

**Regular Meeting  
Stafford Board of Education  
Stafford Elementary School Cafetorium  
Limited In-person Meeting and Electronic Meeting- via Zoom  
December 14, 2020, 6:30 p.m.**

**Board Members Present (in person):**

- Mrs. Jennifer Davis
- Mr. Mike Delano
- Mrs. Andrea Locke, Secretary
- Ms. Laura Lybarger
- Mr. George Melnick
- Ms. Sonya Shegogue, Chairperson

**Absent:** Ms. Kathy Bachiochi

**Also Present (virtual, except as noted):**

- Mr. Steven Moccio, Superintendent of Schools (in person)
- Mr. Steven Autieri, Director of Curriculum and Instruction (in person)
- Mr. Jonathan Campbell, Assistant Principal, Stafford Middle School
- Miss Allie Curtin, Student Representative
- Mr. Ryan Duffy, Student Representative
- Mrs. Peggy Falcetta, Principal, Staffordville School
- Mr. Dean Fortin, IT / Network Coordinator (in person)
- Ms. Caroline Hargraves, Assistant Principal, Stafford Elementary School
- Ms. Beth LaPane, Supervisor of Building Services
- Ms. Trish Lustila, 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 (in person)

***The meeting agenda and copies of all Board meeting materials were posted on the district's website ([www.stafford.k12.ct.us](http://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 I. Call to Order- Establishment of Quorum**

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

**Item II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Ms. Shegogue led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Regular Meeting, 11/23/2020

Ms. Lybarger identified a correction that should be made on pages 7 and 8 of the minutes from the November 23, 2020, regular meeting.

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Ms. Lybarger, that the Board approve the Secretary’s Report for the regular meeting held on 11/23/2020, as revised. Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke, and Ms. Lybarger voted for the motion. Mrs. Davis and Mr. Melnick abstained because they were absent from the meeting on November 23, 2020. The motion carried.

**Item IV. Consent Agenda**

**A. Acceptance of Resignations- Certified Staff Members**

NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	EFFECTIVE DATE	REASON
Brisson, Joyce	Elementary Teacher	Stafford Elementary School	End of School Year, June 2021	Retirement
Davino, Leslie	Speech / Language Pathologist	Staffordville School	End of School Year, June 2021	Retirement
Hadj Salem, Michelle	World Language Teacher	Stafford Middle School	End of School Year, June 2021	Retirement

**B. Cafeteria Profit and Loss Report- July 1 through November 30, 2020**

The Food Services Program is reporting a year-to-date net loss of \$15,145.02.

**C. Notification of Donation from Mr. Alexander Suprin of Municom Claims Service**

The Board of Education was provided with notification that the Superintendent accepted a donation from Mr. Alexander Suprin, owner of Municom Claims Service, LLC, in the amount of \$1,000.00, for Staffordville School.

- D. 19-20 Bills and Grants, 12/02/2020, \$60,723.69
- E. 19-20 Bills and Grants, 12/09/2020, \$1,038.02
- F. 20-21 Bills and Grants, 11/25/2020, \$237,141.48
- G. 20-21 Bills and Grants, 12/09/2020, \$240.00
- H. 20-21 Bills and Grants, 12/09/2020, \$172,458.96

Ms. Lybarger asked why the bill listing contains so much detail regarding the classroom supplies, but not the building services. Ms. Peters explained that building services uses a blanket purchase order, so the detail is not indicated on the report. Mr. Delano said that he appreciates the additional detail on the reports.

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

### **Item V. Correspondence**

#### **A. Board Meeting Reminder**

Ms. Shegogue read the Board and committee meeting reminders that were posted on the agenda. Mr. Moccio read a thank you note from Comfort Keepers that was shared with his office.

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

#### **A. Student Representatives' Report**

Miss Curtin and Mr. Duffy provided updates from each of the schools, as well as the athletic and music departments.

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

Mr. Moccio stated that he met with the CSEA co-presidents and the CSEA Staff Representative. Mr. Moccio said that they would like to begin the negotiation process in January or February 2021. All committee members confirmed that they would like to remain on the committee. Committee members will be consulted regarding their availability for upcoming meetings.

### **Item VII. Superintendent's Reports**

#### **A. Discussion Regarding Increased In-Person Learning and Remote Learning on Snow Days**

Mr. Moccio discussed the following topics during the meeting:

- Possible staffing shortages due to quarantine requirements and surrounding districts shifting to remote learning just prior to, and after the upcoming holiday break;
- Remote learning days in lieu of school closings due to inclement weather; and
- The possibility of increasing the number of days for in-person learning upon the return from the holiday break.

Mrs. Davis stated that surrounding districts have had more positive cases than Stafford. She said that she is very proud of our district's diligence. Mrs. Davis said that while she understands the challenges of staffing, she would like students in the classroom as much as possible.

Ms. Shegogue stated that she is very proud of Stafford and the staff that have stayed on top of the situation.

Ms. Lybarger said that she is not in favor of virtual learning on snow days (power outages, etc.). She said she likes the idea of revisiting after the Superintendent has had to call four snow days.

Mr. Melnick and Mr. Delano agreed that virtual learning should not take place on the first four snow days and then revisit on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Delano asked at what point the district would move to remote learning if the number of cases increases. Mr. Moccio stated that it would be determined on a case-by-case and school-by-school basis (i.e. classroom cohort, grade level cohort or entire school).

Following discussion, it was determined that during the 20-21 school year, remote learning will not take place on up to four (4) snow days. If the district closes for more than four (4) days due to inclement weather, a decision will be made by the Superintendent on a case-by-case basis to determine if remote learning will take place on future inclement weather days. Circumstances, such as power outages, will be considered.

The Board members requested that the discussion regarding increasing the number of days of in-person learning be added to the agenda for the January 11, 2021, regular meeting and that no change be made until after that discussion. Additionally, a request was made of the Superintendent to survey staff regarding the proposed change(s).

#### **B. Presentation of District Assessment Results**

Mr. Steve Autieri, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation (copy available on the district website) with the Board describing achievement results for the following assessments:

- Kindergarten Entrance Inventory
- SAT School Day in grade 11
- Advanced Placement Testing

Mr. Autieri informed the Board that the fall SAT is not mandatory and the scores reported did not include students that took the assessment off-site.

Mrs. Davis asked how the district would meet the new requirement that high schools offer African-American, Black, Puerto Rican and Latino studies. Mr. Autieri responded that the mandate is effective at the beginning of the 2022 – 2023 school year. He said that he plans to discuss this topic prior at the Curriculum Committee Meeting, which will be scheduled prior to the January 25, 2021, Board meeting.

#### **VIII. Public Comment**

A member of the audience commented that she is in support of bringing the PK – 5 students in 5 days per week, but she does not support increasing the in-person days for high school and middle school students. She said that the high school seems to be the only one reporting COVID cases and the students at that age are not monitored as closely, so are more likely to interact with others outside of school. She said that having younger students home is very difficult for parents. While she agrees that the teachers and school staff are doing an amazing job, the parents are as well. She said that she appreciates everything the staff has done.

A member of the audience stated that there are a fair number of parents that do not have the option to work from home, and they have had to pay higher daycare costs due to remote learning. She also noted that snow days should remain unchanged and let students have a break.

A member of the audience said that snow days should remain unchanged; they are a gift of time. She also said that she is supportive of a 5-day week for students in grades PK – 5. She said that having Wednesdays off is like having two Mondays every week.

A member of the audience stated that she is in support of switching to remote learning on snow days after 4 traditional days so that students aren't in school late in June. She also supports having PK – 5 students back

in school 5 days per week and having students attend in-person up until the holiday break, if staffing levels allow.

Mrs. Falcetta stated that all staff in her building has indicated that in-person learning is critical, with remote learning very difficult. She would like to see the students back in her building 5 days per week, if a possibility down the road.

**Item IX. Old Business**

There was no Old Business.

**Item X. New Business**

There was no New Business.

**Item XI. Personnel Matters**

There were no Personnel Matters.

**Item XII. Student Matters**

There were no Student Matters.

**Item XIII. Adjournment**

Mrs. Davis made a motion, seconded by Ms. Lybarger, to adjourn. Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke, Ms. Lybarger, and Mr. Melnick voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine C. Marinelli, Recording Secretary  
(In Person)

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Sonya Shegogue, Chairperson

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Andrea Locke, Secretary