

**Regular Meeting  
Stafford Board of Education  
Pinney Administration Building  
February 5, 2007**

**Board Members Present:** Mr. Mark Fontanella, Chairperson  
Mrs. Sandy Fowler, Secretary, arrived at 7:10 p.m.  
Mrs. Jennifer Davis  
Mrs. Lisa Finch  
Mrs. Tracy Rummel  
Ms. Ilene Whitmarsh

**Board Members Absent:** Mr. Scott Nozik

**Also Present:** Dr. Thérèse G. Fishman, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. David Bartlett, Principal, Witt Intermediate School  
Mr. Michael Bednarz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction  
Mr. Robert Campbell, Assistant Principal, Stafford High School  
Ms. Linda DeSantis, Teacher, Stafford High School  
Mrs. Laretta Dillon, Teacher, Stafford High School  
Miss Jamie Fish, Student Representative  
Mr. Damian Frassinelli, Director of Athletics and Recreation  
Ms. Jill Gregori, Business Manager  
Mr. Francis Kennedy, Principal, Stafford High School  
Mrs. Paula Kuenzler, Principal, Staffordville School  
Dr. Barbara Macauley, Director of Pupil Services  
Mrs. Marie McDonald, Teacher, Stafford High School  
Mr. Gary Shearer, Teacher, Stafford High School  
Mr. Hank Skala, Principal, West Stafford Elementary School  
Mr. Kenneth Valentine, Principal, Stafford Middle School

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, January 22, 2007

A consensus of the Board approved the Secretary's Report of the January 22, 2007, Board of Education meeting, as presented.

## **ITEM II. Treasurer's Report**

### **A. Report on Bills**

#### **Board Bills**

January 23, 2007	\$688,651.11
January 23, 2007	\$ 13,598.21 (Encumbered)

#### **Grants**

Federal Grants	January 31, 2007	\$ 5,328.72
State Grants	January 31, 2007	\$ 2,516.59
Local Grants	January 31, 2007	\$ 428.56

A consensus of the Board approved the Board Bills and Grants as presented.

## **ITEM III. Correspondence**

### **A. Building Committee Minutes- 12/19/2006**

There was a question from the Board regarding the additional equipment that would be needed for the phone system at the high school. Ms. Gregori stated that the new phone system will be compatible with the phone system at the new elementary school, and that the cost would be paid out of building committee funds.

Dr. Fishman clarified information regarding a staff tour / meeting that will take place on the Common Curriculum Day in February.

## **ITEM IV. Board Reports**

Mr. Fontanella stated that he received a flyer for the middle school production of *Grease*, which will take place on February 22, 23 and 24.

Miss Fish updated the Board on the following items:

- the upcoming high school and middle school basketball games and high school wrestling events;
- the alumni basketball game, which will be held at 6 p.m., on March 10, 2007, at the high school;
- the high school variety show, which will be held on February 26, 2007, and the high school play, *The Crucible*, which will take place on March 2 and 3, at 7 p.m., in the high school auditorium;
- the safe graduation beach theme that the seniors have chosen;
- that 48 high school students made the high honor roll and 53 high school students made the honor roll for the second quarter, and that these students will be honored with a breakfast sponsored by PIE on February 14, 2007;

- that Erika Clark, a high school student, was honored as the DAR Good Citizen this past January;
- and, that Miss Fish has been accepted into the UConn Art Program.

## **ITEM V. Superintendent's Reports**

### **A. Head Start Report through January 2007**

Dr. Fishman reviewed the Head Start report through January 2007, as prepared by Ms. Jill Gregori, Business Manager. Dr. Fishman stated that with the exception of the \$149,578 grant moneys for the renovation of West Stafford School to bring it into compliance with NAEYC regulations and requirements, all grant moneys have been expended. She stated that new grant funds were available in February 2007.

### **B. Cafeteria Profit and Loss through December 2006**

Dr. Fishman reviewed the cafeteria profit and loss through December 2006, as prepared by Ms. Jill Gregori, Business Manager, and Mrs. Susan Linder, Director of Building Services. Through December 2006, the cafeteria is reporting a loss of \$1,722, which is attributed to salaries, benefits, and the rising cost of food.

### **C. Continuation of the Presentation of the Proposed 2007 – 2008 School Budget- Dr. Thérèse G. Fishman, Superintendent of Schools and Ms. Jill Gregori, Business Manager**

Dr. Fishman gave a general overview of the budget background information that was provided to the Board.

Ms. Whitmarsh inquired about a training schedule with regard to the new technology that will be coming on-line during the next school year. She is concerned that all involved staff members will not be trained and ready to use the new equipment when it is received. Mr. Bednarz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, addressed some of Ms. Whitmarsh's concerns. He stated that the district is planning on starting mimio board training in February, as well as a "summer camp" training session. Then Mr. Matthew Kyer, Technology Coordinator, and the media specialists will be trained in the v-brick technology as soon as it arrives, as it is best to train to use this technology when it is in the district.

The Board spoke with Mr. Damian Frassinelli, Director of Athletics and Recreation, with regard to the athletic budget and the items that would be lost if his budget was cut.

The Board also discussed making organizational changes in the Building Services Department in accordance with the report that EASTCONN prepared for the district. These changes include hiring a separate food service director, which would allow the Director of Building Services to concentrate on maintenance of the buildings and supervision of the custodial staff.

## **ITEM VI. Public Forum**

Mr. Fontanella thanked Mr. Simpson, from the Journal Inquirer, for printing a notice about the Board meeting in the paper that day.

A resident provided Mr. Fontanella with a newspaper article regarding free access to spreadsheets and software from Google. The resident offered this as an alternative to spending money on Microsoft updates.

## **ITEM VII. Old Business**

There was no Old Business at this meeting.

## **ITEM VIII. New Business**

### **A. Approval of 2007 – 2008 Board of Education Budget**

Ms. Whitmarsh made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, to approve the 2007 – 2008 Board of Education budget in the amount of \$23,189,136, a 6.29% increase over the 2006 – 2007 budget, which includes costs for the building projects and reorganization of the building services department. Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel, and Ms. Whitmarsh voted for the motion, which carried.

### **B. Review and Possible Approval of 2007 – 2008 School Calendar**

Mrs. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, to table this item until the next regularly scheduled meeting. Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel, and Ms. Whitmarsh voted for the motion, which carried.

### **C. Review and Possible Approval of Stafford High School Mission Statement**

Mr. Francis Kennedy, Principal of Stafford High School, introduced Mr. Gary Shearer and Ms. Linda DeSantis, who are members of the NEAS&C Steering Committee. Mr. Shearer and Ms. DeSantis gave a brief presentation regarding the reasons for the proposed changes to the high school mission statement. They stressed that the expectations had to be measurable, which was the reason for the revisions to the existing mission statement. Mr. Shearer and Ms. DeSantis stated that once the mission statement is approved by the Board of Education, it would be presented to Partners In Education (PIE) at the high school for approval.

Mr. Kennedy also introduced the other members of the steering committee that were present at the meeting, Mrs. Marie McDonald and Mrs. Laretta Dillon.

Mrs. Davis made a motion, seconded by Ms. Whitmarsh, to approve the revised Stafford High School mission statement. Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel, and Ms. Whitmarsh voted for the motion, which carried.

Ms. Whitmarsh made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, to move Item IX.A. – Review of Arbitration Settlement between the Stafford Board of Education and the Stafford Education Association and Signing of the 7/1/2007 – 6/30/2010 Contract (Executive Session Anticipated) into executive session. Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel, and Ms. Whitmarsh voted for the motion, which carried.

The Board took a brief recess at 9:37 p.m.

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Davis, to enter into executive session. Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel, and Ms. Whitmarsh voted for the motion, which carried. The Board entered executive session at 9:52 p.m.

### **ITEM IX. Personnel Matters**

#### **A. Review of Arbitration Settlement between the Stafford Board of Education and the Stafford Education Association and Signing of the 7/1/2007 – 6/30/2010 Contract (Executive Session Anticipated)**

No action was required of the Board. Mr. Fontanella signed the contract.

Mrs. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rummel, to return to regular session. Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel, and Ms. Whitmarsh voted for the motion, which carried. The Board returned to regular session at 10:20 p.m.

### **ITEM X. Student Matters**

There were no Student Matters at this meeting.

### **ITEM XI. Adjournment**

Mrs. Rummel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Davis, to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Rummel, and Ms. Whitmarsh voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:21 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Christine C. Marinelli, Recording Secretary**

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**Mark Fontanella, Chairperson**

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**Sandra Fowler, Secretary**