



Stratford Board of Education

STRATFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION – OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: 11/28/2016

Meeting Location: Administration Center – Board
Room

Approved: **APPROVED**

Recorded By: Teresa Lycoudes

1 ATTENDANCE

Name	Title	Location	Present
James Feehan	Board Chair		Y
Leonard Petruccelli	Board Vice Chair		Y
Theresa Sheehy	Board Secretary		Y
Chris Barnaby	Board Member		Y
Maria Buturla	Board Member		Y
Susan Lance	Board Member		Y
Eric Lazaro	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
Lea Ann Bradford	SAA Representative	Administration Center	Y
	SEA President	SHS Instructor	N
Lou Spetrino	Videographer		Y

2 MEETING LOCATION

Building: Administration Center / Board Room

3 MEETING START

Meeting Schedule Start: 7:15 PM

Meeting Actual Start: 7:20 PM

4 AGENDA

- **Opening Remarks by Chair**

1. Chairman Feehan called the November 28, 2016 Board of Education meeting to order at 7:20 PM. A quorum was confirmed, and Mr. Feehan asked everyone to stand and join **Board Member, Maria Buturla**, for the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

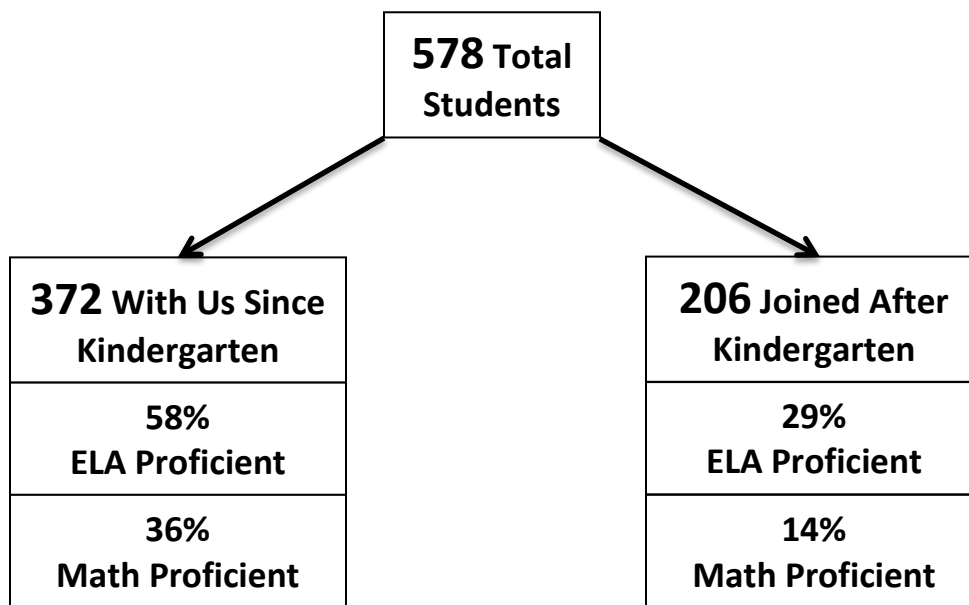
- **Presentations** – There were no presentations.

- **Public Participation** – One member of the public signed up to speak.
 1. **Mark Scheck**, *161 Birdseye St., Stratford CT* – spoke about Assessment Scores.
- **Student Representatives Report** – The 2016-2017 School Representatives to the Board of Education were introduced. **James Pellegrino represented Bunnell High School** and **Roula Kouvatias represented Stratford High School**. Each gave a brief report about their respective school.
- **Consent Agenda**
 1. Mr. Feehan entertained a motion for the items contained in the **Consent Agenda** (meeting minutes, overnight trips and personnel assignments).
 - **Item 1: Meeting minutes from October 24, 2016 regular meeting.**
 - **Item 2: Overnight Trip Request to Quebec CANADA (revised) to partner with Cheshire School District (World Language French students).**
 - **Item 3: Overnight Trip Request to Nature’s Classroom (2) for Second Hill Lane (March 2017) and Nichols (May 2017) Elementary Schools.**
 - **Item 3: Personnel Status Document.**
 - A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. PETRUCCELLI; SECONDED BY MR. BARNABY, TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE ITEMS THE **CONSENT AGENDA**. THE **MOTION CARRIED** UNANIMOUSLY (7:0).
 - **Budget Transfers** – There were no transfers for this time period.
- **Superintendent’s “Status of the Schools” Report** – Dr. Robinson reported about the following items:
 1. **Status of the Schools** – Dr. Robinson reported about addressing the Town Council on November 14th at the Town Council meeting, to talk about the status of the Stratford Public Schools. She said she shared various items of interest with the Council members such as enrollment, per pupil cost (at \$14,631 at present), assessment scores, etc. She informed the gathering that Common Core was adopted in 2010 by the State of CT. She said by the time she arrived in Stratford (2013), Newtown had already completed the work and was practicing Common Core. She said this did not hold true for Stratford. She said nothing had been done, and the teachers were not teaching to common core. She said she is extremely thankful to Math Coordinator, Harold Greist, for the

work that he has done. Dr. Robinson said she continued to dig a little deeper and looked at 2016 ELA and Math students. She said the data shows that the students who have always been in our district are doing considerably better than those who have joined us later in their school career. Out of 578 Grade 7 students, 372 were with us for their entire career. 206 joined us later. The data reviewed showed the following:

Stratford SBAC Snapshot

(Current 7th Graders, data based on 2016 6th Grade Scores)



CT State Proficiencies

ELA = 55.0%

Math = 40.6%

Dr. Robinson said the focus (for the past two years) has been on High Quality Instruction (HQI). She said Stratford has a lot of challenges given the diverse demographics. She said while the scores are definitely not where we want to be, they are showing progress. She said there is still a lot of work to be done and it will take quite a while to bring the district up.

Mrs. Lance said that she will be curious to see the scores for this year, especially with the Math Coaches throughout the District.

The Board requested to see the same information for all of the grade levels.

Mr. Feehan asked Dr. Robinson why other districts appear to be doing better. Dr. Robinson said Stratford was behind in their curriculum writing. She said there also was not nearly enough professional development offered to the teaching staff. Dr. Robinson said the teaching staff is given multiple opportunities to collaborate with one another, at present. She said there is no evidence of this having happened in the past.

Mr. Feehan requested the scores as to how Stratford compares to other districts.

Mr. Feehan asked Dr. Robinson what she believes is the fastest route to achieving higher scores and moving forward. Dr. Robinson said this will be a slow process because the district is building something more lasting and stronger by nature. She said the work has started and the support of the Board shows by means of the following:

1. Discussion about curriculum, students and assessments.
2. Question and Answer sessions.
3. Curriculum Committee – Discussion and Review.
4. A budget that supports Math Coaches.
5. Literacy Programs.
6. Applying and keeping the pressure on.
7. Board member visits to the school.

Mrs. Lance stated that Stratford is not the same Stratford as it was 10 years ago. She said there have been a lot of changes, and there is a lot of work that still needs to be done.

Mrs. Sheehy said that she is pleased the Administrators and Teachers appear to be on the same page. She said we have seen the problem and we are addressing the problem. Mrs. Sheehy said that everyone wants what is best for Stratford.

Mr. Feehan asked the next testing date. Dr. Robinson said the next testing date will be in the Spring. Mr. Feehan asked that the scores be posted on the website along with the student enrollment

(from other areas). He also requested the test results be brought before the Board along with the previous scores.

2. Communications, Social Media, etc. -

Mr. Feehan asked the Board's opinion about Veterans' Day. He said some members of the community are unhappy that the schools are open on Veterans Day and feel they should be closed out of respect for veterans. Dr. Robinson noted the schools all have wonderful ceremonies and learning sessions about Veterans' Day. Mr. Petruccelli said he felt it is best to have the children in school learning about the day instead of off to be doing other things that would not honor the day. After a brief discussion it was the Boards' consensus to continue having schools open on Veterans' Day. Mr. Feehan entertained a motion to mandate high school seniors to attend the Academy Hill ceremony honoring the veterans. The motion was made by Mr. Petruccelli; seconded by Mrs. Sheehy for discussion. After further discussion, Mr. Petruccelli withdrew his motion and counter motioned for the Administration to come back with logistics of the field trip to Academy Hill (timing, transportation, etc.). The motion was seconded again by Mrs. Sheehy, and **carried** unanimously.

• **Items for Action**

1. Proposed: Tuition Rates for School Year 2016-17 (page 10 of the agenda) – Finance Committee.

- A motion was made by Mr. Petruccelli; seconded by Mr. Lazaro to approve and adopt the proposed tuition rates for school year 2016-2017. The **motion carried** unanimously.

2. Proposed: Meeting Dates for FY 2017 for:

- **Board of Education (page 11 of the agenda)**
- **Curriculum committee (page 12 of the agenda)**
- **Finance Committee (page 13 of the agenda)**
- **School Plant / Planning Committee (page 14 of the agenda).**
 - A motion was made by Mr. Petruccelli; seconded by Mrs. Sheehy to approve and adopt the proposed meeting dates outlined above. The **motion carried** unanimously.

3. Proposed: Calendar for School Year 2018-19 based upon Regional Calendar (provided by our RESC – CES) (pages 15a-15b of the agenda)

- A motion was made by Mr. Petruccelli; seconded by Mrs. Sheehy to approve and adopt the proposed Calendar

Template for School Year 2018-2019. The calendar mirrors the regional calendar from CES (Cooperative Educational Services). The **motion carried** unanimously.

4. Proposed: Board of Education Video (not to exceed \$600).

- A motion was made by Mr. Barnaby; seconded by Mr. Lazaro to approve the proposal of a Board of Education video that will communicate to the public the cost of educating our students. The idea / proposal was brought forth by Chairman Feehan. Mr. Feehan informed the group that the video would be a question/answer session (consisting of approximately 10-12 questions) and would feature high school students. The **motion carried** unanimously.

- **Tabled Items -**

1. **BHS Field House – Mr. Petruccelli made a motion to take Items 2 and 3 off the table; seconded by Mr. Barnaby, and carried unanimously.** Mr. Petruccelli said this item has been forwarded to the Town Council. Mr. Feehan said he would like to have it remain on the agenda as a “Tabled Item”. Mr. Petruccelli made the motion to retable the item (as a “watch item”); seconded by Mr. Barnaby, and carried unanimously.
2. **Strategic Plan – Remained tabled.**
3. **Update: Residency Verification – Mr. Lazaro made a motion to take this item off the table; seconded by Mr. Petruccelli, and carried unanimously -** Approximately 194 families have verified their residency out of approximately 560 families. Mr. Feehan stated that he is requesting another letter be sent notifying the families that a hearing before the Board of Education will take place unless they have verified their residency. He said a hard copy of the letter is to follow. Mr. Feehan stated this is to be done by December 6th. Mr. Feehan also asked the Board receive confirmation once this has been completed.

- **New Business (For Information / Discussion)**

1. **School Enrollment –** Mr. Zachery reviewed the enrollment reports dated “As of December 1, 2016”.
2. **Communications Consultant (Baldwin Media) –** Mr. Feehan reported that he saw a presentation given by Ann Baldwin (Baldwin Media) at the CABA / CAPSS conference. He said the presentation was quite impressive and he would love to see Stratford gain better communication with and to the public utilizing the services of Ann Baldwin. It was the consensus of the Board to revisit the item at the January 2017 Board meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Petruccelli to place this

item on the table; seconded by Mrs. Sheehy, and carried unanimously.

3. **Grandparents' Day** – Mr. Feehan reported that many schools observe Grandparents' Day and have many sets of grandparents actively involved and participating within their schools and districts. It was the consensus of the Board to poll the schools about Grandparents'/Special Person Day and bring the information back before the Board. A motion was made by Mr. Petruccelli to table the item; seconded by Mrs. Lance, and carried unanimously.
4. **Teachers / Home Visits** – Mr. Feehan said that he also received some information at the CABE / CAPSS conference about teachers paying "Home Visits" to their students to meet with the parents and students in an effort to form a stronger partnership with the families visited. It was discussed that the SEA (Stratford Educators Association) will have to be consulted with and involved in this endeavor. A motion was made to table the item by Mr. Petruccelli; seconded by Mrs. Lance, and carried unanimously.

▪ **Committee Reports**

1. **Athletic Review** – Mrs. Lance reported the Athletic Review Committee did not meet during the month of November; however, she did have an opportunity to meet with the middle school principals to talk about sports and "academics vs participation".
2. **School Plant / Planning Committee** – Mr. Barnaby reported that the School Plant Planning Committee did not meet during the month of November.
4. **Finance Committee** – Mr. Petruccelli reported about the special meeting that took place prior to the Board meeting (November 28th).
5. **Curriculum Committee** – Mrs. Sheehy reported about the November 10th special meeting of the Curriculum Committee. She informed the group that there were no other agenda items other than the trips to Nature's Classroom voted on earlier at this meeting.

▪ **Other Committees:**

- **CABE** – Mr. Feehan and Mrs. Sheehy attended the CABE / CAPSS Conference, along with Dr. Robinson. He said it was an exciting meeting. He urged the newer Board members to become involved with CABE. He asked Mrs.

Lycoudes to reserve three rooms for next year's conference.

- **CES** – Mrs. Sheehy reported that the CES Regional Council met on November 3, 2016. The CES Legislative Breakfast will take place on December 9th at CES. The breakfast/meeting begins at 8:15 AM.
 - **Town / BOE Liaison** – Mr. Petruccelli reported the Town/BOE Liaison Committee did not meet during the month of November.
 - **Town Building Needs** – Mr. Petruccelli reported that the Town Building Needs Committee met on November 21, 2016. He said discussion included Center School and the Bunnell High School Field House.
 - **A motion was made by Mr. Petruccelli; seconded by Mr. Barnaby, and carried, to add Educational Specifications for Bunnell and Franklin Elementary School roof replacement projects. Mr. Petruccelli made a motion to approve the procedural revisions made to follow state protocol. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barnaby and carried unanimously.**
 - **A motion was made by Mr. Petruccelli; seconded by Mrs. Sheehy to add the resolution for the Board of Education's approval of the Victoria Soto School Photovoltaic system Phase 5 of 5 and authorization re the signing of the SCG042 by Chairperson of the Board in order to submit the project to the State Office of School Construction Grants. State Project Number 138-0094N. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Petruccelli made a motion to approve; seconded by Mr. Lazaro, and carried unanimously.**
 - **PTSA** – Mrs. Lance reported the PTA Council met on November 15, 2016. She said the news was shared that former PTA Council President, Jennifer Falotico, would be recognized at the State PTA level.
- **Committee Appointments / Assignments** – There were no Committee appointments / assignments.
- **Board Goals 2016-18** – The Board Goals for 2016-18 were briefly reviewed. Mrs. Lycoudes completed one of her goals and distributed a draft of the Board of Education handbook she has been working on for some time. She asked the Board members

to review and send their feedback before the handbook is posted on the website.

- **Good and Welfare** – The following items were reported:
 1. Holiday concerts coming up at various schools.
 2. December 19, 2016 Board of Ed Meeting will take place in the Gymnasium at Victoria Soto School. It was the consensus of the Board to have the meeting start time be changed to 6:30 PM.
 3. December 24 through January 2nd – Schools CLOSED.

- **ITEMS “TO DO”**
 1. The Board asked for the Proficiency Data to be done for each grade level.
 2. Mr. Feehan requested the scores as to how Stratford compares to other districts.
 3. Mr. Feehan asked that the scores be posted to the website along with the previous scores.
 4. Mr. Feehan asked that the Spring test scores be brought before the Board when received.
 5. High School seniors mandated to attend Academy Hill Ceremony on Veterans’ Day 2017.
 6. Administration to report the logistics of the above trip to the Board at the January meeting.
 7. Board of Ed Video to be done re Cost of Educating our Students. Utilization of high school seniors. Not to exceed \$600.
 8. BHS Field House re-tabled as a “watch item”.
 9. Letter out to parents re 5th Grade Verification of Residency – December 6th. Confirm with Board when complete.
 10. Review Baldwin Media presentation. Revisit item at January 2017 BOE meeting.
 11. Poll schools re Grandparents / Special Persons Day and schools’ involvement.
 12. Discuss with SEA the topic of teachers and “home visits”.
 13. Book 3 rooms at next CABA / CAPSS conference.
 14. December 19th BOE Meeting at VSS – Time change to 6:30 PM.

- **ADJOURNMENT**
 - The meeting adjourned at 9:28 PM upon a motion made by Mr. Petrucci; seconded by Mr. Lazaro, and carried unanimously.

The next meeting of the Stratford Board of Education is scheduled for **Monday, December 19th, 2016**. The meeting will be located at Victoria Soto School (Gymnasium). The meeting will begin at a special time of 6:30 PM.

Meeting recorded and minutes transcribed by:



Teresa Lycoudes, Board Secretary & Executive Assistant to the Superintendent