

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, April 26, 2010 7:00 PM Eastern

Stafford Elementary School Cafetorium
16 Levinthal Run
Stafford Springs, CT 06076

- I. Call to Order- Establishment of Quorum
- II. Secretary's Report- Approval of Minutes
 - II.A. Special Meeting Minutes- 4/12/10
- III. Treasurer's Report
 - III.A. Board Bills, 4/5/10- \$2,371.89
 - III.B. Board Grants, 4/5/10- \$1,561.37
 - III.C. Board Bills, 4/22/10- \$300,940.96
- IV. Correspondence
 - IV.A. Letter from a Staff Member
- V. Board Reports
- VI. Superintendent Reports
 - VI.A. Recognition of Student Artists
 - VI.B. Volunteer Appreciation
 - VI.C. Review of State Department of Education Report and Recommendations- Stafford High School
 - VI.D. Cafeteria Profit and Loss Statement through March 2010
 - VI.E. Financial Report through March 2010
 - VI.F. Update on Internet Safety Program
- VII. Public Forum
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
 - IX.A. Obsolete Equipment- Computers
 - IX.B. Review and Possible Approval of the Healthy Food Certification Statement 2010 - 2011
 - IX.C. Interview Candidate for Vacancy on the Board of Education (Executive Session Anticipated)
- X. Personnel Matters
- XI. Student Matters

**Special Meeting
Stafford Board of Education
Stafford Elementary School
Monday, April 12, 2010**

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

Absent: Mrs. Sandy Fowler, Secretary
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
Mr. Damian Frassinelli, Director of Athletics and Recreation
Mr. Francis Kennedy, Principal, Stafford High School
Dr. Daniel Lefebvre, Director of Pupil Services
Mr. Marco Pelliccia, Assistant Principal, Stafford Middle School
Mr. Hank Skala, Principal, Stafford Elementary School
Mr. Thomas Szymanski, Student Representative

Item I. Call to Order- Establishment of Quorum

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. A quorum was established.

Item II. Secretary's Report- Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting, March 22, 2010

A consensus of the Board approved the Secretary's Report for the regular meeting held on March 22, 2010, as presented.

Item III. Treasurer's Report

Board Bills and Grants:

March 24, 2010- \$160,008.53
March 31, 2010- \$154,510.56

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

Item IV. Correspondence

Mrs. Rummel reviewed the EASTCONN report that was sent to the Board members.

Item V. Board Reports

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

- ✓ A Music Update
- ✓ A Sports Update
- ✓ The drama club will be presenting *Beauty and the Beast*, on 4/30, 5/1 and 5/2. Tickets are on sale now at the high school.
- ✓ The French trip to Canada
- ✓ Report cards would be distributed on Friday, 4/16

Mrs. Rummel asked Mr. Tom Szymanski to obtain a report on the percentage of high school students making honors and high honors.

Mrs. Finch stated that she is working on the Internet Safety Committee with Mr. Bednarz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, which was created to find ways to involve parents in internet safety. Mr. Bednarz reported that by the end of the week, an on-line curriculum will be posted on the district and school web sites for parents to access. He said that on June 10, he has a parent forum scheduled regarding internet safety. He said that he would be raffling off a netbook at the forum, which he hopes will increase participation.

Dr. Fishman reported that Sarah Davis, an eighth grader at Stafford Middle School, is one of ten students that won the State Laws of Life essay contest. She said that this is the third time that SMS has had a state finalist.

Dr. Fishman also reported that on April 3 there was a jamboree baseball scrimmage scheduled to take place in Stafford, which was immediately following the very heavy rains that Stafford experienced. She said that the First Selectman and many others from the town helped to make sure the fields were ready. Mr. Fontanella said that the town and Mr. Frassinelli did a great job, and he hopes to host the jamboree in Stafford again next year.

Mrs. Bradway stated that on March 26 she participated in the March Madness music boosters fundraiser, which was very well attended. She also noted that she attended the District Concert and the Stand Against Racism assembly at the high school. On April 1, Mrs. Bradway attended a CAFE workshop on policy development and on April 6 she attended the Dropout Prevention Committee meeting, which generated some good ideas. Lastly, Mrs. Bradway attended the Parent and Community Forum that was lead by a presenter from the Anti-Defamation League. She said that the forum was very well attended, that the presenter was very good, and that good ideas to increase tolerance were discussed.

Item VI. Superintendent's Reports

A. Update on High School Assembly Against Racism and Outcomes of Parent and Community Discussion on Diversity

Dr. Fishman stated that on Wednesday, March 31, 2010, an afternoon assembly was held at Stafford High School, on the topic of "Stand Against Racism". She noted that Mr. Kennedy began the assembly by speaking of the need to create a "zone of absolute respect" at the high school.

Dr. Fishman said that Mr. Kennedy presented a panel of speakers that had been put together by Mr. David Walsh, Professor Emeritus of Social Studies at Southern Connecticut State University. She said that the first speaker was Mr. Mathew Gedansky, State's Attorney for the Judicial District of Tolland, who spoke of the various statutes with punishments as severe as 20 year prison terms covering race related crimes. The next speaker was the Honorable Gary Holder-Winfield, State Representative, 94th District. Mr. Holder-Winfield spoke of demographic changes in America and stated that racial intolerance isn't exclusive to white people and that all Americans have to work on improving tolerance, since "There are certain rules, certain norms that all of us have bought into." Captain Kristina Garuti, who was appointed in 2007 as the State Equal Opportunity Employment Manager of the Connecticut Army and Air National Guard, spoke of the need for all of the armed forces to work together on the mission of defending America's freedoms for all. She spoke of the armed forces' recognition of the priority of having all members of the military united on the same page and the same mission, and the corresponding investment of time by the armed forces in ongoing training in diversity. Mr. Dane Brenner, Assistant Men's Soccer Coach at the University of Connecticut, explained that the strength of UConn's national award winning soccer team is its diversity. Each year, the team is made up of players from all over the world. He said the team's motto is, "Our family versus their team." He further stated that reaching this goal each year with a new group of students is hard work, but "We keep at it because we see the value in it." Dr. Fishman felt that Mr. Brenner had the biggest impact on the students. Lastly, David Walsh spoke of deconstructing the myth of race. Mr. Walsh stated that "The haters want us to believe that 40 million African-Americans are all the same, or 44 million Hispanics are all the same, or 13.5 million Asian-Americans are all the same, or 2.5 million Native Americans are all the same. They are not. They can't be so easily grouped, just as White Americans can't be easily grouped. We are all unique and should celebrate our uniqueness."

Mr. Kennedy stated that he thought that the assembly went well. He also noted that students returned to their small-group homerooms to further discuss what was covered during the assembly. Mr. Kennedy stated that Stand Against Racism would be a month-long process, culminating on April 30 with the program from the YMCA.

Dr. Fishman stated that on Thursday, April 8, 2010, at 7 p.m., the high school hosted a parent and community forum on next steps that can be taken to address diversity issues in the schools, the home, and the community, which was led by Ms. Michelle Pincince, from the Anti-Defamation League. She said that about 50 people attended, including Senator Guglielmo and each of the three Selectmen, as well as a good representation of parents from all grade levels and several community members. Ms. Pincince gave an overview of the program entitled "Names Can Really Hurt Us" that would be used at Stafford High School and reviewed a handout entitled "Pyramid of Hate". Then those in attendance broke out into six groups and worked at different stations to brainstorm ideas for next steps.

Dr. Fishman stated that she just received the report from the State regarding their visit to Stafford High School that she was waiting for. She said that the report will be discussed at the April 26, 2010, Board meeting at Stafford Elementary School, along with some of the next steps that the community, district, schools and parents will be taking. Dr. Fishman said that she knows that a community sub-group has been formed.

Mrs. Bradway said that there was a very diverse group in attendance that could still come together and come up with very good ideas, which made her very confident that everyone would continue to work together.

B. Head Start Report through March 2010

Dr. Fishman reviewed the Head Start report through March 31, 2010, as prepared by Mrs. Meg Devlin, Financial Analyst. She said that this report shows that through March, we have expended \$27,146, or 54.45%, of the Head Start grant. The expenditures include the total cost of transportation.

Item VII. Public Forum

A member of the audience had a question regarding the bus contract and when it will appear on the agenda. Mrs. Devlin said that a Board of Education sub-committee is presently meeting to review the bids.

Item VIII. Old Business

There was no Old Business.

Item IX. New Business

A. Review and Approval of Cuts to the 2010 – 2011 Board of Education Budget in Accordance with the Directive from the Board of Finance

Dr. Fishman stated that the Board of Finance has directed the Board of Education to cut \$72,000 from their budget. Dr. Fishman said that she met with the administrators last week and came up with a list of cuts that amounts to \$146,120 that the Board of Education may choose from. Dr. Fishman reviewed each line of the report with the Board members.

After considerable discussion, Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, that the Board of Education approve adjustments to the 2010 – 2011 Board of Education budget, as follows:

Amount	Description
\$12,000	Savings resulting from Town grant application to fund school parking lot fixture lamp changes
\$1,000	Savings resulting from a \$25 increase to the High School fee for summer school
\$1,000	Cut to district advertising account
\$55,134	Do not replace the elementary teacher retiree at SES due to a projected decrease in enrollment
\$1,000	Reduction of art materials for curriculum upgrade
\$933	Cut to drama and music programs to be determined by advisors
\$933	Cut to athletics to be determined by the Athletic Director

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

The adjustments will bring the Board of Education budget request for 2010 – 2011 to \$24,930,913, which is a 1.81% increase over the 2009 – 2010 budget (\$442,108).

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, to place items **X.A. Update on CSEA Contract Negotiations (Executive Session Anticipated)** and **X.B. Attorney-Client Privileged Communication (Executive Session Anticipated)** into executive session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried.

The Board took a brief recess at 8:30 p.m.

Mrs. Bradway made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, to enter executive session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried. The Board entered executive session at 8:38 p.m.

Mrs. Bradway made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, to return to regular session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried. The Board returned to regular session at 8:54 p.m.

Item X. Personnel Matters

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

There was no Board action on this item.

B. Attorney-Client Privileged Communication (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 Mrs. Bradway, to adjourn. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Marinelli, Recording Secretary

Mark Fontanella, Chairperson

Sandra Fowler, Secretary

3260

Business and Non-Instructional Operations**Sales & Disposal of Books, Equipment & Supplies****Disposition of Outdated Books**

When equipment, books and materials become worn out, obsolete, surplus, or otherwise unusable in the schools, the Superintendent returns the books, material, and/or equipment to the Town by means of an inventory list. If the Town does not want these books, materials, and/or equipment, the Superintendent may dispose of them as detailed below.

Equipment may not be sold directly to individuals. Any proceeds from disposition of equipment or supplies shall be deposited in the town general fund.

The Board of Education may, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, authorize the disbursement or destruction of outdated textbooks which are no longer useful to the educational program, provided that such books are a minimum of seven years old and have been determined obsolete by the professional administrative staff.

When books are sold either to used book vendors or shredders, this money must be returned to the Town general fund.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-220 Duties of boards of education.

10-240 Control of schools.

10-241 Powers of school districts.

Policy adopted: April 26, 2004