



## **Stratford Board of Education**

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### **STRATFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION – OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES**

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**Special Meeting Date:** May 28, 2019

**Meeting Location:** Board Room / Admin. Ctr.

**Stratford High School Cafeteria  
245 King Street, Stratford CT 06615**

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

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**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		N
Karen Rodia	Board Member		Y
Dr. Janet Robinson	Superintendent	Central Office	Y
Ron Melnik	Chief Operating Officer	Central Office	N
Linda Gejda	Asst. Superintendent	Central Office	Y
Teresa Lycoudes	Recorder / Board Secretary	Central Office	Y
SAA Representative			Y
SEA Representatives			Y
Lou Spetrino	Videographer		Y

**2 MEETING LOCATION**

- Please visit the website at [www.stratfordk12.org](http://www.stratfordk12.org) to see the meeting video.  
Building: Administration Center / Board Room – 1000 East Broadway

**3 MEETING START**

Meeting Scheduled to Start: 6:30 PM  
Actual Start Time: 6:33 PM

**4 AGENDA –**

- **Opening Remarks by Chair** – The Board Chair (Eric Lazaro) opened the **May 28, 2019** Board of Education special meeting (held in the Cafeteria at Stratford High School – 245 King Street) at 6:33 PM. A Quorum was confirmed.

- Mr. Lazaro asked everyone to stand and join Board Member, Susan Lance, in the Invocation and recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.
- **Presentations** – Board Chair, Eric Lazaro, turned the floor over to Dr. Robinson for the Presentations section of the meeting. The following presentations occurred:
  1. **Middle School of the Year for 2019-2020 (Wooster Middle School)** – Dr. Robinson welcomed Dr. John Sieller Ed.D. (Director of Middle Level Programs – CAS (The Connecticut Association of Schools) to the podium, along with Wooster Middle School Principal, Bryan Darcy, and Assistant Principal, Jim Singletary.
    - Dr. Sieller presented the recognition of Wooster Middle School as Middle School of the Year for 2019-2020. Dr. Sieller shared some remarks about this prestigious honor, and congratulated Principal, Bryan Darcy and Assistant Principal, Jim Singletary. Staff members from Wooster Middle School were in the audience in support of this honor. The Principals were given a banner commemorating this award that can hang in their school.
  2. **Connecticut Arts Administrators Association** - Dr. Robinson invited Dr. Linda Gejda, Assistant Superintendent of School to the podium to present this award.
    - Dr. Gejda shared some remarks about Brian Frazier, Coordinator of Fine Arts, Health and Physical Education, and his involvement in leadership at the Connecticut Arts Administrators Association. Brian has served as President of this organization for the past two years and was recognized with a plaque commemorating his service.
  3. **Portrait of a Graduate** – Dr. Robinson said the submissions and designs made this a very interesting contest. She said all the designs were thoughtful and presented the Portrait of a Graduate in a variety of ways, giving us pause for reflection of what we believe a Stratford Public Schools graduate to be.
    - Dr. Robinson presented the awards for the logo design regarding the Portrait of a Graduate project. The winner of the logo design is Braydon Seaburg, a senior at Stratford High School. Braydon’s design named “Captain of Your Own Ship” was chosen to be the program’s logo. Runners up are John Costa, a sophomore at Bunnell High School, for his design called “Path to Adulthood”; and, Kathryn Martinez Majano, a senior at Stratford High School for her design called “New Found Freedom”. Each of the three students received a certificate and gift certificate in recognition of their contributions.

**4. Outstanding New Athletic Administrator Recognition** – Dr. Robinson invited Bunnell Principal Dr. Nancy Dowling back to the podium.

- Dr. Dowling gave recognition to Athletic Director, Wayne Thrall, for being selected to receive the Patsy Lemley Kamercia “Outstanding New Athletic Administrator Award”. Mr. Thrall was presented an award and honored at the CAAD Annual Luncheon Meeting back in March 2019.

**5. Invention Convention –**

- Dr. Robinson and the Board recognized the following students for their participation in the Connecticut State Invention Convention. Each student was presented a certificate recognizing their accomplishment.

- **Michael Aguiar** – Carbon Monoxide Survivor – Second Hill Lane Elementary – Grade 6
- **Emily Bohn** – the Yarn H.A.K. – Chapel Street Elementary School – Grade 5
- **Lily Dumas** – Clearly Dry – Chapel Street Elementary School – Grade 5
- **Symone Good** – Medi-Jello – Franklin Elementary School – Grade 6
- **Paul Karafa** – Slide Saver – Eli Whitney Elementary School – Grade 4
- **Keller Passaro** – Squirrel Scare – Eli Whitney Elementary School – Grade 4
- **Evan Vazquez** – The Ultimate Snow Gloves – Franklin Elementary School – Grade 5

**6. CUBE Student Leadership Awards** – Students are recognized and selected for their leadership skills based on the following criteria - a. Willingness to take on challenges; b. Capability to make difficult decisions; c. Concern for others; d. Willingness to commit to a project; e. Diplomacy; f. Ability to understand issues clearly; and g. Ability to honor a commitment. The School Principals spoke on behalf of their respective students; and, Dr. Robinson and Board Chair, Eric Lazaro, presented the students with certificates from CUBE.

- **Flood Middle School – Greg Grigas, Principal and Brian Testroet, Asst. Principal**
  - Grace Garrigan
  - Nathaniel Tantral-Johnson
- **Wooster Middle School – Bryan Darcy, Principal and Jim Singletary, Asst. Principal**
  - Latifa Karim
  - Jack Cocca

- **Bunnell High School – Dr. Dowling, Principal**
    - Yvemalya Germain
    - Erin Mullane
  - **Stratford High School – Mr. Dellapiano, Principal**
    - Chidima Anekwe
    - Samuel Schumann
7. **Student Board Representatives** – Dr. Robinson and Board Vice Chair Susan Lance honored the Student Representatives for their service on the Board for school year 2018-2019.
    - Holly Rosa – Bunnell High School
    - Cheree Wright – Stratford High School
  8. **Valedictorian and Salutatorians for Graduating Class of 2019** – Dr. Robinson invited Chairman Lazaro, Mr. Dellapiano and Dr. Dowling back to the podium. The Principals of Bunnell and Stratford High Schools spoke about their respective students.
    - Bunnell High School – Dr. Dowling spoke about Bunnell High School’s 2019 Valedictorian and Salutatorian.
      - Jayleen Herrera, Valedictorian – BHS
      - Magnus Ordner, Salutatorian – BHS
    - Stratford High School – Mr. Dellapiano spoke about Stratford High School’s 2019 Valedictorian and Salutatorian.
      - Jennifer Melo, Valedictorian – SHS
      - Kayla Simon, Salutatorian – SHS
  9. **SEA Retirements, Awards, Etc.** – SEA Officers Mike Fiorello, Kristen Record, Robin Julian and Jennifer Blake presented recognitions and awards on behalf of SEA (Stratford Education Association). The SEA announced retirees and Teacher, Wendy Hoffman (who was unable to attend) sent a note that was read by Dr. Robinson. The SEA “Friend of Education” award was given to **Linda Lauritano** (known as Mimi) for her many hours of volunteering in the Stratford Public School system.
  10. **Teacher of the Year** – Teacher of the Year, **Jennifer Cusmano** (Chapel Street Elementary Teacher) was introduced. Jennifer will be invited to the Stratford Board of Education September meeting to receive a plaque. She will also attend a state banquet some time in November.
- **Student Representatives’ Report** – **Holly Rosa** (Bunnell High School) and **Cheree Wright** (Stratford High School) reported on their respective schools, and all the events that have been taking place there. Upon graduation, Holly will be enrolled at the University Of Connecticut (UCONN) in the fall. Cheree will be attending Howard University and will pursue her goal of becoming a Doctor.
  - **Music Selection performed by: Middle School String Orchestra under the direction of Mr. James Bettincourt.**

**A 20 minute recess for a Reception was called at 8:12 PM by Board Chair, Eric Lazaro. All students and family, along with staff present were invited to partake.**

**The Board of Education meeting for May 28, 2019 reconvened in Public Session at 8:32 PM.**

- **Executive Report (Superintendent)** – Dr. Robinson reported on the following:
  - 1. Nursing Graduation / Medical Careers Graduation 2019**
  - 2. College Acceptances / Choices** – For both, Bunnell and Stratford High Schools.

### **BUSINESS AGENDA:**

- **Consent Agenda**
  1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes** (*Reference BOE Policy #9326*)
    - a) Minutes from the *April 22, 2019* (regular meeting)
    - b) Minutes from the *May 7, 2019* (special meeting)
  2. **Personnel Document (May 2019)** (Staff Assignments)
  3. **Budget Transfers over \$7500** – (There were none)

A Motion was made by Mrs. DeBene; seconded by Mrs. Lance to approve the consent agenda in its entirety. The motion carried unanimously. 6-0

- **Items for Discussion / Action**

- **Proposed: Curriculum – For:**
  1. **Grades 3-6 Social Studies Curriculum Framework**
  2. **Grades K-5 Curriculum Framework and Mystery Science**
  3. **Grades 6-8 Science Curriculum Framework**
  4. **High School Science Curriculum Framework**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. DELBENE SECONDED BY MR. DELORENZO FOR APPROVAL OF THE AFOREMENTIONED CURRICULUM FRAMEWORKS. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 6-0

- **Proposed: For VSS (Victoria Soto School) – Filing of Form ED049F State Project #138-0094 as Complete:**
  - a) **MOTION:** The Board of Education approves the following: - Filing of Form ED049F, Final Grant Application for the Victoria Soto Elementary School Construction Project, with the Office of School Construction Grants and Review Department of Administrative Services. “Be it Resolved, that the Stratford Board of Education accepts the Victoria Soto Elementary School – State Project #138-0094 as complete”.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. LANCE/ SECONDED BY MRS. BUTURLA. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 6-0**

- **Proposed: Motion to Certify – Healthy Foods Certification for School Year 2019-2020**
  - b) **MOTION:** The Board of Education votes in favor of Healthy Foods Certification for School Year 2019-2020.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. DELBENE / SECONDED BY MRS. RODIA. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 6-0**

- **Proposed: HEALTHY FOOD CERTIFICATION: Exemption Statement for Food**
  - a) **MOTION:** The Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. BUTURLA/ SECONDED BY MR. DELORENZO THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 6-0**

- **Proposed: HEALTHY FOODS CERTIFICATION: Exemption Statement for Beverages -**
  - c) **MOTION:** The Board of Education will allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting or extracurricular activity. The “school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held, and must be the same place as the food sales.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. DELORENZO / SECONDED BY MRS. BUTURLA. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 6-0**

- **Tabled Items -**

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

All items remained tabled.

- **Old Business for Information / Discussion**

- **New Business for Information / Discussion**
- **Committee Reports**
  - **Athletic Review** – Athletic Review did not meet.
  - **School Plant / Planning Committee** –There was nothing new to report.
  - **Finance Committee** – The Finance Committee did not meet prior to the Board meeting.
  - **Curriculum Committee** – The Curriculum Committee met on May 14, 2019.
  - **Chairmen’s Committee** – The Chairmen’s Committee met on May 23, 2019.
- **Other Committees: A brief report was given on the following committees.**
  - **CABE** - There was nothing new to report.
  - **CARE** – There was nothing new to report.
  - **CES** – There was nothing new to report.
  - **Town / BOE Liaison** – There was nothing new to report.
  - **Town Building Needs** – There was nothing new to report at this time.
  - **PTSA** – The PTSA Council did not meet in May 2019.
- **Committee Appointments / Assignments** – The following appointments were made:
  - **To the School Plant / Planning Committee**
    1. Alan Llewelyn
    2. Ben Proto
    3. Pat Patusky
- **Other Business**  
There was none.
- **General Good and Welfare**  
Mrs. Lance gave kudos to Stratford High School for their students and their acts of kindness at the recent Scholarship Awards night on May 22, 2019. Mrs. DelBene stated that she shared in Mrs. Lance’s sentiments. She said the ceremony was an awesome and emotional experience.  
  
Mrs. Rodia said she would like to offer congratulations not only to the students winning awards, but to the entire student body in Stratford. She expressed her pride for them all.  
  
Mrs. Buturla said that she too had a great time at the awards ceremonies and stated that it is truly an emotional and touching event.



Dr. Robinson thanked the Board, on behalf of the Stratford Public School system, and said they must feel proud of the role they are playing in helping Stratford's student body realize their dreams.

▪ **ADJOURNMENT**

- The meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM upon a motion made by Mrs. Rodia; seconded by Mrs. Buturla, and carried unanimously.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Stratford Board of Education is scheduled for **Monday, June 24, 2019**. The meeting location is TBD.

**Upcoming Events (Can be viewed on the District Website Calendar)**

- a) May 29, 2019 – BHS Scholarship Night 6:30 PM
- b) May 30, 2019 – FMS Band & Chorus 6:30 PM
- c) May 30, 2019 – Early Dismissal – Teacher PLC Day
- d) May 31, 2019 – Volunteer (VISS) Breakfast (Flood Middle School 8:00 AM)
- e) June 3, 2019 – Stratford Jr. Women's Spelling Bee – Wooster Middle School 5:00PM
- f) June 3, 2019 - Special Board Meeting 6:30 PM
- g) June 3, 2019 – Town Bldg. Needs Committee 7:00 PM / Town Hall
- h) June 10, 2019 – Annual Senior Walk – All Elementary Schools
- i) June 11, 2019 – Graduation
- j) June 12, 2019 – Graduation (Rain Date)
- k) June 13, 2019 – Last Day of School
- l) June 24, 2019 – Finance Committee 6:30 PM
- m) June 24, 2019 – Last Board Meeting for 2018-2019 7:15 PM

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



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