

**Regular Meeting
Stafford Board of Education
Stafford Elementary School
September 23, 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

Absent: Mrs. Kathy Walsh

Also Present: Mr. Steven Moccio, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Steven Autieri, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Mr. Jonathan Campbell, Assistant Principal, Stafford Middle School
Mr. Devin Cowperthwaite, Supervisor of Building Services, arrived at 6:50 p.m.
Miss Allie Curtin, Alternate Student Representative
Ms. Lynn Erickson, District Technology Integration Specialist
Mrs. Peggy Falcetta, Principal, Staffordville School
Mr. Dean Fortin, IT / Network Coordinator
Mr. Damian Frassinelli, Director of Athletics and Recreation
Ms. Anna Gagnon, Principal, West Stafford School
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
Mr. Marco Pelliccia, Principal, Stafford High School
Ms. Diane Peters, Business Manager
Ms. Jolene Piscetello, Director of Pupil Services
Miss Grace Zopelis, Student Representative

Item I. Call to Order- Establishment of Quorum

Following the new staff reception, the meeting was called to order at 6:32 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, 09/09/19

Ms. Bachiochi made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Locke, that the Board approve the Secretary's Report for the regular meeting held on 09/09/19, as presented. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke, and Mr. Melnick voted for the motion, which carried.

Item IV. Consent Agenda

A. Acceptance of Donations- Donors Choose, SHS Music Boosters, and American Sleeve Bearing

Mr. Steve Autieri, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, provided a detailed memo requesting acceptance of a donation on behalf of Ms. Lynn Erickson, District Technology Integration Specialist, of four (4) Sphero BOLT App-Enabled Robots totaling approximately \$645.78 from the Donors Choose website.

Mr. Marco Pelliccia, Principal, Stafford High School, provided a detailed memo requesting acceptance of the following donations to the SHS Music Department:

- Casio AP260 Celviano 88-key Digital Piano valued at \$849.99 from American Sleeve Bearing
- Jupiter JSP1000 Fiberglass Sousaphone valued at \$4,000 from the SHS Music Boosters

According to Stafford Board of Education Policy #3280, the Board of Education may accept on behalf of and for the schools any bequest or gift of money or property for a purpose deemed by the Board of Education to be suitable, and to utilize such money or property so designated...All gifts shall be accepted for the school district as a whole, and not for a particular school. At the discretion of the Superintendent, the gift may be used in a particular school.

- B. 18-19 Bills, 9/18/19- \$8,652.92**
- C. 19-20 Bills, 9/18/19- \$39,227.01**
- D. 19-20 Bills, 9/18/19- \$180,577.77**

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

Item VI. Board Reports

A. Student Representatives' Reports

Miss Zopelis reported on the following:

- Music and Drama Report from Mrs. Dillon
- Stafford Elementary School Update
- Stafford Middle School Update

Miss Curtin reported on the following:

- West Stafford School Update
- Staffordville School Update

B. Policy Committee (Chairperson- Kathy Walsh, Kathy Bachiochi and George Melnick)

Mr. Moccio stated that the Administrative Policy Committee will be meeting on Thursday, September 26, 2019, and he will be requesting a meeting of the Board Policy Committee to take place in October / November.

C. Negotiation Committee (Chairperson- Andrea Locke, Jen Davis and Sonya Shegogue)

Mrs. Locke stated that the first negotiation session with the Stafford Administrators' Association took place on Monday, September 16, 2019, and that things are progressing nicely.

Item VII. Superintendent's Reports

A. 2018 – 2019 Technology Plan Accomplishments

Mr. Moccio provided the Board via the portal with a detailed memorandum and PowerPoint presentation from Mr. Steve Autieri, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, regarding the annual technology plan status report. He stated that in the past, the district would work with an outside consultant from EASTCONN to assess progress toward the goals. As of 2018-2019, Mr. Autieri has overseen the status report and worked alongside Ms. Lynn Erickson, District Technology Integration Specialist, to review the plan.

Mr. Autieri gave a brief overview of the plan and introduced Ms. Erickson. Ms. Erickson reviewed portions of the PowerPoint presentation, including the members of and the purpose for the Learning Resources and Information Technology (LRIT) Committee. Ms. Erickson introduced Anthony Coporale, currently a 7th grader at Stafford Middle School, who was selected to attend the National Invention Convention. Anthony presented his invention to the Board members and audience. Ms. Erickson also introduced Camron Cruz, Collin Gudeman, Ashley Toney and Noah Toney, all currently freshmen at Stafford High School, who participated in the SportsLab Parkour Shoe Design Contest and represented Stafford Public Schools at the CT Educational Computing Association Technology Expo.

B. 2019 – 2020 Financial Report from July 1 – September 15, 2019

Mrs. Diane Peters, Business Manager, presented the 2019 – 2020 financial report through September 15, 2019. Mrs. Peters stated that year-to-date expenses for 2019 – 2020 total 88.50% of the total budget. Mrs. Peters indicated that the current remaining balance in the salary lines, 100, are for those that cannot be encumbered in advance (substitute earnings), as well as for those positions that still remain open.

There were no questions.

C. Discussion Regarding School Resource Officer Position

Mr. Moccio stated that as the Board is aware, Officer Martinez, the district's school resource officer (SRO), resigned effective September 10, 2019. He stated that the vacant position within the Stafford Police Department has been posted.

Mr. Melnick asked about the timeline for filling the position. Mr. Moccio stated that the vacant position in the department has been posted. Once filled, the SRO position would be posted within the department.

Ms. Shegogue asked the administrators present if they would share their thoughts about and experience with the SRO position within their buildings.

Mrs. Gagnon, Principal of West Stafford School, stated that Officer Martinez was consistently at her school. She said that she got great feedback from parents, and they said that the SRO's presence made them feel safer. Mrs. Gagnon said that Officer Martinez built relationships with the parents.

Mrs. Falcetta, Principal of Staffordville School, said that Officer Martinez was also at her school often and would get to know the students on the playground. She said that Officer Martinez was also very responsive whenever she needed him to help with a student.

Ms. Manning, Principal of Stafford Elementary School, stated that although she only began in August, during the first week of school, she heard comments from parents that Officer Martinez was very beneficial at her school. Parents felt very safe with him on staff.

Ms. Hargraves, Assistant Principal at Stafford Elementary School, said that Officer Martinez was extremely helpful at her school. She said that the SRO worked with parents and students, and built relationships with them. He also helped in crisis situations, as well as helping the administration understand the legal side of situations. Ms. Hargraves said that Officer Martinez always made himself available.

Ms. Piscetello, Director of Pupil Services, stated that the SRO is very valuable for supporting the school teams when there is a crisis so that students can get the medical attention that they need. 2-1-1 is always used first, but they have an hour to respond, and their services aren't always appropriate for the situation.

Mr. Pelliccia, Principal of Stafford High School, stated that the position was invaluable as a consult on legal situations. He said that the SRO was always ready to support the students and available for consultation. Mr. Pelliccia said that the SRO provided safety and security, which everyone depended on and made everyone feel safe. Mr. Pelliccia said that the SRO's response time was immediate. He would also team with the high school to do what was best for that student and participate in team discussions. Mr. Pelliccia said that the SRO would update him almost daily regarding any issues.

Mrs. Mike, Principal of Stafford Middle School, said that Officer Martinez would hang out in the lunchroom with the students and shoot hoops with them. She said that the middle school age students need a role model, which the SRO provided.

Mrs. Davis said that Officer Martinez was the right person for the position, and the Board has their work cut out for them in order to find someone to take his place.

Mr. Delano asked about the process. Mr. Moccio stated that the position would have to be filled from within the police department. There was considerable discussion regarding seniority and union issues.

Mrs. Davis stated that Lt. Duncan did an excellent job last time recruiting with the SRO position in mind.

Ms. Shegogue said that it is difficult to get the right person.

Mr. Delano asked if the school district could hire on their own. Mr. Moccio said that they may not. The district could only hire a security person, which adds another layer between the administration and the police, which is typically not effective.

Mr. Moccio said that he will reach out to Lt. Duncan to let him know that the district is still interested in the SRO position. Mr. Moccio said that he will keep the Board updated via email.

III. Public Comment

A member of the audience gave kudos to Ms. Erickson and thanked her for everything she does for the district. She said that the opportunities that Ms. Erickson gives to the students in the district are invaluable.

A member of the audience stated that it is very important that you get the right person for the SRO position. She said that Officer Martinez did an outstanding job.

A member of the audience stated that Officer Martinez did an excellent job at the high school and interacted with the students on a daily basis. There was also a question regarding training and the job description for the SRO position.

Ms. Shegogue asked Mrs. Falcetta to share about the activity that she observed when she visited Staffordville School one morning. Ms. Falcetta said that starting on the first day of school, when the students get off the bus, they go out to the field with adults and do an outdoor activity, such as a nature walk, a listening walk, or an obstacle course, which takes 10 - 15 minutes before the students start their day. Ms. Falcetta said that these activities have had a positive impact on the entire school environment.

Ms. Shegogue commended everyone that walked in the parade. She said that the students were so well behaved and stayed with their groups.

Ms. Shegogue thanked Mr. Frassinelli, Director of Athletics and Recreation, and the athletes for volunteering to pick up trash at the Four Town Fair.

Item IX. Old Business

There was no Old Business.

Item X. New Business

A. Review and Possible Approval of Strategic Education Framework

Mr. Moccio presented an updated version of the Strategic Educational Framework (SEF) for Board consideration and possible approval. He said that the framework blends both long-term strategies to be focused on over the next three years and short-term actions to be worked on throughout this school year. Mr. Moccio said that following the SEF initial presentation to the Board of Education in July, all

staff were presented the SEF during the annual convocation program. Groups were led through an exercise to familiarize them with the framework and gather feedback. Mr. Steve Autieri, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, summarized the feedback from all groups, which was presented to the administrative group for their consideration. Mr. Moccio said that he made adjustments to the SEF in the following areas:

- Celebrations are less specific to allow greater flexibility in planning
- Staff designations were expanded to be more inclusive of all staff
- Acronyms and educational jargon were reduced where possible

Mr. Moccio reported that school administrators have been asked to create individual school improvement plans utilizing the same format for the 2019 – 2020 school year, and he plans to provide the Board of Education with status report updates of the work being completed throughout the school year, as well as additional data presentations as information becomes available.

Mrs. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Melnick, that the Board approve the Strategic Educational Framework as presented. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke, 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

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Davis, to adjourn. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke, and Mr. Melnick voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,
Christine C. Marinelli, Recording Secretary**

Sonya Shegogue, Chairperson

Andrea Locke, Secretary