



Stratford Board of Education

STRATFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION – SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: August 7, 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		N
Theresa Sheehy	Board Secretary		Y
Chris Barnaby	Board Member		N
Maria Buturla	Board Member		Y
Susan Lance	Board Member		Y
Eric Lazaro	Board Member		N
Dr. Janet Robinson	Superintendent	Central Office	N
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		N

2 MEETING LOCATION

Building: Administration Center / Board Room – 1000 East Broadway

3 MEETING START

Meeting Scheduled to Start: 8:30 AM
Actual Start Time: 8:39 AM

4 AGENDA

• Opening Remarks by Chair

1. Board Chair (James Feehan) opened the August 7, 2017 Board of Education special meeting (held in the Board Room / Administration Center – 1000 East Broadway, Stratford CT) at 8:39 AM. A Quorum was confirmed.

• Items for Discussion / Action

- **Proposed: Status of Audit** – Mr. Feehan opened discussion regarding the status of a separate forensic audit. He said without

a budget in place, the process for a separate forensic audit may not be taking place in the near future. Mr. Feehan said that costs have been obtained regarding the audit and the following unfolded:

1. **Separate Firm – Blum Shapiro** has informed Attorney Grello’s office the cost of the audit would fall in the range of approximately \$15,000 - \$20,000; however, this would not provide an answer to all questions submitted due to the nature of the questions. Some of the questions are not audit material. It is more a questions as to how administration is operating.
2. **Auditors Already in Place** – The cost added to the audit that will be taking place over the course of the next few weeks is roughly \$40,000 to \$50,000; and, again it could not answer all of the questions.

Discussion took place about the direction the Board should follow. Mrs. Sheehy said she sees it as the Board is in a “catch 22”. She said whatever path will be chosen will not be the right one and will not and cannot satisfy everyone in the community. She said one question will continue to lead to another, and she doesn’t believe there’s an end in sight.

Mrs. Buturla stated that she would rather see the monies go for the schools instead of an audit when the Board is audited twice a year.

Mrs. Sheehy said there is no money to pay for this audit.

Mr. Feehan said it comes down to the following:

- The Board chooses the lesser cost at \$15 - \$20 thousand dollars, which would answer some of the questions.
- The Board chooses the auditors in place at a higher cost that would still not be able to answer some of the questions the way they have been presented.
- Or, the Board chooses to do nothing which would not be an answer to anything, and would definitely be against the commitment made to the district and community.

Either way, Mr. Feehan stated, as it stands now, there is no budget. Once more is known regarding funding, the Board can then revisit and review the audit costs and come to a decision.

Mr. Feehan asked that the audit remain on the agenda for the regular Board meeting taking place August 28th.

Mrs. Lycoudes said that it is on the agenda as a tabled item.

- **Proposed: Status of Hiring Freeze (personnel appointments, reassignments, retirements, reclassifications, etc.)**
- A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. LANCE TO APPROVE THE PERSONNEL REQUESTS; SECONDED BY MRS. SHEEHY. THE MOTION CARRIED (4:0).

Again, Mr. Feehan asked the Board if they wish to keep the hiring freeze in place. It continued to be a consensus of the Board to keep the hiring freeze in effect, at this point in time.

▪ **ADJOURNMENT**

- The meeting adjourned at 8:58 AM upon a motion made by Mrs. Lance; 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