

**Stafford Board of Education  
Budget Committee Meeting  
Stafford Elementary School Library  
Monday, January 8, 2018, 5:30 p.m.**

**Present:** Mrs. Andrea Locke, Board Member  
Ms. Sonya Shegogue, Board Chairperson  
Dr. Paul Smotas, Interim Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Diane Peters, Business Manager

**Also Present:** Mr. Jonathan Campbell, Assistant Principal, Stafford Middle School  
Ms. Peggy Falcetta, Principal, Staffordville School  
Ms. Anna Gagnon, Principal, West Stafford School  
Ms. Susan Mike, Assistant Principal, Stafford High School  
Mr. Steve Montgomery, Principal, Stafford Elementary School  
Ms. Jennifer Murrihy, Director of Curriculum and Instruction  
Mr. Paul Muska, Principal, Stafford Middle School  
Mr. Marco Pelliccia, Principal, Stafford High School  
Ms. Jolene Piscetello, Director of Pupil Services

**1. Call to Order**

The committee meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

**2. Update on Transportation Request**

Dr. Smotas reminded the members that at the committee meeting held on Monday, December 8, 2017, Mr. Hipsher from M&J Bus Company, Inc., was present and explained that the district was not billed for three mid-day buses during the 2016 – 2017 school year. Mr. Hipsher said that the district was billed for the monitors, but M&J neglected to bill for the buses, in the amount of \$53,000. Mr. Hipsher explained the circumstances at M&J at the time of the billing error.

At the December committee meeting, Dr. Smotas and the committee members asked if it would be possible for M&J to discount the amount owed and allow the district to make the payments over two years.

Dr. Smotas reported that Mr. Hipsher responded and agreed to allow the district to pay over two years (2018-2019 and 2019-2020), and to reduce the bill by \$5,000. Dr. Smotas suggested that rather than budget for the cost over the next two budget cycles, the district request to use funds from the Unexpended Education Funds Account (UEFA). Dr. Smotas stated that the dishwasher at the middle school is no longer functioning properly, and the district may need to request funds from the UEFA to cover this expense as well.

The committee members agreed that Dr. Smotas and Ms. Peters should pursue requesting approval from the Board of Finance to utilize funds from the UEFA to cover the aforementioned expenses.

### **3. 2017 – 2018 Budget Status**

Dr. Smotas said that the Town of Stafford will have a \$1.2 million shortfall in revenue in 2017 – 2018. He said that he anticipates that due to the budget freeze and not filling some new and open positions, he will be able to return approximately \$500,000 to the town at the end of the fiscal year (barring any large, unexpected expenses in special education).

Dr. Smotas reported that a level services budget for 2018 – 2019 represents an approximate 2.8% increase and will protect most classroom teachers. He said that he will be working with the administrators to finalize the budget prior to presenting it to the Board at its regularly-scheduled meeting on Monday, January 29, 2018.

### **4. Adjournment**

The committee meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Marinelli, Recording Secretary