



Stratford Board of Education

STRATFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION – OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: 09/26/2016

Meeting Location: Center School, All-Purpose Room

Approved - 10/24/2016

Recorded By: Teresa Lycoudes

1 ATTENDANCE

Name	Title	Location	Present
James Feehan	Board Chair		Y
Leonard Petruccelli	Board Vice Chair		N
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
Jack Dellapiano	SAA Representative	Administration Center	Y
Mike Fiorello	SEA President	SHS Instructor	Y
Lou Spetrino	Videographer		Y

2 MEETING LOCATION

Building: Administration Center / Board Room

3 MEETING START

Meeting Schedule Start: 7:15 PM

Meeting Actual Start: 7:15 PM

4 AGENDA

- **Opening Remarks by Chair**

1. Chairman Feehan called the September 26, 2016 Board of Education meeting to order at 7:15 PM. A quorum was confirmed, and Mr. Feehan asked everyone to stand and join Board Member, Theresa Sheehy, for the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.
2. After the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Feehan asked everyone to remain standing and join him in a moment of silence in observance of the passing of Mr. Petruccelli's son. He also

asked that it be recorded in the meetings that Mr. Petruccelli's absence is excused due to a death in the family.

- **Presentations** – Dr. Robinson presented the 2017 Teacher of the Year, **Chris Newlan**. Mr. Newlan is a Science Instructor at Wooster Middle School. Mr. Newlan was awarded a plaque commemorating his achievement.
- **Public Participation** – No members of the public signed up to speak.
- **Student Representatives Report** – The 2016-2017 School Representatives to the Board of Education were introduced. **James Pellegrino represented Bunnell High School** and **Roula Kouvas represented Stratford High School**. Each gave a brief report about their respective school.
- **Superintendent's "Status of the Schools" Report** – Dr. Robinson reported about the following items:
 1. **Registration for 2016-2017** – Dr. Robinson reported that from June 1st to present, Stratford has registered approximately 854 students. She said that even though 244 students exited (for various reasons), the district is left with over 600 new students.
 2. **State of School Address to Town Council** – Dr. Robinson said she hopes to deliver the State of Schools Address to the Town Council at the November Town Council Mtg.
 3. **Residency Verification** – Dr. Robinson reported that approximately 135 out of 500+ families have completed their *Grade 5* residency verification. She said a follow up letter regarding residency verification will be sent again to families in the very near future reminding them to complete their online residency verification.
 4. **New Website Development** – Dr. Robinson reported the District is looking to get a new district website designed by Final Site. Plans and design are currently under way. Dr. Robinson said the new website design will hopefully offer better options and service to the community. In addition, she reported the 'search feature' on the current website is now working properly. It was reported to be malfunctioning.
 5. **Trainings, etc.** – Dr. Robinson reported that she will soon be tweeting pictures on Twitter of various things taking place throughout the district. She said some of the photos will show the Columbia Readers Workshop in action. Dr. Robinson also reported Instructional Rounds are underway for school year 2016-17. The first session kicked off on September 22nd at Johnson House (Stratford Academy).
 6. **Restorative Practice** – Dr. Robinson reported that the schools are using the "restorative practice" tool for incidents taking place in the schools. Restorative Practice puts ownership on the student

for actions taken, and then encourages the exploration of ways that amends for their actions can be made.

- 7. Minority Teacher Scholarship** – Dr. Robinson gave a brief report regarding the Alma Exley Scholarship program for minority teachers. She said Stratford has a lot of students who may become future educators in our district. Dr. Robinson said she would be sending information about the scholarship program to building principals and guidance counselors. Mr. Feehan asked Mr. Dellapiano and Dr. Dowling (present at the meeting) to make sure their guidance counselors know about this program.
- 8. Literacy Program** – Dr. Robinson informed the gathering that the Stratford Public Schools were recently awarded a \$20,000 check earmarked for literacy from the Victoria Soto Foundation. She also asked everyone to mark their calendars for November 5th and encouraged all to participate in the Victoria Soto 5K event. She said proceeds collected will be used to support the foundation.
- 9. Strategic Five Year Plan** - Dr. Robinson said a meeting regarding the Strategic Five Year Plan is being planned for the last weekend in October 2016. She said a letter has been drafted that will be sent to the stakeholders informing them of the Strategic Planning process for Stratford Public Schools / Stratford Board of Education. Mr. Feehan encouraged two of the newer Board members to participate in this endeavor since they will remain on the Board throughout most of this project.
- 10. Chinese Delegation to visit Bunnell High School and SA – Johnson House** – Dr. Robinson reported that visitors from Qingdao High School #2 (China) will be paying a visit to both Bunnell High School and Stratford Academy’s Johnson House on Wednesday, September 28th. She said the first part of the day will be spent at Bunnell where the focus of the visit will be on program of study and how it prepares students for life and further study. In the afternoon, the group will visit Stratford Academy’s Johnson House School where they will be given an overview of the school and curriculum provided. Both visits will include classroom observation, as well.

- **Consent Agenda**

1. Mr. Feehan entertained a motion for Items 1 & 2 of the Consent Agenda.
 - **Item 1: Meeting minutes from August 22nd regular meeting and September 12th special meeting.**
 - **Item 2: Overnight Trip Request to Quebec (World Language French students) – February 2-5, 2017.**
 - A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. BARNABY;
SECONDED BY MR. LAZARO TO ACCEPT AND

APPROVE THE MINUTES (OUTLINED ABOVE) AND OVERNIGHT TRIP REQUEST TO QUEBEC (OUTLINED ABOVE). THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- **Item 3: Personnel Status Document.** – Dr. Robinson reported a correction for the personnel document regarding Coach Greg Dobosz. She said his location should have stated Wooster Middle School instead of Bunnell High School.
 - A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. LANCE; SECONDED BY MR. BARNABY, TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE ITEMS THE PERSONNEL DOCUMENT BARRING ITEM E-12 (Board Member, Susan Lance - stating conflict of interest). THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (6:0).
 - A SEPARATE MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. SHEEHY; SECONDED BY MRS. BUTURLA, TO ACCEPT ITEM E-12. THE MOTION CARRIED 5:0 (with one abstention – Mrs. Lance).
- **Items for Action**
 1. **Proposed: Architecture and Engineering I Curriculum** – Curriculum Committee.
 - A motion was made by Mrs. Sheehy; seconded by Mrs. Buturla to approve and adopt the proposed Architecture and Engineering I curriculum. The **motion carried** unanimously.
 2. **Proposed: Grade 12 English / Language Arts Curriculum (1/2 year courses) (Visual Images; Poetry & Music; Dystopias & Utopias in Literature and Life** – Curriculum Committee
 - A motion was made by Mrs. Sheehy; seconded by Mrs. Lance to approve and adopt the proposed curriculum for Grade 12 English / Language Arts (1/2 year courses) – Visual Images; Poetry & Music; and Dystopias & Utopias in Literature and Life. The **motion carried** unanimously.
 3. **Proposed: Grade 7-8 Math Curriculum** – Curriculum Committee
 - A motion was made by Mrs. Sheehy; seconded by Mrs. Buturla to approve and adopt the proposed revised curriculum for Grade 7-8 Math. The **motion carried** unanimously.

4. Proposed: Roof Replacement Educational Specifications (Franklin Elementary School)

- A motion was made by Mr. Barnaby; seconded by Mr. Lazaro to approve the educational specifications for Franklin Elementary School dated Sept. 12, 2016 for submission to the State Department of Education as part of a grant application for roof replacement. The **motion carried** unanimously.

5. Proposed: Roof Replacement Educational Specifications (Bunnell High School)

- A motion was made by Mr. Barnaby; seconded by Mrs. Lance to approve the educational specifications for Bunnell High School dated Sept. 12, 2016 for submission to the State Department of Education as part of a grant application for roof replacement. The **motion carried** unanimously.

- **Tabled Items -**

- 1. Scholarship Opportunities for District Student Teachers**
- 2. Boilers – School Buildings**
- 3. BHS Field House**
- 4. Strategic Plan**

The tabled items remained on the table. Mr. Feehan commented that Items #1 and #4 were addressed already during the Superintendent's report.

- **Old Business**

- 1. Update: Residency Verification** – addressed earlier in the meeting.
- 2. Update: Microphone system in Board Room / Administration Center.** – Mr. Zachery reported that the technician will be coming out to assess the audio system in the Board Room.

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

- 1. Bus Stops and Transportation Policy:** It was the consensus of the Board members to strike this item from the agenda due to no public attendees regarding this topic. Motion to strike was made by Mr. Lazaro.
- 2. School Enrollment** – Mr. Feehan stated that district enrollment was also covered during the Superintendent's Status Report.
- 3. Bridgeport Magnet School Tuition** – Dr. Robinson gave a brief background of the topic. She said when the magnet schools first formed; they were funded by the state. Districts were not allowed to charge tuition. She said legislation has recently changed and districts are now going to be allowed to charge

tuition beginning the next school year. She said this means Stratford will need additional funding for 2017-2018 which could feasibly add up to one to two million dollars extra that will need to be included in the budget process. She said once she learned of this, she sent notice to our legislators. She said the legislators would like to meet with her and the Board members to discuss what can be done. Mr. Feehan stated that he would like the Executive Board members, along with Dr. Robinson to meet with Stratford's legislators. He said, in addition, he would like to ask the Board members to authorize exploring with attorneys the right to file an injunction against the pertinent parties. A motion was made by Mrs. Sheehy; seconded by Mr. Lazaro, and carried unanimously. Each Board member weighed in with their support. Dr. Robinson said that she is looking forward to the fight and is happy that the Board members share her feelings in this matter. Mr. Barnaby made a motion to table this item; seconded by Mrs. Lance, and carried (6:0).

4. **Afterschool Programs (YMCA & Sterling House)** – Mr. Feehan asked if the YMCA is charged rent for the use of our schools for the afterschool program by the Stratford Public Schools. Mr. Zachery said the charge is for coverage of the custodian only. The district does not charge rent for use of the building.

- **Committee Reports**

1. **Athletic Review** – Mrs. Lance said the committee did not meet during the month of September. She said they are waiting on the new Athletic Director at Bunnell High School to come on board (Wayne Thrall). She said the first meeting will likely take place during the second week of October.
2. **School Plant / Planning Committee** – School Plant Planning did not meet during the month of September.
3. **Finance Committee** – Finance did not meet during the month of September.
4. **Curriculum Committee** – Mrs. Sheehy said there was nothing in addition to the items for action voted on earlier in the meeting.

- **Other Committees:**

- **CABE** – Mr. Feehan stated there was nothing to report.
- **CES** – Mrs. Sheehy reported that CES met on September 1st. She said the meeting was mostly a “welcome back”

meeting; recognizing staff; discussing legislation and the uniform school calendar.

- **Town / BOE Liaison** – Mr. Feehan reported the Town/BOE Liaison meeting scheduled for September 7th was cancelled due to lack of a quorum.
 - **Town Building Needs** – Mr. Barnaby thanked the Board of Education on behalf of Mr. Petruccelli and the Sub-Committee for the Stratford High School construction project for holding the special meeting on September 12th which tremendously assisted in moving the project forward.
 - **PTSA** – There was nothing new to report. The PTSA Council has not yet met for 2016-2017.
- **Committee Appointments / Assignments** – There were no Committee appointments / assignments.
 - **Board Goals 2016-18** – The Board Goals for 2016-18 were not reviewed, at this point in time.
 - **Good and Welfare** – Mr. Feehan reported that the meeting day/date will change for the Town / BOE Liaison Committee meeting due to the Board’s attendance at the monthly C.A.R.E. Committee meeting. Mr. Feehan also reported about the District’s recent trip to Hartford in regards to an FOI Hearing scheduled for September 22nd. He said a complaint had been filed by a member of the community who frequently requests information under the FOIA (Freedom of Information Act). He said staff members took time away from the office to attend the hearing, along with incurring the cost of an attorney who also made the trip to Hartford. When they arrived, they were informed the complaint had been withdrawn. Mr. Feehan said it is shameful that a member of the community who frequently complains that Board of Education monies are not spent appropriately would cause the Board to incur the expense of the trip to the FOI Commission. Two staff members lost the better part of their work day, the expense of driving to Hartford, and attorney fees were incurred. He reiterated to the public that the Board of Education has nothing to hide and will gladly provide information upon request.
 - **ITEMS “TO DO”**
 1. Mr. Feehan asked Mr. Zachery to follow up with the Town in regards to the YMCA and rent for use of the school facilities regarding the afterschool program.

- **ADJOURNMENT**

- The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM upon a motion made by Mr. Barnaby; seconded by Mrs. Sheehy, and carried unanimously.

The next meeting of the Stratford Board of Education is scheduled for **Monday, October 24, 2016**. The meeting will be located at the Administration Center (1000 East Broadway) and is set to begin at the normal start time of 7:15 PM.

Meeting recorded and minutes transcribed by:



Teresa Lycoudes, Board Secretary & Executive Assistant to the Superintendent