

**Regular Meeting
Stafford Board of Education
Stafford Elementary School
January 8, 2018, 6:30 p.m.**

Board Members Present: Ms. Kathy Bachiochi
Mrs. Andrea Locke, Secretary
Mr. Jeff Roberts
Ms. Sonya Shegogue, Chairperson
Mrs. Kathy Walsh

Absent: Mr. Peter Kovaleski
Mr. George Melnick
Miss Autumn Gagnon, Senior Class Student Representative

Also Present: Dr. Paul Smotas, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Jonathan Campbell, Assistant Principal, Stafford Middle School
Mr. Devin Cowperthwaite, Supervisor of Building Services
Mrs. Peggy Falcetta, Principal, Staffordville School
Mr. Dean Fortin, IT / Network Coordinator
Mr. Damian Frassinelli, Director of Athletics and Recreation
Ms. Anna Gagnon, Principal, West Stafford School
Ms. Beth LaPane, Supervisor of Food Services
Ms. Susan Mike, Assistant Principal, Stafford High School
Mr. Steve Montgomery, Principal, Stafford Elementary School
Ms. Jennifer Murrehy, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Mr. Paul Muska, Principal, Stafford Middle School
Mr. Marco Pelliccia, Principal, Stafford High School
Ms. Diane Peters, Business Manager
Ms. Jolene Piscetello, Director of Pupil Services
Mr. Nicholas Wyse, Junior Class Student Representative

Item I. Call to Order- Establishment of Quorum

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Item II. Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Smotas led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item III. Secretary's Report- Approval of Minutes

Special Meeting, 12/04/17
Regular Meeting, 12/04/17
Special Meeting, 12/20/17

Mr. Roberts made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Locke, that the Board approve the Secretary's Report for the special and regular meetings held on 12/04/17, and the special meeting held on December 20, 2017, as presented. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Roberts and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried.

Item IV. Consent Agenda

- A. Bills, 12/06/17- \$30,453.90
- B. Grants, 12/06/17- \$795.75
- C. Bills, 12/14/17- \$153,162.09
- D. Grants, 12/14/17- \$6,549.17
- E. Bills, 12/21/17- \$125,129.71
- F. Grants, 12/21/17- \$1,002.03
- G. Financial Report through December 31, 2017
- H. Cafeteria Profit and Loss through November 30, 2017
- I. Disposal of Obsolete Equipment- Stafford Elementary School Library VHS Tapes
- J. Resignation- Certified Staff Member

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Walsh, that the Board approve the items listed in the consent agenda, as presented. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Roberts and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried.

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bachiochi, to move item XI.A.- Review and Approval of Contract of Employment for Superintendent of Schools (Executive Session Anticipated) and item XI.B.- Appointment of Superintendent of Schools, to the next items on the agenda. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Roberts and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried.

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roberts, that the Board enter executive session. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Roberts and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried. The Board relocated to the main office conference room and entered executive session at 6:35 p.m.

The Board returned to the cafetorium. Mrs. Walsh made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Locke, that the Board return to regular session. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Roberts and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried. The Board returned to regular session at 6:50 p.m.

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Walsh, that Mr. Steven Moccio be appointed as Superintendent of Schools, effective March 12, 2018, at a salary of \$168,000 (pro-rated). Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Roberts, Ms. Shegogue and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried.

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bachiochi, that the Contract of Employment for the Superintendent of Schools be approved, as presented. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Roberts, Ms. Shegogue and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried.

Ms. Shegogue introduced Mr. Moccio, who was present at the meeting.

Item V. Correspondence

A. Board Meeting Reminder

Ms. Shegogue read the Board meeting reminder that was posted on the agenda.

B. Connecticut Council of Small Towns: Governor's Holdbacks- Impact on Small Towns

Item VI. Board Reports

A. Report from Student Representatives

Miss Gagnon was absent.

Mr. Wyse reported on the following topics:

- Sports Update
- Music and Drama Update
- Update on Events at West Stafford School
- Update on Events at Staffordville School
- Distributed a music department report to the Board members

B. Budget Committee

The Budget Committee members are Ms. Shegogue, Mrs. Locke and Mr. Roberts (Mr. Kovaleski, alternate). Ms. Shegogue stated that the Budget Committee met prior to the Board meeting to discuss the 2018 – 2019 budget, which she said is a work in progress. Ms. Shegogue said that she and Dr. Smotas have a meeting scheduled at town hall on Tuesday, January 9, at 1 p.m., with Ms. Slater, Chairperson of the Board of Finance, and Ms. Mitta, First Selectman, to discuss the status of this year's budget.

C. Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee members are Ms. Shegogue, Ms. Bachiochi and Mr. Melnick. Ms. Shegogue stated that a committee meeting would be held prior to the regular Board meeting scheduled for January 29, 2018.

D. Policy Committee

The Policy Committee members are Mrs. Walsh, Ms. Bachiochi and Mr. Melnick (Mr. Kovaleski, alternate). There was no update from this committee.

E. Negotiation Committee

The Negotiation Committee members are Mrs. Locke, Ms. Shegogue and Mr. Roberts. There was no update from this committee.

F. District Climate Study Committee

Ms. Shegogue stated that the committee is working to schedule a meeting.

Item VII. Superintendent's Reports

A. Superintendent's Update on School Closings

Dr. Smotas reviewed the events that led up to the most recent school closings and delays. He explained that there were technical issues with some of the messages, resulting in a message being sent late and a duplicate message being sent. He said that a procedure has been put in place to avoid future issues.

Dr. Smotas also stated that some of the district's buses were stalling out after running for about an hour in the extremely cold weather. He explained that the issue wasn't the fault of the bus company, but rather it was an issue with the fuel with which they've been provided. Dr. Smotas said that he's spoken with the public works director, and he is experiencing similar issues with his equipment. Dr. Smotas said that the district is exploring other options for the procurement of fuel.

B. Stafford Public Schools is Recipient of NASA Connecticut Space Grant

Dr. Smotas stated that Mrs. Lynn Erickson, Technology Integration Specialist, is the recipient of an award of \$599.79 from the NASA Connecticut Space Grant Consortium to provide starter kits for a robotics program for the middle school computer club.

Item VIII. Public Comment

Mr. Pelliccia stated that Mr. Damian Frassinelli, Director of Athletics and Recreation, has been named Outstanding Coach of the Year for Unified.

A member of the audience stated that Mrs. Erickson provides exceptional programs, which are invaluable to the district. She also stated that Stafford is a great district and that the new Superintendent will love it here.

A member of the audience stated that her grandson goes to Staffordville and loves the STEAM program (and his teacher :).

Item IX. Old Business

There was no Old Business.

Item X. New Business

A. Review and Possible Approval of Social Security Alternative Program

Dr. Smotas stated that an employer can establish a Social Security Alternative Program, which is an IRS authorized alternative to Social Security for part-time, seasonal and temporary employees. Use of this plan saves the district the matching employer portion of the social security tax, which is 6.2%. He said that current employees would be given the option of enrolling, while all new part-time, seasonal and temporary employees would automatically be enrolled. Dr. Smotas said that the district would realize a savings of \$6.20 per \$100 paid to this group of employees.

Dr. Smotas noted that the town is looking into this plan as well.

Item XI. Personnel Matters

A. Review and Approval of Contract of Employment for Superintendent of Schools (Executive Session Anticipated)

This item was moved up on the agenda.

B. Appointment of Superintendent of Schools

This item was moved up on the agenda.

Item XII. Student Matters

There were no Student Matters.

Item XIII. Adjournment

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roberts, to adjourn. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Roberts and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,
Christine C. Marinelli, Recording Secretary**

Sonya Shegogue, Chairperson

Andrea Locke, Secretary