

**Regular Meeting
Stafford Board of Education
Stafford Elementary School
November 6, 2017, 6:30 p.m.**

Board Members Present: Mrs. Andrea Locke
Mr. George Melnick
Mr. Jeff Roberts
Mrs. Tracy Rummel, Secretary
Ms. Sonya Shegogue, Chairperson
Mrs. Kathy Walsh

Absent: Mr. Peter Kovaleski

Also Present: Dr. Paul Smotas, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Peggy Falcetta, Principal, Staffordville School
Ms. Anna Gagnon, Principal, West Stafford School
Miss Autumn Gagnon, Senior Class Student Representative
Ms. Jennifer Murrihy, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
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

Regular Meeting, 10/23/17

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Locke, that the Board approve the Secretary's Report for the regular meeting held on 10/23/17, as presented. Mrs. Locke, Mr. Melnick, Mr. Roberts, Mrs. Rummel and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried.

Item IV. Consent Agenda

- A. Bills, 10/20/17- \$163,030.96
- B. Grants, 10/20/17- \$433.19
- C. Bills (Encumbered), 10/20/17- \$7,860.79
- D. Cafeteria Profit and Loss through September 30, 2017
- E. Enrollment Report for September 29, 2017

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

Item V. Correspondence

A. Board Meeting Reminder

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

B. Recognition of Board Member Tenure

Ms. Shegogue honored Mrs. Rummel for her thirteen years of service on the Board of Education and presented her with a small gift of recognition. The Board took a brief recess at 6:37 p.m. for refreshments.

The meeting reconvened at 6:45 p.m.

Item VI. Board Reports

A. Report from Student Representatives

Miss Gagnon reported on the following topics:

- Middle School
- Supplies for Holiday
- American Cancer Donation
- School Dance
- Grade 2 - 5 Chorale Concert
- SES First Ten Years Celebration
- SES Fundraiser for Perennials and Banner
- High School Spirit Week
- Homecoming Dance
- College Knowledge Night
- November 8 Veterans' Day Assembly
- Sports Update

Mr. Wyse reported on the following topics:

- Music Update
- NCCC Music Festival
- SHS Band Update
- District Chorale Concert
- Madrigal Feaste
- WSS Update
- Get Into a Good Book Day
- SV Scarecrow, Second Place
- Shine Purple Event
- Basils Fundraiser
- Halloween Event
- Report Card Conferences
- SV Santa Visit

B. Budget Committee

The Budget Committee members are Ms. Shegogue, Mr. Melnick and Mr. Kovaleski (Mrs. Locke, alternate). There was no update from this committee.

C. Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee members are Ms. Shegogue, Mrs. Locke and Mrs. Walsh (Mrs. Rummel, alternate). There was no update from this committee.

D. Policy Committee

The Policy Committee members are Mrs. Rummel, Mr. Kovaleski and Mrs. Walsh. 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 said that the committee meeting was postponed and that a new date will be selected.

Item VII. Superintendent's Reports

A. 2017 Smarter Balanced and Science Assessment Results

Dr. Smotas introduced Mrs. Murrehy, Director of Curriculum and Instruction. Mrs. Murrehy stated that the district just received the science assessment results that morning. Therefore, she'd be presenting those results at the December Board meeting.

Mrs. Murrehy stated that Stafford students outperformed both the DRG F and State averages on the ELA portion of the 2017 Smarter Balanced Assessments, which are administered to students in grades three through eight. She also noted that the average number of students who met or exceeded goal surpassed the State averages. The district's math scores were slightly lower than the State average, which was a trend across the State.

Mrs. Murrehy reported that the newly available growth information will allow the district to examine areas of strength and focus on continuous improvement by replicating instructional practices which are supporting student success.

Dr. Smotas noted that the district's professional development supports teachers in this area and asked Mrs. Murrehy to elaborate. Dr. Smotas also noted that because Stafford is a small district, one or two students' performances can cause significant fluctuation in the scores.

B. Debrief on School Cancellations

Dr. Smotas reviewed the events that led up to the school cancellations (October 30 and 31) and delay (November 1) the previous week due to the storm, which caused many downed trees and power lines. He informed the Board that all of his decisions regarding school cancellations / delays were based on conversations with and recommendations from Lt. Duncan and the State police; Mr. Zulick, Director of Public Works; M&J Bus Company and Eversource, as well as his own and other district staff's assessment of road conditions.

Dr. Smotas thanked the parents and staff for their understanding during this difficult weather event.

C. Update on Superintendent Search

Dr. Smotas updated the Board on the status of the search for a new Superintendent. Dr. Smotas stated that there are ten candidates to date, with sixteen days remaining until the closing date.

Dr. Smotas said that the interview committee, comprised of stakeholders from all areas of the school community, would interview up to six (6) candidates on Saturday, December 9, at the public library. He said that any number of those candidates could be moved forward to the full Board for interview.

He said that it would be the committee's job to find the best fit for the Stafford school community.

D. Review Last 3 Years' Expulsion Data

Dr. Smotas presented the last three years' expulsion data, as requested by Board members at the last meeting. He said that the use of a hearing officer would remove the Board from the expulsion process and most likely save money by doing so.

There were no questions or comments.

Item VIII. Public Comment

A member of the audience thanked Tracy for her years of service to the Board. She also stated that her children were very happy to be home from school on Halloween.

Item IX. Old Business

There was no Old Business.

Item X. New Business

A. Review and Possible Approval of Revision to Bylaw 9325.2

Dr. Smotas said that as a follow-up to the discussion at the last Board meeting regarding the addition of "consent agenda" to future Board meeting agendas, he is presenting for approval revised Board Bylaw 9325.2- Order of Business.

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mr. Melnick, that the Board approve the revised Board Bylaw 9325.2- Order of Business, as presented. Mrs. Locke, Mr. Melnick, Mr. Roberts, Mrs. Rummel and Mrs. Walsh 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

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, to adjourn. Mrs. Locke, Mr. Melnick, Mr. Roberts, Mrs. Rummel and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine C. Marinelli, Recording Secretary

Sonya Shegogue, Chairperson

Tracy L. Rummel, Secretary