

**Special Meeting
Stafford Board of Education
Electronic Meeting via Zoom
April 27, 2020, 5:30 p.m.**

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

Also Present: Mr. Steven Moccio, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Steven Autieri, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Mr. Jonathan Campbell, Assistant Principal, Stafford Middle School
Mrs. Peggy Falcetta, Principal, Staffordville School
Mr. Dean Fortin, IT / Network Coordinator
Mr. Damian Frassinelli, Director of Athletics and Recreation
Mr. Timothy Kinel, Assistant Principal, Stafford High School
Ms. Trish Lustila, Interim Director of Pupil Services
Ms. Mary Claire Manning, Principal, Stafford Elementary School
Ms. Susan Mike, Principal, Stafford Middle School
Mr. Marco Pelliccia, Principal, Stafford High School
Ms. Diane Peters, Business Manager

The special meeting agenda and copies of all Board meeting materials were posted on the district's website (www.stafford.k12.ct.us) prior to the meeting, in accordance with the requirements for electronic meetings. Audience members were able to participate by phone utilizing the phone number provided on the meeting agenda. The live recording of this meeting is available on the district website.

Item 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m. A quorum was established.

Item 2. Discussion Regarding Alternate Grading System in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

Mr. Moccio, Mr. Pelliccia, Principal of Stafford High School, Mr. Kinel, Assistant Principal of Stafford High School, and Mr. Autieri, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, reviewed the information in the following memo and responded to questions from Board members.

In response to the April 7, 2020, memorandum distributed by the State Board of Education (SDE) (entitled *Grading, Graduation Requirements, and Prescribed Courses of Study*), the Stafford High School Administration investigated a variety of possible options related to grading during the Covid-19 closure. A number of solutions were considered. The administration presented the following recommendations that aligned best with the SDE guidance and the needs of Stafford High School students and families. They are as follows:

- The student grades for the first semester will be stored into PowerSchool as is, incorporated into that student's Grade Point Average (GPA), and recorded on the student's transcript.
- Students' Third and Fourth quarter grades will be awarded the designation of "P" for all student averages achieving a 60% and over, an "F" for all student averages receiving below a 60%, or an "I" for students in grades 9, 10, and 11 whose life circumstances have impacted their ability to engage in the Interim Learning Plan.
 - An "I" will also be issued for students with disabilities that have not had adequate access to curriculum due to the school closure.
 - The high school would like to issue a "P" with "Distinction" for students achieving a 90% or better, but will need to further explore options within PowerSchool as it relates to transcripts and Historical grades.
- The *Stafford High School Grading Review Committee* will be formed to evaluate students whose first and second semester grades are not congruent. After reviewing all relevant background information related to student engagement and appropriate access to instruction during the Interim Learning period, the committee will make a final determination on the student's final grade within the course discussed.
 - Members of the committee will be static, however the teacher of record and the student's school counselor will be present to lend context to the proceedings.
 - Final grade options include: "P", "F", or "I".
- Advanced Placement (AP) / University of Connecticut (UConn) Early College Experience (ECE) course discussion:
 - UConn recommends that all students continue through the course as assigned. Students are afforded the ability to receive a P/F designation for the 4th quarter and it will get incorporated into their final average for the course. Students will have the ability to withdraw from all ECE classes up to the final class date.
 - AP exams will occur in May and Stafford High School teachers will continue to prepare students for the exams. However, it is our understanding that students can choose to take the course Pass/Fail and still sit for the examination. Provided that they obtain a passing score, the potential of college credit is still a possibility.

Mr. Autieri stated that guidance regarding grading for pre-kindergarten – grade 5 would be reviewed at an upcoming Board meeting.

Item 3. Notification of Grant Award- PEGPETIA

Mr. Autieri, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Mrs. Diane Peters, Business Manager; and Mr. Dean Fortin, IT / Network Coordinator; applied for the Public, Educational and Governmental Programming and Educational Technology Investment Account (PEGPETIA) grant in January 2020. The district was notified that the grant was awarded in the amount of \$64,700.00.

The purpose of the grant is to increase the quantity, quality and variety of educational programming produced in the state by Boards of Education and other educational entities. The district's grant will be utilized to purchase equipment for all five schools.

Item 4. Public Comment

A member of the audience asked if it would be possible to let high school students choose a grading system. Mr. Pelliccia responded that the administration did investigate that option, but they could not guarantee that it would be equitable for all students based on family circumstances. He said that there was considerable discussion and review of all of the options.

Item 5. Possible Approval of Alternate Grading System in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

Mrs. Davis made a motion, seconded by Ms. Lybarger, that the Board approve the alternate grading system as detailed in Item 3 for all students in grades 6 – 12. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke, Ms. Lybarger, and Mr. Melnick voted for the motion, which carried.

Item 6. Adjourn

Mr. Melnick made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bachiochi, to adjourn. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke, Ms. Lybarger, and Mr. Melnick voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Marinelli, Recording Secretary
Live Recorded via Zoom

Sonya Shegogue, Chairman

Andrea Locke, Secretary