

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

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 the district website.

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

None

B. CLOSED SESSION – Personnel Matters & Student Matters, Specifically HIB Related

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, Contractual Matters & Student Matters, Specifically HIB Related

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

A motion was made by Dr. Regulski and seconded by Mr. Smith to exit closed session. Voice vote: All members present voted yes (8-0); motion passed.

TIME IN: 6:04pm

TIME AT CONCLUSION OF CLOSED SESSION: 6:39pm

C. COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

School boards are required to set aside a portion of every meeting for public comments. School boards use the public comment period as an opportunity to listen to community concerns - not to debate issues or enter into a question-and-answer session. School boards are not required to respond to questions but may choose to respond to public comments by seeking additional information or delegating authority to the superintendent or a designee to investigate an issue brought forth during public comment.

While public education can be an emotional issue, the school board strives to maintain a certain level of decorum at its meeting. As such, all persons speaking during the public comment period should maintain a tone of respect and civility. Courteous behavior is extremely important by all members and attendees.

To allow all speakers to address their comments to the board, it may be necessary for the board and/or administration to hold any responses until after the conclusion of the public comment period; rather than respond to individual speakers. The board cannot recognize proxies, nor will the board tolerate persons that call out, shout down or disrupt others in attendance during public comment; any person who cannot abide by this will be asked to leave.

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.

For additional information, please review the "Guide to Board of Education Meetings in New Jersey" available on the New Jersey Boards Association website at www.njsba.org.

- A parent expressed their concern with the time change for the school hours. Parent explained hardship with three different start times and three different schools in September.
 - Mrs. Bush and Mr. Chidiac provided justification for moving the start times. Mr. Chidiac will follow up with the parent.

D. PERSONNEL/POLICY

Chairperson Tammy Wagner – Update (Policy Only)

1. To discuss to approve suspending Bylaw 0131 to have a first and only reading on item #3 due to timeline.
 2. To discuss the **first and only reading** of the following **revised** policies and regulation:
 - 9722 School-Related Groups
- Mrs. Wagner stated that on tonight’s agenda there are district-wide substitutes, five transfers and eight changes of assignment for the 2024-2025 school year. There is one policy on the agenda for a first and only reading and one policy that will be rescinded.

E. SPECIAL EDUCATION/CURRICULUM

Chairperson Matthew Regulski – Update

- Dr. Regulski stated that Mrs. Bush shared about the STEAM Tank finals as well as other year end events/activities that have or will be taking place.
- Dr. Regulski stated that Mr. Reilly discussed the beginning of ESY for the summer. This year it will begin on July 8th. Some groups will attend for four weeks and others will attend for six weeks. Staff is being finalized right now. The IDEA grant will open in July and the application will be started. This grant plays a big role in Special Education funding each year.

F. FINANCE/BUILDINGS&GROUNDS

Chairperson Joseph Washco – Update

- Mr. Washco stated that Mrs. LaGuardia shared the bills list, year-end processing, updates on Referendum, ROD grant, Oxycoccus fire, food service, school bus and GovDeal sales.

G. CLOSED SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Morello and seconded by Mr. Smith to adjourn the meeting at 6:58pm. Voice vote: All members present voted yes (9-0); motion passed.

Lourdes LaGuardia
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

LL/km/6-14-2024