



Stratford Board of Education

1000 East Broadway • Stratford, Connecticut 06615 • Phone (203) 385-4210 • Fax (203) 381-6900 •

The **Stratford Board of Education** conducted a special meeting on **Wednesday, December 7, 2016** at the Administration Center Board Room, 1000 East Broadway, Stratford, CT pursuant to notice duly posted.

Board Members Present: James Feehan, Leonard Petruccelli, Chris Barnaby, Maria Buturla, Susan Lance

Board Members Absent: Theresa Sheehy, Eric Lazaro

Central Office

Administration Present: Superintendent Janet Robinson, Mr. Zachery (Chief Operating Officer)

Recording Secretary: Teresa Lycoudes

Videographer: Lou Spetrino

A: CALL TO ORDER AND CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

The meeting was officially called to order at 6:41 PM by the Board Chair, James Feehan. A Quorum was confirmed. Chairman Feehan stated that Board Member, Theresa Sheehy could not attend due to a scheduling conflict. He asked that the record shows Mrs. Sheehy is excused.

B: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

1. **Proposed: Magnet School Tuition**

- **Transportation to Magnet Schools** - Chairman Feehan entertained a motion to open Item 1A (Transportation to Magnet Schools) for discussion. A motion was made by Mr. Petruccelli; seconded by Mrs. Lance, and carried unanimously. After a brief discussion about the history of the legislation regarding magnet schools, transportation to magnet schools and the impact to families if transportation is no longer provided; the following motion was made:

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Petruccelli; seconded by Mrs. Lance to discontinue providing transportation to students attending magnet schools outside the district. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously 5:0.

- **Letter to Parents regarding Transportation to Magnet Schools** – A motion was made by Mr. Petruccelli; seconded by Mr. Barnaby to open discussion on Item 1B (Letter to Parents regarding Transportation to Magnet Schools).

After a brief discussion and deliberation by all, the following motion was made:

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Petruccelli; seconded by Mr. Barnaby to send a letter to families within 30 days informing them that transportation to magnet schools would no longer be provided. After the initial letter, another letter will be sent in May. Both sets of correspondence will be made by hard copy and email, as well. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously 5:0.

- **Recruitment Ban (Magnet Schools) – Stratford Public Schools** – A motion was made by Mr. Petruccelli; seconded by Mr. Barnaby to open discussion on Item 1C (Recruitment Ban (Magnet Schools)). After a brief discussion, the following motion was made.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Petruccelli; seconded by Mr. Barnaby to support the Superintendent (Dr. Robinson) in her endeavor to stop recruitment of magnet schools in Stratford Public Schools. A roll call vote was called. The motion carried unanimously 5:0.

Chairman Feehan stated that it is despicable the state is pitting town against town in this scenario. He said he believes this is a “money grab” for the City of Bridgeport, and it is wrong and there is no reasonability to this process.

Mr. Zachery informed the group that it appears our neighboring district is looking to make a profit that would help subsidize deficits in other areas of their district (Bridgeport).

Mr. Barnaby said Stratford cannot afford to be taken advantage of any further. He fully supports the Board of Education for taking a stand against this challenge to the district.

Dr. Robinson said \$576,000 out of next year’s budget is devastating to this district. She said Stratford has worked hard to be racially balanced and is. She said this would be taking away much needed resources from Stratford students.

Mr. Feehan asked Dr. Robinson and Mr. Zachery to:

1. Make other Superintendents aware of Stratford’s intentions.
2. Make other CFO’s aware of Stratford’s intentions.
3. Send a letter to parents regarding magnet school transportation. The letter should be sent out within the next 30 days. A second letter should follow up in May. This provides plenty of notice to parents impacted.
4. Post letter on Website and Facebook.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion to go into Executive Session to include Dr. Robinson, Mr. Zachery and the Board members present was made by Mrs. Lance; seconded by Mrs. Buturla, and carried unanimously. Chairmen Feehan announced the Board would enter Executive Session at 7:10 PM. All others cleared the Board Room.

The meeting reconvened in public session at 7:34 PM

A motion was made by Mr. Petruccelli; seconded by Mrs. Lance authorizing Dr. Robinson the opportunity to meet with special counsel regarding this legislation. The motion carried unanimously 5:0.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further discussion in connection with the above agenda item, the Board Chair called for a motion to adjourn. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. PETRUCCELLI; SECONDED BY MRS. LANCE. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:35 PM.

Minutes recorded and transcribed by Teresa Lycoudes, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Board of Education.



Teresa Lycoudes – Exec. Asst. to Superintendent / Secretary to the Board