STAFFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION Manahawkin, NJ 08050

PUBLIC AGENDA

BUSINESS MEETING

PLACE: Oxycocus Elementary School

Stafford Room

DATE: March 13, 2025

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

<u>PUBLIC HEARING – INTENT TO AMEND AND/OR ALTER SUPERINTENDENT'S</u> CONTRACT

A motion to open the Public Hearing on Intent to Amend and/or Alter Superintendent's Contract and discuss Personnel Item #J-13.

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							

A motion to open Communication from the Public for Public Hearing on Intent to Amend and/or Alter Superintendent's Contract Only.

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							

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC (PUBLIC HEARING ON SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT 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.

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A motion to Close Communication from the Public for Public Hearing on Intent to Amend and/or Alter Superintendent's Contract Only and resume Business Meeting.

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							

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. February 20, 2025 Board Retreat 1 Absence (B. Fenlon)
- 2. February 20, 2025 Business Meeting 1 Absence (B. Fenlon)
- 3. February 20, 2025 Closed Session 1 Absence (B. Fenlon)

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)

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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 Ocean Acres #1, McKinley #1, McKinley #2, Intermediate #1.
- To approve "A Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials", between the Stafford Township School District and the Stafford Township Police Department dated February 20, 2025 for the 2024-2025 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							

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.

 To approve for payment of March 2025 bills list totaling \$2,256,872.58 as attached. (G-1)

Fund 10 - \$1,975,426.01

Fund 20 - \$183,182.71

Fund 30 - \$0

Fund 40 - \$0

Fund 60 - \$95,372.85

Fund 61 - \$948 Fund 62 - \$1,943.01

*Note - \$1,646,132.12 of the amounts listed were made as EFT payments. (G-1a)

*To approve for payment of February 2025 additional bills list totaling \$138,386.71 as attached. (G-1b)

Fund 10 - \$105,378.33

Fund 20 - \$12,272.13

Fund 30 - \$13,000

Fund 40 - \$0

Fund 60 - \$59.10 (Refund)

Fund 61 - \$1,277.64

Fund 62 - \$6,399.51

*Note - \$1,277.64 of the amounts listed were made as EFT payments. (G-1c)

- 2. To approve for payment of payroll
 - a. dated February 14, 2025 totaling \$1,581,336.12
 - b. dated February 28, 2025 totaling \$1,555,716.22
- To accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of January 2025.
- 4. To accept the Secretary's Report for the month of January 2025.
- 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 January 2025 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 January 2025 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 January 2025.
- 7. To authorize the Business Administrator to make payment of post-Board meeting bills for the month of March 2025 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.
- To approve a Change Order Credit from Johnson Controls in the amount of \$22,776.28 resulting in an overall project cost under contract. This creates a final contract value of \$1,273,223.72. This was for the HVAC System Upgrades at Intermediate School under the ROD Grant.
- 10. BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford Township Board of Education to accept and approve the bid proposal from Thermal Piping of Wrightstown, NJ in the total amount not to exceed \$682,000 (Base Bid \$755,000 AB2 \$73,000) for the Ocean Acres School HVAC System Upgrades under the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act Section 15 Grant (ROD Grant). The proposal was one of two received and was selected based on the lowest amount. This approval is contingent upon approval and New Jersey Development Authority review and approval. The local portion will be paid for by funds allocated to the Ocean Acres HVAC System Upgrades Project.

Ocean Acres School HVAC System Upgrades

DOE Project #: 5020-065-23-R502 SDA Project #: 5020-065-23-G5SY

Grant #: G5-6896

11.BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford Township Board of Education to accept and approve the attached proposal from Weatherproofing Technologies, Inc. part of TREMCO Construction Products Group of Beachwood, Ohio in the total amount not to exceed \$94,602.96 for the Ocean Acres School Roof Replacement Project under the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act Section 15 Grant (ROD Grant). The scope of work and the associated MOESC Line-Item Proposal is for a turnkey operation as specified and bid by the 25-13 Roofing Repair and Maintenance Co-Op Bid 24-25, 25-26 Co-Op #289MOESC. This approval is contingent upon approval and New Jersey Development Authority review and approval. The local portion will be paid for by funds allocated to the Ocean Acres Roof Replacement Project.

Ocean Acres School Roof Replacement Project

DOE Project #: 5020-065-23-R501 SDA Project #: 5020-065-23-G5SY

Grant #: G5-6896

- 12. To approve to submit the 2025-2026 Preschool Education Aid (PEA) Application.
- 13. To approve student #24190 to receive home instruction for the 2024-2025 school year, commencing February 18, 2025 and ending April 1, 2025. This student will receive ten (10) hours of home instruction per week at the rate of \$51.44 per hour. Total cost \$3,086.40.
- 14. To approve student #24438 to receive home instruction for the 2024-2025 school year, commencing February 5, 2025 and ending April 1, 2025. This student will receive ten (10) hours of home instruction per week at the rate of \$51.44 per hour. Total cost \$4,115.20.
- 15. To approve an out of district tuition contract with Y.A.L.E. School East, Inc. for student #23229 in the amount of \$42,652.79 for the 2024-2025 school year, commencing January 7, 2025. Stafford Township is responsible for the education of this student.
- 16. To approve a parental transportation contract for student #23439 at a total contract cost of \$7,977 for the 2024-2025 school year, commencing March 1, 2025 for parent to transport child to Hawkswood School in Eatontown, NJ.
- 17. The Superintendent recommends approval to adopt the Tentative Budget for FY 2025-2026.

BE IT RESOLVED that the tentative budget be approved for the 2025-2026 school year using the 2025-2026 state aid figures and the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

	General Fund	Special Revenue	Debt Service	TOTAL
2025-2026 Total Expenditures	\$49,345,740	\$8,017,179	\$ 682,800	\$58,045,719
Less: Anticipated Revenues	\$49,345,740	\$8,017,179	\$ 682,800	\$58,045,719
Taxes to be Raised	\$35,109,631	- 0 -	\$ 450,648	\$37,060,279

And to advertise said tentative budget in the Atlantic City Press in accordance with the form required by the State Department of Education and according to law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held at the Stafford Township Arts Center (STAC) located at 1000 McKinley Avenue, Manahawkin, NJ on April 30, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2025-2026 school year.

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 \$174,780. The district intends to utilize this adjustment for supplies and materials necessary for the additional students.

Adjustment for HEALTH CARE COSTS

BE IT RESOLVED that the Stafford Township Board of Education includes in the final budget the adjustment for increased costs of health benefits in the amount of \$1,116,968. The additional funds will be used to pay for the additional increases in health benefit premiums.

Use of BANKED CAP

BE IT RESOLVED that the Stafford Township Board of Education includes in the proposed budget the adjustment for banked cap in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-10.1(b). The district has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority and must increase the base budget in the amount of \$76,857 for the purpose of maintaining programs. The district intends to complete said purposes by June 2026.

Maintenance Reserve Withdrawal

BE IT RESOLVED that as per N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.2(d) the general fund appropriations include a \$200,000 withdrawal from the Maintenance Reserve Account for use on required maintenance activities for a school facility as reported in the comprehensive maintenance plan pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-20.5.

Emergency Reserve Withdrawal

BE IT RESOLVED that the general fund appropriations include a \$40,000 withdrawal from the Emergency Reserve Account for the 2025-2026 school year to improve school security in the district.

Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement 2025-2026

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:23A-7.3 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, the Stafford Township Board of Education established \$50,000 as the maximum travel amount for the current school year and has expended \$16,000 as of this date; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3, to a maximum expenditure of \$50,000 for the 2025-2026 school year.

Adoption of Tentative Preschool Budget Workbook 2025-2026

BE IT RESOLVED that the tentative preschool budget workbook for an amount of \$7,111,943

PEA State Aid \$6,692,632 Carry-Over Audit \$106,691 General Fund Contribution \$312,620

for the 2025-2026 school year and that the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit the tentative preschool budget workbook to the New Jersey Division of Early Childhood Services for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline.

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 revised Dyslexia Protocol.
- To approve the attached Extended Day Summer Camp dates: beginning July 7, 2025 and ending August 15, 2025. This program will be held at the McKinley Avenue Elementary School.

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 retirements:
 - a. Jonathan Hughes, Bus Driver, effective April 28, 2025 REVISED
 - b. Mary Cummins, Teacher Aide, effective July 1, 2025
 - c. Linda Fishman, Teacher Aide, effective July 1, 2025
 - d. Susan Kennard, Teacher, effective July 1, 2025
 - e. Diane O'Keefe, Teacher Aide, July 1, 2025
- 5. To approve the following resignation:
 - a. Employee ID #6244, effective April 15, 2025
- 6. To approve the following leaves:
 - a. Employee ID #6262, unpaid family leave FMLA, beginning November 21, 2025 and returning March 2, 2026
 - b. Employee ID #6870, unpaid leave of absence, beginning February 3, 2025 and returning February 4, 2025
 - c. Employee ID #6870, unpaid leave of absence, beginning, 2/10/25 and returning 2/11/25, and beginning 2/12/25 and returning 2/13/25, and beginning 2/14/25 and returning 2/18/25 and beginning 2/19/25 and returning 2/24/25 and beginning 2/26/25 and returning 2/27/25 and beginning 2/28/25 and returning 3/3/25
 - d. Employee ID #6585, unpaid family leave, beginning March 28, 2025 and returning April 1, 2025
 - e. Employee ID #6441, unpaid contractual child rearing leave extension, beginning March 17, 2025 and returning July 1, 2025
 - f. Employee ID #6197, unpaid leave of absence, beginning February 20, 2025 and returning February 21, 2025
 - g. Employee ID #6485, unpaid leave of absence, beginning March 5, 2025 and returning March 6, 2025
 - h. Employee ID #6335, unpaid leave of absence, beginning February 18, 2025 and returning February 21, 2025
 - Employee ID #4086, unpaid leave of absence, beginning January 23, 2025 (1/2 day PM) and returning January 28, 2025 and beginning February 6, 2025 and returning February 7, 2025

- j. Employee ID 6641, unpaid leave of absence, beginning February 13, 2025 and returning July 1, 2025
- k. Employee ID #6452, unpaid leave of absence, beginning February 21, 2025 and returning February 24, 2025 and beginning February 27, 2025 and returning February 28, 2025
- I. Employee ID #6665, unpaid family leave, beginning February 28, 2025 and returning March 5, 2025
- m. Employee ID #5825, unpaid family leave FMLA, beginning March 5, 2025 and returning March 31, 2025
- 7. To approve the separation agreement between the Stafford Township Board of Education and Employee ID #6244.
- 8. To approve Allison Allotta to receive BA+15 graduate credit stipend, beginning September 1, 2026.
- 9. To approve the attached list of student fieldwork placements for the 2024-2025 school year.
- 10. To approve the personnel below for Extra-Curricular and Enrichment Programs for the 2024-2025 school year:
 - a. Thomas Bamber Second Session
 - b. Lorryn Calicchio Second Session
- 11. To approve Jessica Fedor as Homebound Instruction Teacher for the 2024-2025 school year.
- 12. To approve Gicela Pacheco to receive Boilerman Stipend, beginning January 1, 2025.
- 13. To approve the attached amendment to George J. Chidiac's, Superintendent, contract, ending June 30, 2027, in accordance with the shared service agreement with Eagleswood Township School District for superintendent services.

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 **second reading** of following **new** policies and regulations:
 - 2365 Acceptable Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence
 - R5516 Use of Electronic Communication Devices
- 2. To approve the **second reading** of following **revised** policies and regulations:

5512	Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying
5516	Use of Electronic Communication Devices
 5533 	Student Smoking
5701	Academic Integrity
5710	Student Grievance
7441	Electronic Surveillance In School Buildings and On
	School Grounds
8500	Food Services
9320	Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies
 R5533 	Student Smoking
R7441	Electronic Surveillance In School Buildings and On
	School Grounds
 R9320 	Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies

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

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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	l nature of	the sul	bject n	natter to	be o	discusse	d is a	is fol	lows:

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							