

**Regular Meeting  
Stafford Board of Education  
Stafford Elementary School Cafetorium  
Limited In-person Meeting and Electronic Meeting- via Zoom  
May 3, 2021, 6:30 p.m.**

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

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

**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)
- Mr. Damian Frassinelli, Director of Athletics and Recreation
- Mr. Jason Gerum, Director of School Facilities
- 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 (in person)
- 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 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 6:31 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**

Special Meeting, 04/12/2021

Regular Meeting, 04/12/2021

Mrs. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Locke, that the Board approve the Secretary's Report for the special and regular meetings held on 04/12/2021. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke, Ms. Lybarger, and Mr. Melnick voted for the motion, which carried.

**Item IV. Consent Agenda**

**A. Obsolete Equipment- School Facilities Department, Staffordville School and Stafford Elementary School**

**B. Cafeteria Profit and Loss through March 31, 2021**

The Food Services Program is reporting a year to date net loss of \$8,851.44. The district has served 100,578 meals through March 31, 2021, a decrease of 19,623 meals as compared to this time last year. Included within the meal total are the 1,642 meals that were picked up by families with children 18 years or younger.

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

NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	EFFECTIVE DATE	REASON
Dobransky, Brandon	Special Education Teacher	Stafford Elementary School	End of School Year, June 2021	Relocation
Duchon, Brett	Music Teacher	Stafford Middle School	End of School Year, June 2021	Personal

**D. 2019-2020 Bills and Grants- 04-30-2021, \$14,842.00**

**E. 2020-2021 Bills and Grants- 04-30-2021, \$815,723.25**

Ms. Lybarger asked about the condition of the many books that appear on the obsolete list from Staffordville School and asked if the unusable books would be recycled. Ms. Shegogue said that she spoke with Mr. Moccio prior to the meeting as she had the same question. Mr. Moccio and Mrs. Falcetta said that many of the books are in very poor condition because books have not been weeded from the library for over twenty years. Ms. Falcetta said that many of the books are not usable, but those that are in fair condition are not needed by West Stafford School or Stafford Elementary School. She said that she would like to offer those books to students and day care centers before the end of the school year. Mr. Moccio said that he would find out if the unusable books will be recycled.

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, 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 noted that the Board's Celebration of Excellence has been moved to the June 14, 2021, meeting to allow time to complete the Teacher of the Year and Paraeducator of the Year selections.

**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.

**Item VII. Superintendent's Reports**

**A. Student Recognition- Seal of Biliteracy**

Mr. Moccio stated that in alignment with one of the long-term strategies as outlined in the district's Strategic Education Framework, accomplishments of Stafford's students and staff will be celebrated. Mr. Moccio said that the district will have its first student graduate with a Seal of Biliteracy included on the diploma. He introduced Mr. Pelliccia, Principal of Stafford High School, and Mr. Incorvati, World Language Teacher at Stafford High School.

Mr. Pelliccia thanked Mr. Autieri, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, for his role and leadership in bringing the Seal of Biliteracy to Stafford High School. Mr. Autieri spoke about the Connecticut State Department of Education's Seal of Biliteracy, which allows high school students to demonstrate their proficiency in a world language and strong academic performance in English. He said that this evening the Board will be recognizing A. Wasilewski, who is the district's very first recipient of the Seal of Biliteracy. He said that A. received some of the highest scores that you can achieve on the Assessment of Performance Toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL), which is indicative of the amount of work that A. has done to not only master English, but also a world language. Mr. Autieri also recognized Mr. Incorvati for his role in revising and revamping the district's entire world language instructional program to ensure that it provides students with opportunities to interact with the target language in a way that is rigorous and challenging, and allows students to leaving each course with a strong grasp of the language.

Mr. Incorvati thanked the Board for their time. He said that this evening is about congratulating an outstanding student that has incredible ability and work ethic. Mr. Incorvati introduced A. Wasilewski, who was presented with an award certificate. Mr. Pelliccia said that he and Mr. Kinel are very proud of both Mr. Incorvati and A. for their accomplishments.

Ms. Lybarger asked A. to speak about his plans beyond high school.

**B. Update on Learning Model and District COVID-19 Cases**

Mr. Moccio said that Board members were provided via the portal with details regarding the enrollment as of April 29, 2021, as well as the number of students attending in-person and remotely. In addition, information was provided regarding chronic absenteeism and the total number of COVID-19 cases in the district. He said that each day the registrar is re-enrolling students in the district and that many students that are being homeschooled are planning to return for next school year. He said that the number of COVID-19 cases are going up, but have slowed drastically. Mr. Moccio stated that following April vacation, students in grades PK – 5 began attending school 5 days per week. He said that middle and high school students are attending 4 days per week and will be returning to a full 5-day schedule on Monday, May 10, 2021.

Mr. Moccio briefly reviewed the Interim Guidance for Remote Learning for the 2021 – 2022 School Year, which was shared with Superintendents on April 27, 2021. He said that at this time, the State Department does not see the need to continue with the mandatory remote learning option for next school year, but

rather it will be a district-level decision whether or not to offer it. He said that he's asked the Leadership Team to review the guidance and list the pros and cons of continuing with the remote learning option for next year. Mr. Moccio said that he plans to add an item to the next regular meeting agenda asking the Board to approve his recommendation regarding the remote learning option for next school year. He said that he does not anticipate recommending that the district continue with the remote learning option.

Ms. Lybarger asked if Mr. Moccio will be recommending that the remote learning option will be eliminated entirely, or might it still be allowed for students that can't attend due to health issues, or on snow days. She said that it would be ideal for students to be able to participate in their actual classes versus being tutored long-term. Mr. Moccio said that the Leadership Team has also been discussing those options. He said that the district will likely offer the remote option to students on an individual case-by-case basis. Mr. Moccio said that he is still awaiting guidance from the State Department regarding snow days. He said that if remote learning during snow days continues to be allowed by the State, he would likely recommend that the district continue with the same model used this year- a number of traditional snow days would be determined and then the district would switch to remote learning when and if the set number of traditional snow days is exceeded.

### **C. Update on the ESSER II Grant Application**

Mr. Moccio stated that the ESSER II grant application was completed and submitted on April 16, 2021. He said that he has not yet heard back from the State, so he is not aware if revisions are necessary. Mr. Moccio thanked Mr. Autieri, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, for his assistance with the grant, as well as the Leadership Team for their thoughtful proposals.

Mr. Moccio said that he received over 2 million dollars' worth of proposals from the Leadership Team, which had to be shaved down to fit within the \$830,593.00 grant award. Mr. Moccio reviewed the list of items that were included in the grant application. He said that he would be bringing the new grant-funded positions forward for Board approval at the next meeting.

Mr. Melnick asked for clarification regarding the Summer Scholars Academy and which students are allowed to attend. Mr. Autieri responded that all students are invited to attend.

Mr. Delano asked if this grant allowed for addressing air quality issues, since none were included. Mr. Moccio said that the district could include those items, but he and Mr. Autieri heavily prioritized the academic needs and addressing learning recovery and acceleration. He said that the capital improvement items will likely be included in the next grant, which will should be larger than the ESSER II grant. He noted that a certain portion (approximately 20%) of the next grant also must be spent on learning recovery.

Ms. Shegogue thanked everyone for their hard work and said that she's very happy to see that the students were the focus of the grant.

Ms. Lybarger asked if the district would be reworking the technology replacement plan to address all of the new technology that the district will be receiving and end-of-life issues that will occur 5 years from now. Mr. Moccio said that he has been meeting with Mr. Fortin, IT / Network Coordinator, and plans to review a revision to the district's technology replacement plan at the June or July Board meeting.

### **VIII. Public Comment**

There were no questions or comments.

**Item IX. Old Business**

There was no Old Business.

**Item X. New Business**

Ms. Shegogue wished the teachers a happy Teacher Appreciation Week. She also recognized the nurses and food service staff. Mr. Moccio said that he sent a letter of appreciation to all staff earlier in the day, as the district recognizes all staff during Teacher Appreciation Week.

**A. Acceptance of First Book Connectivity Grant Award**

Mr. Moccio said that according to BOE Policy 3280 Business and Non-Instructional Operations: Gifts, Grants, and Bequests, *The Superintendent of Schools may approve gifts, grants, and bequests that are valued over \$500 in total and meet criteria established by the administrative regulations established in accordance with this policy....The Superintendent, in consultation with the principals and/or designee and considering the wishes of the donor, may determine the school(s), program(s) or facility(ies) to which the gift shall go if it is valued at more than \$500. The Superintendent shall inform the Board of Education of any gift valued at more than \$500 that has been accepted by the district.*

He said that as indicated in the memorandum in the portal from Mr. Steve Autieri, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, the district has been awarded a First Book Connectivity Grant in the amount of \$5,000. Mr. Moccio thanked Mrs. Lynn Erickson for her work preparing the grant. He said that this grant will be used for Chromebooks to be used during the school day for various mobile projects and after school during the STEAM program. Additionally, Stafford Elementary School will receive 600 new STEAM books to be added to the teachers' classroom libraries and the school library.

**B. Acceptance of West Stafford School Oil Tank Replacement Project**

Mr. Moccio said that Board meeting minutes memorializing the Board's acceptance of the West Stafford School Oil Tank project as complete are required by the State before the Town of Stafford can be reimbursed for the project. Mr. Moccio said that Board members were provided via the portal with the project details. He said that the project was completed in October 2020, and the final cost of the project was below the \$180,000 budget, and totaled \$161,751.48. The estimated State reimbursement to the Town of Stafford is \$115,539.08.

Mrs. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Melnick, that the Board of Education accept the West Stafford School Oil Tank Replacement project as complete. Ms. Bachiochi, 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**

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Mr. Delano, to adjourn. Ms. Bachiochi, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Delano, Mrs. Locke, Ms. Lybarger, and Mr. Melnick voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

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

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**Sonya Shegogue, Chairperson**

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**Andrea Locke, Secretary**