

**Regular Meeting  
Stafford Board of Education  
Pinney Administration Building  
Monday, May 5, 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

**Also Present:** Dr. Thérèse G. Fishman, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Jill Gregori, Business Manager  
Dr. David Mordasky, Chairperson, Rockville Regional Agriculture  
Consulting Committee  
Miss Cassandra Weed, Student Representative

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

**ITEM I. Secretary's Report – Approval of Minutes**

Regular Meeting, April 21, 2008

A consensus of the Board approved the Secretary's Report as presented for the regular meeting held on April 21, 2008.

**ITEM II. Treasurer's Report**

**A. Report on Bills**

<u>Bills:</u>	April 9, 2008	\$ 2,998.08
	April 11, 2008	\$ 26,680.28
	April 16, 2008	\$298,387.34
	April 22, 2008	\$104,878.06
	April 30, 2008	\$122,298.40

<u>Grants:</u>		
Federal Grants	April 18, 2008	\$ 41,355.18
State Grants	April 18, 2008	\$ 41,582.79
Federal Grants	April 18, 2008	\$ 24,985.64
State Grants	April 18, 2008	\$ 26,605.51
Federal Grants	April 18, 2008	\$250,041.27
State Grants	April 18, 2008	\$ 39,757.44

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

### **ITEM III. Correspondence**

#### **A. School Building Committee Minutes- 2/19/08, 3/18/08, 4/15/08**

Mr. Fontanella had a question regarding the stains on the limestone at the high school and how that matter was going to be corrected. Dr. Fishman stated that at the last building committee meeting that she attended, they stated that they intend to clean the limestone and then do some caulking to correct the problem. Mr. Fontanella commented that the school looked great for the play and the NEAS&C visit.

Mrs. Bradway asked about the time frame for the completion of the high school renovation project. She also asked about the landscaping and paving and whether it would be done before the end of the school year. Dr. Fishman stated that the landscaping and paving should be done by June, and that the building committee is hopeful that the entire project will be done before the students return in September. However, the bidding process and the use of the school during the summer may delay the completion of the remaining projects.

### **ITEM IV. Board Reports**

Miss Weed reported on the following:

- ✓ The drama production, *Peter Pan*, was very successful. Many people from the town attended. Friday night was sold out.
- ✓ The NEAS&C visiting team arrived yesterday. She stated that they are speaking with students in the hallways and cafeteria, as well as shadowing select students.
- ✓ The Top 20 students were announced last Friday. Miss Weed stated that she is number 15. She reminded the Board that the Top 20 banquet would be held on Wednesday, June 11.
- ✓ The National Honor Society made their last elementary school visit last week.
- ✓ The girls' softball team made it to the State tournament.
- ✓ The high school is going green! Miss Weed stated that the new, heavy-duty plasticware is being washed and reused, and there is a lot more recycling being done.

Mr. Fontanella gave a brief update regarding the Board's participation in the NEAS&C visit. He said that Mr. Shearer, steering committee co-chair, gave an excellent, entertaining speech. He also noted that the video that was shown, which was created by students, was very good. Mr. Fontanella stated that the visiting team was impressed with the community support at the high school.

Mrs. Bradway stated that she was part of several of the focus groups, and she felt that they went very well. She heard very pleasant remarks from the visiting team.

Mrs. Bradway informed the Board that she and Mrs. Rummel attended the Education Law Conference at the University of Bridgeport last week. She said that it was an excellent conference that addressed school safety and the constitutional rights of students, among other things. She stated that she and Mrs. Rummel will share a full report with the Board at a future meeting.

## **ITEM V. Superintendent's Reports**

### **A. Presentation of Graduating Seniors from the Rockville Vocational Agriculture Program**

Dr. Fishman introduced Dr. David Mordasky, Stafford resident and Chairperson for the Rockville Regional Agriculture Consulting Committee.

Dr. Mordasky gave an overview of the vocational agriculture program at Rockville. He stated that the students in this program have to complete course work in the agriculture program beyond what is required of other students at Rockville High School. Additionally, these students are required to keep their grades up in order to remain in the program.

Dr. Mordasky introduced each of the graduating seniors that were present at the meeting. These students were Raeanne Haley, Charles Hjarne and Ariel Marin. Each student spoke about their experience in the program and their plans for the future. Jordan Knightly was unable to attend the meeting.

Dr. Mordasky stated that he appreciates Stafford's support of this program.

### **B. Cafeteria Profit and Loss through March 2008**

Dr. Fishman informed the Board that the cafeteria profit and loss report through March 2008, as prepared by Mrs. Mary Folker, Food Service Coordinator, and reviewed by Ms. Gregori, Business Manager, showed an overall profit of \$4,659 after showing a loss of \$150 through February 2008. Dr. Fishman stated that she and Ms. Gregori are concerned because of the sharply rising cost of food. She said that they will continue to monitor this trend very carefully.

A Board member asked if meal prices would have to be increased for next year. Dr. Fishman stated that she did not think so.

## **ITEM VI. Public Forum**

A member of the audience commented on the vocational agriculture program.

## **ITEM VII. Old Business**

There was no old business.

## **ITEM VIII. New Business**

### **A. Review and Possible Approval of a Fundraising Proposal**

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bradway, that the Board of Education approve the proposed fundraising activity for the Stafford High School girls' soccer team. 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, to place Item IX.A.- Interview Candidates for the Business Manager / Financial Analyst Position (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 recess at 7:50 p.m.

#### **ITEM IX. Personnel Matters**

##### **A. Interview Candidates for the Business Manager / Financial Analyst Position (Executive Session Anticipated)**

Mrs. Fowler made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, to enter executive session. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel and Ms. Saunders voted for the motion, which carried. The Board entered executive session at 8:10 p.m.

The Board interviewed two candidates for the position of Business Manager / Financial Analyst. This position will be vacant as of August 31, 2008, due to the retirement of Ms. Gregori.

Mrs. Fowler made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, 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 9:40 p.m.

Mrs. Bradway made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, to appoint Ms. Margaret Devlin to the position of Financial Analyst, effective August 4, 2008, at a salary of \$62,000 (pro-rated), with the condition that she obtain a four-year degree and business manager certification within two years of her date of hire. Mr. Fontanella, Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Rummel and Ms. Saunders voted for the motion. Mrs. Fowler abstained. The motion carried by majority vote.

#### **ITEM X. Student Matters**

There were no student matters.

#### **ITEM XI. Adjournment**

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Ms. Saunders, 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 9:45 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Christine C. Marinelli, Recording Secretary**

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**Mark Fontanella, Chairperson**

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**Sandra Fowler, Secretary**