

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, March 14, 2011 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.	Special Meeting Minutes- 2/28/11
II.B.	Regular Meeting Minutes- 2/28/11
III.	Treasurer's Report
III.A.	Bills- 3/2/11, \$603,971.10
III.B.	Grants- 3/2/11, \$8,813.28
III.C.	Bills- 3/9/11, \$98,679.10
III.D.	Grants- 3/9/11, \$9,623.84
IV.	Correspondence
V.	Board Reports
V.A.	Report from Student Representative
VI.	Superintendent Reports
VI.A.	Cafeteria Profit and Loss through January 2011 (10 minutes)
VI.B.	Financial Report through February 2011 (15 minutes)
VI.C.	Head Start Report through February 2011 (5 minutes)
VII.	Public Forum
VIII.	Old Business
IX.	New Business
IX.A.	Approval of 2011 Graduation Date (10 minutes)
IX.B.	Approval of 2010 - 2011 Budget Freeze (5 minutes)
X.	Personnel Matters
X.A.	Teachers Eligible for Tenure / Teachers' Performance (Executive Session Anticipated) (10 minutes)
X.B.	Recommendation of Superintendent of Schools Concerning Teacher Non-Renewals Pursuant to CGS Section 10-151 (Executive Session Anticipated) (10 minutes)
XI.	Student Matters

**Special Meeting
Stafford Board of Education
Stafford Elementary School
Monday, February 28, 2011, 6:15 p.m.**

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

Absent: Ms. Beth Ann Morhardt

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:15 PM. A quorum was established.
- II. Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter- Superintendent of Schools Search Process. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The Board went into executive session at 6:16 PM.
- III. Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, 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 6:59 PM. No action was taken on this matter.
- IV. Mrs. Bradway made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, 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 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine C. Marinelli
(as recorded by Sandy Fowler)

Mrs. Sandy Fowler, Secretary

Mr. Mark Fontanella, Chairperson

**Regular Meeting
Stafford Board of Education
Stafford Elementary School Cafetorium
February 28, 2011**

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

Also Present: Dr. Thérèse G. Fishman, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Michael Bednarz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Mrs. Meg Devlin, Business Manager
Mr. Damian Frassinelli, Director of Athletics and Recreation
Mr. Francis Kennedy, Principal, Stafford High School
Dr. Maureen Ryan, Principal, Staffordville School
Mr. Hank Skala, Principal, Stafford Elementary School
Mrs. Amy Stevenson, Director of Pupil Services
Mr. Kenneth Valentine, Principal, Stafford Middle School

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, February 7, 2011

A consensus of the Board approved the Secretary's Report for the regular meeting held on February 7, 2011, as presented.

Item III. Treasurer's Report

Bills- 2/09/11, \$53,676.35
Grants- 2/09/11, \$4,480.34
Bills- 2/16/11, \$275,283.53
Grants- 2/16/11, \$12,891.28
Bills- 2/23/11, \$142,392.33
Grants- 2/23/11, \$858.66

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

Item IV. Correspondence

Mrs. Rummel distributed the *Quick Reference Guide to EASTCONN Programs and Services for PreK-12 Students* to the Board members.

Item V. Board Reports

A. Report from Student Representative

Miss Ojeda sent the Student Activity Report to the Board ahead of time, and it was included in their Board packets. She highlighted several areas of the report at the meeting.

Item VI. Superintendent's Reports

There were no Superintendent Reports.

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. Approval of Proposal to Change to a Self-funded Health Insurance Program

Dr. Fishman stated that at the last Board meeting Mr. Theriault, Vice-President of Ovation Benefits, spoke of the benefits of changing to a self-funded health insurance program. She also provided copies of the handouts from the last Board meeting in the electronic packet for this meeting. She stated that the charts show that Anthem has been making a significant profit, due to the district's very good experience rating over the past five years.

At the last meeting, Mr. Muska, Chairperson of the Board of Finance, asked for information regarding how many claims the district has had over the past five years that have necessitated stop loss insurance. Dr. Fishman stated that there have been five claims over the past five years.

Dr. Fishman reviewed the information that she and Mrs. Devlin, Business Manager, received from two other districts that have had self-funded insurance programs in place for several years. The other two districts stated that the reserve must be maintained in order for this plan to work.

Mrs. Finch had a question regarding the accounts and how the reserve would be protected. Mrs. Devlin stated that the district would maintain a separate account for the Board of Education insurance funds. Additionally, Dr. Fishman stated that she could work with Attorney Janus to create a Board Policy and / or regulation to outline the procedures that must be followed with regard to the reserves for the self-funded insurance.

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Fowler, that the Board of Education approve the change to self-funding of the health insurance program for 2011-2012. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried.

B. Approval of 2011 – 2012 Board of Education Budget

Dr. Fishman informed the Board that Mr. Muska, Chairman of the Board of Finance, contacted her regarding adding the Education Jobs Fund Grant back into the budget and show the budget as \$1,151,538, or a 4.64% increase. Dr. Fishman contacted the State Department regarding this matter and was informed that federal grant funds are never included as part of the bottom line in the budget. She said that she will be receiving that information in writing tomorrow. Mr. Muska said that he would be fine with using the funds in that manner, once he receives it in writing from the State.

Dr. Fishman reported that the budget currently reflects the funds needed if the IEA program were housed in the portable. If the program has to remain at the Old Town Hall, money would need to be added to the budget to cover the cost. On the other hand, the district has received news that several staff members will be retiring, thus saving the district monies that were not accounted for in the current budget.

Mr. Szymanski stated that he has concerns that the district is using one-time grant funds to create new positions, which won't be funded in 2012-2013. Dr. Fishman explained why each position is needed and informed the Board that the ECS grant may increase in 2012-13 for rural-poor districts. Mr. Szymanski stated that a better use for the monies would be to cover increases for certified and non-certified staff, rather than to fund new positions. Mr. Szymanski suggested that Dr. Fishman explain clearly to the Board of Finance why the special education position is needed, as it makes sense to add a position that would end up saving the district money by not sending students out-of-district. He also said that Dr. Fishman should provide an explanation regarding why the proposed Stafford Elementary School assistant principal position is only ten months, while the other two assistant principal positions are twelve month positions.

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, that the Board of Education approve the budget for the 2011 – 2012 school year, as presented. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion. Mr. Szymanski abstained. The motion carried by majority vote.

Mr. Fontanella stated that he was just informed that the Board of Finance has scheduled the first public hearing on the budget on Wednesday, March 2, 2011. Dr. Fishman asked that Mr. Fontanella contact Mr. Muska regarding postponing the presentation of the district's budget for at least one week.

C. Approval of Proposal for Solar Arrays

Mrs. Fowler made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, that the Board of Education approve a renewed application to DCS Energy for solar arrays for all of the schools in the district. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried.

D. Obsolete Equipment- Computers

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Fowler, that the Board of Education declare the sixty-one (61) 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 of Stafford in an appropriate manner. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried.

Item X. Personnel Matters

A. Appointment- Certified Staff Member

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Fowler, that the Board of Education appoint the candidate named below for a teaching position, as follows:

NAME	CERTIFICATION AREA	SCHOOL/ ASSIGNMENT	REPLACING/ NEW	SALARY	EFFECTIVE DATE
Gorski, David	Technology Education, PreK - 12 (047)	Stafford High School / Technology Education Teacher	Bruce, Douglas	\$38,666 (BA, Step 1)	2/01/11

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

B. Resignations- Certified Staff Members

Mrs. Bradway made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, that the Board of Education accept the resignations of the staff members named below.

NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	EFFECTIVE DATE	REASON
Coppinger, Holly	Family and Consumer Science	Stafford High School	End of School Year, June 2011	Retirement
Pelletier, Bonnie	Math Teacher	Stafford High School	End of School Year, June 2011	Personal

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

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, to place **Item X.C.- Personnel Matter- Superintendent of Schools Search Process (Executive Session Anticipated)**, into

executive session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried.

The Board took a brief recess at 7:58 p.m. The meeting was called to order at 8:10 p.m.

C. Personnel Matter- Superintendent of Schools Search Process (Executive Session Anticipated)

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 8:25 p.m.

No action was taken on this item.

Item XI. Student Matters

There were no Student Matters.

Item XII. Adjournment

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, to adjourn. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Marinelli, Recording Secretary

Mark Fontanella, Chairperson

Sandra Fowler, Secretary