



Stratford Board of Education

STRATFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION – OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: **May 26, 2020**

Meeting Location: **Virtual Meeting**
Google Meets
Stratford CT

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

1 ATTENDANCE

Name	Title	Location	Present
Allison DelBene	Board Chair		Y
Amy Wiltsie	Board Vice Chair		Y
Vinny Faggella	Board Secretary		Y
Andrea Corcoran	Board Member		Y
Janice Cupee	Board Member		Y
Bob DeLorenzo	Board Member		Y
Karen Rodia	Board Member		Y
Dr. Janet Robinson	Superintendent	Central Office	Y
Ed Molloy	Interim, Chief Operating Officer	Central Office	Y
Linda Gejda	Asst. Superintendent	Central Office	Y
Teresa Lycoudes	Recorder / Board Secretary	Central Office	Y
Lou Spetrino	Videographer		Y

2 MEETING LOCATION

- *Please visit the website at www.stratfordk12.org to see the information regarding the meeting.*

Virtual Meeting via Google Meets

3 MEETING START

Meeting Scheduled to Start: 7:15 PM

Actual Start Time: 7:28 PM

4 AGENDA –

- **Opening Remarks by Chair** – The Board Chair (*Allison DelBene*) **opened the May 26, 2020 Board of Education regular scheduled monthly meeting** (held virtually via Google Meets) at 7:28 PM. A Quorum was confirmed. Mrs. DelBene recited the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.
- Mrs. DelBene briefly discussed some rules regarding the virtual meeting such as the “raised hand” feature; Board member identification before speaking, etc. It was also announced the meeting was “live streamed”

over social media, as well, giving the public the opportunity to see and hear the meeting live.

Executive Session - The Board moved immediately into Executive Session that included Board Members only for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent's performance.

Executive Session ended at 7:38 PM and the meeting reconvened in public.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. FAGGELLA; SECONDED BY MRS. CORCORAN TO SEND A LETTER TO DR.ROBINSON REGARDING HER PERFORMANCE. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN. THE MOTION PASSED 7-0.

Student Representatives Report – There were no Student Representative reports at the virtual meeting.

Public Participation – There were no public speakers due to the virtual meeting. The public had been informed earlier (posted on district website) to send in their issues and/or questions for the Board members and Administration. The questions will be reviewed and answered in a timely manner..

Recognitions –Dr. Robinson informed the public that this is the meeting where the Board and Administration recognize the Valedictorians and Salutatorians named at each high school. In addition, students set to receive a CABA Leadership Award were also recognized.

BHS (Bunnell High School):

Dr. Nancy Dowling (BHS Principal) announced the 2020 Valedictorian and Salutatorian for Bunnell High school:

- **Valedictorian: Lianna Wagner** - In the fall, Lianna will study at the **University of Connecticut** .
- **Salutatorian: Kayla Sokunle** - Kayla will attend **Yale University** in the Fall of 2020.

SHS (Stratford High School)

Mr. Dellapiano (SHS Principal) announced the 2020 Valedictorian and Salutatorian for Stratford High School:

- **Valedictorian - Chidima (ChiChi) Anekwe** - ChiChi will be attending **Yale University** in the Fall of 2020.

- **Salutatorian - Claire Noccioli** - Clair will be attending **Tulane University** in the Fall of 2020.

CABE Leadership Awards:

- Flood Middle School -
 1. Erin Ikowitz - Grade 8
 2. Award Baeram - Grade 8
- Wooster Middle School -
 1. Marcus Cavallo - Grade 8
 2. Gabrielle Leon - Grade 8
- Bunnell High School -
 1. Bruce Claxton - Grade 12
 2. Lindsey Martinez - Grade 11
- Stratford High school
 1. Erin Spillane - Grade 11
 2. Maxwell Maria - Grade 11

Consent Agenda - The Consent Agenda was voted on in two parts - Minutes and then a separate vote for Personnel assignments.

The minutes from April 27th regular meeting and May 5th special meeting of the Board of Education were passed on a motion made by Mrs. Wiltsie; seconded by Mrs. Corcoran, and carried unanimously (A Roll Call Vote was taken). Motion passed 7-0.

The Personnel assignments were approved / adopted on a motion made by Mrs. Wiltsie; seconded by Mr. Faggella, and carried unanimously (A Roll Call Vote was taken). Motion passed 7-0.

The Board asked if there was any progress made in regards to adjusting the Chief Operating Officer's contract from a three year contract to a two year contract. Dr. Robinson responded there has not been.

There were no Budget Transfers or pending Field Trips.

Superintendent's Executive Report

- **Dr. Robinson reported about the following:**
 1. Dr. Robinson and Board Chair (Allison DelBene) participated in a Zoom Conference regarding the Fall school year (2020-2021).
 2. Summer School - Summer School is allowed to be in session; however, after careful consideration, it appears that Stratford will only offer ESY online and Course Recovery. It would be too costly, at this point in time to hold sessions live.

3. Graduations - Graduations at both high schools will take place later in June (later than June 10th). Continuing Education will hold its graduation ceremony virtually on May 27th.
 4. Logistic Committee - Dr. Robinson reported that well over 90 people are participating in the committees looking at re-entry to school in the Fall of 2020. Lots of discussion is taking place about what school may look like upon return.
 5. Last Day of School - The last day of school for 2019-2020 is June 12, 2020.
- **Interim Chief Operating Officer's Report** - Mrs. Nicholson (Finance Director) reported on the financials.
 1. Increases in special education costs. There have been a number of students outplaced.
 2. Kindergarten placements total 324 to date.
 3. \$1.2 million dollars remainder going through June 30, 2020. Mrs. Nicholson cautioned there are still expenses that will be coming out of this amount. If there is anything left over at year end, the amount will be brought before the Board for discussion and final approvals.
 4. The Board requested updates to be made to the monthly Enrollment Report.
 5. The Board requested a monthly Special Education report to be given prior to the Finance / Board meetings.
 6. The Board requested something official from the Town of Stratford stating the allocated Budget amount to the Board of Education for the FY 2020-2021. Mrs. Nicholson said she would reach out to the Town.

Items For Action

- **Appointment of Director of Pupil Personnel Services** - Dr. Robinson announced that Heather Borges has been selected as the candidate to be appointed Director of Pupil Personnel Services. Heather is currently the Principal at Second Hill Lane Elementary School. Mrs. DelBene said that she had the opportunity to meet with the hiring committee for this position. She said moving forward, the Board would be included in the hiring process of administrative positions.

A MOTION TO ACCEPT THIS APPOINTMENT WAS MADE BY MRS. CORCORAN; SECONDED BY MRS. WILTSIE. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN. THE MOTION PASSED 7-0.

- **Academic Calendar for School Year 2021 - 2022** - Framework calendar.

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ACCEPT THE 2021-2022 ACADEMIC CALENDAR (FRAMEWORK) BY MS. CUPEE; SECONDED BY MR. FAGGELLA. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN. THE MOTION PASSED IN FAVOR 7-0.

- **Naming of the Early Childhood Center at Stratford High School for Victoria Soto.**

A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY MRS. WILTSIE; SECONDED BY MR. DELORENZO. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN. THE MOTION PASSED IN FAVOR 7-0.

Tabled Items

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. WILTSIE; SECONDED BY MR. FAGGELLA TO REMOVE RESIDENCY FROM THE TABLE FOR DISCUSSION. Dr. Robinson reported residency cases for January, February and March. She said that due to COVID-19, Residency Officer, Mike Imbro has not been able to make visits.

The Board requested regular residency reporting. Mrs. Rodia asked for a copy of the reports to be sent to the Town Liaison Committee, as well.

There were no Committee reports. - Mr. DeLorenzo and Mr. Dellapiano gave a brief update regarding the Stratford High Renovation Project.

Other discussion included the following:

1. The Finance Committee will hold special meetings to talk about the budget and to review possible reductions. A special Board meeting will follow immediately to approve any reductions made. The first special meeting will take place on Thursday, May 28th at 6:00 PM. A second will be scheduled for Monday, June 1st at 6:30 PM.
2. A concern arose regarding letters to Enrichment Program teachers from HR informing them that their jobs may be in jeopardy. Mrs. Wiltsie directed Dr. Robinson to follow up with Human Resources and report the outcome of the follow up.

Adjournment

A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY MRS. RODIA; SECONDED BY MS. CUPEE. THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:53 PM.

Meeting recorded and minutes transcribed by:



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