

**Regular Meeting  
Stafford Board of Education  
Stafford Elementary School  
February 10, 2020, 6:30 p.m.**

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

**Absent:** Ms. Kathy Bachiochi  
Miss Allie Curtin, Alternate Student Representative

**Also Present:** Mr. Steven Moccio, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Steven Autieri, Director of Curriculum and Instruction  
Mr. Frank Bonavita, Supervisor of Building Services  
Mr. Jonathan Campbell, Assistant Principal, Stafford Middle School  
Mrs. Peggy Falchetta, Principal, Staffordville School  
Mr. Dean Fortin, IT / Network Coordinator  
Ms. Caroline Hargraves, Assistant Principal, Stafford Elementary School  
Mr. Timothy Kinel, Assistant Principal, Stafford High School  
Ms. Mary Claire Manning, Principal, Stafford Elementary School  
Ms. Susan Mike, Principal, Stafford Middle School, arrived at 6:39 p.m.  
Mr. Marco Pelliccia, Principal, Stafford High School  
Ms. Diane Peters, Business Manager  
Miss Grace Zopelis, Student Representative

**Item I. Call to Order- Establishment of Quorum**

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 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**

Regular Meeting, 01/27/2020

Mr. Melnick made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Locke, that the Board approve the Secretary's Report for the regular meeting held on 01/27/2020, as presented. Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke, Ms. Lybarger, and Mr. Melnick voted for the motion, which carried.

**Item IV. Consent Agenda**

A. Acceptance of Resignation- Certified Staff Member

- B. 19-20 Bills, 2/05/20- \$167,348.04
- C. 19-20 Grants, 2/04/20- \$10,527.89

Mrs. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lybarger, 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 meeting reminder that was posted on the agenda.

Mr. Moccio informed the Board that he received an email from a parent regarding how well an incident was handled during an event at Staffordville School last Friday.

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

**A. Student Representatives' Reports**

Miss Zopelis reported on the following:

- Stafford Elementary School Update, including the Staff Paint Night Fundraiser and the Designer Bag BINGO Fundraiser
- Stafford Middle School Update, including ticket information for Frozen Jr.
- Staffordville School Update, including PTO Movie Night, 100<sup>th</sup> Day Celebration, and a visit SRO Santos, Sgt. Kodzis and Loki
- West Stafford School Update, including Four Seasons by the Lake Fundraiser, SRO Santos, Sgt. Kodzis and Loki will be visiting later this week

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

**A. Continuation of Presentation of the Proposed 2020 – 2021 Budget for the Stafford Public Schools**

Mr. Moccio, presented the adjusted proposed 2020 – 2021 budget for the Stafford Public Schools, in the amount of \$29,076,405.12, or 3.65% increase over the 2019 – 2020 budget. The budget and increase may be reduced to \$28,838,824.12, or 2.80%, if \$237,581.00 of 2019 – 2020 ECS funding is used as an offset toward next year's budget.

Mr. Moccio highlighted the changes made to the PowerPoint presentation. He reminded the Board that additional monies were appropriated to the 2018 – 2019 budget by the Board of Finance to meet the State's Minimum Budgetary Requirement and avoid penalty and reduction to future State funding. That funding, in the amount of \$239,655.00, was spent to pre-purchase items from the 2019 – 2020, thus reducing the budget request brought forward to the town for 2019 – 2020.

Mr. Moccio made available to the audience copies of the updated and revised PowerPoint presentation, as well as the proposed 2020 - 2021 budget summary with detailed explanation of the variances.

Mr. Moccio said that the proposed 2020 – 2021 budget documents would be posted on the district website ([www.stafford.k12.ct.us](http://www.stafford.k12.ct.us)) under the “Budget” link.

Board members said that there is considerable misinformation circulating on Facebook pages. Board members asked for a one-page summary of the budget that could be distributed to the community. Board members also asked for information concerning the special education rates in surrounding towns.

Mr. Moccio asked Board members for feedback regarding the percentage increase that they would feel comfortable moving forward to the Board. After considerable discussion, the Board agreed to leave the budget as presented.

### **III. Public Comment**

A member of the audience commented that she believes that the proposed budget should be presented to the Board of Finance and the town. She stated that Stafford actually has a higher voter turnout for budget referendum as compared to surrounding towns. She said that it is necessary to mobilize people to come out and vote, such as having a pasta dinner for parents on the night of referendum, like was done in the past.

### **Item IX. Old Business**

#### **A. Update Regarding Configuration Study and Discussion Regarding Next Steps**

Mr. Moccio stated that during the process of preparing the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the architect review, he reviewed the steps taken thus far in the process, including Board member and administrator feedback. He said that it was apparent that the configuration changes, as currently proposed, address declining enrollment solely through a facility lens and lacks a programmatic and educational framework. He said that he still believes it is in the district’s best interest to consolidate district resources, but would like to pause the current process to allow time for his office to gather information and present educational and programmatic recommendations that should be utilized when determining the future configuration of the district. He said that he would like to have administrators, staff, and parents, in partnership with Board members, work to prepare the aforementioned recommendations that will provide the town with a long-term, fiscally responsible solution. He said that he anticipates that this work would be completed in the next six to eight months.

Mr. Moccio asked Board members to consider and respond to the five questions included below in order to facilitate the process.

1. What programmatic questions or suggestions should be considered by the district administrative team as part of the reconfiguration study?
2. What programs do you feel would further enhance or support the community and may be also addressed through a reconfiguration of the schools? (i.e. daycare, before/after school programming, enrichment)

3. What other supports or programs would you like to see addressed through the configuration study?
4. What facility questions or concerns do you feel need to be addressed?
5. Other considerations?

Mrs. Davis asked about the status of the Stafford Elementary School playground and parking area project. Mr. Moccio stated that he just received an email from the consultant prior to the Board meeting, and he would provide the Board members with an update as soon as more information is available. He also said that he would have to be mindful of State reimbursement guidelines and determine how best to proceed with this part of the project.

#### **Item X. New Business**

##### **A. Review and Possible Approval of Trip to Greece, June 2021**

Mr. Moccio provided Board members via the portal with a memo from Mr. Marco Pelliccia, Principal of Stafford High School, on behalf of Ms. Caren Falzarano, Stafford High School English Teacher, for a trip to Greece in the summer of 2021. He said that international trips are valuable opportunities for “hands on” experiential learning, while allowing students to immerse themselves in another culture. A detailed 9-day, 8-night itinerary, along with accompanying information and required forms were also provided via the portal.

Mr. Moccio said that the trip will be organized through Explorica and each participant will assume the cost of his/her own travel, which is estimated to be \$3,400. The documentation also indicates that there will be one adult chaperone per five students, meeting the requirements of Board of Education Policy 6153, Field Trips / Foreign Trips, and its accompanying regulation.

He stated that while current Board policy requires the recommendation and approval of foreign trips from the Superintendent, he would like the Board to be involved in this process due to heightened security considerations and implemented measures internationally. Mr. Pelliccia was present at the Board of Education meeting to answer questions from Board members.

Board members confirmed with Mr. Pelliccia that he will continue to monitor travel risk levels at the time of the trip.

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Davis, that the Board of Education approve the Stafford High School trip to Greece from June 24, 2021, through July 5, 2021, as presented. Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke, Ms. Lybarger, and Mr. Melnick 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**

Mr. Melnick made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Locke, to adjourn. Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke, Ms. Lybarger, and Mr. Melnick voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine C. Marinelli, Recording Secretary

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Sonya Shegogue, Chairperson

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Andrea Locke, Secretary