



Stratford Board of Education

STRATFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION – OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date:
August 27, 2018

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

DRAFT

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

1 ATTENDANCE

Name	Title	Location	Present
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
Ron Melnik	Chief Operating Officer	Central Office	Y
Linda Gejda	Asst. Superintendent	Central Office	Y
Teresa Lycoudes	Recorder / Board Secretary	Central Office	Y
Harold Greist	SAA Representative	SHS Principal	Y
Mike Fiorello, Kristin Record, Robin Julian	SEA Representatives	SHS, 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: 7:15 PM

4 AGENDA –

- **Opening Remarks by Chair** – The Board Chair (Eric Lazaro) opened the **August 27, 2018** Board of Education meeting (held in the Board Room / Administration Center – 1000 East Broadway, Stratford CT) at 7:15 PM. He asked everyone to join Board Member, Susan Lance, in the

Invocation, and Board Member, Karen Rodia, in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

- **Presentations** – Recognition for the following occurred.
 1. **Robin Marino, Director of Pupil Personnel Services gave a brief review of the Special Education programs.**
- **Public Participation** – There were five public speakers:
 1. **Grace Miron-Dominguez – Student – Safety**
 2. **Brooke Miron – 125 Ferry Blvd, Stratford CT – Safety**
 3. **Robert Ciotti – 96 Sultan St., Stratford CT – Bussing for ALP students.**
 4. **Lorenzo Elder – 226 Garibaldi Ave., Stratford CT – Positive Message.**
 5. **Keith Gavaghan – 112 Booth St., Stratford CT – Athletic Standards.**
- **Student Representatives Report** – There were no reports at this point in time. The Student Representatives for 2018-2019 will be introduced at the September 2018 Board of Education meeting.
- **Superintendent’s Executive Report** – Dr. Robinson reported about the following items:
 - Commissioner’s 2018 Back to School Meeting with Superintendents
 - August 27th Opening Day Convocation
 - August 30, 2018 – First Day of School
 - Right At School – Afterschool Program
 - Status of Registrations and Waivers
 - Technology – Looking into the development of a new interactive (more user friendly) website for the district.
 - Introduction of Ron Melnik, Chief Operations Officer
 - Transportation
 - Lunch Program – no change to the current lunch program.
 - Residency
- **Consent Agenda**
 1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes** (*Reference BOE Policy #9326*)
 - a) Minutes from the **June 25, 2018 (regular meeting)**
 2. **Personnel Document** (Staff Assignments)

It was the consensus of the Board, at the request of Mrs. Lance to take the Consent Agenda items separately.

A motion was made by Buturla; seconded by Mrs. Rodia to accept the minutes for June 25, 2018. The **motion passed unanimously**. (7 to 0)

A motion was made by Mr. Faggella; seconded by Mrs. DelBene to accept the Personnel Assignments (with necessary corrections to be made). The **motion carried unanimously** (7 to 0).

Corrections to be made to the following personnel assignments:

1. **Katherine Ayers** – Assigned as a Language Arts Teacher at Flood Middle School instead of Lead Math Teacher at Wooster Middle School.
2. **Christine Ebner** – Assigned as Lead Language Arts Teacher at Flood Middle School instead of Wooster Middle School.
3. **Christopher Newlan** – Assigned as Lead Science Teacher at Wooster Middle School instead of Flood Middle School.

• **Items for Discussion / Action**

- **Proposed: “First Read” for Policy #6146 – Graduation Requirements** – The aforementioned proposal was referred to the Board (with a favorable recommendation) by the Policy Review Committee.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. RODIA; SECONDED BY MRS. BUTURLA TO APPROVE THE FIRST READ STATUS OF POLICY 6146 “GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS” (forwarded by the Policy Committee with a favorable recommendation). THE **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (7:0)**.

- **Proposed: Board Goals for 2018-2019** – The Board developed goals for adoption – The goals are as follows:

Board Goals (2018 – 2019)

Proposed Goals:

1. **To be proactive and vigilant with respect to the safety of students, staff as well as property under the purview of the Board of Education.**
 - a. Monthly reports regarding district safety drills (i.e. fire, lockdown, etc.)
 - b. Report of emergency activity within the school facilities.
 - c. A BOE member to be a member of the district-wide Safety Committee.
 - d. Quarterly meetings (or more if deemed necessary) with the Police Chief, Board Members, and Administration.

2. To restore public trust and show absolute transparency in regards to all financials.

- a. Regular monthly Finance meetings.
- b. Monthly reports of transactions and transfers in the monthly pony.
- c. Monthly reports posted to the BOE website once they have been accepted by the Board of Education.

3. To improve communication with all stakeholders via Email, Video, Websites and Individual Schools.

- a. Weekly Report to the Board of Education.
- b. Positive videos promoting Stratford Public Schools and BOE.
- c. Board and Finance meetings recorded with video posted to District Website.
- d. Keep Board members apprised of major issues – Board members need sufficient information, data, metrics, etc.
- e. Board members should have ample time to review information and prepare for meetings (receipt of materials with a minimum of 72 hours prior to a meeting).
- f. Board members will be assigned specific schools to mentor.
- g. Superintendent will visit each school during the course of the school year and report to the Board members during the regular monthly meetings.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. LANCE; SECONDED BY MRS. RODIA TO APPROVE AND ADOPT THE AFOREMENTIONED GOALS FOR THE STRATFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION. THE **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (7:0).**

Mrs. Lance said that Board members will be appointed as liaisons to the Stratford Public Schools. She said she would assign schools in the near future. Mrs. Lance said this is done in an effort to have someone attend the school functions and events. She also reminded the Board members to schedule school visits through the Superintendent's Office. Board members should not just show up at the schools during school hours without going through the Superintendent's office prior to their visit.

The Board meeting recessed at 8:42 PM.

The meeting resumed at 8:50 PM.

- **Proposed: Eligibility Requirements for Athletics** – The item was for discussion only and no action was taken. The matter lies with the CIAC and the district is awaiting CIAC ruling.

- **Proposed: Agreement between the Stratford Board of Education and the Stratford Association of Educational Secretaries (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2020) - Administration-**
The secretaries contract was presented for approval.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. LANCE; SECONDED BY MR. DELORENZO TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STRATFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE STRATFORD ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATIONAL SECRETARIES (JULY 1, 2017 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2020). THE **MOTION CARRIED** UNANIMOUSLY.

MR. MELNIK BROUGHT TO THE BOARD'S ATTENTION A CORRECTION TO THE DATE SHOULD BE MADE. THE AGREEMENT WILL RUN THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021. A FRIENDLY AMENDMENT WAS MADE AND **ACCEPTED** BY MRS. LANCE AND MR. DELORENZO.

- **Tabled Items -**

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

The "Tabled Items" remained on the table.

- **Old Business for Information / Discussion**

- There was none.

- **New Business for Information / Discussion**

- There was none.

- **Committee Reports**

- **Athletic Review** – There was nothing new to report. Mr. DeLorenzo said that he hopes to schedule a meeting in the very near future.
- **School Plant / Planning Committee** – Mr. Faggella reported a meeting will be scheduled with the Committee appointed for the renaming of the Bunnell High School Field House.
- **Finance Committee** – The Finance Committee met prior to the Board meeting. Mrs. Lance reported that in going forward, the Finance Committee plans to meet on a regular basis prior to the Board meeting.

- **Curriculum Committee** – The Curriculum Committee did not meet during the month of August. The next meeting date is September 11, 2018.
 - **Chairmen’s Committee** – A special Chairmen’s Committee took place on August 20, 2018. Mrs. Lance said the committee plans to meet on a regular basis on the Wednesday before the Board meetings.
- **Other Committees:**
- **CABE** – There was no report.
 - **CARE** – There was no report.
 - **CES** – Mr. Faggella said there was nothing new to report at this time.
 - **Town / BOE Liaison** – The Town / BOE Liaison Committee met on August 15, 2018.
 - **Town Building Needs** – The Town Building Needs Committee met on August 5, 2018 and discussed SHS change orders and work orders (Public Works).
 - **PTSA** – The PTSA Council did not meet during the month of August.
- **Committee Appointments / Assignments** – There were no Committee appointments or assignments.
- **Executive Session – Pending Litigation**– A motion was made by Mrs. Rodia; seconded by Mrs. DelBene to enter Executive Session including all Board members present, Dr. Robinson and Mr. Melnik. The purpose for Executive Session was to discuss pending litigation status.
- The motion to enter Executive Session carried unanimously and the Board entered Executive Session at 9:10 PM.*
- The Board exited Executive Session and entered Public Session at 9:31 PM.*
- **ADJOURNMENT**
- The meeting adjourned at 9:32 PM upon a motion made by Mrs. Buturla; seconded by Mrs. DelBene, and carried unanimously.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Stratford Board of Education is scheduled for **Monday, September 24, 2018**. The meeting location will be the Board Room at the Administration Center (1000 East Broadway) and the meeting time will be 7:15 PM.

Upcoming Events:

- a. August 30, 2018 – First Day of School for 2018-2019
- b. Labor Day (September 3, 2018) – Schools and Administration Center Closed.
- c. Rosh Hashanah (September 10, 2018) – Schools Closed.
- d. Yom Kippur (September 19, 2018) – Schools Closed.

The remainder Board meetings for 2018 are:

1. September 24, 2018
2. October 22, 2018
3. November 26, 2018
4. December 17, 2018

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



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