



Stratford Board of Education

STRATFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION – SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: July 10, 2017

Meeting Location: Board Room / Admin. Center
1000 East Broadway, Stratford, CT 06615

Approved: **DRAFT**

Recorded By: Teresa Lycoudes/
Secretary to the Board of Education

1 ATTENDANCE

Name	Title	Location	Present
James Feehan	Board Chair		Y (via telephone)
Leonard Petruccelli	Board Vice Chair		Y
Theresa Sheehy	Board Secretary		Y
Chris Barnaby	Board Member		Y
Maria Buturla	Board Member		Y
Susan Lance	Board Member		Y
Eric Lazaro	Board Member		Y
Dr. Janet Robinson	Superintendent	Central Office	Y
Clarence Zachery	Chief Operating Officer	Central Office	Y
Linda Gejda	Asst. Superintendent	Central Office	Y
Teresa Lycoudes	Recorder / Board Secretary	Central Office	Y
Mike Fiorello, Kristin Record, Robin Julian	SEA Representatives	BHS & VSS - Instructors	Y
Lou Spetrino	Videographer		Y

2 MEETING LOCATION

Building: Administration Center / Board Room – 1000 East Broadway

3 MEETING START

Meeting Scheduled to Start: 7:30 PM
Actual Start Time: 7:30 PM

4 AGENDA

- **Opening Remarks by Chair**

1. Board Vice-Chair (Leonard Petruccelli) opened the July 10, 2017 Board of Education special meeting (held in the Board Room / Administration Center – 1000 East Broadway, Stratford CT) at 7:15 PM. At that time, Mr. Petruccelli stated that a Quorum was confirmed and that Board Chair, Jim Feehan, would be joining later via telephone. He then called a recess.

The meeting reconvened at 7:32 PM.

- **Items for Discussion / Action**
 - **Proposed: Status of Forensic Audit**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. LANCE; SECONDED BY MR. BARNABY TO OPEN THE TOPIC “STATUS OF FORENSIC AUDIT” FOR DISCUSSION.

Mr. Feehan (via telephone) reported that the questions submitted to the attorney regarding the forensic audit have been reviewed and it has been determined an audit of this nature could cost anywhere between \$15,000 to \$25,000.

Mrs. Sheehy stated that while she understands the “why”, she would like to ask who is paying for this. She said the Board has no extra monies to pay for this. Mrs. Sheehy said she understands the Town is audited annually (including the Board of Education Central Office). She added that the Board is also annually audited by the State of Connecticut. She said it is hard to justify spending additional monies to satisfy a hand full of people.

Mr. Zachery reported the regular annual audit begins in approximately two weeks. He said he has concerns as to how two audit teams are going to be housed in the same building mostly likely requesting and reviewing the same documents. He said from his point of view, this is a logistical concern.

Mr. Barnaby said an additional audit is just to satisfy certain public members. He said their questions have been answered on several occasions, and they don’t like the answers they’re given. He said, the truth is the answers have been provided but they aren’t good enough to satisfy these public members.

Mrs. Buturla said she believes this will be a redundant process.

Mrs. Lance said it is not and has not been a part of the budget, and those monies would be put to better use in the classroom for the students.

Mr. Zachery said the questions submitted by the public could be answered by the team of auditors that will be here as part of the normal annual process.

Mr. Petruccelli said the Board was elected to do what’s best for the students. He said a lot of accusations have been falsely made. He said the Town Council is responsible for the hiring of the annual audit team and they should be comfortable with who is in place.

The meeting, once again recessed at 7:38 PM
The meeting reconvened at 7:41 PM

Mr. Feehan asked if there are any monies left from last year in any way that could be used to pay for the audit. Mr. Zachery stated it would be illegal to use last year's monies; however, in any case, the answer would be no. There are no extra monies.

Mr. Feehan stated that everyone's points made were valid remarks. He said it has been a process that involves public trust. He said he believes if the audit does not take place, it will be going against what the Board is trying to rebuild. He said the monies will have to be found somewhere.

Mr. Barnaby asked if the questions could be given to the normal annual audit team. Mr. Feehan said the public and Town Council members are looking for someone neutral with no influence on either side.

Mr. Petruccelli suggested tabling the topic and putting it on a future Town / BOE Liaison agenda for further discussion between both sides.

Mr. Feehan directed Mr. Zachery to contact the normal audit team and see what their additional charge would be to add the questions to their annual audit process.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. SHEEHY; SECONDED BY MR. BARNABY TO TABLE THIS ITEM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7:0.

Mr. Feehan asked that an additional special Board meeting be scheduled for Friday, July 14, 2017 to talk about and take possible action on the hiring freeze.

▪ **ADJOURNMENT**

- The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM upon a motion made by Mrs. Sheehy; seconded by Mr. Barnaby, and carried unanimously.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Stratford Board of Education is scheduled for **Monday, August 28, 2017**. The meeting location will be the Board Room at the Administration Center (1000 East Broadway) and the meeting time will be 7:15 PM.

Meeting recorded and minutes transcribed by:



Teresa Lycoudes, Board Secretary & Executive Assistant to the Superintendent