

The Public Budget Hearing of the Stafford Township Board of Education was held on April 27, 2023 at 7:15pm at the Stafford Township Arts Center (STAC) and was live streamed over the web.

CALL TO ORDER

The Stafford Township Board of Education is called to order in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act Law - 1975 Chapter 231 (P.L. 1975-231C). This meeting was advertised in the Atlantic City Press. Notice has been posted in the office of the Stafford Township Clerk, all school buildings and on the district website. A mechanical device is being used to video record this meeting.

ROLL CALL

Cono Cirone	Member
Kevin Cooney	Member
Patricia Formica	Member
Deborah Lyons	Member (Absent)
Matthew Regulski	Member (Absent)
Christopher Smith	Member
Joseph Washco	Member
Taylor Brennan	Vice President
Tammy Wagner	President

ALSO PRESENT

George J. Chidiac	Superintendent
Lourdes LaGuardia	Business Administrator/Board of Education Secretary
Martin J. Buckley, Esq.	Board of Education Attorney

FLAG SALUTE

A. RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

- The 2023-2024 Budget as presented by George Chidiac, Superintendent and Lourdes LaGuardia, School Business Administrator.

B. COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

None

C. CORRESPONDENCE TO AND FROM THE BOARD

None

D. BOARD BUSINESS

Mrs. LaGuardia introduced two walk-in Resolutions:

- A. To approve the Settlement Agreement (Docket #CO-2022-230 and AR-2023-302) between Stafford Township Education Association (STEA) and Stafford Township Board of Education dated April 25, 2023.
- B. To approve City MD in Manahawkin, NJ as the sending laboratory in regards to Policy and Regulation 3218 and 4218 for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school year.

A motion was made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Mr. Cirone to approve Board Business item(s) #A-B. Roll call vote: seven (7) members present voted yes; motion passed.

- 1. To adopt the following resolution “Adoption of the Final Budget 2023-2024”:

ADOPTION OF THE FINAL BUDGET
2023-2024

**Adjustment
S-3732**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Stafford Township Board of Education includes in this final budget \$1,566,594 of additional surplus generated in the 2022-2023 school year resulting from Senate Bill 3732 provision for Supplemental Stabilization Aid.

**Adjustment
Medicaid SEMI Alternate Revenue Projection**

RESOLVED that the Stafford Township Board of Education includes in the proposed budget the alternate revenue projection for Medicaid Semi in the amount of \$46,737 for the 2023-2024 school year.

**Adjustment
Capital Reserve Withdrawal**

RESOLVED that the Stafford Township Board of Education includes in the proposed budget a withdrawal from the General Fund Reserve Account for Other Capital Projects in the amount of \$47,600 for the purpose of PLC Bathroom Renovations. In addition the district proposes a withdrawal of \$3,000,000 for excess cost relative to ROD Grant submission for building infrastructure improvements at Ocean Acres and Intermediate schools. The unused funds shall revert back to Capital Reserve.

**Adjustment
Emergency Reserve Withdrawal**

RESOLVED that the Stafford Township Board of Education includes in the proposed budget a withdrawal from the General Fund Reserve Account for Other Projects for the purpose of district security funding in the amount of \$40,000. The unused funds shall revert back to Reserve.

Adjustment for Enrollment

BE IT RESOLVED that the Stafford Township Board of Education includes in the final budget the adjustment for enrollment in the amount of \$368,271. The district intends to utilize this adjustment for supplies and materials necessary for the additional students.

**Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement
2023-2024**

WHEREAS, the Stafford Township Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$1500 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and

WHEREAS, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq, but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.2(b), to a maximum expenditure of \$50,000 for all staff and board members.

**Adoption of Final Budget
2023-2024**

BE IT RESOLVED that the final budget be approved for the 2023-2024 school year using the 2023-2024 state aid figures and the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit the following final budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

	<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>SPECIAL REVENUES</u>	<u>DEBT SERVICE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Total Proposed Budget	47,190,670	6,022,139	676,250	53,889,059
Tax Levy	31,896,233		446,326	32,342,559

**Adoption of Final Preschool Budget Workbook
2023-2024**

BE IT RESOLVED that the final preschool budget workbook in the amount of \$5,054,875 be approved for the 2023-2024 school year using the 2023-2024 state aid figures and the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit the final preschool budget workbook to the New Jersey Division of Early Childhood Services for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline.

2. To approve the attached tuition rates for the 2023-2024 school year.

A motion was made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Mr. Smith to approve Board Business item(s) #1-2. Roll call vote: seven (7) members present voted yes; motion passed.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

F. CLOSED SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Formica and seconded by Mr. Cooney to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm. Voice vote: All members present voted yes (7-0); motion passed.

Lourdes LaGuardia
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

LL/km/5-2-2023