

**Regular Meeting  
Stafford Board of Education  
Stafford Elementary School  
December 7, 2015, 6:30 p.m.**

**Board Members Present:** Mr. Peter Kovaleski  
Mrs. Andrea Locke  
Mrs. Tracy Rummel, Chairperson  
Mr. Jeff Roberts  
Mrs. Kathy Walsh

**Absent:** Ms. Sonya Shegogue, Secretary

**Also Present:** Dr. Patricia A. Collin, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Sam Adlerstein, Business Manager  
Mr. Michael Bednarz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction  
Mr. Damian Frassinelli, Director of Athletics and Recreation  
Mr. Damon Reynolds, Alternate Student Representative  
Miss Allison Schoolnick, Student Representative  
Ms. Jean Titus, Health / Consumer Science Teacher

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 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**

Regular Meeting, 11/23/15

A consensus of the Board approved the Secretary's Report for the regular meeting held on 11/23/15, as presented.

**Item IV. Treasurer's Report**

Bills, 11/24/15- \$323,123.60  
Grants, 11/24/15- \$8,717.55

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 reminder that was posted on the agenda.

**B. EASTCONN Flyer- Standards-Based Grading: “Walking the Talk” in PowerSchool**

Mr. Bednarz explained that the photograph featured on the flyer is of Mr. Dean Fortin, Network IT Coordinator, and Mr. Joe Torres, Computer Technician. He said that the photo was taken while they were attending a PowerSchool training.

**Item VI. Board Reports**

**A. Report from Student Representative**

Miss Schoolnick distributed a report, which covered four of the schools’ news and events, as well as a high school drama and music department update. Miss Schoolnick also distributed photos of the Madrigal Feaste. Mr. Reynolds gave an update on sports.

**B. Budget Committee**

The Budget Committee members are Mrs. Rummel, Ms. Shegogue and Mr. Kovaleski (Mrs. Locke, alternate). Mrs. Rummel stated that the Budget Committee met prior to the Board meeting. She said that the committee reviewed preliminary 16-17 budget information and a draft outline for the presentation to the public. She said that she would like the committee to meet again prior to the first presentation to the full Board.

**C. Curriculum Committee**

The Curriculum Committee members are Ms. Shegogue, Mrs. Locke and Mrs. Walsh. Mrs. Walsh stated that the committee met prior to the Board meeting this evening to discuss the new health textbook. She stated that Mrs. Titus was present at the meeting and that the book was very interesting and “hands-on”.

Mrs. Locke stated that they are hoping to upgrade the social studies textbooks at the middle school and high school levels. She said that depending on the cost of the social studies books, the district may be able to upgrade some science books at the high school level as well.

Mrs. Locke also stated that the report card format is still being worked on and that they hope that they will have it finalized for next school year.

**D. Policy Committee**

The Policy Committee members are Mrs. Rummel, Mr. Kovaleski and Mrs. Walsh. There was no update from this committee. Dr. Collin stated that she may be holding an electronic meeting regarding one policy.

**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. Fall Sports Update**

Dr. Collin stated that three times per year, sports teams at Stafford High School report on their playing season. Mr. Damian Frassinelli, Director of Athletics and Recreation, introduced the coaches and team captains for the following fall sports- Cheerleading, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Football, Boys Soccer, and Girls Soccer.

The following coaches and team captains were present at the meeting- Coach Dunn, Rachel Gallison and Nate Fish- Cross Country; Coaches Mazzone and Slater, Jake Hinkle, Devin Gilbert, Josh Barnett and Justin Grant- Football; Coach Boldi, Sam Gosselin and Veronica Allevo- Field Hockey; Coach Gorski, Mike Bladek and Pat Brothers- Boys' Soccer; Coaches Freeman and Martorelli, Peyton Teske and Alyssa Fecko- Girls' Soccer; and Alexis Eaton and Haley Neuwirth- Cheerleading.

### **B. CABA / CAPSS Convention**

Representatives from Stafford Public Schools who attended the CABA/CAPSS Convention, November 20-21, 2015, included Mrs. Tracy Rummel, Mrs. Andrea Locke, and Dr. Collin. In addition, high school junior Damon Reynolds, who currently serves as the alternate Student Representative to the Board of Education, joined the district's team at the Mystic Marriott Hotel, Groton, on Saturday.

Dr. Collin reported that in addition to performances by two school groups and a couple of speakers, Caroll Spinney, who has been Sesame Street's Big Bird and Oscar the Grouch since 1969, addressed participants at the banquet on Friday evening. Dr. Elsa Nunez, President of Eastern Connecticut State University, which was ranked one of the top 30 public regional universities in the north, was the Saturday morning speaker.

Below is a list of workshop titles and descriptors attended by Mrs. Rummel, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Reynolds and Dr. Collin. Meeting materials from each of the presentations were provided for Board members via the portal. Mrs. Locke and Mrs. Rummel spoke briefly about their experience at the convention.

- Using Academy Structure to Foster 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning
- New Legislation Impacting Policy
- Board and Town Interaction: Peaceful Coexistence or Wolf in Sheep's Clothing
- There is Strength in Collaborative Action
- Personalized Learning: A Vision for the Present and the Future
- Small Town Survival: Recruiting Your Own Students
- Partnering with Families and the Community for Student Success
- Board of Education Communications Best Practices
- Connecticut's Teachers: Leading through Excellence
- The PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Curriculum
- Student Representatives on Boards of Education: Policy Into Practice
- Communications for Today's Student Leaders

## **Item VIII. Public Forum**

There were no questions or comments.

**Item IX. Old Business**

There was no Old Business.

**Item X. New Business**

**A. Interview Candidate(s) for Board of Education Vacancy (Executive Session Anticipated)**

Mr. Kovaleski made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Locke to move this item to the end of the agenda. Mr. Kovaleski, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Roberts and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried.

**B. Review and Approval of Health Textbooks for Stafford Middle School**

Dr. Collin stated that Mr. Michael Bednarz, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, prepared a recommendation, which was forwarded to the Board for its consideration for a textbook entitled, *Teen Health* (Glencoe/McGraw Hill, 2015), for Stafford Middle School's Health course. She said that this textbook is intended to replace *Glencoe Teen Health, Course 2* (McGraw Hill, 2009).

Facilitated by Ms. Jean Titus, the textbook committee, which included Ms. Patricia Kritzman and Ms. Rachel Caneen Freeman, followed established guidelines, which were enumerated in Mr. Bednarz's memo. Also provided via the portal were some highlights of *Teen Health*, and the corresponding New Textbook Request Form for the Board's review. The textbook was introduced to the Board Curriculum Committee during the meeting held prior to the Board meeting.

Dr. Collin stated that the final negotiated cost of the purchase for 25 student textbooks and one teacher's edition, the latter of which is also available on-line via a six-year digital subscription, is \$2,629.86. She said that funds are available in the current Curriculum & Instruction budget.

Mr. Bednarz and Ms. Titus were in attendance at the Board meeting to respond to questions.

Ms. Titus stated that health changes quite a bit over the years and that the current textbook is outdated (2009). She said that the new textbook relates back to common core standards, it encourages students to think for themselves, and it encourages interaction between students, which helps to develop students' collaboration skills.

Mrs. Rummel asked which grade levels would use the new textbook. Ms. Titus stated that it would be used by grades 6 - 8.

Mr. Bednarz stated that there are no recurring costs with this textbook proposal.

Mrs. Walsh made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kovaleski, that the Board adopt *Teen Health* (Glencoe/McGraw Hill, 2015) for students in grades six, seven, and eight as presented. Mr. Kovaleski, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Roberts and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried.

**C. Obsolete Equipment**

Dr. Collin stated that Mrs. Peggy Falcetta, Staffordville School Principal, after consulting with Mr. Devin Cowperthwaite, Supervisor of Building Services, and Mr. Sam Adlerstein, Business Manager, has declared the

equipment on the list provided via the portal, which has been in storage for at least three years, either obsolete or, as is the case with the cafeteria table, irreparable.

Mrs. Walsh made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kovaleski, that the Board of Education approve the return of the obsolete/irreparable equipment, as enumerated in the attached document, 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 equipment, the district will assume responsibility for proper disposal. Mr. Kovaleski, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Roberts and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried.

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Walsh, that Item XI.A.- **Review and Possible Ratification of the Professional Agreement between the Stafford Board of Education and the Stafford Education Association, July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2019 (Executive Session Anticipated)** and Item X.A.- **Interview Candidate(s) for Board of Education Vacancy (Executive Session Anticipated)**, be placed into executive session. Mr. Kovaleski, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Roberts and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried.

The Board took a brief recess at 7:25 p.m.

Mrs. Walsh made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Locke, to enter executive session. Mr. Kovaleski, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Roberts and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried. The Board entered executive session at 7:26 p.m.

#### **Item XI. Personnel Matters**

##### **A. Review and Possible Ratification of the Professional Agreement between the Stafford Board of Education and the Stafford Education Association, July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2019 (Executive Session Anticipated)**

Mr. Kovaleski made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Locke to return to regular session. Mr. Kovaleski, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Roberts and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried.

Mrs. Walsh made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Locke, that the Board of Education agree to ratify the bargaining unit agreement between the Stafford Board of Education and the Stafford Education Association (S.E.A.), July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2019, as presented. Mr. Kovaleski, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Roberts and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried.

The Board took a brief recess at 7:42 p.m.

##### **X.A. Interview Candidate(s) for Board of Education Vacancy (Executive Session Anticipated)**

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kovaleski, to enter executive session. Mr. Kovaleski, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Roberts and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried. The Board entered executive session at 7:50 p.m.

The Board interviewed two candidates for the vacancy on the Board of Education.

Mr. Roberts made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kovaleski, to return to regular session. Mr. Kovaleski, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Roberts and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried. The Board returned to regular session at 8:37 p.m.

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kovaleski, to appoint Mr. Scott Gallison to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Tony Frassinelli. Mr. Kovaleski, Mrs. Locke and Mr. Roberts voted for the motion. Mrs. Walsh voted against the motion. Mrs. Rummel abstained. The motion carried by majority vote.

**Item XII. Student Matters**

There were no Student Matters.

**Item XIII. Adjournment**

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kovaleski, to adjourn. Mr. Kovaleski, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Roberts and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

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

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**Tracy L. Rummel, Chairperson**

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**Sonya Shegogue, Secretary**