



Stratford Board of Education

STRATFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION – OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: 4/24/2017

**Meeting Location: Administration Center – Board
Room**

Approved: DRAFT

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		N
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	FMS Principal	Y
Mike Fiorello, Kristin Record, Robin Julian	SEA Representatives	BHS & VSS - Instructors	Y
Lou Spetrino	Videographer		Y

2 MEETING LOCATION

Building: Administration Center / Board Room – 1000 East Broadway

3 MEETING START

Meeting Scheduled to Start: 7:15 PM

Actual Start Time: 7:16 PM

4 AGENDA

- **Opening Remarks by Chair**

1. Board Chair (James Feehan) called the April 24, 2017 Board of Education meeting to order at 7:16 PM. A quorum was confirmed, and Mr. Feehan asked everyone to stand and join **Board Member, Susan Lance**, for the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

- **Presentations** – Schools of Distinction – Dr. Robinson informed the gathering that four of Stratford’s elementary schools were recognized as Schools of Distinction. She said she is proud to honor them at this meeting. The four schools are:
 1. **Eli Whitney Elementary School** – Tory Florek, Principal
 2. **Nichols Elementary School** – Diana DiIorio, Principal
 3. **Stratford Academy (Johnson House)** – Maureen DiDomenico, Principal
 4. **Second Hill Lane Elementary School** – Jim Noga

Mr. Feehan, on behalf of the Stratford Board of Education, echoed Dr. Robinson and congratulated the principals for this recognition.

- **Public Participation** – There were twelve public speakers (three being students). Those who spoke are as follows:
 1. **Student** – *Non-Leveling of Classes at the Middle Schools* – **Wooster Middle School**
 2. **Student** – *Non-Leveling of Classes at the Middle Schools* – **Wooster Middle School**
 3. **Student** – *Non-Leveling of Classes at the Middle Schools* – **Flood Middle School**
 4. **Laura Hoydick** – *55 Castle Drive, Stratford CT* – **Non-Leveling of Classes at the Middle Schools**
 5. **Paige Hoydick** – *55 Castle Drive, Stratford CT* – **Non-Leveling of Classes at the Middle Schools**
 6. **Susan Barksdale** – *180 Grove Street, Stratford CT* – **Non-Leveling of Classes at the Middle Schools**
 7. **Patricia Pivarnik** – *49 Round Hill Road, Stratford CT* – **Non-Leveling of Classes at the Middle Schools**
 8. **Robert Ciotti** – *96 Sutton Street, Stratford CT* – **Non-Leveling of Classes at the Middle Schools**
 9. **Olga Pena** – *452 Laughlin Road, Stratford CT* – **CARE and Equity for all students**
 10. **Bob Caldwell** – *195 Peace Acre Lane, Stratford CT* – **Non-Leveling of Classes at the Middle Schools**
 11. **Virgil Watson** – *135 Plymouth Street, Stratford CT* – **Non-Leveling of Classes at the Middle Schools**
 12. **John Uhrynowski** – *908 Cutspring Road, Stratford CT* – **Non-Leveling of Classes at the Middle Schools**

A motion was made by Mr. Petruccelli; seconded by Mr. Barnaby to move Action Item #1 (Non-Leveling of Classes at the Middle Schools) next, to follow Public Participation. The motion carried.

Proposed: Non-Leveling of Classes at the Middle Schools – referred by the Curriculum Committee.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. SHEEHY; SECONDED BY MRS. BUTURLA TO SEND THE PROPOSAL BACK TO THE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER REVIEW AND DISCUSSION. The motion also included that the proposal would not be implemented for the 2017-2018 school year. Mrs. Lance made a friendly amendment to the motion that a separate sub-committee be convened to explore this program. Mrs. Sheehy and Mrs. Buturla accepted the friendly amendment made by Mrs. Lance. The motion carried unanimously 6 to 0.

- **Student Representatives Report** – The 2016-2017 School Representatives to the Board of Education were introduced. **Joseph Pellegrino represented Bunnell High School. Roula Kouvatas represented Stratford High School.** Both students gave a report about the various happenings and events throughout the month of April at Bunnell and Stratford High Schools.
- **Superintendent’s “Status of the Schools” Report** – Dr. Robinson reported about the following items:
 1. **Google Art Winner**. Dr. Robinson reported that she recently attended an event to honor Sarah Harrison, the Bunnell High School student who recently was recognized for her Google artwork.
 2. **2017 Junior Achievement Virtual Business Challenge Competition** – Dr. Robinson reported that Stratford High School’s team came in first in the consolation round for the 2017 Junior Achievement Virtual Business Challenge Competition.
 3. **Word out of Hartford** – Dr. Robinson reported that next week is the deadline for the Appropriations Committee to pass a budget, and the deadline for the Finance Committee to pass a companion tax package. There are still a number of unknowns at this point in time.
 4. **SBAC / STAR Testing** – Dr. Robinson informed the gathering that STAR Testing will be ongoing until May 3rd. SBAC Testing starts on May 1st.
 5. **Bunnell High School Latin Students** – Dr. Robinson reported that Bunnell High School Latin students took the National Latin Exam this past March. The Exam is a standardized test taken by students of Latin all over the world. Seventeen students earned awards for their achievement on this prestigious exam:
 - ***Summa Cum Laude*** awards went to Sarah Harrison, Eileen Sholomicky, and Hannah McLaughlin.

- **Maxima Cum Laude** awards went to Kenneth Sholomicky and Joseph Farrell.
 - **Magna Cum Laude** awards went to Erin Mullane and Zaheeda Zakir.
 - **Cum Laude** awards went to Dellan Pierre, Anthony Tornifoglia, Andrew Feliciano, Justin Vasone, Shania Mahabee, Kristen Hubbell, Daniela Petillo, Shakera Powell, and Jamie Sullivan.
6. **Audit Firm (Forensic Audit)** – Dr. Robinson informed the gathering that Blum Shapiro has been named as the audit firm that will handle the upcoming Forensic Audit of the Stratford Board of Education.
- **Audit Firm:** Mr. Feehan asked if the questions from the public have been forwarded to Attorney Grello. Mrs. Lycoudes confirmed they have been delivered to Attorney Grello. Mr. Feehan reminded the public to submit their questions if they have not done so at this point in time.
- **Consent Agenda**
 - Mr. Feehan entertained a motion for the items contained in the **Consent Agenda** (meeting minutes, overnight trips, personnel assignments and budget transfers).
 - **Item 1: Meeting minutes from March 27th regular meeting.**
 - **Item 2: Personnel Status Document (April 2017) (included in Board Agenda).**
 - **Item 3: Budget Transfers - There are none**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. PETRUCCELLI; SECONDED BY MRS. SHEEHY, TO APPROVE AND ACCEPT THE **CONSENT AGENDA (see above). THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**
(6:0)

- **Items for Action**
 - **Proposed:** GRADUATION DATE AND LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR
 - A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. PETRUCCELLI; SECONDED BY MRS. LANCE FOR THE FOLLOWING:
 - Graduation Date 2017 – Wednesday, June 14, 2017
 - Last Day of School 2017 (Tentatively) – Friday, June 16, 2017
 - . THE MOTION CARRIED. (6 to 0)

- **Tabled Items -**

- **Scholarship Opportunities for District Student Teachers / Minority Teacher recruitment** – (remained tabled)
- **Strategic Plan** – (remained tabled).
- **Middle School Attendance Policy**
- **Magnet School Transportation**
- **Residency Verification (Grade 5)**

A motion was made by Mr. Petruccelli; seconded by Mr. Barnaby to remove Item #4 (Magnet School Transportation) and Item #5 (Residency Verification – Grade 5) from the table. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Feehan reported that the magnet school legal case is pending. No formal decisions have been made at this point in time. He asked that the **Magnet School Legal Case** be tabled again. A motion was made by Mr. Petruccelli; seconded by Mr. Barnaby to place the Magnet School Legal Case back on the table. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Feehan reported that a Residency Hearing was held on April 6, 2017. He said five families were slated to be at the hearing. All five submitted their documentation and proved their residency.

Mr. Zachery reported that the fifth grade residency verification projected looked at approximately 550 families. He said out of those 550 families, only one family was found to be non-compliant, and have since withdrawn from Stratford schools.

A motion to strike this topic from the agenda was made by Mr. Petruccelli; seconded by Mrs. Lance. Mr. Feehan said that he would like to keep Residency Verification on the table for future opportunities. Mr. Petruccelli withdrew his motion.

- **Old Business for Information / Discussion**

There was none.

- **New Business for Information / Discussion**

There was none.

- **Committee Reports**

- **Athletic Review** – Mrs. Lance reported the Athletic Review Committee did not meet during the month of April. She said the Committee plans to meet in May.
- **School Plant / Planning Committee** – The School Plant Planning Committee did not meet during the month of April.

Mr. Barnaby said the next meeting is scheduled for May 9th. He asked Mrs. Lycoudes to poll the members.

4. **Finance Committee** – Mr. Petruccelli reported that the Finance Committee did not meet during April.

5. **Curriculum Committee** – Mrs. Sheehy said there was nothing new to report.

▪ **Other Committees:**

- **CABE** – There was no report.
- **CARE** – Mr. Feehan reported the CARE Committee held their Awards Banquet recently and Mr. Zachery attended on behalf of Stratford Board of Education.
- **CES** – Mrs. Sheehy reported that CES recently held a fundraiser event and the event was very well attended.
- **Town / BOE Liaison** – Mr. Petruccelli reported the Town/BOE Liaison Committee plans to meet on Wednesday, April 26, 2017. The meeting will take place in the Board Room at the Administration Center.
- **Town Building Needs** – Mr. Petruccelli reported that the Town Building Needs Committee did meet in April. He said there was discussion about the upcoming roof projects (Bunnell High School and Franklin Elementary School); also, BHS Field House, and June 1st is the tentative date for a shovel in the ground regarding the Stratford High School project.
- **PTSA** – Mrs. Lance reported the PTA Council met March 28th for a special presentation of the budget, etc.

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

▪ **Board Goals 2016-18** – The Board Goals for 2016-18 will be reviewed at the April meeting.

▪ **Good and Welfare** – The following items were reported:

- **May 1st** is the date for the Public Hearing scheduled by the Town Ordinance Committee. The meeting will be held at Stratford High School and is set to begin at 6:30 PM. The notice has been posted on the Town website and will be posted to the Stratford Board of Education website, as well.
- Mrs. Lance reported that she attended Stratford High's Spring Play. She said it was a great performance by some very talented students and was well attended.

- **Non-Meeting**
 - Mr. Feehan entertained a motion to enter a Non-Meeting of the Stratford Board of Education to include the Board members present, the Superintendent, and the Chief Operating Officer. The purpose of the non-meeting was for discussion of negotiations regarding the Administrators, Custodian, and Secretaries' contracts. A motion was made by Mr. Petruccelli; seconded by Mr. Barnaby and carried 6-0
- **Possible Action Items from Non-Meeting**
 - A motion was made by Mr. Petruccelli; seconded by Mrs. Sheehy and Mrs. Lance to accept the SAA (Stratford Administrators Association) contract covering the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020. The contract did not require going into arbitration and the Administrators have accepted a 0% for the upcoming school year 2017-18. The motion carried unanimously.
 - A motion was made by Mr. Barnaby; seconded by Mrs. Lance for Item B to allow Mr. Zachery to explore options. The motion carried 5 to 1 (Mrs. Buturla opposed).
 - There was no action for Item C.
- **ADJOURNMENT**
 - The meeting adjourned at 9:46 PM upon a motion made by Mr. Petruccelli seconded by Mrs. Sheehy, and carried unanimously.

The next meeting of the Stratford Board of Education is scheduled for **Monday, May 22, 2017**. The meeting location and time is TBD.

Meeting recorded and minutes transcribed by:



Teresa Lycoudes, Board Secretary & Executive Assistant to the Superintendent