

STAFFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Manahawkin, NJ 08050

PUBLIC AGENDA

**BUSINESS MEETING**

PLACE: Oxycocus Elementary School  
Stafford Room

DATE: August 12, 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**

- ~ Student Recognition
- ~ Statewide Assessment Spring 2024 Results: ACCESS for ELLs – Presentation

**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. July 8, 2024 Committee of the Whole – No Absences
2. July 8, 2024 Business Meeting – No Absences
3. July 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)**

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](http://www.njsba.org).

## **E. CORRESPONDENCE TO AND FROM THE BOARD**

## **F. BOARD BUSINESS**

1. There were no incidents of harassment, intimidation, and bullying.
2. To approve the attached Parent/Student Handbook for the 2024-2025 school year
3. To approve the attached Preschool Parent/Student Handbook for the 2024-2025 school year.
4. To approve the attached District Wellness Plan for the 2024-2025 school year.
5. To approve the attached revised Stafford Township School District Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan for the 2024-2025 school year as per the New Jersey Department of Education.
6. To approve the attached District Mentoring Plan for the 2024-2025 school year.
7. BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Stafford Township Board of Education authorizes the School Business Administrator to issue a Request for Proposal and/or Request for Bid for the following services for the 2024-2025 school year:  
Special Counsel

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 2024-2025 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 August 2024 bills list totaling \$1,362,375.34 as attached. (G-1)

Fund 10 - \$1,325,000.15  
 Fund 20 - \$19,314.72  
 Fund 30 - \$16,673.07  
 Fund 40 - \$0  
 Fund 60 - \$0  
 Fund 61 - \$0  
 Fund 62 - \$1,387.40

\*Note - \$544,326.07 of the amounts listed were made as EFT payments. (G-1a)

\*To approve for payment of July 2024 additional bills list totaling \$1,742,831.60 as attached. (G-1b)

Fund 10 - \$1,170,019.60  
 Fund 20 - \$1,140  
 Fund 30 - \$0  
 Fund 40 - \$570,875

Fund 60 - \$0  
Fund 61 - \$0  
Fund 62 - \$797

\*Note - \$1,127,006.70 of the amounts listed were made as EFT payments. (G-1c)

\*To approve for payment of June 2024 additional bills list totaling \$1,928,501.34 as attached. (G-1d)

Fund 10 - \$759,968.32  
Fund 20 - \$833,176.14  
Fund 30 - \$531,174.16  
Fund 40 - \$0  
Fund 60 - \$113,983.99  
Fund 61 - \$168,198.73  
Fund 62 - \$0

\*Note - \$1,143,393.06 of the amounts listed were made as EFT payments. (G-1e)

2. To approve for payment of payroll
  - a. dated June 30, 2024 totaling \$382,461.74
  - b. dated July 15, 2024 totaling \$274,217.01
  - c. dated July 29, 2024 totaling \$550,771.08
3. To accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of June 2024.
4. To accept the Secretary's Report for the month of June 2024.
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 June 2024 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 June 2024 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 for June 2024.
7. To authorize the Business Administrator to make payment of post-Board meeting bills for the month of August 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 tentative 2025-2026 Budget Calendar.
10. To approve to submit and accept the FY'25 IDEA Federal Grant Application for available funding in the amounts of \$692,641 for Basic and \$44,188 for Preschool.
11. To approve the anticipated bus routes for the 2024-2025 school year.
12. To accept Award of New Gas Supply Contract with UGI Energy Services (UGI) for a 24-month term, December 2024 through December 2026 as bid through the ACES Member Agreement.
13. To approve the contracts with the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired for students #22597, #24532 and #21558 in the amount of \$2,420 per student for the 2024-2025 school year.
14. To approve Choice Student Shared Services Transportation Contracts with Barnegat Township Board of Education for students ID #23190, #25057 and #24823 for the 2024-2025 school year. These contracts are for \$500/each for transporting these students to and from school.
15. To approve a Choice Student Shared Services Transportation Contract with Eagleswood Township Board of Education for student ID #22173 for the 2024-2025 school year. This contract is for \$500 for transporting this student to and from school.

16. To approve the allocation of funds for the FY'25 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) grant
17. To approve the attached ESEA Title I Funded Personnel for the 2024-2025 school year, commencing September 1, 2024 with salaries from grant and local funds specified.
18. To approve the attached Shared Service Agreement with Eagleswood Board of Education to provide a Board Certified Behavior Analyst to Eagleswood Elementary School for one full school day per week at a cost of \$325.00 per day for the 2024-2025 school year, commencing on November 1, 2024.
19. To approve the attached Shared Service Agreement with Eagleswood Board of Education to provide a English as a Second Language Teacher to Eagleswood Elementary School for one half school day per week at a cost of \$150.00 per day for the 2024-2025 school year, commencing on September 1, 2024.
20. To approve the attached Shared Service Agreement with Eagleswood Board of Education to provide a Learning Disabled Teacher Consultant to Eagleswood Elementary School for one full school day per week at a cost of \$3,100.00 per student for the 2024-2025 school year, commencing on January 1, 2025.
21. To approve the attached Shared Service Agreement with Eagleswood Board of Education to provide a Preschool Instructional Coach to Eagleswood Elementary School for one full school day per week at a cost of \$325.00 per day for the 2024-2025 school year, commencing on September 1, 2024.
22. To approve the attached Shared Service Agreement with Eagleswood Board of Education to provide a Facilities Supervisor to Eagleswood Elementary School for one full school day per week for the 2024-2025 school year, commencing on September 1, 2024.
23. To approve the attached Shared Service Agreement with Eagleswood Board of Education to provide a Technology Supervisor to Eagleswood Elementary School as needed for the 2024-2025 school year, commencing on September 1, 2024.
24. To approve the attached Shared Service Agreement with Eagleswood Board of Education to provide Transportation Services to Eagleswood Elementary School as needed at a cost of \$24.56 per hour up to 5.5 hours, field trips at a rate of \$20 per hour with a 2 hour minimum, for the 2024-2025 school year, commencing on September 1, 2024.
25. To approve the attached Shared Service Agreement with Eagleswood Board of Education to provide Administrative Assistants to Eagleswood Elementary School as needed for the 2024-2025 school year, commencing on September 1, 2024.

26. To approve the attached Shared Service Agreement with Eagleswood Board of Education to provide a Curriculum/Special Education Supervisor and/or Administrator to Eagleswood Elementary School as needed for the 2024-2025 school year, commencing on September 1, 2024.
27. To approve the attached Shared Service Agreement with Eagleswood Board of Education to provide a Registered Behavior Technician to Eagleswood Elementary School for one full school day per week at a cost of \$175.00 per day for the 2024-2025 school year, commencing on November 1, 2024.
28. To approve the attached Shared Service Agreement with Eagleswood Board of Education to provide a Safety Officer to Eagleswood Elementary School for five full school days per week at a cost of \$45,000 per year for the 2024-2025 school year, commencing on September 1, 2024.
29. To approve the submission of a Superintendent shared service agreement between the Stafford Township Board of Education and the Eagleswood Township Board of Education to the Executive County Superintendent for review.
30. To approve the tuition contract and transportation contract, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Settlement Agreement SAF054914-LJP between School Alliance Insurance Fund and Stafford Township Board of Education in conjunction with OCN-L2987-21. (Year 3 of 3)

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 2024-2025 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	___	___	___				

**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 2024-2025 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 list of police presence for the 2024-2025 school year.
3. To approve the attached field trips for the 2024-2025 school year.
4. To approve the attached list of technology equipment for removal from the Stafford Township School District’s inventory and properly disposed of, recycled or sold on GovDeals.org.

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 2024-2025 board/district goals.

1. To approve the attached list of substitutes for the 2024-2025 school year.
2. To approve the change of assignment for the attached list of personnel for the 2024-2025 school year.
3. To approve the transfers for the attached list of personnel for the 2024-2025 school year.
4. To approve the following retirement:
  - a. Giacinto D’Agostino, Teacher, effective November 11, 2024
5. To approve the following resignations:
  - a. Casey Jashembowski, Teacher, effective July 1, 2024
  - b. Sarah DeNigris, Teacher, effective July 1, 2024

6. To approve the following leaves:
  - a. Employee ID #6489, unpaid leave of absence, beginning June 5, 2024 and returning June 6, 2024 AND beginning June 7, 2024 and returning June 12, 2024
  - b. Employee ID #6083, unpaid family leave FMLA (INTERMITTENT), beginning July 1, 2024 and returning July 1, 2025
  - c. Employee ID #6441, unpaid family leave FMLA, beginning November 22, 2024 and returning March 3, 2025
7. To approve the attached list of additional staff for Extended School Year, beginning July 8, 2024 and ending August 15, 2024.
8. To approve the attached list of substitute pay rate for the 2024-2025 school year, beginning July 1, 2024.
9. To approve the CCC stipend for Jullian Frangipani, beginning September 1, 2024.
10. To approve the attached list of additional personnel as Mentors for Novice Teachers for the 2024-2025 school year.
11. To approve the attached salary increase for Grace Matusek, Event Coordinator for the 2024-2025 school year, beginning July 1, 2024.
12. To approve Emily Johnson as additional staff for Ocean Acres Enrichment program, Sessions 1 and 2, 10 hours per session, beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025.
13. To approve the following as representatives for Instructional Council, beginning September 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025:
  - a. Jacqueline Aliseo
  - b. Kristin Ducker
  - c. Jennifer Lowe
14. To approve Bailey Vanacore-Decker as Long Term Substitute Floater Nurse (PENDING COUNTY CERTIFICATION), Ronald L. Meinders Primary Learning Center, beginning September 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, Step 7, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement. This is a replacement position.
15. To approve Emma Kuhl as Elementary School Teacher, Resource, Intermediate School, beginning September 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, Step 4, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement. This is a replacement position.

16. To approve Gabriella Vincent as Elementary School Teacher, Grade 2, Ocean Acres Elementary School, beginning September 1, 2024 and ending February 15, 2025, Step 4, pro-rated, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement. This is a non-tenure leave replacement position.
17. To approve David Kern as Bus Driver, beginning September 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, Step 1, of the Stafford Board of Education /STEA Agreement. This is a replacement position.
18. To approve Joseph Tagliaferro as Bus Driver, beginning September 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, Step 1, of the Stafford Board of Education/STEA Agreement. This is a replacement position.
19. To approve Kelli Westcott as Part Time Hourly Teacher Aide, MD Class, Intermediate School, beginning September 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, Step 1, +AA, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement. This is a new position due to an IEP.
20. To approve Maria Calvi as Part Time Hourly Teacher Aide, BD Class, Ocean Acres Elementary School, beginning September 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, Step 3, +AA, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement. This is a replacement position.
21. To approve Eniko Pascone as Part Time Hourly Teacher Aide, Preschool, Ronald L. Meinders Primary Learning Center, beginning September 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, Step 2, +AA, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement. This is a replacement position.
22. To approve Melissa Stager as Part Time Hourly Teacher Aide, Resource, Ronald L. Meinders Primary Learning Center, beginning September 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, Step 2, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement. This is a new position due to an IEP.
23. To approve Danielle Mondello as Part Time Hourly Teacher Aide, Preschool, Oxycocus Elementary School, beginning September 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, Step 1, +BA, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement. This is a replacement position.
24. To approve Kathleen Rondinone as Part Time Hourly Teacher Aide, MD Class, Ronald L. Meinders Primary Learning Center, beginning September 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, Step 4, +90 College Credits, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement. This is a replacement position.

25. To approve Stephanie Carbone as Part Time Hourly Teacher Aide, MD Class, Intermediate School, beginning September 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, Step 1, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement. This is a replacement position.
26. To approve Ashlee Fenkel as Part Time Hourly Teacher Aide, Regular Ed, Ronald L. Meinders Primary Learning Center, beginning September 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, Step 1, +BA, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement. This is a replacement position.
27. To approve Kristie Santiago as Part Time Hourly Teacher Aide, Preschool, Ocean Acres Elementary School, beginning September 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, Step 1, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement. This is a replacement position.
28. To approve Susan Bowen as Part Time Hourly Teacher Aide, MD Class, McKinley Avenue Elementary School, beginning September 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, Step 4, +BA, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement. This is a new position due to an IEP.
29. To approve Lisa Francaviglia as Part Time Hourly Teacher Aide, Regular Ed, Ocean Acres Elementary School, beginning September 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, Step 2, +BA, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement. This is a replacement position.
30. To approve Jaime Tallman as Cafeteria Playground Aide, McKinley Avenue Elementary School, beginning September 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, Step 1, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement. This is a replacement position.
31. To approve Rachel Schenk as Elementary School Teacher, Grade 2, Ocean Acres Elementary School, beginning November 1, 2024 and ending May 2, 2025, Step 4, pro-rated, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement. This is a non-tenure leave replacement position.
32. To approve Catherine Canaley as Elementary School Teacher, Preschool, Ocean Acres Elementary School, beginning September 1, 2024 and ending April 15, 2025, Step 4, pro-rated, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement. This is a non-tenure track leave replacement position.
33. To approve the attached amended contracts for Employee ID #5874, #6097, #5419, 5034.

**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 2024-2025 board/district goals.

1. To approve the **first reading** of following **revised** policies and regulations:

- 0141 Board Member Number and Term
- 2200 Curriculum Content (M)
- 3160 Physical Examination (M)
- 4160 Physical Examination (M)
- 5337 Service Animals
- 5350 Student Suicide Prevention (M)
- 8420 Emergency and Crisis Situations (M)
- 8467 Firearms and Weapons (M)
- R3160 Physical Examination (M)
- R4160 Physical Examination (M)
- R5200 Attendance (M)
- R8467 Firearms and Weapons (M)

2. To approve to **rescind** the following policy:

- 0164.6 Remote Public Board Meetings During a Declared Emergency (M)

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**

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](http://www.njsba.org).

**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	___	___	___				