SPECIAL MEETING March 18, 2025

The Special Meeting of the Stafford Township Board of Education was held on March 18, 2025 at 5:00pm 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 on the district website. A mechanical device is being used to video record this meeting.

ROLL CALL

Brian Fenlon	Member (via phone)
Gregory Gioe	Member
Robert Morello	Member
Matthew Regulski	Member (Absent)
Christopher Smith	Member (via phone)
Bonnie Strouse	Member (via phone)
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)

None

B. CORRESPONDENCE TO AND FROM THE BOARD

None

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 Total Expenditures		$48,516,993	$8,017,179	$ 682,800	$57,216,972
Less: 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 $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 $124,211 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.

A motion was made by Mr. Gioe and seconded by Mrs. Strouse to approve Board Business item(s) #1-2. Roll call vote: eight (8) members present voted yes; motion passed.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

E. BOARD INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

F. CLOSED SESSION – Personnel 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

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. Morello and seconded by Mr. Gioe to move on the above Resolution. Voice vote: All members present voted yes (8-0); motion passed.

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

TIME IN: 5:30pm
TIME AT CONCLUSION OF CLOSED SESSION: 5:43pm

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Gioe to adjourn the meeting at 5:44pm. Voice vote: All members present voted yes (8-0); motion passed.

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Lourdes LaGuardia
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

LL/km/3-21-2025