



## **Stratford Board of Education**

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

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**Special Meeting Date:**        **July 29, 2020**  
**Meeting Location:**        **Virtual Meeting**  
   **Google Meet**  
   **Stratford CT**

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

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**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
Linda Gejda	Asst. Superintendent	Central Office	Y
Pam Mangini	Chief Operating Officer	Central Office	Y
Teresa Lycoudes	Recorder	Central Office	Y
Ed Molloy	IT Director	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: 6:15 PM  
Actual Start Time: 6:18 PM

**4 AGENDA –**

- **Opening Remarks by Chair** – The Board Chair (*Allison DelBene*) **opened the July 29, 2020 Board of Education special meeting** (held virtually via Google Meets) at 6:18 PM. A Quorum was confirmed.

**Superintendent’s Executive Report**

- **Dr. Robinson reported about the following:**

1. Submission of the Fall Re-Opening Plan to the State Department of Education / Connecticut -
  - Dr. Robinson reported that the Fall Re-Opening of Schools Plan was required to be submitted to the State Department of Education on July 24, 2020. The District's Plan was submitted on July 23, 2020. It appears (at this point in time), the Governor is giving some flexibility with a Hybrid Model. She said two other areas have been addressed, as well.
    - 211 - Line to help teachers find child care.
    - Closing (if it becomes necessary in the future) may be "by town".
  - The District's need for Chromebooks.
  - Distance Learning - As per results of a latest survey effort, it appears that approximately 24% are selecting Distance Learning over Live School Sessions.
2. **Interim Chief Operating Officer's Report** - Mrs. Mangini reported about the following:
  - Guidance in reference to PPE and Expenses related to PPE.
  - Working with Organizations on Afterschool Programs.
  - Working with Food Services (Sodexo)
  - Closing books for 2019-2020 and at this point in time it appears there will be approximately \$750,000 left over in savings due to the shutdown of schools during COVID-19 Pandemic.

### **Items For Action**

- **State Resolution re Start to School - Waiver of 3 Days - School Start Date will move to September 9, 2020 as per the resolution.**

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ACCEPT THE ABOVE CHANGE IN THE SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 2020-2021 SY BY MR. FAGGELLA; SECONDED BY MRS. RODIA. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY 7:0.

- **Pending Change from Flat Fee to cents per Meal with Sodexo Food Services.**

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ACCEPT THE ABOVE ADJUSTMENT WITH SODEXO BY MR. FAGGELLA; SECONDED BY MRS. WILTSIE. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY 7:0.

- **Teachers' Grievance Level III Decision**

A MOTION TO SEND THE LETTER STATING DENYING THE TEACHERS' GRIEVANCE LEVEL III HEARD BEFORE THE BOARD ON JULY 14, 2020 WAS MADE BY MRS. CORCORAN; SECONDED BY MRS. RODIA. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY 7-0.

### **Fall Re-Opening of Schools Questions & Answer Session**

Superintendent Robinson hosted a Question and Answer session in regards to the Fall Re-Opening of Schools Plan 2020-21 with the members of the Board of Education. The questions touched on the following topics. To see the video, please go to our District Website at [www.Stratfordk12.org](http://www.Stratfordk12.org).

- Ventilation and Air-Conditioning in Buildings.
- Specials Subjects
- Distance Learning
- Classroom Set-Up and Layout
- Afterschool Programs
- Cleaning and Disinfecting
- Sharing of Materials
- Travelers

Mr. DeLorenzo thanked everyone for their participation in developing the Fall Re-Opening Plan for the 2020-21 School Year. He stated the District is currently moving through unchartered territory and asked that the public please have patience. He said the Board and Administration are doing the best they can.

Mrs. Cupee stated that she wants only what's best for everyone - the students, their families and the staff. She expressed her frustration that State Leaders are not considering students and staff with the plan to re-open.

Mrs. Rodia stated that all visitors to the Board of Education should be required to wear a mask in effort to help keep everyone safe.

Mrs. DelBene asked if there is a price tag / cost (at this point in time) put to all that is and will be necessary to open schools effectively and safely. Dr. Robinson said that Pam Mangini has been working closely with the district and Town in tracking expenses and coming up with models going forward to

ensure safety in the schools. She said the cost is easily over \$3,000,000 at present and changes daily. There are still too many unknown factors and building space and classroom capacity is problematic given that some of the buildings are smaller (i.e. Wilcoxson Elementary School). Dr. Robinson stated it is not an easy solve and there is no crystal ball to see what will actually take place over the course of the next few weeks. She said plans are changing almost on a daily basis, and with everything that has been done and put in place; everyone should keep in mind it is all subject to change as we get closer to the start date.

### **Adjournment**

Hearing no further business, the Board Chair entertained a motion of adjourn.

A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY MR. DELORENZO; SECONDED BY MRS. WILTSIE. THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:32 PM.

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



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