

STAFFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
Manahawkin, NJ 08050

PUBLIC AGENDA

BUSINESS MEETING

PLACE: Oxycocus Elementary School
Stafford Room

DATE: February 22, 2024

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

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

Brian Fenlon	Member
Gregory Gioe	Member
Robert Morello	Member
Matthew Regulski	Member
Christopher Smith	Member
Bonnie Strouse	Member
Joseph Washco	Member
Kevin Cooney	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

~McKinley Student/Staff Recognition

~Intermediate Staff Recognition

B. SUPERINTENDENT'S EDUCATIONAL REPORT - Attachment

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

*NOTE: If a board member was absent (listed below), they are to abstain from the vote on that item/meeting.

To approve the minutes of the following meeting(s):

1. January 3, 2024 Reorg Meeting – No Absences
2. January 3, 2024 Closed Session – No Absences
3. January 8, 2024 Committee of the Whole – No Absences
4. January 8, 2024 Business Meeting – No Absences
5. January 8, 2024 Closed Session – No Absences

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Ab		Yes	No	Ab
Brian Fenlon	___	___	___	Bonnie Strouse	___	___	___
Gregory Gioe	___	___	___	Joseph Washco	___	___	___
Robert Morello	___	___	___	Kevin Cooney	___	___	___
Matthew Regulski	___	___	___	Tammy Wagner	___	___	___
Christopher Smith	___	___	___				

D. COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

The Stafford Township Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters of community interest, especially when it is intended to assist the Board of Education.

Please feel free to speak to the Board during the public session. Pursuant to Board Policy 0167, comments and discussion will be limited to one three (3) minute period per individual unless requested by the chairperson to continue on a point of clarification.

Public comment at special meetings of the Board shall be related to the call of the meeting. In accordance with the Board of Education Policy, each participant must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface their comments by an announcement of their name, address and group affiliation, if applicable.

Your anticipated courtesy to the members of the public and the Board is appreciated.

E. CORRESPONDENCE TO AND FROM THE BOARD

F. BOARD BUSINESS

1. There were four incidents of harassment, intimidation, and bullying.
2. To affirm the determination of the Superintendent regarding harassment, intimidation, and bullying incident investigation – McKinley #2, McKinley #3.
3. To approve the attached revised Transportation Operations Manual.
4. To approve the attached Sidebar Agreement between Stafford Township Education Association (STEA) and Stafford Township Board of Education dated February 22, 2024 with regard to Part-Time Bus Mechanic.
5. To approve the attached Sidebar Agreement between Stafford Township Education Association (STEA) and Stafford Township Board of Education dated February 22, 2024 with regard to Double Back Runs.

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Ab		Yes	No	Ab
Brian Fenlon	___	___	___	Bonnie Strouse	___	___	___
Gregory Gioe	___	___	___	Joseph Washco	___	___	___
Robert Morello	___	___	___	Kevin Cooney	___	___	___
Matthew Regulski	___	___	___	Tammy Wagner	___	___	___
Christopher Smith	___	___	___				

NEW BUSINESS

G. FINANCE/INSURANCE/TRANSPORTATION

The Committee of the Whole has reviewed the following action items, has consulted with the superintendent, school business administrator/board secretary and other appropriate district officials, and hereby certifies that the actions being approved are consistent with the 2023-2024 board/district goals. In addition, we further certify that we have reviewed the attached bill list and are satisfied that curriculum related expenditures are directly related to the results of assessment data and that professional development expenditures are directly related to professional development plans.

1. To approve for payment of February 2024 bills list totaling \$2,660,811.62 as attached. (G-1)

Fund 10 - \$2,175,482.25
Fund 20 - \$304,746.03
Fund 30 - \$0
Fund 40 - \$0
Fund 60 - \$170,926.52
Fund 61 - \$9,656.82

*Note - \$1,586,016.22 of the amounts listed were made as EFT payments. (G-1a)

*To approve for payment of January 2024 additional bills list totaling \$3,931,317.15 as attached. (G-1b)

Fund 10 - \$3,845,062.67
Fund 20 - \$83,620.48
Fund 30 - \$0
Fund 40 - \$0
Fund 60 - \$0
Fund 61 - \$2,634

*Note - \$3,557,823.15 of the amounts listed were made as EFT payments. (G-1c)

2. To approve for payment of payroll

- a. dated December 22, 2023 totaling \$1,476,162.54
- b. dated January 15, 2024 totaling \$1,390,075.78
- c. dated January 29, 2024 totaling \$1,508,906.85

3. To accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of December 2023.

4. To accept the Secretary's Report for the month of December 2023.

5. Certification of Overexpenditures:

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c)3, I, Lourdes LaGuardia, Board of Education Secretary, certify that as of December 2023 no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a).

Board of Education Secretary

Date

Board Resolution:

Through the adoption of this resolution, we, the Stafford Township Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c)4, certify that as of December 2023 after review of the secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the business administrator and other appropriate district officials, that no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(b)4 I-VI and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

6. To approve the attached line item transfers.
7. To authorize the Business Administrator to make payment of post-Board meeting bills for the month of February 2024 and to execute mid-cycle contracts such as utilities and out-of-district contracts. Specifics of these transactions, if any, will be provided for ratification at the next regular scheduled board meeting.
8. To approve the attached list of donations.
9. To approve the attached Agreement for E-Rate Services for Funding Year 2024 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025) and Funding Year 2025 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026) with E-Rate Partners, LLC. The annual fee for each funding year will be: Category 1 services \$1600 and Category 2 services will be calculated based on the amount of Category 2 funding requested.
10. To approve the submission of the National School Lunch Program FY'23 Equipment and Assistance Grant for McKinley and Oxycocus Schools. Each application total funding request totals no more than \$20,000 as stipulated in the grant.
11. To approve Children's Specialized Hospital as a consultant to the Child Study Team for Audiology Services for the 2023-2024 school year, commencing on February 1, 2024 as per the attached fee sheet.
12. To approve the attached School Contract with New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired in the amount of \$1,310 for student #22597 for the 2023-2024 school year, commencing on January 2, 2024.
13. To approve student #24793 to receive home instruction for the 2023-2024 school year, commencing January 9, 2024. This student will receive ten hours of home instruction per week at the rate of \$51.44 per hour.

14. To approve Melissa Phillips, MA, CCC-SLP as a consultant to the Child Study Team for the 2023-2024 school year, commencing February 1, 2024 in the amount of \$950 per evaluation, travel fee of \$35 per 30 minutes, \$100 per hour if additional consultation or meeting attendance is requested; fee sheet is attached.
15. To authorize the Business Administrator to transfer excess funds from Capital Outlay to Capital Reserve as a result of project close-out for previous ROD district portion in the amount of \$96,126.17.
16. To authorize the Business Administrator to transfer excess funds from Capital Outlay to Capital Reserve as a result of project close-out for previous Bus Garage Project district portion in the amount of \$87,935.76.
17. To approve to submit the Statement of Assurance to the NJSDA and NJDOE Emergent and Capital Maintenance Needs to qualify for funds in the amount of \$56,613 for the 2023-2024 school year. Further to accept use of these funds to be allocated to address emergent projects as well as capital maintenance projects.
18. To approve submission of an amendment and acceptance of an additional \$595 of sub-grant funds for the American Rescue Plan Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP-ESSER) Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) to bring the total of subgrant to \$12,026. We previously received \$11,431 and the state recently gave school districts supplemental money for this grant.
19. To approve the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Stafford Township School District currently transports 2,650 students in grades Preschool through Grade 6 in Stafford Township, Ocean County, New Jersey. Transportation is provided to resident students attending one of the Township's five public schools which include Oxycocus Elementary School, Ronald L. Meinders Primary Learning Center, Ocean Acres Elementary School, McKinley Avenue Elementary School, Stafford Intermediate School and various private before/aftercare centers and preschools. Transportation coverage spans 47 square miles in the Stafford Township Developments which include: Manahawkin, Ocean Acres, Beach Haven West, Cedar Bonnet, Colony Lakes, Warren Grove, West Creek, Deer Lake Park, Cedar Run, Mayetta, The Preserves, The Landings, Mud City, Route 72 East and West Corridor, Route 9 North and South Corridor encompassing Residential Homes, Townhomes, Mobile Home Parks, Low Income Housing, Waterfront Homes and Farm Houses.

WHEREAS, the Stafford Township School District has experienced a twenty (20%) increased growth in student enrollment since September 2020. This as a result of Pandemic migrations, new home builds and providing students in-classroom experiences during such time.

WHEREAS, School Bus Drivers remain a vital part of the education system. In Stafford Township most families rely on school transportation. Yet, the district is among the many schools throughout the state continuing to experience school bus driver shortages. Asking fewer bus drivers to pick up more students means longer routes, earlier or later morning pick-ups, and later drop-offs. These burdensome logistics increase the likelihood of a student missing school time and diminish their chances of participating in other activities; not to mention the additional burden it places on working parents trying to coordinate work and childcare schedules. These shortages also result in interruptions and instability that leads to the disruption of learning time for students.

WHEREAS, the shortage of school bus drivers with CDLs has severely impacted the ability of local districts across the state to meet the demand for adequate bus services to district students. That the Stafford Township School District remains competitive in compensation of School Bus Drivers and has invested in significant recruitment efforts to hire for this profession, inclusive of offering these professionals costs associated with hiring, training, as well as retaining school bus drivers with the requisite commercial driver license (CDL) endorsements. That despite these efforts our budgets are strained as a result of increases in transportation costs, and few people show any interest in making a commitment to become a qualified driver possessing CDLs and school bus driver related endorsements.

FURTHER, that Stafford Township in Southern Ocean County is a rural area with considerable distance between routes and that was in favor of the 2023 Senate and Assembly passage of S3203/A4835, yet The Governor did not sign or offer remedy to district transportation issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Stafford Township Board of Education, in the county of Ocean call upon the New Jersey Department of Education, New Jersey Division of Motor Vehicles, State Legislature, Governor Phil Murphy, New Jersey School Boards Association and School Transportation Supervisors of New Jersey Association, to act fairly to address the issue of this critical support staff shortage and to consider providing funding to help offset increasing wages and transportation costs.

Further, that the State of New Jersey revisit the CDL licensing requirements and endorsements in an effort to attract the general public to consider the profession of a school bus driver and make an investment to introduce state wide incentives and advertising to inform the public of the driver shortage.

RESOLVED, that the Stafford Township Board of Education in the County of Ocean urges the Governor and the Department of Education to dialogue with the Stafford Township School District officials and community to gather insight on the mounting frustration of the whole school community on the aforesaid.

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Murphy, State Treasurer Muoio, Senate President Scutari, Senate Majority Leader Ruiz, Senator Assembly Speaker Coughlin, Senator Connors, Senator Vin Gopal, Assembly Representative Myhre, Assembly Representative Rumpf, and the New Jersey School Board Association, New Jersey Department of Education, New Jersey Division of Motor Vehicles, State Legislature, School Transportation Supervisors of New Jersey Association, New Jersey Association of School Business Officials and Stafford Parent Teacher Organization.

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Ab		Yes	No	Ab
Brian Fenlon	___	___	___	Bonnie Strouse	___	___	___
Gregory Gioe	___	___	___	Joseph Washco	___	___	___
Robert Morello	___	___	___	Kevin Cooney	___	___	___
Matthew Regulski	___	___	___	Tammy Wagner	___	___	___
Christopher Smith	___	___	___				

H. BUILDINGS/GROUNDS/CAFETERIA

The Buildings/Grounds/Cafeteria Committee has reviewed the following action items, has consulted with the school business administrator/board secretary and other appropriate district officials, and hereby certifies that the actions being approved are consistent with the 2023-2024 board/district goals.

1. To approve the disposal of Asset Tag #160568 for an out of order Savin copier.

2. To approve the disposal of the following items to be sold on Gov Deals or to the Recycling Center:
 - a. Propane floor burnisher Asset #160168 - item does not work
 - b. Propane floor burnisher Asset #000097 - Item does not work
 - c. Carpet Cleaner Asset #03197/000020 - broken pump
 - d. Refrigerator Asset #160205 - bad compressor and coil
 - e. F150 Truck Asset #02269 - Not roadworthy per district mechanics
 - f. Meyer Snow Plow Asset #160180 - does not fit any of our vehicles
 - g. Meyer Snow Plow Asset #160171 - does not fit any of our vehicles

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Ab		Yes	No	Ab
Brian Fenlon	___	___	___	Bonnie Strouse	___	___	___
Gregory Gioe	___	___	___	Joseph Washco	___	___	___
Robert Morello	___	___	___	Kevin Cooney	___	___	___
Matthew Regulski	___	___	___	Tammy Wagner	___	___	___
Christopher Smith	___	___	___				

I. CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION/TECHNOLOGY

The Committee of the Whole has reviewed the following action items, has consulted with the superintendent and other appropriate district officials, and hereby certifies that the actions being approved are consistent with the 2023-2024 board/district goals. In addition, we further certify that we have reviewed the attached professional development request list and are satisfied that each professional development event is directly related to the employee's duties, each event is fiscally prudent (consistent with N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12), that teaching staff requests are aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, and that administrator requests are aligned to the Professional Standards for School Leaders.

1. To approve the professional development requests shown on the attached listing.
2. To approve the attached class trips for the 2023-2024 school year.

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Ab		Yes	No	Ab
Brian Fenlon	___	___	___	Bonnie Strouse	___	___	___
Gregory Gioe	___	___	___	Joseph Washco	___	___	___
Robert Morello	___	___	___	Kevin Cooney	___	___	___
Matthew Regulski	___	___	___	Tammy Wagner	___	___	___
Christopher Smith	___	___	___				

J. PERSONNEL

The following Personnel items were discussed:

Chairperson of the Personnel Committee – Tammy Wagner

Report: The superintendent recommends the board approve/ratify the appointment of the following named individuals who constitute a careful selection and screening of applicants, in accordance with the board/district hiring policies/procedures, and are hereby recommended for an employment contract contingent upon the successful completion of their accredited degree program, New Jersey Department of Education certification requirements, Federal NCLB Highly qualified Teacher requirements, a criminal history clearance and the successful completion of a medical examination as required by the board of education. These initial assignments/appointments may be changed as district needs develop unless otherwise stipulated. The Personnel/Policy Committee has reviewed the following action items, has consulted with the superintendent and other appropriate district officials, and hereby certifies that the actions being approved are consistent with the 2023-2024 board/district goals.

1. To approve the attached list of substitutes for the 2023-2024 school year.
2. To approve the transfers for the attached list of personnel for the 2023-2024 school year.
3. To approve the change of assignment for the attached list of personnel for the 2023-2024 school year.
4. To authorize the superintendent to hire staff retroactively prior to the next Board of Education meetings for the 2023-2024 school year.
5. To approve the following resignations:
 - a. Jessica Nacion, Teacher Aide, effective February 5, 2024
 - b. Anne Keymer, Teacher Aide, effective February 19, 2024
 - c. Deborah Andren, Teacher Aide, effective July 1, 2024
 - d. Nicole Firreno, Teacher Aide, effective February 16, 2024
6. To approve the following retirement:
 - a. Madelyn Dunn, Teacher Aide, effective July 1, 2024
7. To approve the following leaves:
 - a. Employee ID #6478, unpaid leave of absence, beginning December 21, 2023 and returning December 22, 2023
 - b. Employee ID #6147, unpaid family leave FMLA, beginning January 2, 2024 and returning January 8, 2024

- c. Employee ID #5901, unpaid family leave FMLA, beginning December 18, 2023 and returning January 2, 2024
 - d. Employee ID #5757, unpaid family leave FMLA REVISED, beginning March 15, 2024 and returning July 1, 2024
 - e. Employee ID #5623, unpaid family leave FMLA, beginning March 20, 2024 and returning April 1, 2024
 - f. Employee ID #6620, unpaid family leave FMLA, beginning November 13, 2023 and returning December 13, 2023
 - g. Employee ID #6640, unpaid leave of absence, beginning April 22, 2024 and returning April 29, 2024
 - h. Employee ID #6729, unpaid leave of absence, beginning January 17, 2024 and returning January 26, 2024
 - i. Employee ID #6761, unpaid leave of absence, beginning January 31, 2024 and returning February 6, 2024
 - j. Employee ID #6728, unpaid leave of absence, beginning January 19, 2024 and ending January 26, 2024
 - k. Employee ID #4543, INTERMITTENT unpaid family leave FMLA, beginning January 25, 2024 and returning June 30, 2024
 - l. Employee ID #6663, unpaid leave of absence, beginning March 13, 2024 and returning March 27, 2024
 - m. Employee ID #6620, unpaid leave of absence, beginning February 5, 2024 (1/2 DAY PM) and returning February 6, 2024
 - n. Employee ID #6282, unpaid leave of absence, beginning February 6, 2024 and returning February 12, 2024
 - o. Employee ID #6118, unpaid family leave FMLA, beginning January 31, 2024 (1/2 DAY) and returning February 9, 2024
 - p. Employee ID #6118, unpaid family leave FMLA, beginning February 5, 2024 and returning March 11, 2024
8. To approve the attached substitute technician pay rates for the 2023-2024 school year, beginning March 1, 2024.
9. To approve the attached affiliation between Idioma Education and Consulting and Stafford Township School District, beginning February 1, 2024.
10. To approve Lauren Rodriguez, Teacher, for BA+15 stipend, beginning September 1, 2024.
11. To approve Alexandra Georgieff, Teacher, for BA+15 stipend, beginning September 1, 2024
12. To approve Jacqueline Aliseo, Teacher, for MA stipend, beginning September 1, 2024
13. To approve Zachary Piscopo, Custodian, for Boilerman Stipend, beginning December 16, 2023.

14. To approve the attached list of student fieldwork placements for the 2023-2024 school year.
15. To approve the attached list of additional staff as mentors for novice teachers for the 2023-2024 school year.
16. To approve the attached personnel as Homebound Instruction Teachers for the 2023-2024 school year.
17. To approve Elizabeth Kelly as a Cafeteria Playground Aide, Intermediate School, beginning January 16, 2024 and ending June 30, 2024, Step 1, pro-rated, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement. This is a replacement position.
18. To approve Patricia McCrudden as Bus Driver (PENDING CDL), beginning March 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2024, Step 1, pro-rated, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement. This is a new position.
19. To approve Emily Bodony as Bus Driver (PENDING CDL), beginning March 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2024, Step 1, pro-rated, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement. This is a new position.
20. To approve Cynthia Salmons as Bus Driver (PENDING CDL), beginning March 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2024, Step 1, pro-rated, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement. This is a new position.
21. To approve James Kelley as Bus Driver, beginning March 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2024, Step 1, pro-rated, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement. This is a new position.

Employee appointments are provisional pending satisfactory completion of the Criminal History Background Check, Pre-employment P.L. 2018,C.5 Disclosure and Physical Exam Requirements required by the State of New Jersey.

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Ab		Yes	No	Ab
Brian Fenlon	___	___	___	Bonnie Strouse	___	___	___
Gregory Gioe	___	___	___	Joseph Washco	___	___	___
Robert Morello	___	___	___	Kevin Cooney	___	___	___
Matthew Regulski	___	___	___	Tammy Wagner	___	___	___
Christopher Smith	___	___	___				

K. POLICY/LEGISLATIVE

The Committee of the Whole has reviewed the following policies and regulations, has consulted with the board attorney and other appropriate district officials, and hereby certify, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1, that the attached policies and regulations are in compliance with all applicable statutes and administrative code provisions and are consistent with the 2023-2024 board/district goals.

NO ACTION ITEMS

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Ab		Yes	No	Ab
Brian Fenlon	___	___	___	Bonnie Strouse	___	___	___
Gregory Gioe	___	___	___	Joseph Washco	___	___	___
Robert Morello	___	___	___	Kevin Cooney	___	___	___
Matthew Regulski	___	___	___	Tammy Wagner	___	___	___
Christopher Smith	___	___	___				

L. ADVANCED PLANNING

M. PUBLIC COMMENT

The Stafford Township Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters of community interest, especially when it is intended to assist the Board of Education.

Please feel free to speak to the Board during the public session. Pursuant to Board Policy 0167, comments and discussion will be limited to one three (3) minute period per individual unless requested by the chairperson to continue on a point of clarification.

Public comment at special meetings of the Board shall be related to the call of the meeting. In accordance with the Board of Education Policy, each participant must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface their comments by an announcement of their name, address and group affiliation, if applicable.

Your anticipated courtesy to the members of the public and the Board is appreciated.

N. BOARD INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

O. CLOSED SESSION (IF NEEDED)

Whereas Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting under certain circumstances; and

Whereas, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Stafford Township Board of Education, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, as follows:

The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action of the hereinafter specified subject matters.

The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:

It is anticipated at this time that the above-stated subject matters shall be made public at such time as the reasons for non-disclosure no longer exists.

ADJOURNMENT

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Ab		Yes	No	Ab
Brian Fenlon	___	___	___	Bonnie Strouse	___	___	___
Gregory Gioe	___	___	___	Joseph Washco	___	___	___
Robert Morello	___	___	___	Kevin Cooney	___	___	___
Matthew Regulski	___	___	___	Tammy Wagner	___	___	___
Christopher Smith	___	___	___				