

**Special Meeting  
Stafford Board of Education  
Stafford Elementary School  
April 9, 2015, 6:00 p.m.**

**Board Members Present:** Mr. Earl Goodell  
Mrs. Andrea Locke  
Mrs. Tracy Rummel, Chairperson  
Mrs. Kathy Walsh

**Absent:** Mr. Tony Frassinelli  
Mr. Peter Kovaleski  
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. Nick Girard, Student Representative  
Mr. Marco Pelliccia, Principal, Stafford High School  
Ms. Jolene Piscetello, Assistant Principal, Stafford Elementary School  
Mrs. Amy Stevenson, Director of Pupil Services  
Mr. Kenneth Valentine, Principal, Stafford Middle School

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. A quorum was established.

**Item II. Pledge of Allegiance**

The student representative led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Regular Meeting, 3/23/15  
Special Meeting, 3/30/15

A consensus of the Board approved the Secretary's Report for the regular meeting held on March 23, 2015, and the special meeting held on March 30, 2015, as presented.

**Item IV. Treasurer's Report**

Bills, 3/18/15- \$371,958.78  
Grants, 3/18/15- \$16,240.12  
Bills, 3/26/15- \$128,651.89  
Grants, 3/26/15- \$537.99  
Grants, 4/1/15- \$6,131.86

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.

**Item VI. Board Reports**

**A. Report from Student Representative**

Mr. Girard reported on the following topics:

- CAPT Testing
- Drama Department Production- *Tarzan*
- Washington DC Field Trip
- Broadway Trip
- Distracted Driving Assembly
- Spring Sports Season
- SMS Drama Presentation- *Aladdin*

**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.

**C. Curriculum Committee**

The Curriculum Committee members are Ms. Shegogue, Mrs. Locke and Mrs. Walsh. There was no report from this committee.

**D. Policy Committee**

The Policy Committee members are Mr. Goodell, Mr. Kovaleski and Mrs. Walsh. There was no report from this committee.

**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 committees met again last week, and they have three future meetings scheduled.

**Item VII. Superintendent's Reports**

There were no Superintendent's Reports.

**Item IX. Old Business**

There was no Old Business.

**Item X. New Business**

**A. Presentation, Discussion and Approval of the Reductions to the 2015-2016 Budget for the Stafford Public Schools**

Dr. Collin stated that on February 23, 2015, the Board of Education approved a budget for Stafford Public Schools totaling \$27,822,500 for the 2015-2016 school year. This represented an increase of \$912,705 or 3.39% over the approved budget for 2014-2015. Subsequently, on April 6, 2015, the Board of Finance (BOF) directed the Board of Education to reduce its budget by \$200,000.

Dr. Collin reviewed a detailed spreadsheet, which reflected reductions and adjustments totaling \$200,000 and resulted in a budget totaling \$27,622,500, representing an increase of \$712,805 or 2.65% over the approved budget for 2014-2015. She noted that this detailed spreadsheet will be posted on the district's website ([www.stafford.k12.ct.us](http://www.stafford.k12.ct.us), under Board of Education > Budget).

Mrs. Locke asked questions regarding the reduction to SRBI supplies / the effect on the interventionist and magnet school tuition.

Mr. Goodell asked if freshman basketball could remain in the budget and some other item be identified for reduction. Dr. Collin stated that because those students have the opportunity to play basketball with the recreation program and because there will still be JV and a varsity team at the high school, she felt that this reduction had the least impact on students.

Mrs. Walsh made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Locke, that the Board of Education approve the revised 2015-2016 budget for Stafford Public Schools in the amount of \$27,622,500 in response to the April 6, 2015, mandate by the Board of Finance, as presented. Mrs. Locke, Mrs. Rummel and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion. Mr. Goodell voted against the motion. The motion carried by majority vote.

**Item VIII. Public Forum**

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Walsh, to move this item to follow item X.A.- **Presentation, Discussion and Approval of the Reductions to the 2015-2016 Budget for the Stafford Public Schools**. Mr. Goodell, Mrs. Locke and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried.

A member of the audience stated that she is concerned with the cuts to curriculum, especially in the area of science. She said that the reason the district loses students to magnet schools is because the district's science standards aren't as high. Mr. Bednarz responded that he was able to negotiate with a vendor to provide the science kits at a lower price. He said that some kits would be delayed a bit, but that Stafford is ahead of most districts in this area at this time.

A member of the audience requested more information regarding the amount for which the district is responsible for resident students attending other schools (i.e. magnet, vocational, etc.). Mrs. Marinelli stated that she would forward the information electronically.

**Item XI. Personnel Matters****A. Recommendation of Superintendent of Schools Regarding Teacher Non-Renewals**

Dr. Collin stated that in her capacity as Superintendent of Schools, she recommends that the Board of Education non-renew the teaching contracts of all non-tenured staff members listed below at the end of the 2014-2015 school year, in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151, and that the Board authorize her to furnish written notice of the action.

NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	DATE OF HIRE	EFFECTIVE DATE
<b>Anderson, Tracey</b>	Pre-kindergarten Teacher	West Stafford School	8/21/2014	End of School Year, June 2015
<b>Finkelman, Lisa</b>	Mathematics Teacher (.50)	Stafford High School	8/23/2012	End of School Year, June 2015
<b>Janiak, Brianna</b>	Science / Math Teacher, Grade 6	Stafford Middle School	9/9/2013	End of School Year, June 2015
<b>Leonard, Alexis</b>	Elementary Teacher, Grade K	Staffordville School	8/21/2014	End of School Year, June 2015
<b>Lonsdale, Amanda</b>	Guidance Counselor	Stafford High School	8/21/2013	End of School Year, June 2015
<b>Neale, Bryanna</b>	School Social Worker	Stafford High School	8/21/2014	End of School Year, June 2015

She said that she is making this recommendation due to possible elimination for budgetary reasons, which she views to be sufficient basis for the recommended action.

The above named teachers have been advised prior to this meeting that Dr. Collin intended to make this recommendation; and, if the Board takes action, the teacher has the right under Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151 to request the reasons for the Board's action to non-renew his/her contract of employment and that further, depending upon those reasons, may be entitled to a due-process hearing to consider the Board's decision to non-renew the contract of employment.

Dr. Collin said that she also recommends that she be authorized and instructed to communicate notice of this action in writing to the affected party and to respond on behalf of the Board to any appropriate requests, which may be forthcoming from the teacher or his/her representative(s) as provided in the Teacher Tenure Law.

Mr. Goodell made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Walsh, that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151, the Stafford Board of Education non-renew the teacher contracts of those staff members listed above at the end of the 2014-2015 school year. Mr. Goodell, Mrs. Locke and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried.

Mr. Goodell made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Walsh, that Stafford Board of Education direct the Superintendent of Schools to communicate this action of the Board in writing to each of the above named teachers and that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board of Education to any requests for a hearing, if required by law, or for other data which may be forthcoming from the teacher and/or his/her representative(s) pursuant to applicable provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151; and that the Superintendent of Schools be directed that any response to a request for a hearing, and if a

hearing is required by law, indicate that such hearing is to be before the Board of Education. Mr. Goodell, Mrs. Locke and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried.

**Item XII. Student Matters**

There were no Student Matters.

**Item XIII. Adjournment**

Mrs. Walsh made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Locke, to adjourn. Mr. Goodell, Mrs. Locke and Mrs. Walsh voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Marinelli, Recording Secretary

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**Tracy L. Rummel, Chairperson**

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**Sonya Shegogue, Secretary**