



## **Stratford Board of Education**

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

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**Meeting Date:**  
**APRIL 23, 2018**

**Meeting Location: BHS AUDITORIUM  
1 BULLDOG BLVD., Stratford, CT 06614**

**FINAL**

**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>
Eric Lazaro	Board Chair		Y
Susan Lance	Board Vice Chair		Y
Maria Buturla	Board Secretary		Y
Allison DelBene	Board Member		Y
Bob DeLorenzo	Board Member		Y
Vinny Faggella	Board Member		Y
Karen Rodia	Board Member		Y
Dr. Janet Robinson	Superintendent	Central Office	Y
Clarence Zachery	Chief Operating Officer	Central Office	Y
Linda Gejda	Asst. Superintendent	Central Office	Y
Teresa Lycoudes	Recorder / Board Secretary	Central Office	Y
Diana DiIorio	SAA Representative	Nichols Principal	Y
Mike Fiorello, Kristin Record, Robin Julian	SEA Representatives	SHS, BHS & VSS - Instructors	Y
Lou Spetrino	Videographer		Y
Stratford Star & News 12	Press		Y

**2 MEETING LOCATION**

Bunnell High School Auditorium – 1 Bulldog Blvd. – Stratford CT 06614

**3 MEETING START**

Meeting Scheduled to Start: 7:15 PM  
Actual Start Time: 7:16 PM

**4 AGENDA –**

- **Opening Remarks by Chair** – Board Chair (Eric Lazaro) opened the **April 23, 2018** Board of Education meeting (held in the Auditorium at Bunnell High School, Stratford CT) at 7:16 PM.

- **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance** – Mr. Lazaro asked everyone to stand and join *Board Member, Vinny Faggella*, in the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.
- **Presentations** – Recognition for the following occurred.
  1. **Eli Whitney Elementary School** – Tory Florek, Principal and Lisa Carlson, Assistant Principal.
- **Student Representatives Report** – The student representatives from Bunnell and Stratford High Schools reported about the events and happenings at their respective school.
  1. **Bunnell High School – Hannah McLaughlin**
  2. **Stratford High School – Hannah Shimura**
- **Public Participation** – There were twenty (20) public speakers. Mr. Lazaro reminded the public to be mindful of the three minute time allotment to speak. Both Students and parents spoke. The students were asked to give their first names only.

**The speakers were:**

1. **Christopher Cormier** – *127 Warwick Avenue, Stratford CT* – **Finances**
2. **Brian Kowalsky** – *(WMS Teacher) – 280 Wilbar Drive, Stratford CT* – **In favor of non-leveling at middle school level.**
3. **Dominic Lagonigro** - *114 William Street, Stratford CT* – **In opposition to redistricting.**
4. **Brooke Miron** – *125 Ferry Blvd., Stratford CT* – **In opposition to redistricting. In favor of operational audit.**
5. **Mark Dumas** – *172 Beers Place, Stratford CT* – **Transparency**
6. **Kristen Bedell** – *276 Laurel Street, Stratford CT* – **In favor of redistricting.**
7. **Diana Ruemmele** – *1858 Broadbridge Ave., Stratford CT* – **In opposition of neighborhood schools / redistricting.**
8. **Carrie Walter** – *630 King Street, Stratford CT* – **in opposition to neighborhood schools / redistricting.**
9. **Brian Stirbis** – *1858 Broadbridge Ave., Stratford Ct* – **In opposition to neighborhood schools / redistricting.**
10. **Kelly Spellman** – *135 Quail St., Stratford CT* – **In opposition to neighborhood schools / redistricting.**
11. **Lorenzo Elder** – *226 Garibaldi Ave, Stratford CT* – **In favor of redistricting.**

12. **John Fahan** – 40 Clarendon St., Stratford CT – **In opposition to neighborhood schools/redistricting.**
13. **Lang Mastro** – 245 Milford Ave., Stratford CT – **In opposition to neighborhood schools/redistricting.**

**The following students spoke as well:**

1. **Jaida** – **In opposition to neighborhood schools. Please save the ALP program.**
2. **Kaitlyn** – **In opposition to neighborhood schools.**
3. **Matthew** – **In opposition to neighborhood schools.**
4. **Josephine** – **In opposition to neighborhood schools.**
5. **Noah** – **In opposition to neighborhood schools.**
6. **Grace** – **In opposition to neighborhood schools.**
7. **Emilia** – **In opposition to neighborhood schools.**

Mr. Lazaro thanked everyone who spoke and shared their concerns with the district. He informed the gathering the Board is in the process of planning at least 3 informational sessions that will be held at three different school locations. He reminded everyone that nothing has been voted on at this point in time. He assured everyone the Board members are listening and are hearing what's being said, and that the students are and will always be the first and foremost priority of the Board's actions. In addition, he assured the speakers that Dr. Robinson will respond to their comments.

With that being said, ***the Board recessed at 9:02 PM.***  
***The meeting reconvened at 9:17 PM.***

- **Superintendent's Executive Report** – Dr. Robinson reported about the following items:
  - **Schools by Design** – Dr. Robinson reported the district is working with Schools by Design to talk about and review the district's efficiencies and inefficiencies in our school buildings. She added that in essence, it is an efficiency audit that will hopefully bring about more consistency and uniformity at the district schools. She said sessions were held recently with both elementary and secondary administrators.
  - **Instructional Rounds / Eli Whitney Elementary** – Dr. Robinson reported that Instructional Rounds took place at Eli Whitney Elementary School earlier in the day. She said it

was a good session and gave kudos to the Whitney administration and staff.

- **Center School Demolition Public Meeting** – Dr. Robinson reported a meeting has been planned for April 25, 2018 at the First Congregational Church on Main Street in Stratford to talk about the demolition project scheduled for Center School.
- **Consent Agenda**
  - Mr. Lazaro entertained a motion for the items contained in the **Consent Agenda**.

1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes** (*Reference BOE Policy #9326*)

a) Minutes from the **March 26, 2018 (regular meeting)**

2. **Personnel Document** (Staff Assignments)

3. **Overnight Trip Requests - BHS / SHS Band Trip to Orland FL to participate in the Citrus Bowl Parade (December 2018).**

A motion was made by Mrs. Lance; seconded by Mrs. Buturla. The **motion passed unanimously**. (7 to 0)

- **Items for Discussion / Action**
  - **Proposed: Curriculum – Rehabilitation Science (part of the Medical Career Pathways Program)** --Curriculum Committee

A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY MRS. DELBENE; SECONDED BY MR. FAGGELLA. THE **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (7:0)**.

- **Proposed: Non-leveling of classes at the Middle School level in regards to Mastery Based Learning** --Curriculum Committee

A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY MRS. DELBENE; SECONDED BY MR. FAGGELLA. A FRIENDLY AMENDMENT WAS MADE BY MRS. RODIA TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AS PART OF A TWO YEAR PILOT PROGRAM WITH DATA PRESENTED TO THE COMMITTEE ALONG WITH TEACHER, PARENT AND STUDENT SURVEYS TO DETERMINE THE SUCCESS OF THE EFFORTS. MRS. LANCE SECONDED. THE FRIENDLY AMENDMENT WAS ACCEPTED BY BOTH MRS. DELBENE AND MR. FAGGELLA. THE **MOTION WITH THE FRIENDLY AMENDMENT PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. 7:0**.

- **Proposed: Last Day of School (June 15, 2018)**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. FAGGELLA; SECONDED BY MRS. DELBENE TO SET THE LAST DAY OF THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR AS FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 2018 (barring no further emergencies). THE **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (7:0).**

- **Proposed: Graduation Date – June 14, 2018**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. LANCE; SECONDED BY MRS. RODIA TO SET GRADUATION FOR BOTH BUNNELL AND STRATFORD HIGH SCHOOLS AS THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2018 at 6:00 PM. THE **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (7:0).**

- **Tabled Items -**

- **Scholarship Opportunities for District Student Teachers / Minority Teacher recruitment**
- **Middle School Attendance Policy**
- **Magnet School**
- **Residency Verification (Grade 5)**

The tabled items remained on the table.

- **Old Business for Information / Discussion**

- There was none.

- **New Business for Information / Discussion**

- **Structural Realignment** – There is nothing new to report.

- **Committee Reports**

- **Athletic Review** – Mr. DeLorenzo reported the Committee has not met at this point in time, but does plan to meet in the near future.
- **School Plant / Planning Committee** – Mr. Faggella reported that he is currently looking to set a meeting in regards to renaming the Bunnell High School Field House.
- **Finance Committee** – The Finance Committee met just prior to the Board meeting and reviewed the 2017-18 Itemized Estimate of Expenditures and the 2018-2019 Itemized Estimate of Expenditures.
- **Curriculum Committee** – Mrs. Buturla reported the Curriculum Committee put forth the Items voted on earlier at this evening's meeting.

▪ **Other Committees:**

- **CABE** – There was nothing to report.
- **CARE** – Mr. Lazaro reported that he attended the CARE meeting along with Mr. Zachery. He said most of the discussion focused on the restructuring of schools topic.
- **CES** – Mr. Faggella reported that he attended the April 5, 2018 meeting at CES. He said the new Executive Director for CES was introduced (Charles Dumais, former Superintendent of the Amity Region). Mr. Dumais will replace Evan Pitkoff who is retiring at the end of June.
- **Town / BOE Liaison** – The Town / BOE Liaison Committee met on April 5, 2018. Mr. Lazaro reported that the Superintendent (Dr. Robinson) reviewed her proposed Itemized Estimate of Expenditures for 2018-2019.
- **Town Building Needs** – Mrs. Lance reported that Town Building Needs Committee met on April 16, 2018. She said most of the discussion was in regards to a change order for the SHS renovation project.
- **PTSA** – The PTSA Council is due to meet next on May 10, 2018; however, a meeting for April 24, 2018 was questioned.

▪ **Committee Appointments / Assignments** – There were no Committee appointments or assignments.

▪ **Good and Welfare:** Mr. Lazaro reminded the public of upcoming dates. Schools and Administration Center are closed on Monday, May 28, 2018 in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. The Board will meet next on Tuesday, May 29, 2018. Mr. Lazaro reminded the public this meeting will recognize student leaders (Valedictorians, Salutatorians, CABE Leadership, etc.).

Each Board member again thanked the public for expressing their concerns this evening in regards to the Stratford Public School system, and assured the public their comments were taken seriously.

Dr. Robinson also thanked the public for their comments and commended the respect that was given. She assured the public she is making every effort to respond to their

emails. Dr. Robinson also mentioned the upcoming Graduation ceremony for Continuing Education to be held May 3, 2018 at Wooster Middle School. She said the graduation ceremony for adult education students is truly an emotionally gratifying experience.

Mr. Lazaro commended the students who performed at the District Jazz night at Stratford High School last week. He said the district's music students are phenomenal.

▪ **ADJOURNMENT**

- The meeting adjourned at 9:43 PM upon a motion made by Mrs. Buturla; seconded by Mrs. Rodia, and carried unanimously.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Stratford Board of Education is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 29, 2018**. The meeting location is TBD and will be the annual awards ceremony.

***Meeting recorded and  
minutes transcribed by:***



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