

**REORGANIZATION MEETING**

January 3, 2024

The Reorganization Meeting of the Stafford Township Board of Education was held on January 3, 2024 at 6:00pm at the Oxycocus Elementary School.

**CALL TO ORDER – Board Secretary**

The Stafford Township’s 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 and all school buildings. A mechanical device is being used to video record this meeting. Further, please take notice that this is the first regular meeting of the Board of Education and required Reorganization of elected board members pursuant to 18A:10-3 through 10-6.

**FLAG SALUTE**

**ELECTION RESULTS**

The following are the official results of the November 7, 2023 annual school election for three, three-year term office seats 2023-2026.

<u>Three-Year Term</u>	
Gregory Gioe III	2,027 votes
Brian Fenlon, Jr.	1,905 votes
Bonnie Strouse	2,181votes
Gina Jorge	1,810 votes
Karin Kleban-Allen	1,540 votes
Patricia Formica	1,864 votes
Write-In	214 votes

**SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBERS – Board Secretary**

New board members were sworn in and welcomed.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**ALSO PRESENT**

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

**THE BOARD SECRETARY ENTERTAINS NOMINATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF BOARD PRESIDENT**

1. Tammy Wagner was nominated by Kevin Cooney for the office of Board President.

It was moved by Mr. Cooney and seconded by Mr. Washco for Tammy Wagner as Board President. Roll call vote: nine (9) members present voted yes; motion passed.

The Board Secretary turns the meeting over to the Board President.

**THE BOARD PRESIDENT ENTERTAINS NOMINATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF BOARD VICE PRESIDENT**

1. Kevin Cooney was nominated by Tammy Wagner for the office of Board Vice President.

It was moved by Mrs. Wagner and seconded by Mr. Washco for Kevin Cooney as Board Vice President. Roll call vote: nine (9) members present voted yes; motion passed.

**RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

- Mrs. Ducker introduced the Student Ambassadors who were shadowing the Board Members in recognition of Board Appreciation Month.
- Mr. Chidiac presented an update on the Board Goals and the District Goals, as attached.
- A video presentation was shown in recognition of Board Appreciation Month.

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)**

None

**BOARD BUSINESS**

1. To approve the Acknowledgement of Receipt for the Code of Ethics and to adopt the Code of Ethics as distributed.
2. To reapprove the 2023-2024 Board of Education Goals and the 2023-2024 Stafford Township School District Goals as attached and presented.

3. To approve the Board of Education meeting dates from January through December 2024 as attached.
4. To adopt Roberts Rules of Order as the official parliamentary procedure manual to be used to conduct Board meetings and appoint the Board Secretary and Board Attorney to act as the parliamentarian ending at the next organization meeting of the Board of Education.
5. To designate Atlantic City Press, Asbury Park Press and/or The Beacon as official Board newspapers for advertisements and on-line services through December 2024.
6. To designate OceanFirst Bank as official depository for all Board funds with the following signatories: Stafford Township Board of Education President, Treasurer of School Monies, Board Secretary/School Business Administrator through December 2024.
7. To approve to designate the State of New Jersey Cash Management Fund as a legal depository for Board funds and further to authorize the Board Secretary/School Business Administrator as the authorized agent for Cash Management Transactions through December 2024.
8. To approve Brown & Brown Benefit Advisors of Shrewsbury, NJ as Health Insurance Broker through December 2024. This exception to the advertised bidding requirements is in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5. Proposals were solicited for the 2023 calendar year with option to renew for two additional years. Selection factors and documentation are on file in the Board Secretary/Business Administrator's Office.
9. To acknowledge the following providers for Life Insurance Options:
  - a. Legacy Benefits Group to broker New York Life's Voluntary Guaranteed Issue Whole Life Insurance Program and Colonial Life's Voluntary Guaranteed Issue Short Term Disability Insurance Program as voluntary providers for Stafford Township Board of Education. All plans will be offered at no cost to the school district through payroll deduction.
  - b. Creative Financial Group to broker MassMutual's Voluntary Group Whole Life Insurance as a voluntary provider for Stafford Township Board of Education. All plans will be offered at no cost to the school district through payroll deduction.
10. To approve Spiezle Architectural Group of Hamilton, NJ as Architect of Record through December 2024. Proposals were solicited for the 2023 calendar year with option to renew for two additional years.

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11. To appoint Acacia of Marlton, NJ as Financial Advisor through December 2024. This is a professional service.
12. To approve Dasti, Murphy, McGuckin, Ulaky & Connors of Forked River, NJ as Board Attorney through December 2024. Proposals were solicited for the 2024 calendar year with option to renew for two additional years.
13. To acknowledge the following Stafford Board of Education law firms, as previously appointed:
  - a. Machado Law Group of Springfield, NJ as Legal Counsel for Special Education Issues (July 2023 – June 2024)
  - b. Comegno Law Group of Moorestown, NJ as Conflict Attorney (July 2023 – June 2024)
  - c. Comegno Law Group of Moorestown, NJ as Legal Counsel for Labor Relations Services (July 2023 – June 2024)
  - d. Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A. of Woodbridge, NJ as Bond Counsel (January – December 2024)

These are professional services. Selection factors and documentation are on file in the Board Secretary/Business Administrator's Office.

14. To appoint Flett Exchange of Jersey City, NJ to manage the sale of solar generated SRECs through December 2024. There is no cost to the district for this service.
15. To approve authorization to award contracts up to bid threshold of \$44,000 and quote threshold of \$6,600 through June 2024, based upon the Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA) certification of the Business Administrator.
16. To approve the Stafford Township Board of Education Travel Expense Reimbursement District Maximum and Travel Expense Reimbursement per Employee Resolutions through December 2024 as attached.

A motion was made by Mr. Washco and seconded by Dr. Regulski to approve Board Business item(s) #1-16. Roll call vote: nine (9) members present voted yes; motion passed.

## **ADVANCED PLANNING**

None

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**CLOSED SESSION – Personnel Matters and Board Matters**

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:

**Personnel Matters and Board Matters**

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.

A motion was made by Dr. Regulski and seconded by Mr. Washco to move on the above Resolution. Voice vote: All members present voted yes (9-0); motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Cooney and seconded by Dr. Regulski to exit closed session. Voice vote: All members present voted yes (9-0); motion passed.

TIME IN: 7:10pm

TIME AT CONCLUSION OF CLOSED SESSION: 7:40pm

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mrs. Wagner and seconded by Dr. Regulski to adjourn the meeting at 7:40pm. Voice vote: All members present voted yes (9-0); motion passed.

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Lourdes LaGuardia  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

LL/km/1-10-2024