

STAFFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Manahawkin, NJ 08050

PUBLIC AGENDA

**SPECIAL MEETING**

PLACE: Oxycocus Elementary School  
Stafford Room

DATE: March 18, 2025

TIME: 5:00 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. 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).

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

## **C. BOARD BUSINESS**

1. 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<br>Total Expenditures | \$48,516,993 | \$8,017,179     | \$ 682,800   | \$57,216,972 |
| Less:<br>Anticipated Revenues   | \$48,516,993 | \$8,017,179     | \$ 682,800   | \$57,216,972 |
| Taxes to be Raised              | \$35,156,985 | - 0 -           | \$ 450,648   | \$35,607,633 |

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 \$813,059. 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 \$428,119 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 \$535,000 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.

2. To approve the attached Shared Service Agreement with Eagleswood Board of Education to provide Custodial Services to Eagleswood Elementary School, as needed, at a cost of \$160.00 per day 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 | ___ | ___ | ___ |                |     |     |     |

**D. 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).

## **E. BOARD INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

## **F. 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 | ___ | ___ | ___ |                |     |     |     |