have just moved into Stafford, which totals \$81,350. Additionally, legal fees have needed an adjustment (\$13,500) as the district has had to rely more heavily on legal counsel for expulsion hearings and contract negotiations. Lastly, she said that our Workers' Compensation annual audit resulted in an invoice in the amount of \$7,826.

Dr. Fishman said that all purchasing will continue to be monitored, but that a single outplacement tuition can make a large difference in the bottom line.

Item VII. Public Forum

A member of the audience had a question about seat belts and the upcoming bus contract negotiation. Dr. Fishman said that she will need to see what the legislature decides regarding this matter, as the district's current bid specifications do not include seat belts.

Item VIII. Old Business

There was no Old Business.

Item IX. New Business

A. High School Parking Fee

Dr. Fishman stated that currently the high school has a parking fee of \$100 per year and accompanying regulatory guidelines, which were approved by the Board of Education on July

19, 2004. She noted that when the Board approved the parking fee and regulations, a pro-rated parking fee for students applying for a space later in the school year was rejected.

Mr. Kennedy, Principal of Stafford High School, said that originally there were only enough parking spaces for seniors. Therefore, nearly all of the slots were purchased in August, so there was less of a need for a pro-rated fee. However, the expanded number of parking spaces (after the renovation of the high school) have allowed him to offer parking permits to all eligible students at the high school, rather than just seniors, which means that younger students may not be eligible until mid-way through a school year. Mr. Kennedy also said that offering a pro-rated fee would most likely increase revenue, as parents of juniors that might make their child wait until senior year to get a full year's parking for the \$100 fee, may now apply early.

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, that the Board of Education approve pro-rating the annual Stafford High School student parking fee to the cost of \$50, beginning with the first day of the second semester of the school year, beginning with the 2010 – 2011 school year. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried.

Mrs. Fowler made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, to place **Item X.A.- Recommendation of Superintendent of Schools Concerning Teacher Non-Renewals Pursuant to CGS Section 10-151 (Executive Session Anticipated)** and **Item X.B.- Update on CSEA Contract Negotiations (Executive Session Anticipated)**, into executive session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried.

There was a brief recess at 8:15 p.m.

Mrs. Bradway made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, 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 8:27 p.m.

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Fowler, 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 9:18 p.m.

Item X. Personnel Matters

A. Recommendation of Superintendent of Schools Concerning Teacher Non-Renewals Pursuant to CGS Section 10-151 (Executive Session Anticipated)

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151, the Stafford Board of Education non-renew the teacher contracts of Corrina Boldi, Nora Claus, Katherine Cohen, Jennifer Ledbetter, Sonia Michel, Melanie Morrill and Sarah Myles, at the end of the 2009 – 2010 school year. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried.

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mr. Szymanski, that the Stafford Board of Education direct the Superintendent of Schools to communicate this action of the Board in writing to each

of the above named teachers and that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board of Education to any requests for a hearing, if required by law, or for other data which may be forthcoming from the teacher and/or his/her representative pursuant to applicable provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151; and that the Superintendent of Schools be directed that any response to a request for a hearing, and, if a hearing is required by law, indicate that such hearing is to be before the Board of Education. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried.

B. Update on CSEA Contract Negotiations (Executive Session Anticipated)

There was no Board action on this item.

Item XI. Student Matters

There were no Student Matters.

Item XII. Adjournment

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mr. Szymanski, to adjourn. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Marinelli, Recording Secretary

Mark Fontanella, Chairperson

Sandra Fowler, Secretary