

**Special Meeting
Stafford Board of Education
Pinney Administration Building
March 5, 2007**

Board Members Present: Mr. Mark Fontanella, Chairperson
Mrs. Sandy Fowler, Secretary
Mrs. Jennifer Davis
Mrs. Lisa Finch
Ms. Ilene Whitmarsh

Board Members Absent: Mr. Scott Nozik
Mrs. Tracy Rummel

Also Present: Dr. Thérèse G. Fishman, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. David Bartlett, Principal, Witt Intermediate School
Miss Katie Bradway, Alternate Student Representative
Mr. Robert Campbell, Assistant Principal, Stafford High School
Ms. Linda DeSantis, Teacher, Stafford High School
Mrs. Marcia Elliott, Principal, Borough Elementary School
Ms. Jill Gregori, Business Manager
Mrs. Paula Kuenzler, Principal, Staffordville Elementary School
Dr. Barbara Macauley, Director of Pupil Services
Mr. Gary Shearer, Teacher, Stafford High School

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 P.M. A quorum was established.

ITEM I. Secretary's Report – Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting, February 5, 2007

A consensus of the Board approved the Secretary's Report of the February 5, 2007, Board of Education meeting, as presented.

ITEM II. Treasurer's Report

A. Report on Bills

Board Bills

February 7, 2007	\$172,858.83
February 13, 2007	\$487,115.43

Grants

State Grants	February 14, 2007	\$ 18,973.93
Federal Grants	February 14, 2007	\$ 10,571.86
State Grants	February 14, 2007	\$ 17,308.89
Federal Grants	February 14, 2007	\$ 6,998.66

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

ITEM III. Correspondence

Mr. Fontanella stated that he received a copy of the Governor's budget in the mail.

ITEM IV. Board Reports

Miss Bradway reported that progress reports were distributed at the high school last Tuesday and two days later, parent / teacher conferences were held. She also reported that the high school was going to be having CAPT testing for the next two weeks.

Miss Bradway reported that the high school presented the play "The Crucible" at Witt School this past weekend, that there were three students from the high school chosen for the New England Music Festival, and that the Alumni Basketball game would be held at the high school this coming Saturday, 3/10, at 6 p.m.

Mr. Fontanella stated that he, Dr. Fishman, and Mr. Minich, from the Board of Finance, testified at the State Appropriations Committee Hearings on Thursday, February 22, 2007. He stated that although they were only given three minutes to speak, he was glad that we were able to share our district's concerns with the appropriations committee. He thanked Dr. Fishman for securing an opportunity for the district to speak at the hearing.

ITEM V. Superintendent's Reports**A. Auditor's Report on School Year Grant Applications for the Fiscal Year Ending 6/30/06**

Dr. Fishman stated that the auditor's report on school year grant applications submitted by the Stafford Board of Education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, as prepared by O'Connell, Pace & Company, P.C., was sent to her office on February 5, 2007. She informed the Board that no exceptions were noted, so that no corrections had to be made. Dr. Fishman complimented Ms. Gregori for a job well done.

B. Financial Report through January 2007

Dr. Fishman presented the financial report through January 2007. She stated that it shows that we have expended 66% of our total school budget, which is in line with expenditures for the same time period for the past two years. Dr. Fishman noted that the biggest increase in cost was for electricity, which seems to increase monthly. She mentioned to the Board that the

district is considering joining a consortium for purchasing electricity in hopes that they will be able to secure contracts for cheaper generation charges. She stated that this item was listed on the meeting agenda and would be discussed later.

C. Update on 2007 – 2008 Board of Education Budget

Dr. Fishman updated the Board on the adjustments that were made to the 07-08 Board of Education budget to meet the 6.29% increase approved by the Board. She discussed the budget cuts as detailed below.

STAFFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION		
PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS		
ITEM	PROPOSED BUDGET	23,404,070.00
SAVINGS IN HEALTH INSURANCE	REDUCED FROM 13.78% - 9.74%	(125,000.00)
SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT		(5,000.00)
REDUCE PER COMPUTER PRICE TO \$825		(6,800.00)
ANTICIPATED RETIREMENT		(35,000.00)
SAVINGS IN TECHNOLOGY – GRANT	WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY-SMS	(6,000.00)
ATHLETICS		(19,333.00)
TO COVER RE-ORGANIZATION	MAINTENANCE/FOOD SERVICE	4,976.00
ELIMINATE FOOD SERVICE SECRETARY		(8,777.00)
BUILDING PROJECTS		(14,000.00)
PROPOSED 2007 – 2008 BUDGET		23,189,136.00
2006-2007 BUDGET	21,816,856.00	
AMOUNT OVER 2006-2007 BUDGET		1,372,280.00
	PERCENT INCREASE OVER 06-07	6.29%

ITEM VI. Public Forum

A member of the audience had a question that did not pertain to an item on the agenda. Mr. Fontanella explained that he was aware of the parent's concern and that the Superintendent was working on researching the questions that he asked. Mr. Fontanella asked the parent to communicate directly with the Superintendent and if the issue is not resolved, then he should return to the Board and ask that an item be added to a future meeting agenda.

ITEM VII. Old Business

A. Review and Possible Approval of 2007 – 2008 School Calendar

After discussion, Ms. Whitmarsh made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Davis, that the Board of Education approve the 2007 – 2008 school calendar, as presented. Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, and Ms. Whitmarsh voted for the motion, which carried.

ITEM VIII. New Business

A. Review and Possible Approval of Revisions to Board Policy #2400- Evaluation of Administrators and Administration, Board Policy #4131.5-Continuing Education Units, and Board Policy #6171 (a)- (b), Special Education

Dr. Fishman explained that the three Board policies that were presented for review were updated with changes recommended by the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education in order to comply with State law. She stated that these policy changes have been reviewed and approved by both the Administrators' Policy Review Committee and the Board of Education's Policy Review Committee. These policies will be presented for approval at the March 12, 2007, meeting.

B. Review and Possible Approval of Proposed new Board of Education policy # 3516.11 (a)- (b) Hazardous Materials Communication, Board policy #4112.5/4212.5 Security Check/Fingerprinting, Board policy #4118.5 / 4218.5 (a)- (b) Acceptable Computer Network Use, and Board policy #5124.1 (a)- (c) District/School Report Cards

Dr. Fishman explained that the four Board policies that were presented for review were updated with changes recommended by the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, with further additions and deletions made by the Administrators' Policy Review Committee and the Board of Education's Policy Review Committee. These policies will be presented for approval at the March 12, 2007, meeting.

C. Review and Possible Approval of Participation in the Connecticut Consortium for Cooperative Purchasing for Electricity

Dr. Fishman stated that the Stafford Public Schools and the Town of Stafford are proposing to join a consortium, the Connecticut Consortium for Cooperative Purchasing for Electricity, for the purpose of soliciting lower generation costs for electricity.

Mrs. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, that the Board of Education approve participation in the Connecticut Consortium for Cooperative Purchasing for Electricity. Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, and Ms. Whitmarsh voted for the motion, which carried.

Mrs. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Fowler, that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent of Schools to enter into a contractual agreement to participate in the

Connecticut Consortium for Cooperative Purchasing for Electricity. Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, and Ms. Whitmarsh voted for the motion, which carried.

D. Approval of Donation of American Flag

Dr. Fishman informed the Board that the V.F.W. Auxiliary 9990 recently disbanded. As one of their final official acts, the Auxiliary has donated an American flag to the Stafford Public Schools. She stated that it was the hope of the Auxiliary that this flag fly over the new Stafford Elementary School.

Mrs. Fowler made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Finch, that the Board of Education approve the donation of an American flag by local V.F.W. Auxiliary 9990 to fly over the new Stafford Elementary School. Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, and Ms. Whitmarsh voted for the motion, which carried.

Mr. Fontanella asked that a thank you note be sent on behalf of the Board.

ITEM IX. Personnel Matters

There were no Personnel Matters at this meeting.

ITEM X. Student Matters

There were no Student Matters at this meeting.

ITEM XI. Adjournment

Mrs. Finch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Fowler, to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Fowler, and Ms. Whitmarsh voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Marinelli, Recording Secretary

Mark Fontanella, Chairperson

Sandra Fowler, Secretary