

**Regular Meeting
Stafford Board of Education
Stafford Elementary School
February 24, 2020, 6:30 p.m.**

Board Members Present: Mrs. Jennifer Davis
Mr. Mike Delano
Mrs. Andrea Locke, Secretary
Ms. Laura Lybarger
Mr. George Melnick
Ms. Sonya Shegogue, Chairperson

Absent: Ms. Kathy Bachiochi

Also Present: Mr. Steven Moccio, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Steven Autieri, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Mr. Frank Bonavita, Director of School Facilities
Miss Allie Curtin, Alternate Student Representative
Mrs. Peggy Falcetta, Principal, Staffordville School
Mr. Dean Fortin, IT / Network Coordinator
Ms. Mary Claire Manning, Principal, Stafford Elementary School
Ms. Susan Mike, Principal, Stafford Middle School, arrived at 6:39 p.m.
Mr. Marco Pelliccia, Principal, Stafford High School
Ms. Diane Peters, Business Manager
Miss Grace Zopelis, Student Representative

Item I. Call to Order- Establishment of Quorum

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

Item II. Pledge of Allegiance

The student representatives led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item III. Secretary's Report- Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting, 02/10/2020

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Ms. Lybarger, that the Board approve the Secretary's Report for the regular meeting held on 02/10/2020, as presented. Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke, Ms. Lybarger, and Mr. Melnick voted for the motion, which carried.

Item IV. Consent Agenda

- A. Cafeteria Profit and Loss Statement for July 1, 2019 – January 31, 2020
- B. 19-20 Bills, 2/19/20- \$89,351.22
- C. 19-20 Grants, 2/19/20- \$2,207.40
- D. Resignation- Certified Staff Member

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Mr. Melnick, that the Board approve the items listed in the consent agenda, as presented. Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke, Ms. Lybarger, and Mr. Melnick voted for the motion, which carried.

Item V. Correspondence

A. Board Meeting Reminder- Ms. Shegogue read the budget presentation and Board meeting reminders that were posted on the agenda.

Mr. Moccio stated that his office is working on a flyer for an informational session that he will be holding for parents regarding the 20-21 budget on Thursday, March 5, 2020. He said that he will be sharing the flyer with the Board as soon as it is available.

Mr. Moccio informed the Board that Tristan Julian was the Class S State Champion Wrestler for his weight class. Ms. Shegogue stated that the basketball team would be playing in the NCCC championship game on Wednesday.

Item VI. Board Reports

A. Student Representatives' Reports

Miss Zopelis reported on the following:

- Stafford Elementary School Update, including the Designer Bag BINGO Fundraiser and Math and Muffins with Mrs. Jacobs
- Stafford Middle School Update, including ticket information for Frozen Jr., Math Department Pi Celebration, Spirit Week, Cupcake Wars and Coffee with the Principals
- SHS Music Update and District Band Concert

Miss Curtin reported on the following:

- Staffordville School Update, including the Super Reading Celebration, and a visit SRO Santos, Sgt. Kodzis and Loki
- West Stafford School Update, including Read Across America activities, and Family Science Night
- SHS Sports Update

Item VII. Superintendent's Reports

A. 2019 – 2020 Financial Report for July 1, 2019 – January 31, 2020

The total budget for the 2019-2020 school year is \$28,052,217.40. The expenses year to date total \$15,541,150.75, or 55.40% of the total budget.

Mrs. Diane Peters, Business Manager, presented the financial report through January 31, 2020. She reviewed each of the object codes and highlighted areas of interest. Board members were provided via the portal with a copy of the financial report of funds budgeted and encumbered/expended from July 1, 2019, through January 31, 2020, sorted by object code, including information regarding offsets for potential revenue from tuition or Medicaid revenue.

Mr. Melnick asked a question regarding the pension plan.

B. Next Generation Accountability Data Report

Mr. Moccio stated that the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) introduced the state accountability system in March 2016, which utilizes 12 indicators to help provide a more holistic perspective of how our students and schools are performing. He introduced Mr. Steve Autieri, Director of Curriculum & Instruction.

Mr. Autieri presented the 2018-2019 Next Generation Accountability results for the district, including next steps and strategic priorities. Mr. Autieri stated that the CSDE publishes an annual report card, which reports on the District Performance Index (DPI) and School Performance Index (SPI). He said that it is expected that districts use the data to identify strengths and areas for school and district improvement. Specific indicators are utilized to initially determine an Accountability Index for the overall district and each individual school. A category level is assigned to each school based on the Accountability Index and then adjusted down if the school has an achievement gap in ELA, Math, Science, graduation rate, or participation rate. He noted that no longer is State testing data the only indicator used to assess student growth.

Highlights included:

- Graduation Rate of 99%
- All schools gained in the Accountability Index, with Staffordville School at 100%, and Stafford Elementary School increasing 10%
- All participation rates above 95%

Next Steps include:

- Link assessment data to classroom instruction via the Smarter Balanced Interim Block
- Continue to refine content and skill progressions in math and literacy
- Expand resources for academic support specialists
- Provide teachers with professional development workshops aligned to literacy and math
- Strengthen communications between home and school to increase attendance
- Increase performance on PSAT/SAT through embedded curriculum-based assessments

Mr. Delano asked a question regarding the career-based certifications the district is investigating.

Ms. Lybarger asked a question regarding the Comprehensive School Counseling Curriculum. Mr. Pelliccia said that he would be discussing this item in more detail at the April 6 Board meeting when he presents the high school's new student schedule for 2020 – 2021.

III. Public Comment

There were no comments.

Item IX. Old Business

There was no Old Business.

Item X. New Business

A. Approval of the 2020 – 2021 Budget for Stafford Public Schools

Mr. Moccio stated that after considerable review and revision, the proposed 2020 – 2021 budget that he is recommending for approval totals \$28,822,792.48, or \$770,575.07 over the 2019 – 2020 budget (2.75% increase after the ECS offset of \$237,581.00).

Mr. Moccio reviewed the changes that were made to the PowerPoint presentation. He also reviewed the Budget Adjustment Report, which details the changes made to the proposed 2020 – 2021 budget since the last Board meeting.

Mr. Melnick made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Locke, that the Board approve the 2020 – 2021 budget for the Stafford Public Schools, as presented. Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke, Ms. Lybarger, and Mr. Melnick voted for the motion, which carried.

Mr. Moccio stated that all of the budget documents would be made available on the district website (www.stafford.k12.ct.us) under “Board of Education” > “Budget Information”.

B. Review and Possible Approval of Graduation Date- Class of 2020

Mr. Moccio stated that Section 10-16l of the Connecticut General Statutes permitted the Board of Education to set a firm graduation date that fell no earlier than the 185th day noted in the school calendar adopted for that year, but also permitted the Board of Education to set a firm graduation date on or after April 1 that, at the time of its establishment, provided for at least 180 days of school.

More recently, Public Act 19-195 – “An Act Concerning the Establishment of a Firm Graduation Date and the Date for the First Day of School Sessions” provides the Board of Education with additional flexibility when setting a graduation date. Mr. Moccio explained that Public Act 19-195 amends the statute and permits the Board of Education to establish a firm graduation date at any time during the school year, provided that the date chosen falls no earlier than the 180th day noted in the school calendar at the time of the decision. Should additional school cancellations occur after the date is selected, students would still be required to meet the 180 school day requirement, or assume absences for any additional day until the 180 day requirement is met.

Board members were provided via the portal with a copy of Board Policy #6111 – School Calendar, as well as a proposal from Mr. Marco Pelliccia, Principal of Stafford High School, to set the Class of 2020 graduation date as Friday, June 19, 2020. Mr. Moccio said that to-date the district has had a total of four (4) school cancellations due to inclement weather, and Friday, June 19, 2020, is currently the final day of school (181 days).

Mrs. Davis made a motion, seconded by Ms. Lybarger, that the Board of Education approve Friday, June 19, 2020, as the graduation date for the Class of 2020. Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke, Ms. Lybarger, and Mr. Melnick voted for the motion, which carried.

Item XI. Personnel Matters

There were no Personnel Matters.

Item XII. Student Matters

There were no Student Matters.

Item XIII. Adjournment

Mr. Melnick made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Davis, to adjourn. Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke, Ms. Lybarger, and Mr. Melnick voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine C. Marinelli, Recording Secretary

Sonya Shegogue, Chairperson

Andrea Locke, Secretary