

**Regular Meeting
Stafford Board of Education
Stafford Middle School
Monday, May 19, 2008**

Board Members Present: Mr. Mark Fontanella, Chairperson
Mrs. Sandy Fowler, Secretary
Mrs. Lisa Bradway
Mrs. Lisa Finch
Mrs. Tracy Rummel
Ms. Patricia Saunders
Ms. Julie Stafford, arrived at 7:15 p.m.

Also Present: Dr. Thérèse G. Fishman, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. David Bartlett, Assistant Principal, Stafford Elementary School
Mr. Michael Bednarz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Ms. Holly Coppinger, Teacher, Stafford High School
Dr. Marcia Elliott, Principal, West Stafford School
Ms. Jill Gregori, Business Manager
Mr. Francis Kennedy, Principal, Stafford High School
Mrs. Paula Kuenzler, Principal, Staffordville School
Mr. Kenneth Valentine, Principal, Stafford Middle School
Miss Cassandra Weed, Student Representative

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. A quorum was established.

ITEM I. Secretary's Report – Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting, May 5, 2008

A consensus of the Board approved the Secretary's Report as presented for the regular meeting held on May 5, 2008.

ITEM II. Treasurer's Report

A. Report on Bills

<u>Bills:</u>	May 7, 2008	\$124,030.62
	May 14, 2008	\$ 78,485.62
<u>Grants:</u>		
Federal Grants	May 9, 2008	\$ 6,236.93
State Grants	May 9, 2008	\$ 23,507.26
Local Grants	May 9, 2008	\$ 23.89

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

ITEM III. Correspondence

Mr. Fontanella read a letter from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEAS&C). The letter stated that at the March meeting of NEAS&C, Stafford High School

was removed from warning status due to the completion of the renovation project, including the library media center.

Mr. Fontanella read an e-mail that Dr. Fishman received from Mr. Duchon, music teacher at Stafford Middle School. The e-mail read as follows "This past Thursday through Sunday the SMS Stage and Select Choirs traveled to Hershey and Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. It was an incredibly exciting trip that students have been eagerly awaiting. The trip began with a miniature golf tournament then all involved took in a great deal of American History as we toured the Gettysburg Battlefield, the Civil War Wax Museum, and the Hall of Presidents and First Ladies. Saturday was what we have all been working so hard for, the competition! These students sang their hearts out and performed better than perfect! The Stage Choir again took first place honors earning a superior rating and the Select Choir took second place honors earning a rating of excellent. There were six Outstanding Soloist awards given and 4 of them went to SMS Students (Jennifer Bourque, Jessica Simpson, Zayne Couch, and Tom Maynard)! While we were not the best choir there by scores, we were by far the best in professionalism, attitude, behavior, and most of all friendship. I am very proud of each and every individual who helped us accomplish all of our goals this year and can't thank you enough for representing Stafford School and the State of Connecticut proudly!

You will be pleased to know that we were complimented on our behavior and professionalism everywhere we traveled. The hotel was very pleased and there were absolutely no complaints or problems at all."

ITEM IV. Board Reports

Miss Weed reported on the following:

- ✓ NEAS&C visit- The committee seemed very pleased with their visit to Stafford High School.
- ✓ The Junior Prom was held on May 10. She did not attend, but heard that it was fun.
- ✓ Eighth Grade Orientation at Stafford High School was held on May 14.
- ✓ The Alumni Concert was held on Sunday, 5/18, and it was great. They plan to have one every five years.
- ✓ The Highland Games will be held this coming Friday.
- ✓ The high school band will be participating in the Memorial Day Parade at Six Flags this coming weekend.
- ✓ The high school spring concert will be held on Wednesday, May 28, 2008.
- ✓ The Thespian Induction will be held on Thursday, May 29, 2008.
- ✓ The Senior Banquet will be held on Friday, May 30, 2008.
- ✓ Dates of other high school events taking place in June 2008.

Mr. Fontanella gave another 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.

Mr. Fontanella stated that he enjoyed the Alumni Concert.

Mrs. Rummel stated that she attended the Environmental Fair on Saturday and that it was wonderful. She would like to see a similar event every year. She stated that Mr. Shea, Environmental Science Teacher, collaborated with the town to plan this event. Ms. Stafford reported that she attended the PTO's Touch-A-Truck event on Sunday. She said that it was a very successful, well-attended event.

ITEM V. Superintendent's Reports

A. Teacher of the Year 2009

Dr. Fishman introduced Mr. Michael Bednarz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, who is the facilitator of the Stafford Teacher of the Year program.

Mr. Bednarz explained the selection process for the Teacher of the Year to the Board. He introduced the 2009 Teacher of the Year, Ms. Shelley Michaud, Stafford Middle School teacher. He stated that among the many things that impressed the Teacher of the Year committee about Ms. Michaud were:

- ❖ A career long dedication to meeting the individual and special needs of her students.
- ❖ The myriad of examples of devoting time to lead committees and chair student activity events.
- ❖ A commitment to and enthusiasm for improving her professional practice.

Mr. Fontanella presented Ms. Michaud with a plaque.

Ms. Michaud spoke briefly and thanked the Board and the Teacher of the Year Committee.

B. Non-Certified Staff Member of the Year 2007 – 2008

Dr. Fishman stated that the Non-Certified Staff Member of the Year award began six years ago when representatives from all non-certified / non-affiliated classifications met with her to design an appreciation program. She stated that the committee established the following criteria for determining eligibility for the award:

- ❖ Good work habits and attendance;
- ❖ Good interpersonal skills and positive attitude;
- ❖ Dedication to the Stafford Public Schools by providing service above and beyond what the regular job requires; and
- ❖ Minimum three (3) years employment in the Stafford Public Schools.

Dr. Fishman stated that twelve staff members were nominated for this award and that each nominee was honored with a certificate at the Staff Reception, which was held on May 15, 2008. She announced that Ms. Shirley Bergeron, paraprofessional, at West Stafford School, was chosen as the 2007 - 2008 Non-Certified Staff Member of the Year. Ms. Bergeron was presented with a plaque by Mr. Fontanella.

C. Recognition of Retiring Staff Members

Dr. Fishman introduced each retiring staff member and spoke about each staff member's career in Stafford. The retiring staff members were:

- ❖ Lorraine Dugan~ cafeteria worker in Stafford since 1989.
- ❖ Gail Julian-Fiorini~ teacher in Stafford since 2001.
- ❖ Jill Gregori~ financial analyst / business manager in Stafford since 1994.
- ❖ Maureen MacKenn~ school nurse since 1983.
- ❖ Donna Niewinski~ school secretary since 1978.
- ❖ Diane Woods~ in-school suspension paraprofessional since 1979.

Mr. Fontanella presented Ms. Gregori with a plaque and Ms. Julian-Fiorini with a bell commemorating their years of service to the district. The other retirees were unable to attend the meeting. Dr. Fishman will present the plaques to those staff members at another time.

D. Presentation of CABE Student Leadership Awards

Dr. Fishman explained that each year the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) Student Leadership Awards Program honors Connecticut high school students who exhibit qualities of willingness to take on challenges, the ability to understand issues clearly, and the ability to work with and lead others.

Dr. Fishman introduced Mr. Francis Kennedy, Principal of Stafford High School. Mr. Kennedy presented the 2007 – 2008 recipients of this prestigious award: Katherine E. Bradway and Matthew C. Szymanski, both juniors this year at SHS. Mr. Kennedy spoke briefly about each student's plans for the future.

E. Recognition of Student Representative to the Board of Education

Dr. Fishman and Mr. Fontanella spoke of the commitment of Miss Cassandra Weed, a senior at Stafford High School, who has served as the Student Representative to the Board of Education for 2007 – 2008. Dr. Fishman and Mr. Fontanella stated that Miss Weed has done an outstanding job updating the Board members on important issues and student activities at Stafford High School. Mr. Fontanella stated that Miss Weed has done an excellent job of giving the Board a student's perspective on many issues.

Mr. Fontanella presented Miss Weed with a plaque.

F. Recognition of Stafford Public Schools' Student Artists

Dr. Fishman explained that throughout the past school year, student artwork has been exhibited in the boardroom at the Pinney Administration Building. She stated that this project was coordinated by our art teachers: Ms. Tannis Longmore, Mrs. Dee Paradis, Mrs. Elizabeth Vannelli and long-term substitute, Ms. Amanda Chianelli.

Mr. Fontanella presented each student artist in attendance at the meeting with a certificate of recognition.

The Board took a brief recess for refreshments at 8:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order at 8:23 p.m.

G. Head Start Report through April 2008

Dr. Fishman reviewed the Head Start expense report through April 2008, as prepared by Ms. Jill Gregori, Business Manager. She stated that we have expended or encumbered \$17,875 for staff, transportation, and meals covered by the Head Start grant.

ITEM VI. Public Forum

There were no questions or comments.

ITEM VII. Old Business

There was no old business.

ITEM VIII. New Business

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

Dr. Fishman introduced Mr. Bednarz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction. Mr. Bednarz reviewed the proposal for the Individual and Family Development course with the Board. Ms. Coppinger was also present to answer questions. Mr. Bednarz noted that Ms. Coppinger took advantage of the new course proposal process, which was approved by the Board in April 2005, in order to bring this opportunity to the students of Stafford High School. This will be a new, full-year course that will focus on an understanding of the psychosocial principles behind development throughout one's lifespan.

Board members had questions regarding the internship that is required as part of this course. Ms. Coppinger stated that students will be required to complete 40 hours of community experiences related to the various stages of life covered in the course.

Mrs. Fowler had questions regarding the college credit that the students will earn for the course. Ms. Coppinger stated that the course will cost students \$25 per credit. Additionally, students must maintain a grade of B or better to obtain college credit at UConn. Ms. Coppinger stated that whether other colleges and universities accept the credit is up to the individual school's policies.

Ms. Stafford requested a copy of the book to review. She also asked if this course would be replacing another course. Ms. Coppinger stated that this would be an additional course, at this time.

ITEM IX. Personnel Matters

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Ms. Saunders, to add Item IX.C.- Appointments-Certified Staff Members to the agenda. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel, Ms. Saunders and Ms. Stafford voted for the motion, which carried.

A. Resignations- Certified Staff Members

Mrs. Fowler made a motion, seconded by Ms. Saunders, that the Board accept the resignations of the following staff members:

Name	Position	School	Effective Date	Reason
Gail Julian-Fiorini	Elementary Teacher	Stafford Elementary School	June 2008	Personal.
Robert W. Tierney II	Math Teacher	Stafford High School	May 26, 2008 (revised)	To take another non-teaching position.

Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel, Ms. Saunders and Ms. Stafford voted for the motion, which carried.

B. Discussion and Possible Rescission of Non-Tenured Teachers' Non-Renewals (Executive Session Anticipated)

The Board determined that an executive session was not necessary.

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Ms. Stafford, that the Board rescind its decision to non-renew the teacher contracts of the following certified staff members at the end of the 2007 – 2008 school year:

Name	Position	School	Effective Date
Nora Claus	Elementary Teacher, Grade 1	West Stafford School	End of School Year, June 2008
Jessica Cooley	Elementary Teacher, Grade 5	Stafford Elementary School	End of School Year, June 2008
Amanda Galligan	Elementary Teacher, PreK	Staffordville School	End of School Year, June 2008
Sarah Myles	Elementary Teacher, Grade 4	Stafford Elementary School	End of School Year, June 2008

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 Ms. Saunders, that the Board of Education direct the Superintendent of Schools to communicate this action of the Board in writing to each of these teachers and that the Superintendent prepare teaching contracts for 2008 – 2009 for each of the above-named teachers in accordance with the *Professional Agreement between the Stafford Board of Education and the Stafford Education Association, 7/1/07 – 6/30/10*. Mrs. Bradway, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel, Ms. Saunders and Ms. Stafford voted for the motion, which carried.

C. Appointments- Certified Staff Members

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, that the Board appoint certified staff members as follows:

Reedy, Lynn	Elementary, K-6	District-wide / Technology Integration Specialist	Matthew Kyer	\$64,675 (MA, Step 12), plus \$5,000 stipend for work beyond the regular school day, plus up to ten (10) days, per diem beyond the regular school year.	7/1/2008 (revised)
Zhou, Jun	Mathematics, 7-12 (029)	Stafford High School / Mathematics Teacher	Stanley Huber	\$56,251 (6 th Year, Step 8)	8/21/2008

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

Mrs. Fowler 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 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Marinelli, Recording Secretary

Mark Fontanella, Chairperson

Sandra Fowler, Secretary