

**Regular Meeting  
Stafford Board of Education  
Stafford Elementary School  
June 3, 2019, 6:30 p.m.**

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

**Also Present:** Mr. Steven Moccio, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Steven Autieri, Director of Curriculum and Instruction  
Ms. Lynn Erickson, Technology Integration Specialist  
Mr. Dean Fortin, IT / Network Coordinator  
Mr. Damian Frassinelli, Director of Athletics and Recreation  
Mr. Timothy Kinel, Assistant Principal, Stafford High School  
Ms. Beth LaPane, Supervisor of Food Services  
Mr. Marco Pelliccia, Principal, Stafford High School  
Ms. Diane Peters, Business Manager  
Ms. Jolene Piscetello, Director of Pupil Services  
Mr. Nicholas Wyse, Student Representative  
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 representatives led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Item III. Secretary's Report- Approval of Minutes**

Regular Meeting, 05/20/19

Mrs. Walsh made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Locke, that the Board approve the Secretary's Report for the regular meeting held on 05/20/19, as presented. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Melnick, and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried.

**Item IV. Consent Agenda**

- A. 18-19 Bills, 5/24/19- \$139,891.00
- B. 18-19 Bills, 5/24/19- \$9,981.44

- C. Donation from SHS Music Boosters- Mr. Marco Pelliccia, Principal of Stafford High School, requested acceptance of a donation from the Stafford High School Music Boosters. The donation includes two wireless receivers and antenna distribution system to be installed in the auditorium. The value of the system is \$1,260.
- D. Obsolete Equipment, Stafford Elementary School / PASS- Mr. Steven Autieri, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, submitted a request to dispose of a stationary bicycle that was purchased through the PASS grant. The bicycle is not able to be repaired as the manufacturer no longer produces the necessary parts.

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Mr. Melnick, that the Board approve the items listed in the consent agenda, as presented. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Melnick, 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.

Ms. Shegogue said that the Board received a thank you letter from Mrs. Kathy Ladr for the retirement bell and a thank you card from Mrs. Erickson.

#### **Item VI. Board Reports**

- A. **Report from Student Representatives**

Mr. Wyse reported on the following topics:

- Memorial Day Parade
- Senior Picnic
- Top 20 Banquet
- Sports Update
- High School Drama and Music Update

Miss Zopelis reported on the following topics:

- SMS Update
- National Junior Honor Society
- SHS Music and Drama Update
- SHS Baccalaureate

- B. **Curriculum Committee**

The Curriculum Committee members are Mrs. Locke, Ms. Bachiochi and Mr. Melnick (Ms. Shegogue, alternate). Ms. Shegogue reported that a curriculum committee meeting was held prior to the Board meeting. She said that Mr. Autieri reviewed the proposal for two new textbooks that are being

presented later on the agenda for Board approval. Ms. Shegogue also stated that a curriculum revision plan through 2024 was shared with the committee.

Mrs. Davis asked a question regarding the online resources for the textbooks.

Mr. Melnick commended Mr. Autieri on his hard work and for presenting comprehensive material in a way that was easy to understand.

Mr. Autieri added that he will now be training the TEAM Mentors in-house, as he has received the necessary training.

**C. Negotiation Committee**

The Negotiation Committee members are Mrs. Locke, Ms. Shegogue and Mrs. Davis. Mrs. Locke reported that an agreement with CSEA will be presented to the Board for approval later on the agenda. She said that CSEA will hold a ratification meeting later this week.

**Item VII. Superintendent's Reports**

**A. Spring Athletic Presentation**

Mr. Damian Frassinelli, Athletic Director, introduced the coaches and students that were present at the meeting. There were coaches and / or student representatives from baseball, track, golf, and softball.

Mr. Frassinelli and the coaches thanked the Board, the Superintendent and administration for their support.

**B. 2018 – 2019 Financial Report, July 1 – May 23, 2019**

Mrs. Diane Peters, Business Manager, presented the 2018 – 2019 financial report through May 23, 2019. Mrs. Peters stated that there has not been much change since the last report. She said that the monies were appropriated as of today for the minimum budget requirement adjustment. She reported that approximately 84% of the budget has been expended.

There were no questions.

**C. Presentation- Stafford Technology Plan**

Mr. Moccio stated that although the district is not required by the State to have a technology plan, the plan is a very important framework for the district. He introduced Mr. Steve Autieri, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, along with Mrs. Lynn Erickson, Technology Integration Specialist. Mr. Dean Fortin, IT / Network Coordinator was also present at the meeting.

Mr. Autieri and Mrs. Erickson provided an update regarding the four goals and action steps incorporated in the new three-year technology plan. They also reviewed a brief PowerPoint presentation. A copy of the long-range technology plan was provided for Board members via the portal.

Mr. Delano asked a question regarding the technology courses available at the high school level. Mr. Pelliccia was available to respond.

**Item VIII. Public Comment**

There were no questions or comments.

**Item IX. Old Business**

There was no Old Business.

**Item X. New Business**

**A. Review and Possible Approval of CSDE Healthy Food Certification Statement for July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020**

Mr. Moccio stated that Connecticut General Statutes requires each local board of education participating in the National School Lunch Program to annually certify whether food items sold to students will meet Connecticut Nutrition Standards. The online Healthy Food Certification Statement – Addendum to Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs (ED-099) must be completed online by July 1, 2019. A memo from the CSDE Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education was provided for Board members via the portal, as well as the online application to be submitted.

Mrs. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Locke, that the Board approve the healthy food certification statement for the 2019 – 2020 school year, and votes to implement the healthy food option, as follows: pursuant to CGS Section 10-215f, the Board of Education certified that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CNS) published by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE), will comply with the CNS during the period of July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Melnick, and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried.

Mrs. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Locke, that the Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the CNS provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring at the end of a regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Melnick, and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried.

**B. Review and Possible Approval of Algebra I Textbook Proposal**

Mr. Moccio stated that Mr. Autieri facilitated a process to garner input and feedback from a selection committee who is recommending *enVision Algebra I* (2018), from Pearson Education, Inc., be adopted as the Algebra I textbook for the Stafford Public Schools. Board members were provided with the rationale, criteria, and reasons for recommending this text, as well as a breakdown of the overall cost via the

portal. The negotiated cost for the books, supporting materials, and shipping costs is \$19,343.41, and has been encumbered in the 2018-2019 budget. Mrs. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Melnick, that the Board approve the proposal for *enVision Algebra I* (2018), from Pearson Education, Inc., and that it be adopted as the Algebra I textbook for the Stafford Public Schools. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Melnick, and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried.

**C. Review and Possible Approval of Statistics Textbook Proposal**

Mr. Moccio stated that Mr. Autieri facilitated a process to garner input and feedback from a selection committee who is recommending *Stats: Modeling the World – AP Edition* (2019), from Pearson Education, Inc., be adopted as a textbook for the Stafford Public Schools. Board members were provided with the rationale, criteria, and reasons for recommending this text, as well as a breakdown of the overall cost via the portal. The negotiated cost for the books, supporting materials, and shipping costs is \$7,695.71, and has been encumbered in the 2018-2019 budget. Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Walsh, that the Board approve the proposal for *Stats: Modeling the World – AP Edition* (2019), from Pearson Education, Inc., and that it be adopted as a textbook for the Stafford Public Schools. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Melnick, and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried.

**Item XI. Personnel Matters**

**A. Request for Leave of Absence- Certified Staff Member**

Mr. Moccio stated that a school counselor has requested an unpaid one-year leave of absence to travel to New Zealand on the country's Working Holiday Visa. He said that per Stafford Education Association (SEA) contract, Article 9, Section F, General Leave, extended leaves with or without salary may be granted by the Superintendent. Additionally, per SEA contract, teachers granted a leave of absence are provided the right to continue their fringe benefits at their own expense. He noted that should the leave of absence be approved, the position would be advertised as a one-year long-term substitute position.

Since a request has not been made for this purpose in the past, Mr. Moccio asked for Board perspective. Several Board members were in favor of allowing for the opportunity, while other Board members were concerned about the lack of continuity for the students. Mr. Moccio stated that he would update the Board members once he has made a decision.

Mrs. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Locke, that items XI.B.- Review and Possible Approval of Non-Affiliated Salary Increases (Executive Session Anticipated), XI.C.- Review and Possible Approval of the Professional Agreement between the Stafford Board of Education and the CSEA Local 2001, SEIU, July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2021 (Executive Session Anticipated), XI.D.- Superintendent of Schools' Evaluation (Executive Session Anticipated), and XII.A.- Expulsion Hearing, be placed into executive session. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Melnick, and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried.

The Board took a brief recess at 7:45 p.m. and relocated to the library media center where the expulsion hearing would be held.

## **Item XII. Student Matters**

### **A. Expulsion Hearing**

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Davis, that the Board enter executive session to discuss material that would result in the disclosure of public records or the information contained therein as described in Connecticut General Statutes Sections 1-200(6)(E), subsection (b) of Section 1-210, specifically, personnel, student or medical and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute an invasion of privacy, and / or names and addresses of students enrolled in public school. Only those invited by the Board may be present in the executive session. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Melnick, and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried. The Board entered executive session at 8:07 p.m.

The Board invited the following individuals into the executive session:

Mr. Steven A. Moccio, Superintendent of Schools  
Atty. Jessica Ritter, Counsel for the Board of Education  
Mr. Marco Pelliccia, Principal, Stafford High School  
Mr. Timothy Kinel, Assistant Principal, Stafford High School  
Student C  
Student C's Parent  
Mrs. Christine Marinelli, Recording Secretary

The Board requested that all invited individuals leave the meeting room at 8:24 p.m., with the exception of Attorney Ritter, so that they could deliberate. All invited individuals were allowed to return to the meeting room at 8:31 p.m.

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Davis, that the Board return to regular session. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Melnick, and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried.

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Davis, that based on the evidence and testimony received after a due process hearing, it is the finding of the Stafford Board of Education that culminating on or about May 17, 2019, Student C, who is the subject of this hearing, committed an expellable offense. Namely, that Student C possessed and consumed a controlled substance on school grounds. Such conduct violated publicized policies of the Board and was seriously disruptive of the educational process. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Melnick, and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried.

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Davis, to enter executive session. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Melnick, and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried. The Board entered executive session at 8:32 p.m.

The Board requested that all invited individuals leave the meeting room at 8:46 p.m., with the exception of Attorney Ritter, so that they could deliberate. All invited individuals were allowed to return to the meeting room at 9:05 p.m.

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Davis, to return to regular session. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Melnick, and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried. The Board returned to regular session at 9:06 p.m.

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Davis, that based on the previous decision of the Stafford Board of Education that Student C had committed an expellable offense, and based on evidence and testimony received as to the length of any expulsion to be imposed for the offense for Student C, it is the finding of the Stafford Board of Education that Student C shall be expelled from the Stafford Public Schools for one calendar year, retroactive to May 17, 2019. During the period of the expulsion Student C shall not be allowed to enter any school property and/or participate in any school-sponsored events and activities, except to attend the alternative educational program.

During the expulsion period, Student C shall receive an alternative educational opportunity as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent.

Student C may be permitted early readmission to school on or about the first day of the 2019-2020 academic year if the Superintendent finds, in the Superintendent's sole discretion, that the Student has met all of the conditions, as outlined at the hearing. If readmitted early, the Student will be on probation for the remainder of the original expulsion period (one calendar year from May 17, 2019). If the Student violates any of the conditions of this probationary period, as outlined at the hearing, the Superintendent is authorized to reinstate the remaining term of the expulsion without the necessity of any further action by the Board.

Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Melnick, and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried.

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Mr. Melnick, to adjourn the hearing. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Melnick, and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried. The hearing adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Mr. Delano, to enter executive session. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Melnick, and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried. The Board entered executive session at 9:19 p.m.

Mr. Melnick made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bachiochi, that the Board return to regular session. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Melnick, and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried. The Board returned to regular session at 10:50 p.m.

**B. Review and Possible Approval of Non-Affiliated Salary Increases (Executive Session Anticipated)**

Mrs. Davis made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bachiochi, to approve the non-affiliated salary increases, as adjusted. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Melnick, and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried.



**C. Review and Possible Approval of the Professional Agreement between the Stafford Board of Education and the CSEA Local 2001, SEIU, July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2021 (Executive Session Anticipated)**

Mr. Moccio stated that ratification of the agreement by CSEA is anticipated on June 5, 2019, and will be required before the contract can be implemented on July 1, 2019.

Highlights of the changes are as follows:

- ✓ Monetary agreements will include step movement and general wage increase each of the two-years the contract according to classifications below:
  - Paymaster, Bookkeepers, Secretaries – 2%
  - Paraprofessionals, Maintenance, Custodians – 4.25%
  - Head Cooks and Cafeteria Workers – 3%
- ✓ HSA Insurance plan becomes sole option July 1, 2020
- ✓ CSEA insurance cost-share remains the same in 2019 and increases 1% in 2020.
- ✓ Sick Leave language updated and continuous day requirement reduced to over three (3) before a physician's note can be requested.
- ✓ Personal Leave language was updated with additional restrictions being added in relation to days being taken before or after a holiday, or the first or last week of school. Language also added stated personal days are for business that cannot be transacted outside the school day.
- ✓ Language changes were made to clarify practice regarding hours of employment, work year and in-service days, and identified holidays.
- ✓ Removal of service fees deductions for non-union members per legislation changes.

Mrs. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Locke, that the Board approve the Professional Agreement between the Stafford Board of Education and the CSEA Local 2001, SEIU, July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2021. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Melnick, and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried.

**D. Superintendent of Schools' Evaluation (Executive Session Anticipated)**

No action was taken on this item.

**Item XIII. Adjournment**

Mrs. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Locke, to adjourn. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Melnick, and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine C. Marinelli, Recording Secretary

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Sonya Shegogue, Chairperson

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Andrea Locke, Secretary