

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, June 7, 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. Special Meeting- May 24, 2010
 - II.B. Regular Meeting- May 24, 2010
- III. Treasurer's Report
 - III.A. May 24, 2010- \$34,715.73 (Grant)
 - III.B. May 26, 2010- \$123,512.55
 - III.C. June 2, 2010- \$69,579.22
- IV. Correspondence
 - IV.A. Letter from Mr. Dunn
 - IV.B. Letter from Commissioner McQuillan regarding Race to the Top
- V. Board Reports
- VI. Superintendent Reports
 - VI.A. Presentation of Graduating Seniors- Rockville Vocational Agriculture Program
 - VI.B. Spring Sports Presentations
 - VI.C. Financial Report through May 31, 2010
 - VI.D. Planning Process Update for Alternative School
- VII. Public Forum
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
 - IX.A. Review and Possible Approval of Stafford High School Proposal for a Trip to France and Switzerland
- X. Personnel Matters
 - X.A. Appointments- Certified Staff Members
- XI. Student Matters

**Special Meeting
Stafford Board of Education
Stafford Middle School Library
Monday, May 24, 2010, 6 p.m.**

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

Absent: Mrs. Lisa Finch

Also Present: Dr. Thérèse G. Fishman, Superintendent of Schools

Item I. Call to Order- Establishment of Quorum

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. A quorum was established.

Item II. Interview and Discuss the Qualifications of a Candidate for the Position of Principal of Staffordville School (Executive Session Anticipated)

Mrs. Fowler made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, to enter executive session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Fowler, Ms. Morhardt, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The Board entered executive session at 6:11 p.m.

Mrs. Bradway made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Fowler, to return to regular session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Fowler, Ms. Morhardt, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The Board returned to regular session at 6:44 p.m.

No action was taken on this item.

Item III. Adjournment

Mrs. Fowler made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, to adjourn. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Fowler, Ms. Morhardt, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Marinelli, Recording Secretary

Mark Fontanella, Chairperson

Sandra Fowler, Secretary

**Regular Meeting
Stafford Board of Education
Stafford Middle School Auditorium
Monday, May 24, 2010**

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

Absent: Mrs. Lisa Finch

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
Dr. Marcia Elliott, Principal, West Stafford School
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 7:04 p.m. A quorum was established.

Item II. Secretary's Report- Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting, May 10, 2010

A consensus of the Board approved the Secretary's Report for the regular meeting held on May 10, 2010, as presented.

Item III. Treasurer's Report

Board Bills and Grants:

May 12, 2010- \$72,323.31
May 19, 2010- \$98,455.69

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

Item IV. Correspondence

Mr. Fontanella read a thank you card from Ms. Sonya Weed, who was recognized as a top volunteer in April.

Mr. Fontanella read an e-mail from Mr. Brett Duchon regarding the Stage and Select Choir trip to New York and Pennsylvania. Mr. Duchon reported that the students did very well in the competition and that this is the second consecutive year that they've won the Overall Championship award.

Dr. Fishman shared a copy of the picture that Jillian Mangold, a student at West Stafford School, submitted for the CHET Dream Big! Contest. Jillian's photo was selected as the winner for Tolland County.

Mr. Fontanella read an invitation to the Family Resource Center Art Show, which is being held on Thursday, June 3, 2010, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Dr. Fishman stated that Sarah Davis was one of the winners of the middle school's Laws of Life Essay Contest. She said that Sarah's essay was sent on to the State level, where Sarah was named as one of ten State-level winners.

Item V. Board Reports

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

- ✓ A Music Update- Memorial Day Parade on May 31, 2010
- ✓ A Sports Update- The Spring Sports Awards will be held on Wednesday, June 9, 2010
- ✓ The Highland Games
- ✓ The Senior Picnic
- ✓ The Top Twenty Banquet will be held on Wednesday, June 2, 2010
- ✓ All Academic Awards will be held on Thursday, June 3, 2010

Item VI. Superintendent's Reports

A. Teacher of the Year 2011

Dr. Fishman introduced Mr. Michael Bednarz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, who is the facilitator of the Stafford Teacher of the Year program.

Mr. Bednarz explained the selection process for the Teacher of the Year to the Board. He introduced the 2011 Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Sandi Bidwell, who teaches at Staffordville School. He stated that among the many things that impressed the Teacher of the Year committee about Mrs. Bidwell were the following:

- ❖ A career-long dedication to meeting the individual and special needs of her students.
- ❖ The myriad of examples of devoting time to lead committees and share her expertise.
- ❖ A commitment to and enthusiasm for improving her professional practice.

Mr. Fontanella presented Mrs. Bidwell with a plaque.

B. Non-Certified Staff Members of the Year 2009 - 2010

The Non-Certified Staff Member of the Year award began nine years ago when representatives from all non-certified / non-affiliated classifications met with Dr. Fishman to design an appreciation program. The committee established the following criteria for determining eligibility for the award:

- ❖ Good work habits and attendance;
- ❖ Good interpersonal skills and positive attitude;
- ❖ Dedication to the Stafford Public Schools by providing service above and beyond what the regular job requires; and
- ❖ Minimum three (3) years employment in the Stafford Public Schools.

Dr. Fishman announced that Mrs. Alison Bergeron, paraprofessional at Stafford Middle School, and Mr. Douglas Maynard, custodian at Stafford Middle School, were chosen as the 2009 - 2010 Non-Certified Staff Members of the Year, and noted specific examples of how Mrs. Bergeron and Mr. Maynard have gone above and beyond their normal job duties.

Mr. Maynard was presented with a plaque by Mr. Fontanella. Mrs. Bergeron was unable to attend the meeting.

C. Recognition of Stafford Public Schools' Retiring Staff Members

Dr. Fishman introduced each retiring staff member and spoke about each staff member's career in Stafford. The retiring staff members are as follows:

- ❖ Kathleen Aborn
- ❖ David Bartlett
- ❖ James Comiskey
- ❖ Mark Dunn
- ❖ Mary Ellen Glover
- ❖ Laurel LaFlamme
- ❖ Anne McWilliams
- ❖ Dwight Pierce
- ❖ Susan Zito

Mr. Fontanella presented Mrs. Aborn, Mr. Bartlett, Mrs. Glover, Mrs. LaFlamme and Mrs. Zito with a bell commemorating their years of service to the district. Mr. Fontanella presented a certificate and a gift to Mr. Pierce. The other retirees were unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Fontanella thanked the retirees for their service and for spending their careers in Stafford.

D. Presentation of CAFE Student Leadership Awards

Dr. Fishman explained that each year the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) Student Leadership Awards Program honors Connecticut high school students who exhibit qualities of willingness to take on challenges, the ability to understand issues clearly, and the ability to work with and lead others. She noted that this year, middle school students were allowed to participate.

Dr. Fishman introduced Mr. Francis Kennedy, Principal of Stafford High School. Mr. Kennedy presented the 2009 – 2010 recipients of this prestigious award, Julie Dillon and Thomas Szymanski, both juniors this year at SHS. Mr. Kennedy spoke briefly about each student.

Mr. Valentine presented the 2009 – 2010 middle school recipients, Jailene Rivera and Matthew Roy. Mr. Valentine spoke briefly about each student's accomplishments.

E. Recognition of Student Representative to the Board of Education

Dr. Fishman and Mr. Fontanella spoke of the commitment of Mr. Thomas Szymanski, a junior at Stafford High School, who has served as the Student Representative to the Board of Education for the 2009 – 2010 school year.

Mr. Fontanella presented Mr. Thomas Szymanski with a certificate and a gift.

The Board took a brief recess at 7:52 p.m. for refreshments. The meeting was reconvened at 8:20 p.m.

F. Obsolete Computer Lottery

Mr. Fontanella stated that ninety-one computers that were declared obsolete for school purposes would be made available to Stafford students. He said that since over 181 requests were received for the 91 available computers, a lottery was held that night during the recess. Mr. Bednarz, Mrs. Devlin and Mrs. Fowler were present during the drawing.

Mr. Fontanella stated that families would be notified in writing if they won one of the computers. He noted that the computers will be available for pick up on Saturday, June 5, 2010, from 8 – 11 a.m.

G. Perkins Innovation Grant Proposal Adjudication

Dr. Fishman stated that the Perkins grant proposal, E-Commerce and Entrepreneurship, which the Board approved on February 8, 2010, was approved in the amount of \$27,691. She said that Mr. Bednarz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, worked very hard on this competitive grant, which was funded without modifications.

Mr. Bednarz stated that he is very excited about this new course because it is the first time that Stafford will be tying 21st Century skills to real-world applications. He will be working with Ms. Sheree Pasini, business teacher at the high school, to implement this new course.

Mrs. Rummel asked if students will still be able to sign up for the course at this late date. Mr. Bednarz stated that he is working with the high school administrators and guidance department to get the information out to the students. He noted that since it is a very involved curriculum, the class will be capped at 12 – 14 students.

H. Internet Safety Program for Parents / Guardians

Dr. Fishman stated that there is a web-based Internet Safety Program that parents can use that was funded by another competitive grant written by Mr. Michael Bednarz and Mrs. Lynn

Reedy, Technology Integration Specialist. She said that there will also be an Internet Safety workshop for parents and guardians on Thursday, June 10, at Stafford High School, from 6 - 8:30 p.m., with a netbook laptop as a raffle prize for participants.

Mr. Bednarz stated that there are sixteen modules in the Internet Safety curriculum and that parents can earn additional raffle tickets by completing more of the modules. He noted that the modules can be accessed on any Stafford school's web page.

I. Cafeteria Profit and Loss Statement through April 2010

Dr. Fishman reviewed the cafeteria profit and loss statement through April 2010, as prepared by Mrs. Mary Folker, Food Service Coordinator, and reviewed by Mrs. Susan Linder, Director of Building Services, and Mrs. Meg Devlin, Financial Analyst. She said that it shows that the monthly profit is \$3,093, and the year-to-date profit is \$22,072, through the end of April. She also noted that the profit and loss statement shows an increase in the number of breakfasts served versus last year, but a decrease in the lunch numbers.

Dr. Fishman stated that she does not foresee having to increase lunch prices next year.

Item VII. Public Forum

A member of the audience read a statement about the CSEA contract.

A member of the audience spoke against cutting the part-time custodial position at the high school as part of the upcoming budget cuts.

Item VIII. Old Business

A. Review and Possible Approval of the Visual Arts Curriculum

Mrs. Fowler made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, that the Board of Education approve the newly-revised visual arts curriculum to be put in place commencing with the 2010 – 2011 school year. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Fowler, Ms. Morhardt, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried.

Item IX. New Business

A. Review and Approval of Cuts to the 2010 – 2011 Board of Education Budget

Dr. Fishman stated that the budget referendum was held on Wednesday, May 19, 2010, and it failed. She said that the Board of Finance voted to cut an additional \$100,000 from the Board of Education budget. She said that these cuts would have to be made prior to the town meeting on Wednesday, June 2, 2010.

Dr. Fishman distributed a list of possible budget cuts to the Board and reviewed the impact of each.

The Board asked Mr. Frassinelli for details regarding where the \$10,000 cut to his program would come from. Mrs. Fowler asked if there were successful pay for play programs in other

districts in this area. She said that she would like the district to investigate creative options to help kids participate in sports. Mrs. Rummel stated that while there are sports opportunities for students at the middle school level outside of school, that is not the case at the high school level. Board members asked that the proposal for cuts be brought back to the Board for review, along with the additional information that was requested.

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

Budget Cuts Made at May 24, 2010 Board of Education Meeting = \$100,000			
Description	Area	Cut	Notes
Athletics - cut to be determined	Athletics	\$10,000	
SHS Credit Reentry Program	Pupil Services	\$17,744	currently at \$120,000
Remove carpet request SMS	Building Services	\$4,000	
Remove carpet request SVS	Building Services	\$2,000	
PT custodial SHS 19.5 hrs 12 month	Building Services	\$12,145	
Summer School K-8	Districtwide	\$12,743	currently at \$62,032
Textbooks Curriculum Upgrade - WLang & Math	Curriculum	\$10,000	currently at \$65,000
Technology - cut to be determined	Technology	\$15,000	
Bus Contract	District	\$8,418	BOE accepted alternate bid
Student return from Magnet School	SpEd/SHS	\$7,950	
		\$100,000	

Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Fowler, Ms. Morhardt, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried.

B. Alternate Bid- M & J Bus Company (added at meeting)

Mrs. Fowler made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, that the Board of Education approve the alternate bid from M & J Bus, Inc., which reduces the insurance umbrella to \$10 million and does not require a performance bond to be held on the contract. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Fowler, Ms. Morhardt, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried.

Item X. Personnel Matters

A. Resignation- Certified Staff Member

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, that the Board of Education accept the resignation of the following staff member:

NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	EFFECTIVE DATE	REASON
Jacquelyn Hethcoat	Special Education Teacher	Stafford High School	6/30/10	Personal.

Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Fowler, Ms. Morhardt, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried.

B. Appointments- Certified Staff Members

Mrs. Bradway made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, that the candidates for teaching positions be appointed, as follows:

NAME	CERTIFICATION AREA	SCHOOL/ ASSIGNMENT	REPLACING/ NEW	SALARY	DATE
Chatel, Viesha	Chemistry, 7-12 (031) and General Science, 7-12 (034)	Stafford High School / Chemistry Teacher	Jim Comiskey	\$46,403 (MA, Step 4)	8/25/10
Malloy, Gina	School Social Worker (071)	West Stafford / Staffordville Schools, School Social Worker	Sue Zito	\$47,599 (6 th Year, Step 3)	8/25/10
Morhardt, Michael	Physical Education, PK – 12 (043), Five Year Coaching Permit	Stafford High School / Physical Education Teacher	Mark Dunn	\$46,825 (BA, Step 6)	8/25/10

Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion. Ms. Morhardt abstained. The motion carried by majority vote.

Mr. Szymanski asked if the chemistry teacher would be certified to teach AP chemistry. Dr. Fishman said that she would be.

Mrs. Fowler made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, to place **Item X.C.- Possible Ratification of CSEA Contract (Executive Session Anticipated) and Item X.D.- Interview Candidate(s) for the Position of Principal of Staffordville School (Executive Session Anticipated)** into executive session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Fowler, Ms. Morhardt, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried.

The Board took a recess at 9:45 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 9:50 p.m., in the Stafford Middle School library.

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, to enter executive session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Fowler, Ms. Morhardt, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The Board entered executive session at 9:52 p.m.

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, to return to regular session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Fowler, Ms. Morhardt, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The Board returned to regular session at 11:02 p.m.

C. Possible Ratification of CSEA Contract (Executive Session Anticipated)

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, that the Board of Education ratify the CSEA contract, as presented. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Fowler, Ms. Morhardt, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried.

D. Interview Candidate(s) for the Position of Principal of Staffordville School (Executive Session Anticipated)

E. Possible Appointment of Principal of Staffordville School

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Ms. Morhardt, that the Board appoint Dr. Maureen Ryan as principal of Staffordville School, at a salary of \$106,920.00. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Fowler, Ms. Morhardt and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion. Mr. Szymanski abstained. The motion carried by majority vote.

Item XI. Student Matters

There were no Student Matters.

Item XII. Adjournment

Mrs. Fowler made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, to adjourn. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Fowler, Ms. Morhardt, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Marinelli, Recording Secretary

Mark Fontanella, Chairperson

Sandra Fowler, Secretary