



Stratford Board of Education

STRATFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION – OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: March 22, 2021

**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: 7:20 PM

4 AGENDA -

- **Opening Remarks by Chair** – The Board Chair (*Allison DelBene*) ***opened the March 22, 2021 Board of Education regular meeting*** (held virtually via Google Meets) at 7:20 PM. A Quorum was confirmed.

Mrs. DelBene led everyone in the Invocation Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

Student Representatives Report – The Student Representatives from both Bunnell and Stratford High School reported briefly on what is happening at their school.

1. Stratford High School - Logan Seaburg
2. Bunnell High School - Alicia Cook

Public Participation – There was one (1) Public Speaker:

1. **Mike Fiorello** - *20 Red Fox Road, Stratford CT* - Status of Stratford Public Schools.

Superintendent’s Executive Report

Presentation: March is Board Appreciation month. Each Board member received a small token of appreciation for the work they do, all their volunteer hours and dedication to the Stratford Public School system.

- **Dr. Robinson reported about the following:**
 - **Status of the Schools:**
 - Parents SEE
 - Dr. Robinson reported that the Parents SEE group is welcoming its 8th Cohort Group
 - Students Returning to “In Person” Learning
 - Dr. Robinson reported that 424 students have returned to “in person” learning. She said other students are excited about returning to school.
 - Returning to In Person Learning - April 5, 2021
 - Following safety protocols:
 - Desk Shields
 - Mask Wearing
 - 3 ft. Social Distancing - new guideline (CDC)
 - 5 days / week
 - Remote Learning will remain optional.
 - Residency

Discussion: Mrs. Corcoran asked if there were concerns about the Spring Recess break coming up in April. Dr. Robinson stated the guidance has changed from CDC. Social Distance measures 3 ft at present rather than the previous 6 ft protocol, and no quarantine after travel, at this point in time.

Mrs. Rodia stated that several of Stratford’s schools have been forced to close and work remotely. She said some have remained closed. Her concern is simply - “How do we get through the holiday break?”

Dr. Robinson reminded the Board members that Stratford approaches coronavirus very conservatively putting safety first. She said that often it is

only one person that sends a number of staff and students into quarantine. She added that Stratford still observes a 14 day quarantine, as well.

Mr. Faggella said Milford Public Schools are in full operation and it appears to be working for them.

- **Chief 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 and will be looking for guidance on how to use the ESSER funds..
 - Mrs. Mangini reported that Alan Dean (Sodexo) is present to talk about the Food Service Program.
- **Presentation on the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)** - Alan Dean (SODEXO)
 - Mr. Dean gave a brief overview of the Community Eligibility Provision and how it impacts the District.
- **Consent Agenda** - The Consent Agenda was voted on as follows:

A motion was made by Mrs. Rodia; seconded by Miss Cupee to accept the meeting minutes for **February 22, 2021** (regular meeting) and the February 25, 2021 (special meeting), and the budget transfers forwarded by the Finance Committee. A Roll Call vote was taken and the motion passed 7 - 0.

A motion was made by Mr. Faggella; seconded by Mrs. Wiltsie to accept the Personnel Assignments document. Mrs. Rodia stated she had concerns regarding Section E - Coaches, Athletic Workers, etc. - mainly the difference in pay regarding Athletic Workers. Mrs. Mangini stated the difference in the pay level of \$50 - \$125 was determined by the position (gatekeeper, security, event worker, etc.) Mrs. Rodia said she did not feel comfortable passing this until the Board was given more information.

A motion was made by Mrs. Rodia to Table Section E: Coaches, Athletic Workers, etc. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeLorenzo. A Roll Call vote was taken. The motion to table passed unanimously. 7-0

A roll call vote was taken to accept the remainder of the Personnel Assignments document, and passed unanimously. 7-0

Items For Action

- **Proposed: Healthy Food Certification for SY 2021-2022**

a) **Proposed: Healthy Food Certification (to certify)** – Pursuant to Section 20-215f of the Connecticut General State Statutes, the Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the CT Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups.

A motion was made by Miss Cupee; seconded by Mrs. Corcoran. A Roll Call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously 7-0.

b) **Proposed: Healthy Food Certification Exemption Statement** – 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. Rodia; seconded by Miss Cupee. A Roll Call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously 7-0.

c) **Proposed: Healthy Food Certification Beverage Exemption Statement** - 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 Miss Cupee; seconded by Mrs. Rodia. A Roll Call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously 7-0.

- **Proposed: Policies for Adoption**

a) **Sexual Harassment (Revised) P4118.112 / 4218.112**

A motion to adopt Policy P4118.112 / 4218.112 was made by Miss Cupee; seconded by Mrs. Wiltsie. A Roll Call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously 7-0.

b) **Anti-Racism (Confronting Racism in Schools P0525.1**

A motion to adopt Policy P0525.1 was made by Miss Cupee; seconded by Mrs. Rodia. A Roll Call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously 7-0.

c) **Drug & Alcohol Testing for Bus Drivers P 4212.42 (Revised)**

A motion to adopt Policy P4212.42 was made by Miss Cupee; seconded by Mrs. Rodia. A Roll Call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously 7-0.

d) **Equity & Diversity P0523**

A motion to adopt Policy P0523 was made by Miss Cupee; seconded by Mrs. Rodia. A Roll Call Vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously 7-0.

● **Signature Page / Milford Bank - appointing Pamela Mangini as a designated Signee.**

A motion to approve was made by Mrs. Rodia; seconded by Miss Cupee. A Roll Call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously 7-0.

● **Stratford High School Rooftop Solar Photovoltaic Project Manual - Requires Board approval / adoption for Town to send to State of CT for DAS:**

- **Motion - Approval of the final Stratford High school Phase Four Plans and Project Manual as prepared for bidding and dated March 1, 2021, and the associated Professional Cost Estimate for State Office of School Construction Grants & Review Project Number 138-0101-PV, Phase 4 (rooftop solar photovoltaic system). This motion authorizes the Chair of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools to sign State Form SCG-042 REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF FINAL PLANS.**
- **b) Resolved - BE IT RESOLVED that the Stratford Board of Education formally approves the final Stratford High school Phase One Plans and Project Manual(s) as prepared for bidding and dated March 1, 2021, and the associated Professional Cost Estimate , for State Office of School Construction Grants & Review Project Number 138-0101 PV, Phase 4 (rooftop solar photovoltaic system).**

The motion was made by Mrs. Rodia; seconded by Miss Cupee. A Roll Call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously 7-0

- **½ Day Wednesdays - A brief discussion took place about the utilization of ½ day Wednesdays at the Elementary level.**

A motion was made to allow for ½ day Wednesday through April. This will be revisited at the April meeting. The following additional information was requested:

1. Number of Distance Learners at that point in time.
2. Teacher Input
3. Alternative Plan

The above motion was made by Mrs. Wiltsie; seconded by Mrs. Corcoran and the motion carried unanimously 7-0. A Roll Call Vote was taken.

- **Appoint the Committee for renaming the SHS English Wing and Committee Charge**

Policy 7551 - Renaming of Facilities - A subcommittee must be named consisting of the following:

- **Board Chair (ex officio) - Allison DelBene**
- **Supt. of Schools (ex officio) - Dr. Janet Robinson**
- **School Plant Planning Committee Member - Vinny Faggella (Chair)**
- **Facility Administrator - Jack Dellapiano, SHS Principal**
- **Teacher - TBD**
- **Parent of student enrolled at present in SPS - TBD**
- **Community Member(s) - 2 - TBD**
- **Tabled Items** - Tabled Items remained on the table.
- **Committee Assignments** -
 - There were no appointments.

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, March 9, 2021.

The **Town / SBOE Liaison Committee** met on March 17, 2021, but had to cancel the meeting due to an error in posting.

Mr. Faggella reported the **School Plant Planning Committee** will meet next on April 1st. Rebecca Augur from SLR (formerly Milone and MacBroom) will update the committee on the Enrollment and Demographics Analysis report. Brian Snyder will also attend to update the committee.

Mr. DeLorenzo reported the **Athletic Review Committee** met on Monday, March 8th. He said Board members Amy Wiltsie and Andrea Corcoran, have recently been appointed to the Athletic Review Committee.

Hearing no further discussion:

Adjournment - A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY MRS. RODIA; SECONDED BY MRS. CUPEE. THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:20 PM.

Meeting recorded and minutes transcribed by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Teresa Lycoudes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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