

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, May 10, 2010 7:00 PM Eastern

Pinney Administration Building
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 Minutes- April 26, 2010
II.B.	Special Meeting Minutes- May 3, 2010, 7:00 p.m.
II.C.	Special Meeting Minutes- May 3, 2010, 7:15 p.m.
II.D.	Special Meeting Minutes- May 3, 2010, 7:30 p.m.
II.E.	Special Meeting Minutes- May 3, 2010, 8:45 p.m.
III.	Treasurer's Report
III.A.	April 28, 2010- \$242,667.67
III.B.	April 29, 2010- \$11,876.21 (Grants)
III.C.	May 5, 2010- \$138,501.57
IV.	Correspondence
V.	Board Reports
VI.	Superintendent Reports
VI.A.	Exchange Student Presentations
VI.B.	Head Start Report through April 2010
VII.	Public Forum
VIII.	Old Business
IX.	New Business
IX.A.	Review and Possible Approval of TEAM Three-Year Plan
IX.B.	Review and Possible Approval of Art Curriculum
IX.C.	Review and Possible Approval of the Memo of Understanding on Connecticut's Race to the Top Application
X.	Personnel Matters
X.A.	Resignation- Administrative Staff Member
XI.	Student Matters

**Regular Meeting
Stafford Board of Education
Stafford Elementary School
Monday, April 26, 2010**

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

Absent: Mrs. Tracy Rummel

Also Present: Dr. Thérèse G. Fishman, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. David Bartlett, Principal, Staffordville School
Mrs. Meg Devlin, Financial Analyst
Dr. Marcia Elliott, Principal, West Stafford School
Mrs. Amanda Fischetti, Art Teacher
Mr. Francis Kennedy, Principal, Stafford High School
Ms. Tannis Longmore, Art Teacher
Mrs. Dee Paradis, Art Teacher
Mr. Hank Skala, Principal, Stafford Elementary School
Mr. Thomas Szymanski, Student Representative
Mr. Kenneth Valentine, Principal, Stafford Middle School
Mrs. Liz Vannelli, Art Teacher

Item I. Call to Order- Establishment of Quorum

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. A quorum was established.

Item II. Secretary's Report- Approval of Minutes

Special Meeting, April 12, 2010

A consensus of the Board approved the Secretary's Report for the special meeting held on April 12, 2010, as presented.

Item III. Treasurer's Report

Board Bills and Grants:

April 5, 2010- \$2,371.89
April 5, 2010- \$1,561.37 (Grants)
April 22, 2010- \$300,940.96

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

Item IV. Correspondence

Mr. Fontanella read a letter that was sent to the Board by Mrs. Carol Parker regarding Mr. Skala and his tremendous efforts that make the PASS Program successful. Mr. Fontanella also distributed a copy of the PASS Press 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. He noted that there would be a taco dinner and a lasagna dinner.
- ✓ The Senior Breakfast at the high school.
- ✓ An update on the number of students on the honor and high honor roll this semester.

Mr. Fontanella reminded the public about the upcoming town meeting that would take place on Wednesday, May 5. He said that the meeting will most likely be adjourned to a referendum. The tentative date of the budget referendum is Wednesday, May 19, 2010. Mr. Fontanella informed the public that the Board of Finance cut \$72,000 from the Board of Education budget. He said that the cuts were presented at the second public hearing, which was held on Wednesday, April 21, 2010.

Mr. Steve Szymanski gave an update on the bleacher project at the high school. He said that they are making good progress on finalizing the site work, that the bleachers should be delivered during the week of May 3, 2010, and that there is a three-week installation schedule.

Item VI. Superintendent's Reports

A. Recognition of Student Artists

Dr. Fishman explained that throughout the past school year, student artwork has been exhibited in the boardroom at the Pinney Administration Building. She stated that this project was coordinated by our art teachers, as follows: Ms. Tannis Longmore, Mrs. Dee Paradis, Mrs. Elizabeth Vannelli and Mrs. Amanda Fischetti.

Mr. Fontanella presented each student artist in attendance at the meeting with a certificate of recognition.

B. Volunteer Appreciation

Dr. Fishman announced the volunteers from each school who have given the most hours of service to our students, to date, during the 2009 – 2010 school year. The volunteers were: Sonya Weed~ Stafford High School, Peter Molitoris and Lisa Ostrowski~ Stafford Middle School, Mary Ellen Eaton and Jennifer Fletcher~ Stafford Elementary School, Kellie Fitzgerald~ Staffordville School, and Alena Duffy~ West Stafford School.

Mr. Fontanella presented each volunteer with a framed certificate and a gift.

The Board took a brief recess for refreshments at 7:58 p.m. The meeting was called to order at 8:15 p.m.

C. Review of State Department of Education Report and Recommendations- Stafford High School

Dr. Fishman stated that on Wednesday, February 17, 2010, two members of the State Department of Education, Bureau of Accountability and Improvement, Dr. William A. Howe and Dr. Jo Ann Freiberg, visited Stafford High School at our request. She said that the purpose of their visit was to observe and speak with students and staff and make recommendations on school climate and how the district can increase equity within the high school.

Dr. Fishman said that based on the information gathered from student and staff interviews, it was felt by both observers that “bullying and harassment exists at Stafford High School as it most likely exists in any high school to some degree.”

Dr. Fishman reviewed the commendations listed in the report. They are as follows:

- The general school climate was found to be good, with modern, clean facilities. Hallways during student arrival and during class changes appeared orderly and quiet, with no outward signs of mean-spirited behavior. Teachers and paraprofessionals were present in the halls during the class change times, greeting students.
- Faculty and staff were perceived by most students to be trusted and respected.
- Over the past five years, Stafford has requested and received on-going technical assistance from the Connecticut State Department of Education to work on creating and maintaining positive school climate, including dialogues with all school administrators, in-service for Stafford High School teachers, and two evening district-wide parent/community meetings.

The recommendations listed in the report are as follows:

- It was felt there was possibly an “unorganized core of 10- 12 students” who were problematic in this area (bullying and harassment). It was suggested that counseling for this group would be helpful, and that a special course or curriculum on human relations for all students would be worthwhile exploring, along with strategies to prepare students for life after high school in an international, multicultural workplace.
- While there were several displays of student work, it was suggested that we could have posters, artwork and displays that highlight the various cultures within the United States and the world.
- It was suggested that there be counseling available to those students who have been harassed or bullied, with the possibility of clubs and mentors to help these students.

- It was suggested that adults in the school be trained to observe for “less obvious specific problems,” and that we increase our efforts to recruit minority teachers.
- It was recommended that there be more prominent postings of non-discrimination statements, and that the names of Title IX and Sexual Harassment Coordinators be available in all printed material at Stafford High School. It was noted that these statements and names were found in the Stafford High School Program of Studies for 2009- 2010, and the bullying policy was found on the school web site. It was also suggested that “any individual who conducts investigations is strongly encouraged to participate in formal training” for investigating such complaints.
- The “school community” was advised to create and lead community forums, where parents can receive training and support.

Below is the list of recommended actions and the district response (even pre-response) to these recommendations, which Dr. Fishman reviewed at the meeting:

Recommended Actions

Stafford’s Response

Specialized programs and counseling for students who have made racist statements

A six week program on discrimination and diversity designed and run by a guidance counselor and school psychologist for these students. To date, six students have almost completed the course.

Counseling available for those students who have been harassed.

Available and on-going.

Specialized training for teachers and staff on possible subtle forms of discrimination

Training in curriculum and strategies that stress diversity that accompanies Anti-Defamation League units of study.

Curriculum to prepare our students for life in an international multi-cultural society.

See above. Also, all teachers in Stafford are working on teaching skills and strategies to prepare students for study and work in the 21st century.

Programs to support all students and help instill that we are all responsible for creating a safe place for all.

Anti-Defamation League program for high school students to be held in the fall and the anti-racism program held on March 31.

Programs for parents

Anti-Defamation League Parent and Community Forum held on April 8. More programs to follow.

More posting of legal notices and

More posting of legal notices.

exhibits/postings of material reflecting diversity

Formation of a small task-force to locate and post material reflecting diversity.

Specialized training for those administrators/teachers who investigate possible civil rights violations.

All of our Title IX investigators are trained. We will seek out other possible trainings.

Mr. Szymanski asked for clarification regarding the legal notices.

Mrs. Fowler asked Dr. Fishman for a timeline that details when the actions in each response would be completed.

D. Cafeteria Profit and Loss Statement through March 2010

Dr. Fishman presented the cafeteria profit and loss statement through March 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 the program recouped nicely after a loss in February, showing a year-to-date profit of \$18,978 through the end of March.

E. Financial Report through March 2010

Dr. Fishman reviewed the Financial Report through March 2010, as prepared by Mrs. Meg Devlin, Financial Analyst. She said that the district's budget deficit has increased to \$177,417, due to special education tuitions, tutoring and unemployment. She reported that every expenditure is being closely monitored and that she is asking for projections from administrators regarding the amount of money that will be needed to get them through the end of the school year.

Mr. Szymanski asked if the balance remaining in the Salaries Non-Certified account is there due to the deferral of the non-certified salary increase for 09-10 because the contract remains unsettled. Dr. Fishman confirmed that it was.

F. Update on Internet Safety Program

Dr. Fishman stated that due to the efforts of Mrs. Lynn Reedy, Technology Integration Specialist, and Mr. Michael Bednarz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Stafford won a competitive grant to launch a program on Internet Safety for parents and guardians, available through our district web site. She also noted that there would be an informational forum on internet safety held on Thursday, June 10, from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m., in the Stafford High School auditorium. She reported that representatives from the State Police Internet Safety Division will speak about the potential dangers for young people on the internet and how parents and guardians can guide their children to use the internet safely. She said that there will also be refreshments and door prizes for those who attend.

Item VII. Public Forum

A member of the audience asked if the school district was doing anything about cyber bullying. Mr. Fontanella said that there is a fine line between home and school. Dr. Fishman reported that the administration is working on a cyber bullying policy.

Item VIII. Old Business

There was no Old Business.

Item IX. New Business

A. Obsolete Equipment- Computers

Mrs. Fowler made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, that the Board of Education declare the 90 computers so-designated by the district's Network Coordinator to be obsolete and unusable for school purposes and further authorize the administration to return this property to the Town and to dispose of any and all property not needed by the Town in an appropriate manner. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried.

Dr. Fishman said that if these computers are returned to the district by the town, they could be distributed to Stafford students via a lottery, as has been done in the past.

B. Review and Possible Approval of the Health Food Certification Statement 2010 - 2011

Mrs. Bradway made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, that the Board of Education approve the Healthy Food Certification Statement for 2010-2011, which provisions are outlined in Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried.

Mrs. Bradway made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, that the Board of Education authorize Mr. Mark Fontanella, Chairman of the Board of Education, to sign the Healthy Food Certification Statement for 2010- 2011 on behalf of the Stafford Board of Education. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried.

Dr. Fishman stated that last year the food service department received reimbursements in the amount of \$16,965 from the State. She noted that this year we have not yet received our full reimbursement. Lastly, Dr. Fishman stated that should the State decrease the reimbursement amount, the Board could rescind its decision at that time.

Mrs. Bradway made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, to place Item IX.C.- **Interview Candidate for Vacancy on the Board of Education (Executive Session Anticipated)**, into executive session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried.

The Board took a brief recess at 8:50 p.m.

Mrs. Bradway made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, to enter executive session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The Board entered executive session at 9:05 p.m.

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mr. Szymanski, to return to regular session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The Board returned to regular session at 10:00 p.m.

C. Interview Candidate for Vacancy on the Board of Education (Executive Session Anticipated)

This item was tabled to be discussed at a future Board meeting.

Item X. Personnel Matters

There were no Personnel Matters.

Item XI. Student Matters

There were no Student Matters.

Item XII. Adjournment

Mrs. Bradway made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, to adjourn. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Marinelli, Recording Secretary

Mark Fontanella, Chairperson

Sandra Fowler, Secretary

**Special Meeting
Stafford Board of Education
Pinney Administration Building
Monday, May 3, 2010, 7:00 p.m.**

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

Absent: Mr. Stephen Szymanski

Also Present: Dr. Thérèse G. Fishman, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Meg Devlin, Financial Analyst

Item 1. Call to Order- Establishment of Quorum

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

Item 2. Disposition of Bid- District Transportation Services

Dr. Fishman reported that on March 7, 2010, the District went out to bid for transportation services through an RFP in the Sunday edition of the Hartford Courant. She said that the bid opening was held on Tuesday, March 30, 2010, and that the district received three bid proposals. A Board of Education sub-committee comprised of Mr. Mark Fontanella, Board Chair, Mrs. Lisa Bradway, and Mrs. Lisa Finch reviewed the bid proposals along with Mrs. Meg Devlin, Financial Analyst, and the Superintendent, at meetings held on April 12 and April 26.

Dr. Fishman stated that since the bid proposal submitted by DATTCO was the highest of the three bid proposals received, the sub-committee did not consider this bid proposal further. The remaining bid proposals from First Student and M. & J. Bus Inc. were carefully reviewed and then further information was requested from each bus company. Mrs. Devlin reviewed the questions sent to both companies and their responses. She noted that more questions were asked of M. & J. Bus Inc. than of First Student because we have not had previous experience with this bus company, as we have had with First Student.

Dr. Fishman noted that sub-committee members asked Mrs. Devlin to obtain reference information from all districts that currently have transportation contracts with M. & J. Bus Inc. Based on the responses to the sub-committee's questions and the additional information provided by references in the case of M. & J. Bus Inc., the Board sub-committee voted unanimously to recommend that we accept the bid proposal of M. & J. Bus Inc. for district transportation services.

Mrs. Finch noted that M. & J. Bus Inc. was willing to lower the cost of the first year of the contract without recovering the cost in future years of the contract, while First Student was not.

Mrs. Bradway made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Fowler, that the Board of Education accept the bid proposal of M. & J. Bus Inc. for district transportation services for a three year term, commencing July 1, 2010, with the option of two years' renewal, one at a time. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried.

Mr. Fontanella allowed the public to comment at this time. One question was asked regarding the possible locations of the bus barn. Mr. Fontanella said that they are looking at two possible locations, one on Middle River Road and one on Route 32 in the Industrial Park.

Item 3. Adjournment

Mrs. Fowler made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, to adjourn. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Marinelli, Recording Secretary

Mark Fontanella, Chairperson

Sandra Fowler, Secretary

**Special Meeting
Stafford Board of Education
Pinney Administration Building
Monday, May 3, 2010, 7:15 p.m.**

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

Absent: Mr. Stephen Szymanski

Item 1. Call to Order- Establishment of Quorum

The meeting was called to order at 7:17 p.m. A quorum was established.

Item 2. Discussion and Possible Action to Fill Board of Education Vacancy (Executive Session Anticipated)

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, to enter executive session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried. The Board entered executive session at 7:17 p.m.

Mrs. Bradway made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, to return to regular session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried. The Board returned to regular session at 7:29 p.m.

Mrs. Bradway made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, that the Board of Education appoint Beth Ann Morhardt to the Stafford Board of Education to fill the vacancy created by Ms. Julie Stafford. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Fowler and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion. Mrs. Finch abstained. The motion carried by majority vote.

Item 3. Adjournment

Mrs. Fowler made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, to adjourn. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Marinelli, Recording Secretary

Mark Fontanella, Chairperson

Sandra Fowler, Secretary

**Special Meeting
Stafford Board of Education
Pinney Administration Building
Monday May 3, 2010, 7:30 p.m.**

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

Absent: Mr. Steve Szymanski

Also Present: Dr. Thérèse G. Fishman, Superintendent of Schools
Attorney Peter A. Janus, Counsel for the Board of Education
Mr. Robert Campbell, Assistant Principal, Stafford High School
Sgt. Thomas Duncan, Connecticut State Police
Mr. Francis Kennedy, Principal, Stafford High School
Student L
Mother of Student L

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. A quorum was established.

2. Executive Session

- a. **Board Inquiry into the Continued Enrollment and Attendance of Student L**
- b. **Board Consideration of the Recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools regarding the Expulsion of Student L from Stafford High School Pursuant to CGS 10-233d**

3. Action by the Board in Response to the Superintendent's Recommendation or Motion regarding the Expulsion of Student L

Mrs. Fowler made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, that the Board enter executive session to discuss material that would result in the disclosure of public records or the information contained therein as described in Connecticut General Statutes Sections 1-200(6)(E), subsection (b) of Section 1-210, specifically, personnel, student or medical and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute an invasion of privacy, and / or names and addresses of students enrolled in public school. Only those invited by the Board may be present in the executive session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried. The Board entered executive session at 7:37 p.m.

The Board invited the following individuals into the executive session:

Dr. Thérèse G. Fishman, Superintendent of Schools
Attorney Peter A. Janus, Counsel for the Board of Education
Mr. Robert Campbell, Assistant Principal, Stafford High School
Sgt. Thomas Duncan, Connecticut State Police
Mr. Francis Kennedy, Principal, Stafford High School
Student L
Mother of Student L
Mrs. Christine Marinelli, Recording Secretary

The Board took a recess to deliberate at 8:25 p.m. All invited individuals, with the exception of Attorney Janus, left the meeting room.

All invited individuals returned to the meeting room at 8:50 p.m.

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, to return to regular session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried. The Board returned to regular session at 8:51 p.m.

Mr. Fontanella made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, that based on the evidence and testimony received after a due process hearing, it is the finding of the Stafford Board of Education that culminating on or about March 5, 2010, Student L committed an expellable offense, namely that Student L made a racially specific threat on school grounds during the school day; Student L made a racially ridiculing statement on school grounds during the school day; and Student L violated the Board of Education's Policy 5114 (a)-(l), and the disciplinary guidelines, as outlined in the Stafford High School 2009 – 2010 Student – Parent Handbook; and it being the further finding of the Stafford Board of Education that such action constitutes conduct which is detrimental and an endangerment to the health, safety and welfare of other students, that such conduct is seriously disruptive of the educational process and that such conduct also violates a publicized policy of the Stafford Board of Education. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried.

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, to enter executive session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried. The Board entered executive session at 8:53 p.m.

At approximately 9:15 p.m., all individuals invited to attend executive session by the Board, with the exception of Attorney Peter Janus, left the conference room so that the Board of Education could deliberate.

All invited individuals returned to the Board of Education conference room at approximately 9:34 p.m., except Sgt. Duncan.

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Fowler, to return to regular session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried. The Board returned to regular session at 9:35 p.m.

Mr. Fontanella made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, that based on the previous decision of the Stafford Board of Education that Student L committed an expellable offense, and based upon the evidence and testimony received as to the length of any expulsion to be imposed for the offense by Student L, it is the finding of the Stafford Board of Education that Student L shall be expelled from the Stafford Public Schools, from any and all school privileges and premises, and all school-sponsored activities for disciplinary reasons for a period of one calendar year, unless by June 15, 2010, Student L provides satisfactory documentation to the Superintendent of Schools of completion of all academic requirements for award of a GED. In such case, there shall be no expulsion imposed upon Student L.

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

4. Adjournment

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Marinelli
Recording Secretary

Mark Fontanella, Chairperson

Mrs. Sandy Fowler, Secretary

**Special Meeting
Stafford Board of Education
Pinney Administration Building
Monday May 3, 2010, 8:45 p.m.**

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

Absent: Mr. Steve Szymanski

Also Present: Dr. Thérèse G. Fishman, Superintendent of Schools
Attorney Peter A. Janus, Counsel for the Board of Education
Mr. Robert Campbell, Assistant Principal, Stafford High School
Mr. Francis Kennedy, Principal, Stafford High School
Dr. Daniel Lefebvre, Director of Pupil Services
Student M
Father of Student M

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:43 p.m. A quorum was established.

2. Executive Session

- a. **Board Inquiry into the Continued Enrollment and Attendance of Student M**
- b. **Board Consideration of the Recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools regarding the Expulsion of Student M from Stafford High School Pursuant to CGS 10-233d**

3. Action by the Board in Response to the Superintendent's Recommendation or Motion regarding the Expulsion of Student M

Mrs. Fowler made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, that the Board enter executive session to discuss material that would result in the disclosure of public records or the information contained therein as described in Connecticut General Statutes Sections 1-200(6)(E), subsection (b) of Section 1-210, specifically, personnel, student or medical and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute an invasion of privacy, and / or names and addresses of students enrolled in public school. Only those invited by the Board may be present in the executive session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried. The Board entered executive session at 9:44 p.m.

The Board invited the following individuals into the executive session:

Dr. Thérèse G. Fishman, Superintendent of Schools
Attorney Peter A. Janus, Counsel for the Board of Education
Mr. Robert Campbell, Assistant Principal, Stafford High School
Mr. Francis Kennedy, Principal, Stafford High School
Dr. Daniel Lefebvre, Director of Pupil Services
Student M
Father of Student M
Mrs. Christine Marinelli, Recording Secretary

The Board took a recess to deliberate at 10:07 p.m. All invited individuals, with the exception of Attorney Janus, left the meeting room.

All invited individuals returned to the meeting room at 10:15 p.m.

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, to return to regular session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried. The Board returned to regular session at 10:16 p.m.

Mrs. Bradway made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, that based on the evidence and testimony received after a due process hearing, it is the finding of the Stafford Board of Education that culminating on or about March 31, 2010, Student M committed an expellable offense, namely that Student M established a pattern of open defiance of the authority of the school administration on school grounds during the school day; Student M established a pattern of uncooperative behavior in violation of Board policy and rules dealing with student conduct on school grounds during the school day; and Student M violated the Board of Education's Policy 5114 (a)-(l), and the disciplinary guidelines, as outlined in the Stafford High School 2009 – 2010 Student – Parent Handbook. It is the further finding of the Stafford Board of Education that such action constitutes conduct which is detrimental and an endangerment to the health, safety and welfare of other students, that such conduct is seriously disruptive of the educational process and that such conduct also violates a publicized policy of the Stafford Board of Education. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried.

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Fowler, to enter executive session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried. The Board entered executive session at 10:17 p.m.

At approximately 10:28 p.m., all individuals invited to attend executive session by the Board, with the exception of Attorney Peter Janus, left the conference room so that the Board of Education could deliberate.

All invited individuals returned to the Board of Education conference room at approximately 10:42 p.m.

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, to return to regular

session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried. The Board returned to regular session at 10:43 p.m.

Mr. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, that based on the previous decision of the Stafford Board of Education that Student M committed an expellable offense, and based upon the evidence and testimony received as to the length of any expulsion to be imposed for the offense by Student M, it is the finding of the Stafford Board of Education that Student M shall be expelled from the Stafford Public Schools, from any and all school privileges and premises, and all school-sponsored activities for disciplinary reasons effective immediately for a period of one calendar year.

However, Student M may apply for early readmission to school at the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year by submitting an application to the Superintendent of Schools for consideration by the Board of Education no later than at its scheduled meeting, on or about August 23, 2010. The Board will condition Student M's readmission on satisfactory performance in tutoring with no unexcused absences; maintaining a satisfactory academic record; cooperative behavior and compliance with authority during the period of tutoring; and completion of a summer project as assigned by the Superintendent. If Student M is granted early readmission and subsequently commits a violation of the Board of Education's policies and regulations warranting suspension or expulsion, then the original period of this expulsion shall be reinstated without further hearings.

Moved further that the administration provide Student M with an alternative educational opportunity during the expulsion period consistent with such student's educational needs as determined by the Planning and Placement Team.

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

4. Adjournment

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Fowler, to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Marinelli
Recording Secretary

Mark Fontanella, Chairperson

Mrs. Sandy Fowler, Secretary