

**Regular Meeting  
Stafford Board of Education  
Stafford Elementary School  
September 14, 2015, 6:30 p.m.**

**Board Members Present:** Mr. Tony Frassinelli  
Mr. Peter Kovaleski  
Mrs. Andrea Locke  
Mrs. Tracy Rummel, Chairperson  
Ms. Sonya Shegogue, Secretary  
Mrs. Kathy Walsh

**Absent:** Mr. Earl Goodell

**Also Present:** Dr. Patricia A. Collin, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Sam Adlerstein, Business Manager  
Mr. Michael Bednarz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction  
Ms. Christine Griswold, Assistant Principal, Stafford High School  
Ms. Beth LaPane, Supervisor of Food Services  
Mr. Marco Pelliccia, Principal, Stafford High School  
Ms. Jolene Piscetello, Principal, Stafford Elementary School  
Miss Allison Schoolnick, Student Representative

**Item I. Call to Order- Establishment of Quorum**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. A quorum was established.

**Item II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Miss Schoolnick led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Item III. Secretary's Report- Approval of Minutes**

Special Meeting, 8/17/15  
Regular Meeting, 8/17/15

A consensus of the Board approved the Secretary's Report for the special meeting and regular meetings held on August 17, 2015, as presented.

**Item IV. Treasurer's Report**

Bills, 8/14/15- \$270,436.79 (Encumbered)  
Bills, 8/20/15- \$245,834.11 (Encumbered)  
Grants, 8/20/15- \$2,398.30  
Bills, 8/20/15- \$237,803.08  
Bills, 9/3/15- \$47,781.98 (Encumbered)  
Grants, 9/3/15- \$2,781.69  
Bills, 9/3/15- \$216,519.86

Grants, 9/9/15- \$80,553.28 (Encumbered)  
Bills, 9/9/15- \$10,690.92

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

**Item V. Correspondence**

**A. Board Meeting Reminder**

Mrs. Rummel reviewed the Board of Education meeting reminders that were posted on the agenda.

Dr. Collin reported that there was an article in the July 30 edition of the Reminder News, entitled *Technology Teacher Becomes Summer Extern to Bring Back Knowledge for Students*, about Robert Michalak, Stafford High School technology teacher.

Dr. Collin reported that there was an article in the August 2015 edition of Go Local, entitled *Modern Day Rosie- The Story of a Machinist*, about Jenny Titus, Stafford Middle School technology teacher.

**Item VI. Board Reports**

**A. Report from Student Representative**

Miss Schoolnick provided an extensive report, which covered all five schools' news and events, as well as a high school sports, drama and music department update. Miss Schoolnick also provided photographs and an invitation to the Veterans' Day Assembly for each Board member.

**B. Budget Committee**

The Budget Committee members are Mrs. Rummel, Mr. Frassinelli and Mr. Kovaleski. Mr. Goodell and Ms. Shegogue are alternates. There was no report from this committee. Mrs. Rummel stated that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 28, 2015, at 6 p.m., at Stafford Elementary School.

**C. Curriculum Committee**

The Curriculum Committee members are Ms. Shegogue, Mrs. Locke and Mrs. Walsh. There was no report from this committee. Ms. Shegogue noted that the committee will meet prior to the October 5<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting.

**D. Policy Committee**

The Policy Committee members are Mr. Goodell, Mr. Kovaleski and Mrs. Walsh. There was no report from this committee. Dr. Collin inquired about the members' availability. A committee meeting was scheduled for Friday, September 25, 2015, at 8 a.m.

**E. Negotiation Committee**

The Negotiation Committee members are Mrs. Rummel, Mr. Frassinelli and Mrs. Locke. Ms. Shegogue is an alternate. Mrs. Locke stated that the Negotiation Committee has been very busy, since they are currently negotiating two contracts. She said that they will be going to arbitration with CSEA, and that the committee will be meeting with SEA on Monday, 9/21/15.

**Item VII. Superintendent’s Reports**

**A. Meet and Greet New Certified Staff Members**

Dr. Collin stated that in the past the Board of Education officially appointed all certified teaching staff and administrators. Candidates often attended the Board meeting at which the decision was to be made.

With the January 7, 2013, revision of **Policy #4111 Personnel-Certified: Recruitment and Selection**, the Board authorized the Superintendent [or designee] *to employ all personnel below the rank of Assistant Principal*. This change in policy expedited the hiring process as it allowed me to offer contracts to new staff and, concurrently, allowed these staff members to provide adequate notification to their current employers, as warranted.

So that Board members may meet its newest certified staff members (as indicated below), they were invited to attend the Board meeting.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Location</b>
Shannon Blair	Grade 2 Teacher	SES
Joseph Coll	Grade 7 Social Studies	SMS
Dean Cornelio	School Guidance Counselor	SHS
Nicholas Craven	0.5 FTE Mathematics	SHS
Michael Devine	P.E. / Health	SHS
Sarah Gordon (not in attendance)	Grade 5 Teacher	SES
Evan Gray	0.5 FTE Music	SES and SMS
Patrick Leighton	Physics	SHS
Donna Napolitano (arrived late)	Grade 6 Teacher	SMS
Lindsey Squire	Biology	SHS

**B. Summary of Education-Related Legislation Enacted in the 2015 Regular and Special Sessions of the Connecticut General Assembly**

Dr. Collin stated that each year, following the legislative session, there is an update on new laws that will affect schools. A copy of the summary of education legislation enacted in the 2015 regular session of the Connecticut General Assembly (Series: 2015-16; Circular Letter: C-1) was provided via the portal. She said that the first part of the summary presents newly enacted laws that concern education and the second focuses on those which address the budget and bond-related public acts affecting education. She said that as is always the case, some of the new legislation will likely require new/revised Board of Education policies.

Dr. Collin highlighted some of the key aspects of this legislation. Mr. Frassinelli asked a clarifying question regarding the in-service training that the district must provide for teachers.

**C. 2015 State Assessment Results**

Dr. Collin reported that with the exception of Science, the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) have been replaced by the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA), a web-based platform. In the spring of 2014, Stafford students in grades 3-8 and 10-11 participated in the SBA Field Test. Neither individual nor district results were made available to districts that participated in the Field Test.

She said that Mr. Michael Bednarz, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, prepared a presentation for the Board describing achievement results and longitudinal comparison data to District Reference Group (DRG) and State averages for Science in grades 5, 8 and 10. In addition, Mr. Bednarz provided achievement results and comparison data to DRG and State averages for English Language Arts and Mathematics on the Smarter Balanced Assessment in grades 3 through 8 and 11. The SBA, which was administered in Spring 2015 for the first time to all students in Connecticut, is considered a “baseline” year.

She reminded the Board that the Connecticut State Department of Education is encouraging districts not to make comparisons to former CMT or CAPT results since different standards are assessed. The State is also cautioning districts not to draw too many conclusions while reviewing and analyzing the data.

Mr. Bednarz gave a detailed presentation, highlighting key results and details specific to the 2015 assessments. Mr. Bednarz said that the district’s results are very encouraging. He noted that the high school’s scores were very impressive, especially combined with their 100% graduation rate.

Mr. Pelliccia thanked Mr. Bednarz for his role in preparing the district for the new testing requirements, and he thanked his staff.

Mrs. Rummel asked when the results would be sent home to parents. Mr. Bednarz stated that he’s received some of the materials, but not all. He said that he anticipates that the information will be sent home at the end of September / beginning of October.

Mr. Bednarz said that Board members could contact him via email if they have any additional questions.

**D. Summer Digital Reading Academy**

Dr. Collin stated that 45 of 90 students, who received invitations based on the recommendations of classroom and instructional support staff, participated in an innovative summer reading program. Eighteen students demonstrated consistent participation for six weeks.

She said that students logged into *Lexia* and *RazKids*, web-based programs approximately three to five times per week for 15 to 30 minute sessions, depending on each child’s grade level. Additionally, in order to introduce parents to the program, they were invited to a “kick off” session, which included an ice cream treat. Copies of the Summer Digital Reading Academy letters were provided via the portal for the Board’s review.

Dr. Collin reported that progress was monitored through an on-line portal by Kimberly Robbins (WSS), Kim Jones (SVS), Sarah Gordon (SES) and Jennifer Miller (SES), who contacted the students to discuss their progress and provide encouragement. Staff, who developed recommendations for improving the program, reported that the participants experienced success.

Mr. Bednarz reported that the program was supported by grant money. He said the *RazKids* program was innovative and the students responded very well to it, with over 7,000 downloads. Mr. Bednarz stated that the program is currently being used at West Stafford and Staffordville Schools, but that he hopes to extend the program to Stafford Elementary School.

**E. Food Service Program Update**

Dr. Collin said that in July, Mr. Adlerstein spoke of the Food Service Program's efforts to improve operational efficiency, data collection and data accuracy for analysis and decision-making and allow for electronic payments to students' accounts through the use of software known as Rediker Point of Sale.

She provided via the portal copies of flyers that are soon to be disseminated to parents and guardians. One of the flyers described "PayForIt.net", which will be implemented November 2, 2015. She said that as indicated in the flyer, once an account is created, parents will be able to view their children's daily purchases, monitor the balance on their accounts and set up reminders. Parents will have the convenience of making on-line payments, for which there is a service fee (4.75% per credit transaction and \$1.75 per check transaction), or, should they choose to avoid a service fee, parents may continue to pay for their children's meals via check or cash.

Mr. Adlerstein and Mrs. Beth LaPane, Supervisor of Food Services, were in attendance to respond to questions of the Board.

Mrs. Rummel stated that she'd like to see information sent to parents as soon as possible.

**Item VIII. Public Forum**

There were no questions or comments.

**Item IX. Old Business**

There was no Old Business.

**Item X. New Business**

**A. Obsolete Equipment / Materials**

Dr. Collin reported that Mr. Thomas Vaghini, High School Media Specialist, has compiled a list of 128 books removed from the Stafford High School library. Also included in the report is a list of catalogued items, such as digital cameras dated from the 1990s, which have been disposed of previously, but had not been deleted from the library's file. According to Board of Education policy 3260-*Sales and Disposal of Books, Equipment, and Supplies*, such obsolete equipment must be returned to the Town of Stafford.

Mr. Frassinelli made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kovaleski, that the Board of Education approve the return of the obsolete books, as indicated in the memorandum, to the Town of Stafford, according to the provisions of Board policy 3260-*Sales and Disposal of Books, Equipment, and Supplies*. If the Town does not want the books, the district will assume responsibility for proper disposal. Mr. Frassinelli, Mr. Kovaleski, Mrs. Locke, Ms. Shegogue and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried.

**B. Review and Possible Approval of Participation in Early Childhood Regression Discontinuity Study**

Dr. Collin stated that in accordance with BOE Policy 6162.51, Instruction: Surveys of Students (Student Privacy), *Surveys conducted for other agencies, organizations or individuals must have the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the approval of the Board of Education as to content and purpose. The results of such approved surveys must be shared with the Board of Education.*

She provided via the portal a memorandum from Dianna Wentzell, Commissioner of Education and Myra Jones-Taylor, Commissioner of Early Childhood dated, May 14, 2015, in which the district was asked to cooperate in a study on the effectiveness of prekindergarten programs. According to the memorandum, the objective of the study is to “identify the effect that state-supported prekindergarten has on children’s academic achievement and social skills at kindergarten entry”. The study seeks to answer the following:

1. Do children who attend a full-day or school day, state-funded preschool program enter kindergarten with better language and literacy skills than if they had not attended the program?
2. Do children who attend a full-day or school-day, state-funded preschool program enter kindergarten with better mathematic skills than if they had not attended the program?
3. Do children who attend a full-day or school-day, state-funded preschool program enter kindergarten with better social skills than if they had not attended the program?

She said that on August 28, 2015, the district received notification from UConn, who is conducting the study on behalf of the Connecticut General Assembly, that Stafford was randomly selected for inclusion in the study and that an estimated total of four (4) prekindergarten and kindergarten students from our district would be assessed during October and November 2015.

Dr. Collin stated that an electronic PDF embargoed copy of the study report will be emailed to all Superintendents from school readiness districts and school readiness liaisons, and schools/centers three days in advance of the public release of the report. She said that it is important to note that while district policy indicates that the results will be shared with the Board, the results of this particular study will not be reported at the district, town, school, or prekindergarten program level. They will be aggregated and reported at the state level. The memorandum states, **“It will not be possible to determine the sites and students that were sampled for this study. In other words, there will be no way for anyone to link information back to . . . students, teachers, school, town, or district.”**

Board members were also provided with Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) About the Study Background via the portal. Embedded in the FAQ is a notation that pending approval by UConn’s Institutional Review Board, parents/guardians will have the option to opt out of having their child be a part of the assessment if the child is randomly selected to participate. Students, parents, and teachers will be administered a variety of assessments (academic tests, 40-50 minutes/child; behavior rating scales, 10-20 minutes/student; and demographic surveys, 5-10 minutes/student) as part of the study.

Mr. Frassinelli made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Locke, that the Board of Education approve of the Stafford Public School District’s participation in the Early Childhood Regression Discontinuity Study on behalf of the Education Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly, as presented. Mr. Frassinelli, Mr. Kovaleski, Mrs. Locke, Ms. Shegogue and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried.

**Item XI. Personnel Matters**

**A. Resignation- Certified Staff Member**

Mr. Frassinelli made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Locke, that the Board of Education accept the resignation of the following staff member, as indicated:

NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	EFFECTIVE DATE	REASON
Connors, Monica	Social Worker	Stafford Middle School	9/29/15	To accept a full-time position in another district.

Mr. Frassinelli, Mr. Kovaleski, Mrs. Locke, Ms. Shegogue and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried.

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Ms. Shegogue, to place item XII.A. **Hearing, Deliberation, and Possible Adoption of State Board of Education Impartial Hearing Board's Recommendation for Expulsion of Student A (Executive Session Anticipated)**, into executive session. Mr. Frassinelli, Mr. Kovaleski, Mrs. Locke, Ms. Shegogue and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried.

The Board took a brief recess at 8:19 p.m.

**Item XII. Student Matters**

**A. Hearing, Deliberation, and Possible Adoption of State Board of Education Impartial Hearing Board's Recommendation for Expulsion of Student A (Executive Session Anticipated)**

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kovaleski, to enter executive session. Mr. Frassinelli, Mr. Kovaleski, Mrs. Locke, Ms. Shegogue and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried. The Board entered executive session at 8:35 p.m. The Board invited Dr. Collin, Mrs. Marinelli, Student A and Student A's father into executive session.

The Board took a brief recess at 8:47 p.m., to deliberate. All invited guests left the meeting room. All invited guests were asked to return at 8:57 p.m.

Mr. Frassinelli made a motion, seconded by Ms. Shegogue, to return to regular session. Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kovaleski, to enter executive session. Mr. Frassinelli, Mr. Kovaleski, Mrs. Locke, Ms. Shegogue and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried. The Board returned to regular session at 8:58 p.m.

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Mr. Frassinelli, that the Stafford Board of Education adopt the decision of the State Board of Education Impartial Hearing Board, and that Student A be expelled from any and all school privileges and premises, and all school-sponsored activities of the Stafford Public Schools for disciplinary reasons, effective immediately, for the period through October 26, 2015; it being the further finding of the Stafford Board of Education that Student A's conduct, the possession of a deadly weapon on school premises and possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia on school premises, which were the basis

for Student A's expulsion from the Windham Connecticut Technical High School, also warrants Student A's expulsion under the policies of the Stafford Board of Education.

Moved further that the Administrator provide Student A with an alternative education opportunity during the expulsion as deemed appropriate by the Administration.

Mr. Frassinelli, Mr. Kovaleski, Mrs. Locke, Ms. Shegogue and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried.

**Item XIII. Adjournment**

Mr. Frassinelli made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kovaleski, to adjourn. Mr. Frassinelli, Mr. Kovaleski, Mrs. Locke, Ms. Shegogue and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Christine C. Marinelli, Recording Secretary**

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**Tracy L. Rummel, Chairperson**

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**Sonya Shegogue, Secretary**