

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, October 24, 2011 7:00 PM Eastern

Pinney Administration Building
16 Levinthal Run
Stafford Springs, CT 06076

I.	Call to Order- Establishment of Quorum
II.	Secretary's Report- Approval of Minutes
II.A.	Regular Meeting- 10/3/11
II.B.	Special Meeting- 10/10/11
III.	Treasurer's Report
III.A.	Bills, 10/12/11- \$153,207.05
III.B.	Grants, 10/18/11- \$5,447.63
IV.	Correspondence
V.	Board Reports
VI.	Superintendent Reports
VI.A.	Enrollment- 9/30/11 (10 mins.)
VI.B.	Financial Report through September 30, 2011 (5 mins.)
VI.C.	Cafeteria Profit and Loss Statement through September 2011 (5 mins.)
VI.D.	Head Start Report through September 30, 2011 (5 mins.)
VI.E.	Administrators' Reports on 2011-2012 School Goals / Improvement Plans (60 mins.)
VI.F.	Update Regarding Lost Jump Drive (5 mins.)
VI.G.	Report on Stafford High School Dance Club (10 mins.)
VII.	Public Forum
VIII.	Old Business
VIII.A.	Review and Possible Approval of Proposal to Align Honor Roll Criteria (10 mins.)
IX.	New Business
IX.A.	Review and Possible Approval of Middle School and High School Fundraisers (5 mins.)
IX.B.	Review and Approval of Legislative Updates to Board Policy 5114 (a)-(l)- Removal / Suspension / Expulsion (5 mins.)
IX.C.	Authorization of the Superintendent of Schools to Present a Proposal to the Board of Finance for the Replacement of the Oil Tank at Staffordville School (10 mins.)
IX.D.	Universal Preschool Program Steering Committee Proposal (10 mins.)
X.	Personnel Matters
XI.	Student Matters

**Regular Meeting
Stafford Board of Education
Pinney Administration Building
October 3, 2011**

Board Members Present: Mr. Mark Fontanella, Chairperson
Mrs. Lisa Finch
Ms. Beth Ann Morhardt
Mrs. Tracy Rummel

Absent: Mrs. Meg Devlin, Business Manager
Mrs. Lisa Bradway
Mrs. Sandy Fowler, Secretary
Mr. Stephen Szymanski

Also Present: Dr. Patricia A. Collin, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Michael Bednarz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Miss Vivian Ojeda, Student Representative
Mr. Marco Pelliccia, Principal, Stafford High School
Mrs. Amy Stevenson, Director of Pupil Services

Item I. Call to Order- Establishment of Quorum

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. A quorum was established.

Item II. Secretary's Report- Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting, September 26, 2011

A consensus of the Board approved the Secretary's Report for the regular meeting held on September 26, 2011, as presented.

Item III. Treasurer's Report

Bills- 9/28/11, \$1,181,138.81

A consensus of the Board approved the Board bills, as presented.

Item IV. Correspondence

There was no Correspondence.

Item V. Board Reports

A. Report from Student Representative

Miss Ojeda reviewed the report regarding student activities at the high school that was sent to Board members in their electronic Board packets.

Item VI. Superintendent's Reports

A. Update on Educational Initiatives and Reform Legislation

Dr. Collin introduced Mr. Bednarz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, who provided a presentation, which addressed Secondary School Reform, graduation requirements, teacher evaluation, Common Core Standards for Math and English Language Arts, and changes in the State-mandated assessments.

Mr. Bednarz highlighted the following:

- Public Act 10-111 and Public Act 11-135
- Changes to Teacher Evaluation
- Common Core of State Standards
- New Assessment Program- SMARTER Balance Assessment Consortium (SBAC) (to take the place of CMT and CAPT after 2014)

Mr. Bednarz noted that some of the changes include higher standards for graduation, teacher evaluation to include student academic growth, tracking student achievement by teacher, Secondary School Reform timelines, programs for districts with high dropout rates, two parent teacher conferences each year for all grade levels (which the district is already doing), more advanced placement courses, School Governance Councils for low performing schools/districts and expanded PSIS data with teachers linked to students.

Additional highlights included the following:

- Graduation Requirements- 25 credits will be required vs. the 22 that are now required in Stafford, students must pass five end-of-year exams (Algebra I, Geometry, Biology, American History, and 10th Grade English, required 2016-2017), and school boards can adopt policy for awarding credit for successful completion of on-line coursework. These requirements were delayed until 2020 by PA 11-135, which will start with current 4th graders.
- Common Core State Standards- targeted date for new summative assessments based upon Common Core is 2015. The criteria used to develop CCSS and the required shifts in instruction which are necessary to meet these new requirements.
- SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium- first test year is spring 2015.

Mrs. Rummel had the following questions:

1. How will the testing affect retention rates?
2. Will teacher certification change to meet the new requirements at the middle school level?
3. Will E-books be made available at the high school level to help students with the different types of reading?
4. How will the timeline of the assessment affect students that take Algebra at the middle school?

Dr. Collin thanked Mr. Bednarz for consolidating volumes of information into this summary.

Item VII. Public Forum

A member of the audience made a comment regarding the value of five years of a foreign language. However, the audience member commented that they foresee major issues with the foreign language requirements for those students that already struggle with English.

Item VIII. Old Business

A. Schedule Board Policy Sub-Committee Meeting

This item was tabled. Mrs. Rummel volunteered to be an alternate member of the policy committee.

Item IX. New Business

A. Review and Approval of Response to CABA Board of Education Award Optional Question

The Board members approved the response to the CABA Board of Education Award optional question, as presented.

B. Review and Possible Approval of Inter-district Transition Program Collaboration

Dr. Collin referred to the chart that was submitted to the Board in the electronic Board packets, which detailed the Inter-district Transition Program staffing, number of students and current job sites by district (Somers and Stafford). She noted that she was involved in conversations with Dr. Lefebvre, who was the previous Director of Pupil Services in Stafford, regarding establishing this program where Somers and Stafford would work collaboratively and share resources to provide a strong transition program for students in both districts. As the previous Director of Pupil Services in Somers, Dr. Collin confirmed that the program has worked well for both districts thus far.

Mrs. Stevenson noted that a strong inter-district program allows our district the opportunity to bring students back to the district from outplacements when it is appropriate for the students to participate in this type of program.

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Ms. Morhardt, that the Board of Education approve of the inter-district collaboration between Stafford Public Schools and Somers Public Schools in order to maximize human resources (certified teachers & job coaches for direct instruction and support in addition to supervision), share instructional materials and resources, and expand the availability of community-based options to meet the needs of individual students, while minimizing and potentially reducing costs affiliated with the program implementation. Mrs. Finch, Ms. Morhardt and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried.

Item X. Personnel Matters

There were no Personnel Matters.

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, to place items XI.A. **Board Consideration of the Recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools regarding the Expulsion of Student A from Stafford High School pursuant to Connecticut General Statute 10-233d (Executive Session Anticipated)**, XI.B. **Board Consideration of the Recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools regarding the Expulsion of Student B from Stafford High School pursuant to Connecticut General Statute 10-233d (Executive Session Anticipated)** and XI.C. **Board Consideration of the Recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools regarding the Expulsion of Student C from Stafford High School pursuant to Connecticut General Statute 10-233d (Executive Session Anticipated)** into executive session. Mrs. Finch, Ms. Morhardt and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried.

The Board took a brief recess at 7:08 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 7:24 p.m.

Item XI. Student Matters

A. Board Consideration of the Recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools regarding the Expulsion of Student A from Stafford High School pursuant to Connecticut General Statute 10-233d (Executive Session Anticipated)

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Ms. Morhardt, that the Board of Education enter executive session to discuss confidential student records and information, as addressed in CGS section 1-200 and 1-210. Mrs. Finch, Ms. Morhardt and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried. The Board entered executive session at 7:25 p.m.

The Board invited the following individuals into the executive session:

Dr. Patricia A. Collin, Superintendent of Schools
 Attorney Peter A. Janus, Counsel for the Board of Education
 Mr. Robert Campbell, Assistant Principal, Stafford High School
 Mr. Marco Pelliccia, Principal, Stafford High School
 Ms. Jolene Piscetello, School Social Worker
 TFC Kmon, Connecticut State Police
 Mother and Father of Student A
 Student A
 Mrs. Christine Marinelli, Recording Secretary

The Board took a recess to deliberate at 8:00 p.m. All invited individuals, with the exception of Attorney Janus, left the meeting room.

All invited individuals returned to the meeting room at 8:05 p.m.

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Ms. Morhardt, to return to regular session. Mrs. Finch, Ms. Morhardt and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried. The Board returned to regular session at 8:06 p.m.

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Ms. Morhardt, that based on the evidence and testimony received after a due process hearing, it is the finding of the Stafford Board of Education that on or about September 26, 2011, Student A committed an expellable offense, namely that Student A distributed marijuana on school premises during the school day; Student A was in possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia on school premises during the school day; Student A smoked and was under the influence of marijuana on school premises during the school day; Student A violated the Board of Education's Policy 5114 (a)-(l), Board Policy 5131.6 and the disciplinary guidelines as outlined in the Stafford High School 2011-2012 Student-Parent Handbook; and it being the further finding of the Stafford Board of Education that such action constitutes conduct which is detrimental and an endangerment to the health, safety and welfare of other students, that such conduct is seriously disruptive of the educational process and that such conduct also violates a publicized policy of the Stafford Board of Education. Mrs. Finch, Ms. Morhardt and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried.

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Ms. Morhardt, to enter executive session. Mrs. Finch, Ms. Morhardt and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried. The Board entered executive session at 8:08 p.m.

At approximately 8:17 p.m., all individuals invited to attend executive session by the Board, with the exception of Attorney Peter Janus, left the conference room so that the Board of Education could deliberate.

All invited individuals, except TFC Kmon, returned to the Board of Education conference room at approximately 8:31 p.m.

Ms. Morhardt made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, to return to regular session. Mrs. Finch, Ms. Morhardt and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried. The Board returned to regular session at 8:32 p.m.

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Ms. Morhardt, that based on the previous decision of the Stafford Board of Education that Student A committed an expellable offense, and based upon the evidence and testimony received as to the length of any expulsion to be imposed for the offense by Student A, it is the finding of the Stafford Board of Education that Student A shall be expelled from the Stafford Public Schools from any and all school privileges and premises, and all school-sponsored activities for disciplinary reasons, effective immediately, for a period of one calendar year.

However, Student A may apply for early readmission to school at the beginning of the 2012 – 2013 school year, by submitting an application to the Superintendent of Schools for consideration by the Board of Education no later than at its scheduled meeting in August 2012. The Board will condition Student A's readmission on satisfactory performance in tutoring with no unexcused absences; maintaining a satisfactory academic record; attending counseling sessions as scheduled by the School Social Worker to deal with substance abuse and appropriate decision making; and completion of one hundred (100) hours of community service. If Student A is granted early readmission and subsequently commits a violation of the Board of Education's policies and regulations warranting suspension or expulsion, then the original period of this expulsion shall be reinstated without further hearings.

Moved further that the Administration provide Student A with an alternative educational opportunity during the expulsion period.

Mrs. Finch, Ms. Morhardt and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried.

The Board took a brief recess at 8:40 p.m.

B. Board Consideration of the Recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools regarding the Expulsion of Student B from Stafford High School pursuant to Connecticut General Statute 10-233d (Executive Session Anticipated)

This hearing was postponed.

C. Board Consideration of the Recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools regarding the Expulsion of Student C from Stafford High School pursuant to Connecticut General Statute 10-233d (Executive Session Anticipated)

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Ms. Morhardt, that the Board of Education enter executive session to discuss confidential student records and information, as addressed in CGS section 1-200 and 1-210. Mrs. Finch, Ms. Morhardt and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried. The Board entered executive session at 8:47 p.m.

The Board invited the following individuals into the executive session:

Dr. Patricia A. Collin, Superintendent of Schools
 Attorney Peter A. Janus, Counsel for the Board of Education
 Mr. Robert Campbell, Assistant Principal, Stafford High School
 Mr. Marco Pelliccia, Principal, Stafford High School
 Ms. Jolene Piscetello, School Social Worker
 Mother of Student C
 Student C
 Mrs. Christine Marinelli, Recording Secretary

The Board took a recess to deliberate at 9:13 p.m. All invited individuals, with the exception of Attorney Janus, left the meeting room.

All invited individuals returned to the meeting room at 9:16 p.m.

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Ms. Morhardt, to return to regular session. Mrs. Finch, Ms. Morhardt and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried. The Board returned to regular session at 9:17 p.m.

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Ms. Morhardt, that based on the evidence and testimony received after a due process hearing, it is the finding of the Stafford Board of Education that on or about September 26, 2011, Student C committed an expellable offense, namely that Student C smoked and was under the influence of marijuana on school premises during the school day; and Student C violated the Board of Education's Policy 5114 (a)-(I), Board Policy 5131.6 and the disciplinary guidelines as outlined in the Stafford High School 2011-2012 Student-Parent Handbook; and it being the further finding of the Stafford Board of

Education that such action constitutes conduct which is detrimental and an endangerment to the health, safety and welfare of other students, that such conduct is seriously disruptive of the educational process and that such conduct also violates a publicized policy of the Stafford Board of Education. Mrs. Finch, Ms. Morhardt and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried.

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Ms. Morhardt, to enter executive session. Mrs. Finch, Ms. Morhardt and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried. The Board entered executive session at 9:19 p.m.

At approximately 9:34 p.m., all individuals invited to attend executive session by the Board, with the exception of Attorney Peter Janus, left the conference room so that the Board of Education could deliberate.

All invited individuals returned to the Board of Education conference room at approximately 9:52 p.m.

Ms. Morhardt made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, to return to regular session. Mrs. Finch, Ms. Morhardt and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried. The Board returned to regular session at 9:53 p.m.

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Ms. Morhardt, that based on the previous decision of the Stafford Board of Education that Student C committed an expellable offense, and based upon the evidence and testimony received as to the length of any expulsion to be imposed for the offense by Student C, it is the finding of the Stafford Board of Education that Student C shall be expelled from the Stafford Public Schools from any and all school privileges and premises, and all school-sponsored activities for disciplinary reasons, effective immediately, for the remainder of the 2011 – 2012 school year.

However, Student C may apply for early readmission to school at the beginning of the fourth marking period (on or about April 7, 2012), by submitting an application to the Superintendent of Schools for consideration by the Board of Education no later than at its scheduled meeting in mid-March 2012. The Board will condition Student C's readmission on satisfactory performance in tutoring with no unexcused absences; maintaining a satisfactory academic record; attending counseling sessions as scheduled by the School Social Worker to deal with substance abuse; and completion of twenty-five (25) hours of community service. If Student C is granted early readmission and subsequently commits a violation of the Board of Education's policies and regulations warranting suspension or expulsion, then the original period of this expulsion shall be reinstated without further hearings.

Moved further that the Administration provide Student C with an alternative educational opportunity during the expulsion period.

Mrs. Finch, Ms. Morhardt and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried.

Item XII. Adjournment

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, to adjourn. Mrs. Finch, Ms. Morhardt and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Marinelli, Recording Secretary

Mark Fontanella, Chairperson

Sandra Fowler, Secretary

DRAFT

**Special Meeting
Stafford Board of Education
Pinney Administration Building
Monday, October 10, 2011, 6:30 p.m.**

Present: Mr. Mark Fontanella, Chairperson
Mrs. Sandy Fowler, Secretary
Mrs. Lisa Finch
Mrs. Tracy Rummel
Mr. Steve Szymanski

Absent: Mrs. Lisa Bradway
Ms. Beth Ann Morhardt

Also Present: Dr. Patricia A. Collin, Superintendent of Schools
Attorney Peter A. Janus, Counsel for the Board of Education
Attorney Anne Littlefield, Counsel for the Administration
Attorney John O'Brien, Counsel for the Student
Mr. Marco Pelliccia, Principal, Stafford High School
Mother and Father of Student B
Student B

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. A quorum was established.

2. Executive Session

a. Board Inquiry into the Continued Enrollment and Attendance of Student B

b. Board Consideration of the Recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools regarding the Expulsion of Student B from Stafford High School Pursuant to CGS 10-233d

3. Action by the Board in Response to the Superintendent's Recommendation or Motion regarding the Expulsion of Student B

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, that the Board enter executive session to discuss material that would result in the disclosure of public records or the information contained therein as described in Connecticut General Statutes Sections 1-200(6)(E), subsection (b) of Section 1-210, specifically, personnel, student or medical and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute an invasion of privacy, and / or names and addresses of students enrolled in public school. Only those invited by the Board may be present in the executive session. Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The Board entered executive session at 6:46 p.m.

The Board invited the following individuals into the executive session:

Dr. Patricia A. Collin, Superintendent of Schools
Attorney Peter A. Janus, Counsel for the Board of Education
Attorney Anne Littlefield, Counsel for the Administration
Attorney John O'Brien, Counsel for the Student
Mr. Marco Pelliccia, Principal, Stafford High School
Mother and Father of Student B
Student B
Mrs. Christine Marinelli, Recording Secretary

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, to return to regular session. Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The Board returned to regular session at 6:51 p.m.

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, that based on the evidence presented in a stipulated agreement, it is the finding of the Stafford Board of Education that on or about September 26, 2011, Student B committed an expellable offense. Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried.

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, to enter executive session. Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The Board entered executive session at 6:52 p.m.

At approximately 7:15 p.m., all individuals invited to attend executive session by the Board, with the exception of Attorney Peter Janus, left the conference room so that the Board of Education could deliberate.

All invited individuals returned to the Board of Education conference room at approximately 7:33 p.m.

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Fowler, to return to regular session. Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The Board returned to regular session at 7:34 p.m.

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, that based on the previous decision of the Stafford Board of Education that Student B committed an expellable offense, and based upon the evidence and testimony received as to the length of any expulsion to be imposed for the offense by Student B, it is the finding of the Stafford Board of Education that Student B shall be expelled from the Stafford Public Schools from any and all school privileges and premises, and all school-sponsored activities for disciplinary reasons, effective immediately, through the end of the 2011 – 2012 school year.

However, Student B may apply for early readmission to school at the beginning of the fourth marking period (on or about April 7, 2012), by submitting an application to the Superintendent of Schools for consideration by the Board of Education no later than at its scheduled meeting in mid-March 2012. The Board will condition Student B's

readmission on satisfactory performance in tutoring with no unexcused absences; maintaining a satisfactory academic record; attending counseling sessions as scheduled by the School Social Worker to deal with substance abuse and appropriate decision making; and completion of twenty-five (25) hours of community service. If Student B is granted early readmission and subsequently commits a violation of the Board of Education's policies and regulations warranting suspension or expulsion, then the original period of this expulsion shall be reinstated without further hearings.

Moved further that the Administration provide Student B with an alternative educational opportunity during the expulsion period.

Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried.

4. Adjournment

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Fowler, to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Szymanski voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Marinelli
Recording Secretary

Mark Fontanella, Chairperson

Mrs. Sandy Fowler, Secretary