



Stratford Board of Education

STRATFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION – OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES (Special Mtg.)

Meeting Date: September 29, 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: 7:15 PM

4 AGENDA –

- **Opening Remarks by Chair** – The Board Chair (*Allison DelBene*) **opened the September 29, 2020 Board of Education special meeting** (held virtually via Google Meets) at 7:15 PM. A Quorum was confirmed.

Mrs. DelBene reminded the Board members of their bylaws and stated a reminder that Board members have no authority to direct staff or act on their own accord. The Board is a unit of 7 members.

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 no public speakers due to the virtual meeting.

Recognitions –

- There were no recognitions

Superintendent's Executive Report

- **Dr. Robinson reported about the following:**
 - Status of the Schools:
 - Hybrid Model and the start of school on September 9th.
 - Working hand in hand with the Department of Public Health (Andrea Boissevain and Bernie Bova) and Kim Velazquez (Head Nurse for Stratford Public Schools). The Town Department of Public Health is working closely with the State Department of Public Health.
 - Social Distancing - Safety and Health in our schools - Andrea Boissevain (Director of Department of Public Health-Stratford) and Bernie Bova were on the virtual meeting to talk about the safety protocol and status of the pandemic. A brief questions and answers session was held for Board members to ask their questions.
 - Distance Learning
 - Shortage of Substitute Teachers
 - Social Emotional Learning
 - Dr. Robinson announced that this school year 2020-2021 will be her last year with Stratford Public Schools. She will be retiring at the end of this fiscal year.

Mrs. DelBene, on behalf of the Stratford Board of Education, thanked Dr. Robinson for all that she has accomplished with and for Stratford Public Schools.

Chief Operating Officer's Report - Mrs. Mangini (Chief Operating Officer) reported on the financials.

- Non-Lapsing Account
- Recommended Budget reductions.
 - For approval on the October 26th Board agenda.
- COVID-19 Expenses
- Immediate temporary freeze on discretionary spending.
- Grants

Consent Agenda - The Consent Agenda consisting of the meeting minutes for August 24, 2020 and special meeting minutes for September 1st and 9th was passed on a motion made by Mrs. Wiltsie; seconded by Mrs. Rodia, and passed unanimously (Roll Call Vote). A correction was requested for the September 9th minutes in regards to the misspelling of Mrs. Wiltsie's name.

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

There were no budget transfers.

Items For Action

- **Proposed: Board Approval / Adoption of Flexibility regarding the Teachers' Evaluation Program (TEVAL)**

A motion was made by Mrs. Corcoran; seconded by Mr. Faggella to authorize the above request approving flexibility regarding TEVAL (Teachers' Evaluation Program). A Roll Call Vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (7 - 0).

- **Proposed: Tuition Rates for 2020-2021SY (Set by State of CT)**

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

Tabled Items - Residency

A motion was made by Mrs. Rodia; seconded by Mrs. Wiltsie to take Residency off the table for discussion. Mrs. Rodia stated that she believed money could be saved and requested that Dr. Robinson either reach out or have Larry Ciccarelli reach out to the Norwich district to find out how they saved a substantial amount of money on residency issues. Dr. Robinson said that she would look into this. Mrs. Wiltsie requested an updated residency report for the October regular Board meeting.

Hearing no further discussion, a motion was made by Mrs. Rodia; seconded by Mrs. Wiltsie to put Residency back on the table. Motion passed 6 - 1.

Committee Reports

The Finance Committee held a special meeting 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 September 16, 2020. Mrs. DelBene stated that she thought it to be a productive meeting. Mrs. Wiltsie said she was impressed by the Council's praise of our schools' custodial staff. Mrs. Wiltsie expressed concern for custodian burnout keeping their busy schedule and following safety/health protocol during this pandemic.

Mr. Faggella stated that he looks forward to holding a School Plant Planning Committee meeting in the near future to talk about possibly revisiting boundary lines for the schools.

Mrs. DelBene said she had hopes of meeting "in person" for the October meeting and if that weren't possible to at least make provisions for virtual speakers.

Hearing no further discussion:

Adjournment - A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY MRS. RODIA; SECONDED BY MRS. WILTSIE THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:11 PM.

Meeting recorded and minutes transcribed by:



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