

**Regular Meeting
Stafford Board of Education
Stafford High School
Monday, June 2, 2008**

Board Members Present: Mr. Mark Fontanella, Chairperson
Mrs. Sandy Fowler, Secretary
Mrs. Lisa Bradway
Mrs. Lisa Finch
Mrs. Tracy Rummel
Ms. Patricia Saunders

Absent: Ms. Julie Stafford
Miss Cassandra Weed, Student Representative

Also Present: Dr. Thérèse G. Fishman, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Michael Bednarz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Ms. Deb Bileca, Teacher, Stafford High School
Mr. Robert Campbell, Assistant Principal, Stafford High School
Ms. Amanda Chianelli, Teacher, Stafford High School
Ms. Linda DeSantis, Teacher, Stafford High School
Mrs. Laurie Dillon, Teacher, Stafford High School
Mrs. Lynne Dowden, Teacher, Stafford Middle School
Mr. Damian Frassinelli, Director of Athletics and Recreation
Ms. Jill Gregori, Business Manager
Ms. Colleen Heuitson, Teacher, Stafford High School
Mr. Francis Kennedy, Principal, Stafford High School
Mrs. Patricia Kritzman, Teacher, Stafford Middle School
Dr. Daniel Lefebvre, Director of Pupil Services
Mrs. Susan Linder, Director of Building Services
Mrs. Marie McDonald, Teacher, Stafford High School
Ms. Melanie Morrill, Teacher, Stafford Middle School
Mr. Robert Schadt, Teacher, Stafford Elementary School / Staffordville
School / West Stafford School
Mr. Gary Shearer, Teacher, Stafford High School
Mr. Robert Terry, Teacher, Stafford Elementary School

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. A quorum was established.

ITEM I. Secretary's Report – Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting, May 19, 2008
Special Meeting, May 27, 2008

A consensus of the Board approved the Secretary's Report as presented for the regular meeting held on May 19, 2008, and the special meeting held on May 27, 2008.

ITEM II. Treasurer's Report

A. Report on Bills

Bills:

May 21, 2008	\$315,558.77
May 28, 2008	\$251,771.96

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

ITEM III. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

ITEM IV. Board Reports

There were no board reports.

ITEM V. Superintendent's Reports

A. High School Music Department Presentation

Mrs. Dillon distributed a handout to the Board that detailed what the music department has done during the school year. The students present at the Board meeting performed two songs for the Board and the audience.

Miss Bradway reported on the ladies' choral, Miss O'Konis reported on the madrigals, Miss Duval reported on the show choir, Mr. Dillon reported on drama, and Mr. Heavener reported on the octet.

Mr. Fontanella thanked the music department for their hard work during the year and for the presentation that they made at the meeting.

B. High School Spring Sports Presentation

Mr. Damian Frassinelli, Director of Athletics and Recreation, introduced the spring sports team coaches, team captains and players that were present at the Board meeting. He noted that the sports award banquet would be held on Tuesday, June 10, 2008.

Each team gave a brief overview of their season. The following is a list of coaches, team captains and players that were present:

Coach Martin and JJ Locke, Baseball; Greg Burns, Track; Jen Levesque and Megan Owen, Softball; and Tad Maynard, Golf.

Mr. Fontanella thanked the coaches and players for taking the time to attend the meeting.

C. Presentation to the NEAS&C Co-Chairs

Dr. Fishman stated that about three years ago, the staff at the high school began working on the reports necessary for the NEAS&C visit. She noted that these reports were written and re-written before the final versions were ready for the visiting team. Dr. Fishman stated that thank you letters from the Board of Education had been sent to all members of the steering committee. She went on to say that Mr. Shearer and Ms. DeSantis, as steering committee co-chairs, went above and beyond what was expected of them and that they did an excellent job.

Mr. Fontanella stated that preparing for this visit was a daunting job. He noted that Mr. Shearer and Ms. DeSantis did a very good job of keeping the Board of Education updated each step of the way and that he was very impressed with how well planned the first day of the visit was. Mr. Fontanella presented Mr. Shearer and Ms. DeSantis with a small gift of appreciation from the Board.

Mrs. Bradway noted that she worked on the leadership standard and that she would like to personally thank all of those involved with the process. She stated that this was a phenomenal undertaking and that she was impressed with the thoroughness.

D. Presentation- New Orleans Trip

Dr. Fishman stated that during April vacation six students, Miss Katie Bradway, Miss Emily Bourque, Miss Danielle Bourque, Miss Cassy Boudreau, Miss Alicia Dabek, Miss Emily Maynard, and two faculty members, Ms. Hamburg and Mrs. McDonald, went to New Orleans to work on restoring homes destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

Miss Bradway distributed a copy of the Connecticut Connections newsletter to the Board members and thanked the Board for approving this trip. She reported that \$6,000 was raised to help pay for the trip and that each student that participated received a framed letter from Governor Rell. Miss Bradway stated that she had a PowerPoint presentation and her copy of the letter from Governor Rell for Board members to review during the break. Each of the other five students spoke briefly about their experiences in New Orleans.

Mr. Fontanella thanked the students for their efforts and for representing Stafford well.

E. Recognition of Stafford High School Student's Participation in the 27th Annual Congressional Arts Contest

Dr. Fishman stated that Ms. Chianelli, Long-term Substitute Art Teacher at Stafford High School, notified her that for the first time in Stafford, a student's work had been selected to be part of the 27th Annual Congressional Arts Contest. Dr. Fishman introduced Ms. Chianelli.

Ms. Chianelli spoke briefly about the program. She introduced Mr. Brian Paakkonen, who is a senior this year. Mr. Paakkonen shared his artwork with the Board.

ITEM VI. Public Forum

A member of the audience suggested that since Mr. Paakkonen's artwork honors the military that it become part of the dedication of the high school auditorium to the Veterans.

There was a recess at 7:40 p.m. for refreshments. The meeting was called to order at 7:58 p.m.

ITEM VII. Old Business

A. Review of New Course Proposal for Stafford High School- Individual and Family Development

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, that the Board of Education approve a new course at Stafford High School, entitled *Individual and Family Development*, for the 2008 – 2009 school year. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Ms. Saunders voted for the motion, which carried.

It was noted that about 14 students have signed up for this course to date.

ITEM VIII. New Business

A. Review and Possible Approval of Revised Physical Education Curriculum

Dr. Fishman introduced Mr. Michael Bednarz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction. Mr. Bednarz began by congratulating the physical education teachers in the district for doing a great job on re-writing the curriculum. He noted that four of the physical education teachers were in attendance at the meeting. Mr. Bednarz stated that the curriculum is usually revised on a five to six year cycle, using the State frameworks, which were revised in 2006. Mr. Bednarz asked Board members to compare the proposed curriculum to what the district has been using and note the improvement.

Mrs. Fowler asked how the essential questions, which were part of the revised curriculum, were developed. Mr. Bednarz stated that they were part of the physical education framework from the State.

Mrs. Bradway asked if there was a way to share the curriculum with parents to help them integrate it at home. Mr. Terry, physical education teacher at Stafford Elementary School, stated that he does this by sending home a monthly calendar with students. Students that bring the completed calendar back signed by a parent get a prize. Mr. Bednarz stated that the web site is an excellent resource to use to share with parents.

Mrs. Bradway asked why the department thinks that it is better to have physical education four days per week, but only for half the year at the high school level. Ms. Heitson stated that this new schedule was created to decrease class size due to the lack of space. Additionally, there was less continuity when students only had class twice per week all year long. Mr. Kennedy added that students can choose to take physical education all year long, as it is an elective.

Mrs. Rummel commented that she likes the stress reduction and relaxation exercises that have been incorporated. She also thanked the teachers for what they've already been doing in the classroom.

Mrs. Kritzman stated that she would like to see money spent on less trendy equipment, like universal gyms rather than items like a rock wall.

Mr. Bednarz stated that 2008 – 2009 will be an “implementation year” and that the committee may come back to the Board with further revisions as they deem necessary. Mr. Bednarz stated that Board members should contact him should they have any questions. This item will be placed on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled meeting.

B. Review and Possible Approval of Language Arts Textbooks

Mr. Bednarz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, stated that the two proposed language arts textbooks are replacements for eleven-year-old books. He stated that this process took six months of hard work and that the teachers on the Language Arts Textbook Selection Committee devoted a lot of personal time to the effort. Mr. Nick Morse, Mrs. Lynne Dowden, Ms. Melanie Morrill and Mrs. Kathy Bachiochi were in attendance at the Board meeting to comment on the text that pertains to their grade level(s) and to answer questions from Board members.

Mr. Bednarz stated that the cost of this textbook adoption would be approximately \$96,000. He stated that the money to fund this purchase is included in the 2007 – 2008 budget and the 2008 – 2009 budget.

Mrs. Bradway stated that the high school textbook seems to be at a very high level and she questioned if it would serve all students. Mrs. Bachiochi stated that this text could be used for all level students, but that teachers would pick and choose what material to present to the students. She stated that that is one of the reasons that the text is so large. It is not meant to be presented to all students in its entirety.

Mr. Bednarz stated that Board members could contact him with any questions they may have. This item will be placed on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled meeting.

C. Review and Approval of Healthy Food Certification Statement for 2008 – 2009

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Ms. Saunders, that the Board of Education approve the Healthy Food Certification Statement for 2008 – 2009, whose provisions are outlined in Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Ms. Saunders voted for the motion, which carried.

Mrs. Fowler made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, that the Board of Education authorize Mr. Mark Fontanella, Chairman of the Board of Education, to sign the Healthy Food Certification Statement for 2008 – 2009 on behalf of the Stafford Board of Education. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Ms. Saunders voted for the motion, which carried.

Mrs. Linder commented that these new regulations have reduced our a la carte sales, but that the rebate from the State offsets the lost revenue. She agrees that it is necessary to provide healthier snacks for students.

D. Review and Possible Approval of Stafford High School Proposal for a Student Trip to Spain and France

Dr. Fishman introduced Ms. Deb Bileca, World Language Teacher at Stafford High School.

Ms. Bileca stated that she is requesting approval for a fifteen day trip (approximately June 18-30, 2009) to Spain and France for about 20 – 30 students. She stated that the cost of this trip will be approximately \$3,000 to \$3,200 per student. She noted that she is trying to keep the price reasonable, but this has been very difficult; the more students that attend, the lower the cost of the trip. Ms. Bileca would like thirty students to sign up for the trip, but no more than forty. Ms. Bileca stated that this is a very worthwhile trip and that EF Educational Tours is a very reputable company.

Mrs. Bradway stated that the trips are well organized and that the students have always been great.

Mrs. Fowler made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, that the Board of Education approve the June 18, 2009 – June 30, 2009, trip to Spain and France for students at Stafford High School, as presented. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Ms. Saunders voted for the motion, which carried.

Mrs. Fowler made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, that the Board of Education add an item to the agenda entitled **Appoint Board Members to Stafford Administrators' Association Contract Negotiation Team**. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Ms. Saunders voted for the motion, which carried.

E. Appoint Board Members to Stafford Administrators' Association Contract Negotiation Team

Mr. Fontanella, Mrs. Rummel and Ms. Saunders volunteered to be on the negotiation team.

ITEM IX. Personnel Matters

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway to place item **IX.A.- Superintendent of Schools' Evaluation (Executive Session Anticipated)** into executive session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Ms. Saunders voted for the motion, which carried.

The Board took a brief recess at 9:07 p.m.

Mrs. Bradway made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, to return to regular session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Ms. Saunders voted for the motion, which carried. The Board returned to regular session at 9:39 p.m.

A. Superintendent of Schools' Evaluation (Executive Session Anticipated)

No action was taken on this item.

ITEM X. Student Matters

There were no student matters.

ITEM XI. Adjournment

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Ms. Saunders voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Marinelli, Recording Secretary

Mark Fontanella, Chairperson

Sandra Fowler, Secretary