

Board of Education Regular Meeting  
Monday, October 3, 2011 6:00 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- 9/26/11
III.	Treasurer's Report
III.A.	Bills, 9/28/11- \$1,181,138.81
IV.	Correspondence
V.	Board Reports
V.A.	Report from Student Representative
VI.	Superintendent Reports
VI.A.	Update on Educational Initiatives and Reform Legislation (25 mins.)
VII.	Public Forum
VIII.	Old Business
VIII.A.	Schedule Board Policy Sub-Committee Meeting (5 mins.)
IX.	New Business
IX.A.	Review and Approval of Response to CABE Board of Education Award Optional Question (5-10 mins.)
IX.B.	Review and Possible Approval of Inter-district Transition Program Collaboration (15 mins.)
X.	Personnel Matters
XI.	Student Matters
XI.A.	Board Consideration of the Recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools regarding the Expulsion of Student A from Stafford High School pursuant to Conn. Gen. Statute 10-233d (Executive Session Anticipated)
XI.B.	Board Consideration of the Recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools regarding the Expulsion of Student B from Stafford High School pursuant to Conn. Gen. Statute 10-233d (Executive Session Anticipated)
XI.C.	Board Consideration of the Recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools regarding the Expulsion of Student C from Stafford High School pursuant to Conn. Gen. Statute 10-233d (Executive Session Anticipated)

**Regular Meeting  
Stafford Board of Education  
Pinney Administration Building  
September 26, 2011**

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

**Absent:** Mrs. Meg Devlin, Business Manager  
Mrs. Sandy Fowler, Secretary  
Ms. Beth Ann Morhardt

**Also Present:** Dr. Patricia A. Collin, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Michael Bednarz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction  
Mr. Greg Buonome, Assistant Principal, Stafford Middle School  
Mr. Marco Pelliccia, Principal, Stafford High School  
Mr. Hank Skala, Principal, Stafford Elementary School  
Mr. Kenneth Valentine, Principal, Stafford Middle School

**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**

Regular Meeting, September 12, 2011

A consensus of the Board approved the Secretary's Report for the regular meeting held on September 12, 2011, as presented.

**Item III. Treasurer's Report**

Bills- 9/9/11, \$188,164.88  
Grants- 9/9/11, \$1,104.19

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

**Item IV. Correspondence**

There was no Correspondence.

## **Item V. Board Reports**

### **A. Report from Student Representative**

Miss Ojeda distributed tickets for the district concert to the Board members. The concert will be held on November 22, 2011.

Miss Ojeda reviewed the report regarding student activities at the high school that was sent to Board members in their electronic Board packets.

## **Item VI. Superintendent's Reports**

### **A. Stafford Middle School Honor Roll Criteria**

Dr. Collin reviewed the current honor roll criteria for the middle school and the high school, as published in the student / parent handbooks. She noted that at the middle school the following guidelines are currently being used:

- High Honors-A grade of 90 or higher in all subject areas
- Honors-A grade of 85 or higher in all subject areas

At Stafford High School, the following guidelines are currently being used:

Honor roll average includes all numerical grades. A grade below 77 (C+) will eliminate a student from the honor roll. Be advised that physical education grades are included in the computation for the honor roll and class rank. Students achieve marking period honors as follows:

- High Honors-Minimum of 90.0 average
- Honors-Minimum of 85.0 average

She stated that Mr. Valentine and Mr. Pelliccia have agreed that inter-school alignment of the honor roll criteria would be in the best interest of the students.

Mr. Pelliccia spoke about the Freshman House at the high school and how that program was developed to bridge the gap between eighth grade and freshman year.

Mr. Fontanella allowed comments from the audience. A member of the audience expressed concern that this proposal is swinging the pendulum the other way by allowing a student at the middle school to get a C+ and still make the honor roll. She noted that while she feels that the current guidelines are not correct because they could keep a student with all grades in the A and B range off the honor roll, she felt that allowing a student at the middle school to be on the honor roll with a C+ is too lenient.

Mr. Szymanski suggested that perhaps the honor roll criteria could be aligned by using the averaging method, but the minimum grade at the middle school could be 80 rather than 77. He also questioned what harm would be done if the program was left as it currently stands,

allowing the Board time to look at data and then discuss the possibility of adjusting the guidelines in the future. Mrs. Bradway agreed.

The Board requested further data before making a decision. This item was tabled until October 24, 2011.

#### **B. Presentation of CAPT Scores**

Dr. Collin introduced Mr. Bednarz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

Mr. Bednarz presented the highlights of the 2011 CAPT results, as follows:

- Student performance improved on all four subtests as compared to 2010 results
- Students achieved the highest ever results in Writing (77.2%) and Reading (62.5%).
- This year is the first time that there has been a score of 75% or better on any subtest.
- For the ninth consecutive year, Stafford outperformed the DRG F goal average on all subtests.
- Continuation of impressive results with moving students up out of the Level 1 (Below Basic) score band

Mr. Bednarz reviewed several charts with the Board. He noted that the district's results would be posted on the district's web site ([www.stafford.k12.ct.us](http://www.stafford.k12.ct.us)).

#### **C. Adequate Yearly Progress Reports**

Dr. Collin reported that in determining Adequate Yearly Progress each school year for the district and each individual school, the State looks at participation rate and proficiency targets on the CMT and CAPT. Dr. Collin introduced Mr. Bednarz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

Mr. Bednarz highlighted the Adequate Yearly Progress reports for the district and each school. He noted that he had to contact the State Department to challenge the report that was issued for the middle school, which was corrected to show "Safe Harbor" for the subgroup of Students with Disabilities.

Mr. Bednarz noted that although Stafford Elementary School made significant progress over the past two years, it did not meet this year's new State goal, so it has been placed on the "Needs Improvement- Year 2" list. He and Mr. Skala reported that a plan is in place to continue to work toward this State goal.

There were no questions from the Board.

#### **D. Presentation of SAT Scores**

Dr. Collin stated that the data indicates that with a participation rate of 74%, the cohort of students significantly outperformed Stafford students who participated in the test administration the previous year. In addition, Stafford students scored at levels which exceeded both the State and National averages on all three tests (Math, Critical Reading and Writing).

Dr. Collin introduced Mr. Marco Pelliccia, Principal of Stafford High School, who presented further details regarding the Scholastic Aptitude Test results. He reported that the scores for the Class of 2011 are positive and that the students' scores were above both State and National averages. The data for the Class of 2011 is as follows:

	<b><u>SHS</u></b>	<b><u>State</u></b>	<b><u>National</u></b>
Math	523	513	514
Reading	522	509	497
Writing	520	513	489

Mr. Pelliccia stated that he will present more information regarding the high school's plans to address areas of weakness identified by the SAT data at the October 24 Board of Education meeting when he presents his school improvement plan.

Board members asked Mr. Pelliccia to investigate why the percentage of students attending a two- and four-year college has dropped, as the SAT participation rate has increased. He noted that the guidance department is already looking into that matter and that he will get back to the Board with the information. A Board member also asked if Mr. Pelliccia could find out if a student took the SAT more than once and if the score listed in the SAT report are averages or the student's highest score.

#### **Item VII. Public Forum**

There was a question regarding the tutoring vendors that would be used for those students at Stafford Elementary School that need extra help as identified by the AYP reports.

A member of the audience commended the administration and teachers for the excellent test scores.

#### **Item VIII. Old Business**

There was no Old Business.

#### **Item IX. New Business**

##### **A. Review and Possible Approval of High School and Middle School Fundraisers**

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, that the Board of Education approve the Stafford High School and Stafford Middle School fundraising proposals, as presented, to defray the cost of field trips, conferences, clinics, and uniforms, and to promote school and class-related activities. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried.

##### **B. Schedule Board Policy Sub-Committee Meeting**

This item was tabled until the October 3, 2011, Board meeting.

**C. Review and Possible Approval of Proposal to Align Honor Roll Criteria**

This item was tabled until the October 24, 2011, Board meeting.

**Item X. Personnel Matters**

There were no Personnel Matters.

**Item XI. Student Matters**

There were no Student Matters.

**Item XII. Adjournment**

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, to adjourn. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Christine C. Marinelli, Recording Secretary**

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**Mark Fontanella, Chairperson**

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**Sandra Fowler, Secretary**