

**Regular Meeting
Stafford Board of Education
Pinney Administration Building
Monday, March 24, 2008**

Board Members Present: Mr. Mark Fontanella, Chairperson
Mrs. Sandy Fowler, Secretary
Mrs. Lisa Bradway, arrived at 7:05 p.m.
Mrs. Lisa Finch
Mrs. Tracy Rummel
Ms. Patricia Saunders
Ms. Julie Stafford

Also Present: Dr. Thérèse G. Fishman, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Michael Bednarz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Ms. Erin Clark, Coach
Mr. Timothy Dillon, Student, Stafford High School
Mr. Mark Dunn, Teacher / Coach, Stafford High School
Mr. Tucker Fontanella, Student, Stafford High School
Mr. Damian Frassinelli, Director of Athletics and Recreation
Ms. Jill Gregori, Business Manager
Miss Sydney Isch, Student, Stafford High School
Mr. Francis Kennedy, Principal, Stafford High School
Dr. Daniel Lefebvre, Director of Pupil Services
Miss Stephanie McCauliff, Student, Stafford High School
Ms. Shelley Michaud, Teacher, Stafford Middle School
Mr. Ben Phillips, Student, Stafford High School
Miss Michelle Possardt, Student, Stafford High School
Mr. Nate Rossi, Student, Stafford High School
Mr. Ken Valentine, Principal, Stafford Middle School
Miss Cassandra Weed, Student Representative

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, March 10, 2008

A consensus of the Board approved the Secretary's Report as presented for the regular meeting held on March 10, 2008.

ITEM II. Treasurer's Report

A. Report on Bills

Board Bills

March 12, 2008 \$86,170.08

Grants

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| Federal Grants | March 13, 2008 | \$ 3,742.71 |
| State Grants | March 13, 2008 | \$15,375.83 |

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

Mrs. Rummel had a question regarding the account numbers on the new detailed check register. She asked how the Board members could identify which line item in the budget the checks were being deducted from. Ms. Gregori stated that the three digit code in the fourth section of the account number identifies which line in the budget the check is deducted from.

ITEM III. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

ITEM IV. Board Reports

Miss Weed reported on the following:

- ❖ The Madrigal Singers performed at the sunrise service on Easter.
- ❖ The Joshua Smialek Three Man Basketball Tournament was a great success. Mr. Fontanella added that over 70 teams participated. He asked Miss Weed if she could report back to the Board regarding the amount of money that was raised.
- ❖ This coming Friday (3/28) the Alumni Basketball Game will take place. This game benefits Safe Graduation.
- ❖ There is a Safe Graduation Meeting this Wednesday at the library. Everyone is welcome to attend. Volunteers are needed.
- ❖ The tag sale to benefit the Drama Booster Club will be held on April 5, at the high school.
- ❖ There are over 60 donors signed up for the National Honor Society Blood Drive.
- ❖ The Alumni Concert will be held on May 18, 2008, at the high school.
- ❖ The marketing classes at the high school are selling school spirit merchandise.

Mr. Fontanella stated that the girls' high school basketball team will be offering a free basketball clinic this Saturday, March 29, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. They are hopeful that this will help improve participation on the high school team next year.

ITEM V. Superintendent's Reports**A. Eagle Scout Project Proposal- Mr. Timothy Dillon, Student , Stafford High School**

Dr. Fishman stated that as part of the requirements for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout, Timothy Dillon, a junior at Stafford High School, is proposing to direct a project to dedicate the Stafford High School auditorium to the veterans of Stafford.

Mr. Dillon provided each Board member with a copy of his proposal, which was also included in each Board member's packet. Mr. Dillon thanked the Board members for

placing his proposal on the agenda. He then reviewed the details of his proposal. Mr. Dillon's proposal called for two large plaques to be placed on either side of the enclosed stairway next to the entrance of the auditorium. Each plaque would display five 14" seals, one for each branch of the armed services, a panel with the words "All Gave Some, Some Gave All", small blue stars representing each citizen of Stafford that served in the armed services from WWI to present, and small gold stars representing those that lost their lives in combat. Additionally, signage above each plaque would read "Honoring All That Served". Lastly, the lettering above the auditorium doors would read "Veterans' Auditorium". Mr. Dillon proposed that the unveiling ceremony take place in conjunction with the alumni concert on May 18, 2008, with a reception to follow in the high school cafeteria. Mr. Dillon also agreed to add to his project an area in the high school library, which would house books about the wars that Americans have taken part in and donated by community members, which could be dedicated to specific veterans. He also agreed to postpone the dedication ceremony until Veterans' Day in 2008, to avoid preempting the ribbon cutting ceremony for the refurbished high school. Mr. Dillon stated that he had the approval of Mr. Kennedy, principal of Stafford High School, and Mr. Campbell, assistant principal of Stafford High School.

Mr. Dillon presented the following reasons for dedicating the high school auditorium to the veterans:

- The auditorium now has no significance, which makes it a good location to place this remembrance of veterans
- The auditorium would be dedicated to a broad group of people, and they may think to use the location more often.
- The point of this project is to tie youth and veterans together. The best place to do this is at the school.

The Board members had the following questions:

- How will the project be kept up-to-date? Mr. Dillon stated that the Boy Scout Troop would continue to maintain the project over time in accordance with the guidelines that he provides.
- What do the veterans think about the project? Those that Mr. Dillon spoke with think that it is a worthwhile project. They are hopeful that it would rekindle understanding in the youth of today about what the veterans have given, and it would encourage students to enlist.
- What is being used as a resource for the names? The Wall of Honor and the VFW.
- What are the criteria? Mr. Dillon stated that this would be for Stafford veterans only, which is further defined as those who enlisted while living in Stafford.
- Are the stars as meaningful as names? Mr. Dillon stated that while a name represents one specific person, a star can mean anyone that is important to the person looking at the plaque. The point is to see how many have served.
- How do the students feel about the project? Mr. Dillon did not do a formal survey. The students that he and Miss Weed, student representative to the Board, have spoken with have been supportive. Neither has heard any negative feedback.

The Board members thanked Mr. Dillon for a well prepared project and for providing them with answers to their questions.

This item will be considered for approval under “New Business”.

B. Winter Sports Presentations

Mr. Damian Frassinelli, Director of Athletics and Recreation, introduced the winter sports team coaches, team captains and players that were present at the Board meeting.

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

Coach Mark Dunn, Nate Rossi and Stephanie McCauliff, Track; Coach Erin Clark, Michelle Possardt and Sydney Isch, Girls’ Basketball; and Tucker Fontanella and Ben Phillips, Wrestling.

Mr. Frassinelli noted that the boys’ basketball coach, Mr. Paradiso, could not attend the meeting due to a prior commitment. Mr. Frassinelli stated that the boys did very well this year, making it to State’s for the first time since 2002.

Mr. Frassinelli also noted that there are twenty-five scholar athletes, which means that they have an 88+ average.

Mr. Frassinelli stated that the booster club has been a huge supporter of the athletic programs and that the district is very grateful.

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

C. Geography Scope and Sequence, Grades PreK through 8

Dr. Fishman noted that the Board of Education approved the revised social studies curriculum on April 24, 2006. She stated that geography, as a part of the social studies curriculum, is emerging as a focus of study, as we investigate the inter-relatedness of global issues, such as limited natural resources and where they occur, as well as issues related to pollution of and care for our planet. Dr. Fishman introduced Mr. Bednarz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

Mr. Bednarz stated that this proposal was brought forward by the social studies teachers. He stated that the Social Studies Curriculum Team recognized the importance of integrating geography into social studies instruction in an organized manner. The team anticipated that the Geography Scope and Sequence would help achieve the following goals: develop civic competence from local to global levels, and gain knowledge of cultural diversity and reflect a positive attitude toward other peoples and cultures. Mr. Bednarz introduced Ms. Michaud, Social Studies Curriculum Team Leader.

Ms. Michaud informed the Board that this was not additional curriculum, but integrated curriculum. The team worked with teachers at all levels to find ways to integrate

geography into existing lessons. Ms. Michaud gave the example of teaching about caves during a lesson about bats.

Ms. Michaud notified the Board that this is the third year that Stafford will be sending a middle school student to the State Geography Bee.

Ms. Stafford stated that in the world today, it is imperative that students know geography. She asked if it were possible to use technology to bring the world into the classroom. Mr. Bednarz and Ms. Michaud said that they had a grant for this purpose in the past; however, the logistics were difficult because the necessary technology was housed at the high school. Once all of the mimio boards are in place at Stafford Middle School and the Technology Integration Specialist is hired, this task should be made much easier.

Mrs. Rummel remarked that the district currently has an exchange student from Uruguay. She stated that we should take advantage of this opportunity and have this student speak to classes.

D. Financial Report through February 2008

Dr. Fishman stated that we continue to expend 2 - 3% more of the budget, when compared with February reports for 2005 – 2006 and 2006 – 2007. A more detailed report will be presented to the Board for March. After a careful review of expenditures, Dr. Fishman and Ms. Gregori do not feel that a freeze is necessary.

E. Head Start Report through February 2008

Dr. Fishman presented the Head Start report through February 2008, as prepared by Ms. Gregori, Business Manager. She stated that this is the first report for the new grant period, February 1, 2008 – January 31, 2009. Total grant funds for this period are \$47,517, with \$3,385.81 expended to date.

Dr. Fishman informed the Board that she received an e-mail earlier in the day, which stated that Head Start funds have been cut by 8 – 15%. She noted that these cuts will not affect grant funds this year.

ITEM VI. Public Forum

A member of the audience commented that she supported Mr. Dillon's Eagle Scout project.

ITEM VII. Old Business

Mrs. Bradway asked if there was any news from the Board of Finance regarding the budget. Dr. Fishman said that we have not heard anything yet.

ITEM VIII. New Business

A. Review and Possible Approval of Eagle Scout Project Proposal

Mrs. Bradway complimented Mr. Dillon on how well he presented this proposal.

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Fowler, that the Board of Education approve the Eagle Scout Project as proposed by Mr. Dillon, with the following modifications: there will be one plaque facing the entrance by the cafeteria instead of two, allowing space for other projects; the words "Remembering Stafford's Veterans" shall be added to the plaque below "Honoring All That Served"; the dedication ceremony will take place on Veterans' Day (November 2008), and a listing of veterans' names to verify the number of stars on the plaque, along with the contact information for the Boy Scout Troop, shall be maintained in the high school library. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Ms. Saunders voted for the motion. Ms. Stafford abstained. The motion carried by majority vote.

B. Review and Possible Approval of Textbook Proposal- Grade 8 Social Studies at Stafford Middle School

Mr. Bednarz stated that he is presenting to the Board a recommendation to adopt the textbook, *American History*, McDougal Littell, 2008, as the core resource for the eighth grade social studies course at Stafford Middle School. He stated that this text will replace the current social studies textbook for grade 8, which is over ten years old. Mr. Bednarz distributed copies of the new textbook to the Board members for their review.

Mr. Bednarz stated that Ms. Michaud, Mr. Dean, grade 8 social studies teacher, and Mr. Bartlett, administrative representative for the social studies curriculum team, were instrumental in making this text selection. Mr. Bednarz stated that the teachers were seeking a textbook which would align with the updated social studies curriculum, develop essential social studies skills and content knowledge, engage students in thinking critically about American history, and promote the use of technology and interactive software.

Mr. Bednarz reported that the distinguishing features of the textbook were extensive technology components, teacher access and support, impressive number of opportunities to build critical thinking and essential social studies skills and the level of support and structure for promoting comprehension and differentiation in every chapter.

Ms. Michaud noted that the on-line features of this text surpassed those of the other texts.

Dr. Fishman stated that this item will be placed on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled Board meeting for possible adoption.

C. Review and Possible Approval of a Proposal for a Vernon Satellite Program for the Continuing Education Program

Dr. Fishman stated that in 2006, as a cost savings measure, the Stafford Continuing Education Program (adult education) was cut from the budget. Since that time, the only adult education programs that have been provided in Stafford are Adult Basic Education and GED courses, as required by law.

Dr. Fishman introduced Mr. Richard Tariff, Regional Adult Education Supervisor. Mr. Tariff presented the details of a proposal where Stafford could become a satellite site for continuing education courses, which are provided through the Vernon Regional Adult Basic and Continuing Education Program. Mr. Tariff said that his proposal would provide

for some enrichment classes to be offered in Stafford on Monday nights starting in the fall. He stated that this program would be at no cost to the Stafford Public Schools.

Mr. Tariff distributed copies of the brochures that were mailed home for the spring courses, so that Board members could get an idea of what type of courses are currently offered.

Mrs. Bradway made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, that the Board of Education approve a Vernon Satellite Continuing Education program for the 2008 – 2009 school year to be held at Stafford High School. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel, Ms. Saunders and Ms. Stafford voted for the motion, which carried.

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, to place Item IX.A.- **Recommendation of Superintendent of Schools Concerning Teacher Non-Renewals Pursuant to CGS Section 10-151 (Executive Session Anticipated)** into executive session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel, Ms. Saunders and Ms. Stafford voted for the motion, which carried.

The Board took a brief recess at 9:30 p.m.

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, to enter executive session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel, Ms. Saunders and Ms. Stafford voted for the motion, which carried. The Board entered executive session at 9:45 p.m.

Mrs. Fowler made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, to return to regular session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel, Ms. Saunders and Ms. Stafford voted for the motion, which carried. The Board returned to regular session at 9:59 p.m.

ITEM IX. Personnel Matters

A. Recommendation of Superintendent of Schools Concerning Teacher Non-Renewals Pursuant to CGS Section 10-151 (Executive Session Anticipated)

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Fowler, that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151, the Stafford Board of Education non-renew the teacher contracts of Nora Claus, Jessica Cooley, Amanda Galligan, Sarah Myles, and Gloria Krol, at the end of the 2007 – 2008 school year. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel, Ms. Saunders and Ms. Stafford voted for the motion, which carried.

Mrs. Fowler made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, that the Stafford Board of Education direct the Superintendent of Schools to communicate this action of the Board in writing to each of the above named teachers and that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board of Education to any requests for a hearing, if required by law, or for other data which may be forthcoming from the teacher and/or his/her representative pursuant to applicable provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151; and that the Superintendent of Schools be directed that any response to a request for a hearing, and, if a hearing is required by law, indicate that such hearing is to be before the Board of Education. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel, Ms. Saunders and Ms. Stafford voted for the motion, which carried.

ITEM X. Student Matters

There were no student matters.

ITEM XI. Adjournment

Ms. Stafford made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel, Ms. Saunders and Ms. Stafford voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Marinelli, Recording Secretary

Mark Fontanella, Chairperson

Sandra Fowler, Secretary