



## **Stratford Board of Education**

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

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**Meeting Date: June 22, 2020**

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

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

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**1 ATTENDANCE**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Present</b>
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
Linda Gejda	Asst. Superintendent	Central Office	Y
Pam Mangini	Chief Operating Officer	Central Office	Y
Susan Nicholson	Finance Director	Central Office	Y
Teresa Lycoudes	Recorder	Central Office	Y
Lou Spetrino	Videographer		Y

**2 MEETING LOCATION**

- *Please visit the website at [www.stratfordk12.org](http://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: 7:29 PM

**4 AGENDA –**

- **Opening Remarks by Chair** – The Board Chair (*Allison DelBene*) ***opened the June 22, 2020 Board of Education regular scheduled monthly meeting*** (held virtually via Google Meets) at 7:29 PM. A Quorum was confirmed.
- **Moment of Silence in honor of former School Superintendent Irene Cornish** - Mrs. DelBene asked everyone to please participate in a moment of silence in observance of the recent passing for former Superintendent Irene Cornish.

**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 announced there were several retirements at this point in time. To start, Maureen DiDomenico, Principal at Johnson House Elementary is retiring as of June 30, 2020. A car parade took place in her honor. In addition, Robin Marino, Director of Pupil Personnel Services has announced her retirement plans, as well. Mrs. Marino looks forward to working with rescue animals in the near future.

Also retiring is Jane Hartigan (School Nurse and Union President), along with several others including a CIA, 9 Teachers, a Psychologist, a Library Media Specialist and the Mail Clerk (Administration Center). Full list attached to minutes.

On another note, Dr. Robinson recognized Bunnell High School Principal, Dr. Nancy Dowling, for her recent honor ob being selected as CT High School Principal of the Year by CAS (Connecticut Association of Schools).

Dan Hicks, Assistant Principal at Stratford High School, was recently named Principal at Second Hill Lane Elementary School.

### **Superintendent’s Executive Report**

- **Dr. Robinson reported about the following:**
  1. The work of the Re-Entry Committees on how school will take place and what it will look like for Fall 2020. Dr. Robinson reported there are two main committees (Academics and Logistics) broken down into subgroups examining how school might look in the Fall of 2020.
  2. Lawsuit with CARES money re State of Connecticut.
  3. Pam Mangini has begun working in her new position as Chief Operating Officer at the Administration Center.
- **Interim Chief Operating Officer’s Report** - Mrs. Nicholson (Finance Director) reported on the financials.
  1. Mrs. Nicholson reported that there is an estimated available year end balance of \$734,000 at this point in time. She said there are still expenses to come out of the balance, but she expects there to be at least \$400,000 available at the end of the year to carry over to the 2020-2021 budget. This should be enough to cover the

\$395,428 balance still needed to be reduced to meet the 2.575% increase allocation the Town has granted for next year's budget.

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

The minutes from the May 26th regular meeting, June 1st, 2nd and 9th special meetings were passed on a motion made by Ms. Cupee; seconded by Mrs. Wiltsie, and carried unanimously (A Roll Call Vote was taken). Motion passed 7-0.

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

Mrs. Wiltsie asked about the summer positions for CIAs and SPED teachers. Dr. Robinson said two programs are running for summer school - ESY (Extended School Year) and Credit Recovery.

Ms. Cupee asked if Flood Middle School was the only school building being used for summer programs. Dr. Robinson said yes because of its air conditioning.

There were no Budget Transfers or pending Field Trips.

### **Items For Action**

- **Acceptance of the 2020-2021 Budget (2.575% increase)**- The Board adopted the 2020-2021 Budget (2.575% increase) in two parts:
  - Carry over of left over funds from FY 2019-2020 totaling at least \$400,000. A motion was made by Mrs. Corcoran; seconded by Mrs. Rodia. A Roll Call Vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously 7-0.
  - Approval of the additional reductions made put forth by the Finance Committee in the amount of \$253,120. A motion was made by Mr. Faggella; seconded by Mrs. Wiltsie. A Roll Call Vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously 7-0.
- A separate motion was made by Mrs. Wiltsie; seconded by Mr. DeLorenzo to reinstate the three Math Coaches that were eliminated in earlier budget workshops. This motion came from the Finance Committee (with a favorable recommendation). The funds to reinstate will be covered by the reimbursement for COVID expenses (by OPM) in the amount of approximately \$187,000. A Roll Call Vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

It was also announced that with the passing of Town Finance Director, Jay Walhlberg, an audit is being conducted for the Town of Stratford. The audit will also include the Board of Education due to the change out of Chief Operating Officers over the past couple of years. Mrs. DelBene stated the audit will be conducted by Blum Shapiro, and the Board welcomes the collaboration.

- **Board Authorization for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in regards to the Safety and Security Coordinator collaboration with the Town of Stratford**

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ACCEPT THE ABOVE BY MRS. WILTSIE; SECONDED BY MRS. CORCORAN. THE MOTION INCLUDES UP TO \$5000 FOR CLERICAL SUPPORT (PAID FOR BY SBOE). A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AND THE MOTION PASSED 6-1 (MS. CUPEE OPPOSED)

- **Board Authorization for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in regards to sharing the costs related to the pool at Flood Middle School with the Town of Stratford.**

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE ABOVE WAS MADE BY MRS. WILTSIE; SECONDED BY MRS. RODIA. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY 7-0.

- **Superintendent's Goals for 2020-2021**

Mrs. DelBene said there were two changes made to the Superintendent's Goals as included with the agenda packet. The changes are:

1. #2 - The superintendent will identify the needs of the district and make data driven decisions. This data will be provided to BOE members to aid in setting priorities and helping to evaluate outcomes. (setting appropriate timelines) The superintendent will ensure that all programs are assessed for effectiveness and cost-efficiency using appropriate, generally recognized measures.
2. #4 - The superintendent will ensure any contract with budgetary implications will not be signed without board approval or discussion with the board chair.

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE SUPERINTENDENT GOALS FOR 2020-2021 (SET BY THE BOARD) WAS MADE BY MRS. WILTSIE; SECONDED BY MR. DELORENZO. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY 7-0.

- **Appointment of Dan Hicks as Principal at Second Hill Lane Elementary School.**

A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE APPOINTMENT OF DAN HICKS AS PRINCIPAL AT SECOND HILL LANE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS MADE BY MR. FAGGELLA; SECONDED BY MRS. CORCORAN. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY 7-0.

### **Tabled Items**

The Tabled Items remained on the table.

### **Committee Reports**

The Finance Committee met prior to the Board meeting. There was nothing new to report that wasn't addressed at the Board meeting.

The Town / SBOE Liaison Committee met on June 17, 2020. Mrs. DelBene reported that it was an informative, collaborative meeting.

Hearing no further discussion,

### **Adjournment**

A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY MRS. RODIA; SECONDED BY MR. DELORENZO. THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:15 PM.

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



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