

**Regular Meeting
Stafford Board of Education
Stafford Elementary School
February 13, 2017, 6:30 p.m.**

Board Members Present: Mr. Scott Gallison
Mrs. Andrea Locke
Mr. Jeff Roberts
Mrs. Tracy Rummel, Secretary
Ms. Sonya Shegogue, Chairperson

Absent: Mr. Peter Kovaleski
Mrs. Kathy Walsh
Mr. Isaac Combs, Student Representative
Miss Autumn Gagnon, Alternate Student Representative

Also Present: Dr. Patricia A. Collin, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Michael Bednarz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Mr. Devin Cowperthwaite, Supervisor of Building Services
Mr. Dominic DePellegrini, Computer Technician
Ms. Peggy Falcetta, Principal, Staffordville School
Mr. Dean Fortin, IT/Network Coordinator
Mr. Damian Frassinelli, Director of Athletics and Recreation
Ms. Christine Griswold, Assistant Principal, Stafford High School
Mr. Steve Montgomery, Assistant Principal, Stafford Elementary School
Ms. Melissa Morgan-Hostetler, Assistant Principal, Stafford Middle School
Ms. Jennifer Hoffman, Principal, Stafford Middle School
Mr. Marco Pelliccia, Principal, Stafford High School
Ms. Jolene Piscetello, Principal, Stafford Elementary School
Ms. Amy Stevenson, Director of Pupil Services
Mrs. Debbie Szymanski, Business Manager

Item I. Call to Order- Establishment of Quorum

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

Item II. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Gallison led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item III. Secretary's Report- Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting, 2/06/17

A consensus of the Board approved the Secretary's Report for the regular meeting held on 2/06/17, as presented.

Item IV. Treasurer's Report

There were no Bills or Grants to approve.

Item V. Correspondence

A. Board Meeting Reminder

Ms. Shegogue read the Board meeting reminders that were posted on the agenda.

Item VI. Board Reports

A. Report from Student Representative

The Student Representatives were not in attendance. Therefore, there was no update.

B. Budget Committee

The Budget Committee members are Ms. Shegogue, Mr. Gallison and Mr. Kovaleski (Mrs. Locke, alternate). There was no update from this committee.

C. Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee members are Ms. Shegogue, Mrs. Locke and Mrs. Walsh (Mrs. Rummel, alternate). There was no update from this committee. As a reminder, a committee meeting will be held on Monday, February 27, 2017, at which time the new textbooks would be presented to the committee and after to the full Board at the regular meeting.

D. Policy Committee

The Policy Committee members are Mrs. Rummel, Mr. Kovaleski and Mrs. Walsh. There was no report from this committee. Dr. Collin mentioned that she distributed a policy summary document to all employees, in which she encouraged them to read the policies in their entirety on the district's website.

E. Negotiation Committee

The Negotiation Committee members are Mrs. Locke, Ms. Shegogue and Mr. Roberts. There was no update from this committee.

Item VII. Superintendent's Reports

A. Continued Presentation of the Proposed 2017 – 2018 Budget for the Stafford Public School District

Dr. Collin said that at the Board meeting on Monday, February 6, 2017, she presented responses to Board members' questions about the proposed 2017-2018 budget for the Stafford Public School District, which totaled \$28,432,204.51 and represents an increase of \$1,118,780.43 or 3.87%. She said that while the decision was made to schedule a Board Budget Committee meeting on February 13th in lieu of the regular Board meeting, it was later determined that a meeting of the full Board was warranted to allow all members to provide input.

Dr. Collin said that there was also discussion about the Board's ability to get a budget, which reflects an increase of 3.87%, approved at referendum. Therefore, members asked Administration to review the

proposed budget and present reductions, which would result in a percentage increase that would be more favorably received by the community. Board members were encouraged to forward questions to Mrs. Deborah Szymanski, Interim Business Manager, and to Dr. Collin prior to the meeting so that they could provide responses. The responses were shared with the full Board via the portal Friday evening. Dr. Collin stated that the responses would be posted online for the public on Tuesday, February 14, along with the revised budget summary.

Dr. Collin reviewed the revised 2017-2018 proposal, which reflected a number of reductions and proposes an increase of 2.61%. She said that the reductions were discussed and finalized during two budget meetings with administrators. She said that Administration believes that the proposed reductions would have the least impact on students.

Mr. Gallison asked if there was any new information regarding the pension issue with the State and how much more money Stafford would have to pay. Mrs. Szymanski said that she's been working with Lisa Baxter, the town's CFO, to determine the impact. She said at this time, the numbers that have been distributed are still very preliminary.

Mrs. Rummel asked for the date of the Legislative Breakfast. Dr. Collin said that she's unsure of the date, but that she'd try to find out. Dr. Collin said that due to a conflict with her scheduled, she would not be able to attend. Mrs. Rummel said that she was also unable to attend, but it would be a good idea to have district representation there.

Mrs. Rummel and Mr. Gallison asked questions regarding the instructional support teachers, how students are identified for their services and how many students are serviced over the course of a school year. Ms. Piscetello stated that about 140 students are serviced throughout the school year. She also detailed the many tools that are utilized to identify a student in need of extra support.

Ms. Shegogue and Mrs. Rummel commended the administration for making the difficult decisions necessary to provide the reductions that were presented to the Board.

Mrs. Rummel said that she is fully in support of the budget that administration put forth.

Mrs. Locke asked Mr. Pelliccia to explain the other resources that would be used to help with interventions once the English teacher is cut at the high school level.

Item VII. Public Comment

A member of the audience stated that with cuts come compromise. She said that Stafford is lacking in enrichment programs. She noted that the Board needs to look at all possibilities for cuts, including a reduction in the number of administrators, since one was added in the past couple of years. She said that people are kept healthy through education.

A member of the audience agreed that the Board should look at reducing the number of administrators, since the district's enrollment continues to decline. She noted that the reduction of one administrator would save most of the items on the list of reductions.

A member of the audience said that the district is shifting the health gap from the middle school to the high school by having the physical education teachers teach health. She said that the district should focus

on enrichment and not just on lower level support. She said that she doesn't like to see the high school always taking the brunt of the reductions, which leaves students with fewer choices and electives.

A member of the audience asked a question about how many students attend magnet schools. Mrs. Marinelli said that 56 students attend 20 different magnet schools.

Item IX. Old Business

There was no Old Business.

Item X. New Business

There was no New Business.

Item XI. Personnel Matters

There were no Personnel Matters.

Item XII. Student Matters

There were no Student Matters.

Item XIII. Adjournment

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, to adjourn. Mr. Gallison, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Roberts, and Mrs. Rummel voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,
Christine C. Marinelli, Recording Secretary**

Sonya Shegogue, Chairperson

Tracy L. Rummel, Secretary