



## **Stratford Board of Education**

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### **STRATFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION – OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES**

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**Meeting Date: January 27, 2020**

**Meeting Location: Board Room/Admin. Ctr.  
1000 East Broadway  
Stratford CT 06615**

**Recorded By: Teresa Lycoudes/  
Secretary to the Board of Education**

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**1 ATTENDANCE**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Present</b>
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](http://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: 7:28 PM

#### 4 AGENDA –

- **Opening Remarks by Chair** – The Board Chair (**Allison DelBene**) **opened the January 27, 2020 Board of Education regular scheduled monthly meeting** (held in the Board Room at the Administration Center - 1000 East Broadway, Stratford CT) at 7:28 PM. A Quorum was confirmed. Ms. DelBene asked everyone to stand and join Board Vice Chair, **Amy Wiltsie**, in reciting the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. DelBene then announced the Board would take a five minute recess.

The meeting reconvened at 7:34 PM.

- **Student Representatives Report** – The Student Representatives to the Board of Education were introduced from Bunnell and Stratford High School.
  1. **Bunnell High School - Bruce Claxton**
  2. **Stratford High School – Melannie Hernandez**

The Board Chair (under Robert’s Rules) took the agenda out of order and informed the gathering the Board would discuss and take action on the SAA Contract (Stratford Administrators Association).

Floyd Dugas, Attorney (Berchem Moses) informed the gathering that the contract is negotiated 1 year ahead based on state statute. The new contract will go into effect July 1, 2020. He said some of the components of the contract include:

- 2.5% increase the first year.
- Health Insurance raising to \$2250 (Single) / \$4500 (Family) with a contribution of 20%.
- No employee can be forced to belong to a union.
- Agreed to language referencing time off.
- No carry over of personal days.
- Direct Deposit mandatory.

Attorney Dugas stated the contract once adopted by the Board will move to the Town council. They have the right to vote. If the Council does not pass the contract, it would go to third party arbitration.

Ms. Rodia stated that she would prefer to have a copy of the contract to read prior to the Board vote.

Attorney Dugas stated that Board members were active on the Negotiations Committee and the terms of the contract have already been agreed to. In addition he distributed a summary of the contract to the Board members.

After hearing no further discussion, a motion was made to adopt the Agreement between the **Stratford Board of Education and the Stratford Administrators Association** by Amy Wiltsie; seconded by Vinny Faggella, and carried unanimously. The motion passed 7-0.

**Public Participation** – There were no public speakers.

Board Chair, Allison DelBene, informed the public that under the recommendation of CABE the Board chose to take the option of having public comment refer to agenda items only. She explained this helps keep the meeting running smoothly. She said should there be something of importance, a public forum would be held to allow members of the community to voice their opinions and/or concerns. She reminded the public they can always contact the Board members at any time with any questions and/or concerns they may have.

- **Supt. Robinson’s Executive Report** –the following occurred:
  1. ***Dr. Robinson read a letter to the Board members and public from Ron Melnik, former C.O.O.***
  2. ***Safety Plan - Annexes***
  3. ***Minority Recruitment Plan***
  4. ***Article about “Stratford Living” in The New York Times***
- **Interim Chief Operating Officer’s Report - Mr. Molloy**
  1. ***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.***

Ms. DelBene asked about the search for a new Chief Operating Officer. Dr. Robinson said applications have been coming in. She said there would be a screening of applicants and then 5-6 would be selected for interviews. She will update the Board as more information becomes available.

### **Consent Agenda**

1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes** (*Reference BOE Policy #9326*)
  - November 26, 2019 (regular meeting)
  - December 9, 2019 (special meeting)

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. RODIA; SECONDED BY MRS. WILTSIE TO ACCEPT BOTH THE MEETING MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 26, 2019 (REGULAR MEETING) AND DECEMBER 9, 2019 (SPECIAL MEETING). THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

## **2. Personnel Assignments Document**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. RODIA; SECONDED BY MRS. CORCORAN TO ACCEPT THE PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7-0.**

## **3. Budget Transfers**

The following budget transfer was put forth for approval (with a favorable recommendation from the Finance Committee):

- a. ***Budget Transfer 1-13*** This entry is to transfer transfer funds from elementary transportation to the middle school transportation budget line. Elementary schools had fewer late buses therefore the funds were available to transfer to cover the additional late bus runs at the middle schools.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. RODIA; SECONDED BY MR. FAGGELLA TO ACCEPT THE BUDGET TRANSFER PUT FORTH BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (WITH A FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION). THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7-0.**

### **Items for Action**

- **Tuition Rates for 2019-2020 School Year (State Defined) - Finance Committee**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. RODIA; SECONDED BY MR. DELORENZO. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7-0.**

- **Proposed: Resolution for Town Council Review / Removal of Term Limits of Board of Education Members. - Board of Education Members**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS.RODIA / SECONDED BY MR. FAGGELLA TO PUT FORTH TO THE TOWN COUNCIL THE RESOLUTION FOR REVIEW / REMOVAL OF TERM LIMITS OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7-0.**

Mrs. Rodia said that Stratford is the only District with a short 1 term limit. She said this is not beneficial to the students or school district.

- **Proposed: Motion to approve the Education Specs for BHS Flooring Abatement and Replacement Project. - Administration**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS.RODIA / SECONDED BY MRS. WILTSIE TO PUT FORTH TO THE TOWN COUNCIL THE EDUCATION SPECS FOR THE BHS FLOORING ABATEMENT AND REPLACEMENT PROJECT. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7-0.**

### **Tabled Items -**

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

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. RODIA TO STRIKE ITEM B - "MIDDLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE POLICY" FROM THE TABLED ITEMS. MR. FAGGELLA SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION TO STRIKE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY 7-0.

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 said she would like to see more information. Mrs. DelBene asked if a report could be given for the 15 most recent cases. Mrs. Lycoudes said that could be done. Mrs. Rodia asked if case numbers could be assigned. Mrs. Lycoudes said this could be done.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. WILTSIE; SECONDED BY MR. DELORENZO TO PLACE RESIDENCY VERIFICATION BACK ON THE TABLE AND HAVE IT VISITED MONTHLY.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. FAGGELLA TO TAKE "SECURITY COORDINATOR POSITION" OFF THE TABLE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. DELORENZO. THE MOTION PASSED 6-1 (MRS. RODIA OPPOSED).

Mrs. Rodia went on record stating that she has requested a meeting take place with the Chief of Police and Mayor regarding this position. She said there are still questions about the duties and the scope of the job.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. RODIA; SECONDED BY MR. DELORENZO TO PLACE "SECURITY COORDINATOR POSITION" BACK ON THE TABLE.

### **▪ Old Business for Information / Discussion**

### **▪ New Business for Information / Discussion**

Mrs. DelBene said that she would like to add under new business "Audit" for discussion. She asked about the cost to undergo an audit.

Dr. Robinson stated that approximately two years ago, Blum Shapiro was contacted about doing a separate audit. She said at that time questions from the community were submitted to Blum Shapiro for review, and it was determined the questions arising in the community were more “Freedom of Information” related that related to an audit. She said the cost of an audit, at that point in time, would roughly be \$50,000.

She said earlier (about five years ago), the Town requested a special audit be done for special education and the findings of that audit disclosed that the District didn’t have enough resources at that point in time..

She said an RFQ would have to be done to get a current quote for doing a separate audit.

▪ **Committee Reports**

- **Curriculum Committee** – The Curriculum Committee did not meet during the month of January.
- **Chairmen’s Committee** – The Chairmen’s Committee did not meet during the month of January.
- **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 Superintendent presented her proposed budget for 2020-2021 in the amount of \$120,570,254 or 5.24% (a \$6,004,963 increase over 2019-2020). Dr. Robinson said some dates have been set aside to begin Budget Workshops with the first being February 4th at 6:30 PM. Three other dates were given - February 6th, February 10th and February 20th. All will have a 6:30 PM start time and will be located in the Board Room at the Administration Center.
  
- **Other Committees: A brief report was given on the following committees.**
  - **Town / BOE Liaison** - There is nothing new to report.
  - **PTA Council** - Mrs. Cupee reported that the PTA Council met on January 22nd with a great turn out. She said it

was a very good discussion. February 18th is the next scheduled meeting.

- **CES Liaison** - Mr. Faggella reported the Board for CES (Cooperative Education Services) meets on the first Thursday of the month. He said the topics focused on were 1) Minority Recruitment 2) Grants and 3) TED Talks. Mr. Faggella announced there will also be a fundraiser held March 28th at Mill River Country Club
- **Committee Appointments / Assignments** – Mrs. DelBene announced letters will be sent out to the committee members serving currently and thank you letters for those members who will not continue to serve on various Board Committees.
- **Executive Session** – 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 Evaluation. The time was 8:48 PM. The motion to move into Executive Session carried unanimously 7-0.

The meeting reconvened in Public Session at 9:18 PM.

A moment of silence was observed for the passing of former Stratford Superintendent Raymond O’Connell.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

- The meeting adjourned at 9:19 PM upon a motion made by Mrs. Rodia; seconded by Mr. DeLorenzo, and carried unanimously.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Stratford Board of Education is scheduled for **Monday, February 24, 2020**. The meeting location is anticipated to be the Board Room at the Administration Center.

**Meeting recorded and minutes transcribed by:**



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