



## **Stratford Board of Education**

---

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

---

**Meeting Date:** July 14, 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
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,	SEA Representatives	SEA President	Y
Lou Spetrino	Videographer		Y

## 2 MEETING LOCATION

Building: Administration Center / Board Room – 1000 East Broadway

## 3 MEETING START

Meeting Scheduled to Start: 8:30 AM  
Actual Start Time: 8:30 AM

## 4 AGENDA

- **Opening Remarks by Chair**

1. Board Chair (James Feehan) opened the July 14, 2017 Board of Education special meeting (held in the Board Room / Administration Center – 1000 East Broadway, Stratford CT) at 8:30 AM. A Quorum was confirmed.

- **Items for Discussion / Action**

- **Proposed: Status of Hiring Freeze**

Mr. Feehan informed everyone that by law the Board is operating under last year's budget + existing contractual obligations. He stated a budget did get passed by the Town Council last evening (July 13, 2017) of 2.35%. However, Mr. Feehan noted it is uncertain (at this point in time) as to whether the Mayor plans to veto this budget, as well or accept it. He said, in either case, 2.35% is not enough and will not fulfill the Board's status quo requirement of at least 2.65%.

Mr. Feehan stated that he (acting as Board Chair) and the Administration could, however, signal the state (at any time) as to whether the funding received is improper funding which means it would not meet the MBR (Minimum Budget Requirement) under state law.

Dr. Robinson stated that she is requesting for administration to be authorized to allocate the budget salary monies based upon the prioritized needs of the district (referencing hiring freeze status). She said the prime hiring time is spring for college graduates that are seeking teaching positions and could be obtained at a lower pay wage. The district has missed that window of opportunity. Dr. Robinson noted it is now mid-July. Classrooms will be resuming in just a few short weeks and teachers and all that go with it will be required to be in order for the start of school. Dr. Robinson noted that when teachers or other staff members are hired from another district, the other district has the option of holding them for 30 days. This means it is likely there will be classrooms that will start with a substitute teacher. Mrs. Lance asked if Stratford staff members leaving for other districts, would we held here for 30 days, as well. Dr. Robinson said that is correct.

Dr. Robinson also noted that any candidates coming in now and closer to the start of school year 2017-18 will most likely be at a higher cost, as well. She said there is a real sense of urgency to fill these vacancies at this point in time. Dr. Robinson said the positions before the Board for approval are positions that we have to fill. They are needs not wants.

Mr. Feehan said that Stratford and the State of Connecticut are constantly in the news and social media. He said it is his belief the hiring freeze should be lifted and the administration should be free to move the district forward as they see fit. He said the administration is most capable of knowing the needs of the district and prioritizing those needs.

It was brought to the Board's attention that the district is losing staff members due to the budget chaos that's currently taking place.

Recent positions open from staff leaving the district because of the budget upset are the following:

1. Lead Technology Integration Specialist
2. Music Teacher at Whitney/Lordship Elementary Schools

Dr. Robinson stated that there are other staff members who are anxious because of the current budget status and chaos.

Mr. Zachery stated that all staff requested on the list put forth to the Board directly impact the welfare of the district's students whether they be teachers, security guards or custodians.

After hearing no further discussion:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. BARNABY; SECONDED BY MRS. LANCE TO REMOVE THE HIRING FREEZE THAT WAS PUT IN PLACE BY THE BOARD AT THE MAY 2017 MEETING.

MR. PETRUCCELLI AMENDED THE MOTION BY ADDING THAT ONLY THE HIRING OF CLASSROOM TEACHERS BE ALLOWED. THE AMENDMENT TO THE ORIGINAL MOTION WAS ACCEPTED BY BOTH MR. BARNABY AND MRS. LANCE.

MRS. LANCE MADE AN AMENDMENT TO THE PREVAILING MOTION THAT THE HIRING OF TEACHERS AND SUPPORT STAFF FOR CLASSROOMS BE APPROVED. THE MOTION FAILED 5:1.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. LAZARO TO REVIEW THE PERSONNEL LIST LINE BY LINE; SECONDED BY MR. PETRUCCELLI. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MR. PETRUCCELLI MADE A MOTION TO REMOVE THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL POSITION FROM FRANKLIN / LORDSHIP ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS. THERE WAS NO SECOND; THEREFORE, NO MOTION.

MRS. LANCE MADE A MOTION TO REMOVE THE INCLUSION FACILITATOR TO PPS; THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. PETRUCCELLI. A ROLE CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AND TIED; THEREFORE, MOTION FAILED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. PETRUCCELLI TO REMOVE THE .6 HR POSITION; SECONDED BY MR. LAZARO. THE MOTION FAILED 4:2.

Discussion took place regarding the vacant position left by the retirement of the Chief Operating Officer's secretary. The position has been reconfigured to no longer be part of a bargaining unit and the title shall be Executive Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. LANCE; SECONDED BY MR. PETRUCCELLI TO REMOVE THE LEAD TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION SPECIALIST. THE MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. LANCE; SECONDED BY MR. LAZARO TO REMOVE THE MIDDLE SCHOOL COACHES. THE MOTION FAILED UNANIMOUSLY.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. LAZARO; SECONDED BY MRS. SHEEHY TO APPROVE THE PERSONNEL LIST IN ITS ENTIRITY, WITH THE EXCLUSION OF THE LEAD TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION SPECIALIST. THE MOTION CARRIED 5:1.

Mr. Feehan directed the Administration to forward future lists for hiring to Teresa Lycoudes who would then schedule a special Board meeting. Mr. Feehan stated that he expected all Board members to be available to attend any such meetings set.

▪ **ADJOURNMENT**

- The meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM upon a motion made by Mr. Petrucelli; seconded by Mrs. Sheehy, 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**