



Stratford Board of Education

STRATFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION – OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: November 23, 2020

**Meeting Location: Virtual Meeting via
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 |
| Linda Gejda | Asst. Superintendent | Central Office | Y |
| Pam Mangini | Chief Operating Officer | Central Office | Y |
| | | | |
| Teresa Lycoudes | Recorder | 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: 7:23 PM

4 AGENDA –

- **Opening Remarks by Chair** – The Board Chair (*Allison DelBene*) **opened the November 23, 2020 Board of Education regular meeting** (held virtually via Google Meets) at 7:15 PM. A Quorum was confirmed.

Mrs. DelBene asked everyone to stand as she gave the Invocation Prayer and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Student Representatives Report – There were no Student Representative reports at the virtual meeting. The Student Representatives have not reported at this point in time.

Public Participation – There were four (4) Public Speakers.

1. **Jennifer Kepchar** - 130 Barrister Road. - Stratford CT - Re-Entry to “In Person” learning for elementary students (opposed).
2. **Mike Fiorello** - Pandemic and Safety of Schools/Teachers
3. **Kelly Ryder** - 2201 Broadbridge Avenue - Stratford CT - Re-Entry to “In Person” learning for elementary students (opposed).
4. **Steve Taccogna**- 1319 Main Street - Stratford CT - Safety during the Pandemic and Improvement of Distance Learning

Superintendent’s Executive Report

- **Dr. Robinson reported about the following:**
 - **Status of the Schools:**
 - Re-Entry of Grade K and Grade 1 Students
 - Dr. Robinson reported the transition planning, etc. is a timely effort. She said it takes time to get all the components in place. The District is hoping to have all students back to “In Person” learning by mid January. Dr. Robinson reiterated that closings have been due mostly to lack of adequate staff and not for the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). A brief discussion took place between the Board Members and Administration. Ms. Cupee expressed her concerns and stated the Board isn’t being consulted about “In Person” versus “Remote” learning. Mrs. Wiltsie requested to hear again from the Transition Committee.
 - **BinaxNow Testing Kit** - Head Nurse, Kim Velazquez, is training to use the BinaxNow testing kit, and a number of kits will be made available for Stratford Public Schools.
 - **Operating Officer’s Report** - Mrs. Mangini (Chief Operating Officer) reported on the financials.
 - The Finance Committee met prior to the Board meeting. Mrs. Mangini reported that the Finance Department will continue to carefully monitor the budget.

Consent Agenda - The Consent Agenda portion consisting of the meeting minutes for October 26 (regular meeting) and November 5, 2020 (special meeting) was approved on a motion made by Mrs. Corcoran; seconded by Mr.

DeLorenzo, and passed unanimously with the request for a correction to be made to the November 5th special meeting minutes to include the selection of firm for the Superintendent Search. CES was chosen (Cooperative Education Services). A Roll Call Vote was taken.

The Personnel Assignments document was adopted on a motion made by Mrs. Rodia; seconded by Mr. Faggella, and passed unanimously (Roll Call Vote).

Budget Transfers totalling \$556,269.00 were approved on a motion made by Mrs. Roda; seconded by Ms. Cupee. Four new accounts were created to separate overtime expenses from the custodian's base salaries accounts. This will help the Board better analyze costs and trends. This entry is to transfer the budgetary overtime funds from the Custodian Salary accounts to their respective Overtime accounts. A Roll Call Vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Items For Action

- **Proposed: Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)**

Chief Operating Officer, Pam Mangini, and Director of Facilities, Rich Ruggiero attended the meeting in regards to the Capital Improvement Plan. It was the consensus of the Board to table the item to allow more time to review the content.

- **Proposed: Food Services' CEP (community Eligibility Provision)**

Chief Operating Officer, Pam Mangini, informed the Board that this provision does cost the district. Alan Dean, General Manager - Sodexo attended the Board meeting. He said a considerable amount of money was lost last school year through this program. Elementary Schools are serving both breakfast and lunch in the classrooms. In addition, the lunch times were extended. This required more staff to handle the program and decrease the incentive for parents/families in need to complete the application for Free/Reduced Lunch. Ms. Mangini informed the Board that if they choose to continue the program, a line would need to be added to the budget for the extra costs. She said a decision will need to be made by the end of January 2021.

- **Minority Teacher Recruitment Plan**

Assistant Human Resources Director, Yvonne Temple, presented the Minority Plan. A hand out had been distributed to the Board Members prior to the meeting and will be posted to the District Website. Mrs. Temple said the Minority Recruitment policy would be reviewed with the

Policy Review Committee in the near future. She said the policy had not been updated since 2009.

- **Academic Achievement**

Dr. Gejda (Assistant Superintendent) gave a brief presentation on Academic Achievement and how it is being measured during the pandemic. Dr. Gejda asked the Board members to email her with any questions they may have.

- **Tabled Items** - Residency was taken off the table on a motion made by Mrs. Wiltsie; seconded by Mrs. Corcoran. Mrs. Wiltsie asked for an update for the December Board meeting. Residency was put back on the table on a motion made by Mrs. Wiltsie; seconded by Mrs. Corcoran and passed unanimously. A Roll Call Vote was taken.
- **Committee Assignments** - Board Chair, Allison DelBene, reported that Jessica Curry was added as a member to the Curriculum Committee filling a vacant slot.

Committee Reports

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

The Curriculum Committee met on Tuesday, November 10, 2020. The committee discussed changes that have been incorporated into teaching.

The Town / SBOE Liaison Committee met on November 18, 2020. Mrs. DelBene stated that she thought it to be a productive meeting.

The District Diversity Committee met. Ms. Cupee reported the committee is headed up by Denise Massari and Heather Borges. She said the members discussed SEL and Equity.

Mrs. Corcoran reported the Wilcoxson PTSA received a Diversity Grant in the amount of \$1500 from the National PTSA.

Hearing no further discussion:

Adjournment - A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY MR.FAGGELLA; SECONDED BY MRS. WILTSIE. THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:40 PM.

Meeting recorded and minutes transcribed by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Teresa Lycoudes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and a long, sweeping underline.

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