



Stratford Board of Education

STRATFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION – OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES

February 24, 2020

Meeting Location: Board Room/Admin. Ctr.
1000 East Broadway
Stratford CT 06615
and
SHS Cafeteria
245 King Street
Stratford CT 06615

**Recorded By: Teresa Lycoudes/
Recording Clerk**

1 ATTENDANCE

Name	Title	Location	Present
Allison DelBene	Board Chair		Y
Amy Wiltsie	Board Vice Chair		Y
Vinny Faggella	Board Secretary		Y
Andrea Corcoran	Board Member		Y
Janice Cupee	Board Member		Y
Bob DeLorenzo	Board Member		Y
Karen Rodia	Board Member		Y
Dr. Janet Robinson	Superintendent	Central Office	Y
Ed Molloy	Interim, Chief Operating Officer	Central Office	Y
Linda Gejda	Asst. Superintendent	Central Office	Y
Teresa Lycoudes	Recorder / Board Secretary	Central Office	Y
Bryan Darcy	SAA Representative	Wooster Principal	Y
Mike Fiorello, Kristin Record	SEA Representatives	SHS, BHS - Instructors	Y
Lou Spetrino	Videographer		Y

2 MEETING LOCATION

- **Please visit the website at www.stratfordk12.org to see the meeting video.**
Building: Administration Center / Board Room - 1000 East Broadway, Stratford CT.

3 MEETING START

Meeting Scheduled to Start: 7:15 PM
Actual Start Time: 7:10 PM

4 AGENDA –

- **Opening Remarks by Chair –** The Board Chair (**Allison DelBene**) **opened the February 24, 2020 Board of Education regular scheduled monthly meeting** (held in the Board Room at the Administration Center - 1000 East Broadway, Stratford CT) at 7:10 PM. A Quorum was confirmed. Due to room capacity, Ms. DelBene stated the meeting would recess and would reconvene at Stratford High School

Cafeteria (245 King Street - Stratford CT 06615) at approximately 7:25 PM.

- **Meeting Reconvened** - The Board of Education meeting reconvened in Public Session at 7:27 PM at Stratford High School in the Cafeteria (245 King Street - Stratford CT 06615). Ms. DelBene asked everyone to stand and join Board Member, **Andrea Corcoran**, in the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.
- **Student Representatives Report** – The Student Representatives to the Board of Education were introduced from Bunnell and Stratford High School. Each reported about their respective high school.
 1. **Bunnell High School - Bruce Claxton**
 2. **Stratford High School – Melannie Hernandez**
- **Presentation** - A presentation / update was given by Chelsea Kordiak from the Stratford YMCA regarding the programs offered by the YMCA for our district students.

Board Chair Allison DelBene took a moment to remind the gathering of best practice housekeeping rules. She said the Public Forum is a section, not a topic on the agenda. She stated if this was listed as a topic to speak to on Public Speaker forms submitted by those who wished to speak, they would not be valid. She suggested that any member of the public with questions and/or concerns send emails to the Board Members or Administration directly on the topic they wish to address.

Public Participation – There were four public speakers.

1. **Betsy Gutcheon** - 302 Bar Harbor Road - Re: January 2020 Minutes
 2. **Kristin Bedell** - 276 Laurel Street - Re: Residency
 3. **Andrea Veilleux** - 441 Washington Parkway - Re: Personnel Report
 4. **Theresa Manus Picoli** - 406 Wilcoxson Avenue - Re: Substitute Teacher Policy
- **Supt. Robinson’s Executive Report** –the following was reported on:
 1. **7th Cohort of Parents SEE**
 2. **Second Hill Lane Students Recognized**
 3. **Stratford Street Sculpture Show Summer 2020**
 4. **Wooster Medial Program for Middle School Students**
 5. **State of CT - 12 additional PreK slots (full day) have been funded by the State of CT and 4 additional PreK slots (school day) have been funded, as well.**

- **Interim Chief Operating Officer’s Report - Mr. Molloy - *Mr. Molloy informed the group that everything appears to be on track with 2019-2020 expenditures. He said a full report had been given to the Finance Committee prior to the Board meeting. He spoke to the following:***
 - 1. *Cost Avoidance regarding utilities.***
 - 2. *SPED Outplaced Students***
 - 3. *Transportation***
 - 4. *Enrollment***
 - 5. *Increase in Special Education students.***

Board Member Bob DeLorenzo briefly left the meeting.

Consent Agenda

1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes (Reference BOE Policy #9326)**
 - January 27, 2020 (regular meeting)
2. **Personnel Assignments Document**
3. **Budget Transfers in the amount of \$7500 or above.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS.RODIA / SECONDED BY MR. FAGGELLA TO ACCEPT ALL ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA INCLUDING APPROVAL OF MINUTES (January 27, 2020), PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS, AND BUDGET TRANSFERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7500 or above (SEE ATTACHED).

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

Items for Action

- **Policies for Adoption - Chairman’s Committee / Policy Review (with a favorable recommendation).**

Policy Number	Policies recommended for Board Adoption.	Status
4000	Personnel - Certified / Non-Certified - Concepts and Roles in Personnel	For Adoption
4112.11	Personnel - Certified / Non-Certified - Nonunion Personnel	For Adoption

4117	Personnel - Certified / Non-Certified ---Disciplinary Action / Suspension / Dismissal	For Adoption
4118.12	Personnel - Certified / Non-Certified - Freedom of Speech	For Adoption
4118.15	Personnel - Certified / Non-Certified - Rights, Responsibilities and Duties- Workplace Bullying	For Adoption
4118.21	Personnel - Certified / Non-Certified - Retaliation and Whistle Blowing	For Adoption
4118.22	Code of Ethics	For Adoption
4118.236	Personnel - Certified / Non-Certified - Medical (Palliative) Use of Marijuana	For Adoption
4121	Personnel - Certified - Substitute Teachers	For Adoption
4122	Personnel - Certified - Student Teachers	For Adoption
4148	Personnel - Certified / Non-Certified - Employee	For

	Protection - Freedom from Civil Liability	Adoption
4151.11	Personnel - Certified / Non-Certified - Workers Compensation	For Adoption

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. FAGGELLA; SECONDED BY MRS. RODIA. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6-0.

- Proposed Curriculum for Action Adoption: - Curriculum Committee
 - SAT PREP – Math and English Course Proposal
 - Teacher, Schools & Society Course Proposal
 - Digital, Text and Tools for Learning Course Proposal – SCSU
 - AP / ECE – Physics C: Mechanics Curriculum
 - Multivariable Calculus Curriculum

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. FAGGELLA / SECONDED BY MRS. WILTSIE TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED CURRICULUM PUT FORTH (WITH A FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION) BY THE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6-0.

Mr. Faggella asked if any professional development is required to go with the adopted curriculum. Dr. Robinson said she would research and gather any pertinent information.

Mr. DeLorenzo returned to the Board Table.

- Proposed: Itemized Estimate of Expenditures (Budget) for 2020-21 in the amount of \$118,563,620.00 which is an increase of \$3,998,329.00 (3.49%). – Finance Committee
 - The Board recessed at 8:23 PM, and reconvened in public at 8:28 PM.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. CUPEE / SECONDED BY MRS. CORCORAN TO SEND THE PROPOSED IEE (BUDGET) BACK TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION AND REVIEW. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AND THE MOTION WAS PASSED (In favor of returning the 2020-2021 IEE (Budget) back to the Finance Committee for further review and/or action) 4-3

Allison DelBene -

NO

Amy Wiltsie -	YES
Vinny Faggella -	NO
Andrea Corcoran-	YES
Janice Cupee -	YES
Bob DeLorenzo -	YES
Karen Rodia -	NO

Tabled Items -

- **Scholarship Opportunities for District Student Teachers / Minority Teacher recruitment**
- **Residency Verification Report**
- **Safety Coordinator Position**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. WILTSIE; SECONDED BY MR. DELORENZO TO REMOVE THE RESIDENCY VERIFICATION REPORT FROM THE TABLE FOR DISCUSSION. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Mrs. Wiltsie expressed her concerns regarding residency and issues she believes that are existing in the District. She also expressed her frustration that the Board cannot receive more information regarding residency than they are getting on the reports. Dr. Robinson explained the information is sensitive in nature and students are protected under FERPA. If more information was given, the district would be in violation of the FERPA policy which protects the confidentiality that surrounds student data and information.

The Board requested for Mr. Imbro to attend a Board meeting and speak to the residency process and reporting.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. RODIA; SECONDED BY MR. FAGGELLA TO PLACE RESIDENCY VERIFICATION BACK ON THE TABLE. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

▪ **Old Business for Information / Discussion**

▪ **New Business for Information / Discussion**

A brief conversation regarding Kindergarten and the first day of school took place.

▪ **Committee Reports**

- **Curriculum Committee** – The Curriculum Committee met on February 11, 2020. At that meeting, the committee engaged in

good conversation and discussion, and talked about college readiness.

- **Chairmen's Committee** – The Chairmen's Committee met on February 20, 2020 and reviewed the items on the Board agenda. The policies adopted earlier were reviewed as a first read at that meeting.
- **Finance Committee** - The Finance Committee met briefly prior to the Board meeting. The budget transfers were forwarded to the Board from the Finance Committee with a favorable recommendation for approval. In addition, the Finance Committee discussed once again the proposed 2020-2021 budget in the amount of \$118,563,620 (which reflects an increase of \$3,998,329 or 3.49% over last year's allotted amount). Mrs. Rodia said there were no concerns at that time and all Board members were present. Mrs. Rodia went on to report that in total two regular Finance meetings and four special budget workshop meetings took place to review and discuss the proposed budget for 2020-2021. Mrs. Rodia added that given what took place earlier, the Finance Committee will hold a special meeting on Wednesday or Thursday to review the Budget. In addition, there will need to be a special Board meeting as well in order to pass the budget and meet the Town's deadline for submission.
- **School Plant Planning** - Mr. Faggella reported that the School Plant Planning Committee would meet next on March 5, 2020.
- **Other Committees: A brief report was given on the following committees.**
 - **Town / BOE Liaison** - Mrs. DelBene reported that the Town / BOE Liaison Committee met on February 19th and the meeting was very positive.
 - **PTA Council** - Mrs. Cupee reported that the PTA Council did not meet on February 18th.
 - **CES Liaison** - Mr. Faggella reported that the CES meeting was not a regular meeting. He spoke about the following:
 - \$118,000 grant regarding Special Education Transportation Database to track usage.
 - A fundraiser is scheduled for March 28th at Mill River Country Club.
 - **Town Building Needs** - Mr. DeLorenzo reported that the committee discussion highlights included the following:
 - Stratford High School Renovation
 - Artificial Turf Fields
 - Gym Activities
 - Sports Activities

- **Committee Appointments / Assignments** - There was nothing new to report.
- **Executive Session** - At 8:51PM Mrs. DelBene announced the meeting would move into Executive Session to include the attending Board Members and Dr. Robinson. The purpose of the Executive Session was to discuss the process for the Superintendent's Goals. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. DeLorenzo left during the Executive Session.
The meeting reconvened in Public Session at 9:30PM.

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting adjourned at 9:31PM upon a motion made by Ms. Cupee; seconded by Mrs. Rodia, and carried unanimously.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Stratford Board of Education is scheduled for **Monday, March 23, 2020**. The meeting location is anticipated to be the Board Room at the Administration Center.

A special meeting of the Stratford Board of Education will be scheduled in regards to the Itemized Estimate of Expenditure (budget) for 2020-2021; however, that date is to be determined.

Meeting recorded and minutes transcribed by:



**Teresa Lycoudes, Board Secretary &
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent**