

**Regular Meeting
Stafford Board of Education
Stafford Elementary School
Monday, May 6, 2019, 6:30 p.m.**

Board Members Present: Ms. Kathy Bachiochi
Mrs. Jennifer Davis
Mr. Mike Delano
Mrs. Andrea Locke, Secretary
Ms. Sonya Shegogue, Chairperson
Mrs. Kathy Walsh

Absent: Mr. George Melnick
Mr. Nick Wyse, Student Representative

Also Present: Mr. Steven Moccio, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Steven Autieri, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Mr. Devin Cowperthwaite, Supervisor of Building Services
Ms. Lynn Erickson, Technology Integration Specialist
Ms. Peggy Falcetta, Principal, Staffordville School
Mr. Dean Fortin, IT/Network Coordinator
Ms. Anna Gagnon, Principal, West Stafford School
Ms. Caroline Hargraves, Assistant Principal, Stafford Elementary School
Mr. Timothy Kinel, Assistant Principal, Stafford High School
Ms. Susan Mike, Principal, Stafford Middle School
Mr. Steve Montgomery, Principal, Stafford Elementary School
Mr. Marco Pelliccia, Principal, Stafford High School
Ms. Diane Peters, Business Manager
Ms. Jolene Piscetello, Director of Pupil Services
Miss Grace Zopelis, Alternate Student Representative

Item I. Call to Order- Establishment of Quorum

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

Item II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

Item III. Secretary's Report- Approval of Minutes

- A. Regular Meeting, April 8, 2019

Mrs. Walsh made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Davis, that the Board approve the minutes for the regular meeting held on Monday, April 8, 2019, as presented. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried.

Item IV. Consent Agenda

- A. 18-19 Bills, 04-16-19, \$286,264.79
B. 18-19 Grants, 04-09-19, \$3,549.47
C. 18-19 Grants, 04-16-19, \$2,105.07

D. Request Release of Funds for the Class of 2011 Account

The class of 2011 has requested the appropriation of the remaining balance in their account in the amount of \$1,914.87, to be transferred to an account at a local bank for the planning of the tenth reunion.

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

Item V. Correspondence

A. and B.- Ms. Shegogue read the two meeting reminders that were posted on the agenda.

Mr. Moccio informed the Board that this past Saturday, twelve grade five and two middle school students represented Stafford at the Connecticut Invention Convention at the University of Connecticut. Four students did receive awards:

- Gretchen Kelly- received the SWENext Inventing Her Future Award from the Society of Women Engineers to a Creative Young Woman Inventor for her project: Easy Cleaning Critter Cage.
- Bella Coporale- received the Recognized Inventor Award from judges for her project: Walk and Talk.
- Ashlynn Martel- received the Recognized Inventor Award from judges for her project: Christmas Tree Wall.
- Anthony Coporale- received the Recognized Inventor Award from judges for his project: Quick Change

In the next few days, the district will know if any students have received an invitation to attend the National Convention in Michigan.

Item VI. Board Reports

A. Student Representatives' Report

Miss Zopelis reported on the following:

- Distributed and reviewed an update regarding upcoming events at WS, SV, SES, SMS and SHS.
- Family Literacy Night will be held at Staffordville School on Thursday, May 9, 2019 at 5:45 p.m. All Board members are invited to attend.

B. Negotiation Committee Report (Chairperson- Andrea Locke, Jen Davis and Sonya Shegogue)

Mrs. Locke stated that negotiations were moving ahead with the non-certified union. Many items have been agreed upon with some additional items still in progress. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 13, 2019.

C. Board – Employee Communications Committee (Chairperson- Sonya Shegogue, George Melnick and Kathy Walsh)

Ms. Shegogue stated that a meeting of this committee was held prior to the Board meeting. It was an opportunity to hear what is going on throughout the schools.

Item VII. Superintendent's Reports

A. Update on Self-Funded Insurance Account

Mrs. Peters, Business Manager, provided an update regarding the self-funded insurance account through March 31, 2019. She stated that the report was included on the portal for the Board and that the information came from the town CFO. Mrs. Peters stated that the claims and fees have increased since the last report, but that the fund continues to maintain a healthy balance.

B. Update Regarding Configuration Study- Facility Review Presentation

Mr. Moccio presented the first installment of the configuration study to the Board examining the review of current district facilities. Mr. Moccio indicated that in January, approval was requested to commence a configuration study connected to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to determine per pupil expenditures in each school. Consideration was placed into the current enrollment trends as well as comparisons with similar sized districts to Stafford. The first step of the process was to look at capacities for each of our buildings and any potential shifts that we are able to make. Mr. Moccio thanked Mr. Cowperthwaite and the administrators for their input regarding accreditation requirements.

Mr. Cowperthwaite discussed the process that was utilized to examine what configuration is feasible based on past data for enrollment. Building prints and classroom measurements were utilized as data points to determine the most logical configurations.

Mr. Moccio detailed three possible options:

- **Option C:** Maintain current configuration
- **Option B:** Construction of a new school building. This is most likely the most unrealistic option as it would pose a significant expense to the town.
- **Option A:** Combining of PK-1 schools in either WSS or SVS. Mr. Moccio explained that only one school could hold the number of students based on accreditation requirements and space for the FRC program. With this option, grade one students would be moved to SES. SMS and SHS would maintain their current configuration. To promote greater efficiencies, district offices would be relocated to SVS, however, the district would strive to maintain the school as much as possible in case we need to ever transition SVS back to an operational school building.

Mr. Moccio explained that there are several benefits to examining this option. These included greater levels of consistency amongst grade levels, as well as the ability to share staffing and resources. The next steps in the process would be to examine transportation and personnel.

Mrs. Locke inquired that if we did select to go the route of a new school (option B), would we establish an additional committee to review the building development. Mr. Moccio explained that we would consider further examination of the logistics if we did move in that direction.

Mr. Moccio explained that he would look to reinvest savings into security and safety, reconfiguration of the playground at SES, and additions to enrichment activities for students across the district. Potential grade configurations will need to be examined for each building as this is not being considered as an option for the next school year.

Mrs. Davis stated that some concerns still would exist around cost because a building is still occupied for heating, snow removal, etc. Mr. Moccio agreed that best case scenario would be to sell a building, however, current district structure could not be accommodated by four buildings. Mr. Cowperthwaite stated that we could accommodate approximately 700 students at SES based on code.

Mrs. Davis asked if we considered a grade 8-12 configuration at SHS. Mr. Cowperthwaite stated we had but having fifth grade students on the school bus with twelfth grade students, was not considered an adequate option by the administrative team. Mrs. Davis stated that we would need to reexamine our transportation structures.

Mr. Delano inquired regarding some of the upgrades to the building to promote further efficiencies. Mr. Cowperthwaite indicated that many of those changes were also made to the other buildings as well.

Item IX. Old Business

There was no Old Business.

Item VIII. Public Comment

Mr. Ralph Shegogue-- 4 Furnace Avenue—discussed the building occupancy chart located on page five of the facility review presentation. Mr. Shegogue inquired as to whether that information existed for all of the buildings.

Mr. Cowperthwaite indicated that the information does exist and can be made available.

Item X. New Business

There was no New Business.

Mrs. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Locke, to place item XI.B.- **Superintendent of Schools' Evaluation (Executive Session Anticipated)** into executive session. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke and Mrs. Walsh, which carried.

Item XI. Personnel Matters

A. Review and Possible Approval of Request for Unpaid Leave of Absence- Certified Staff Member

Mrs. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Locke, that the Board approve the request from Ms. Kimberly Robbins for an unpaid leave of absence, effective November 12, 2019, through November 24, 2019. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke and Mrs. Walsh, which carried.

The Board took a brief recess at 7:35 p.m.

Mrs. Davis made a motion to enter executive session, seconded by Mrs. Locke. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke and Mrs. Walsh, which carried. The Board entered executive session at 7:41 p.m.

Mrs. Davis made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bachiochi, to return to regular session. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke and Mrs. Walsh, which carried. The Board returned to regular session at 8:45 p.m.

B. Superintendent of Schools' Evaluation (Executive Session Anticipated)

No action was taken.

Item XII. Student Matters

There were no Student Matters.

Item XIII. Adjournment

Mrs. Davis made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bachiochi, to adjourn. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke and Mrs. Walsh, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Peters / Steve Autieri, Recording Secretaries

Sonya Shegogue, Chairperson

Andrea Locke, Secretary