

The Business Meeting of the Stafford Township Board of Education was held on April 30, 2025 at 7:02pm at the Stafford Township Arts Center (STAC) and was live streamed over the web.

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 (Absent)
Gregory Gioe	Member
Robert Morello	Member (Absent)
Matthew Regulski	Member (Absent)
Christopher Smith	Member (Absent)
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
Gregory P. McGuckin, Esq.	Board of Education Attorney

FLAG SALUTE**A. RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS**

- Mrs. D'Alessandro recognized the "Steam Tank" finalists, emphasizing their unique achievement as the only team from Ocean County to reach the finals. These young inventors and entrepreneurs from grades 1-2 (Ocean Acres School) and grades 5-6 (Intermediate School) were commended for their outstanding work. Out of hundreds of schools in New Jersey, Stafford Township's teams made it to the final round of this competition, organized by the School Boards.

Mrs. D'Alessandro spoke about the Steam Tank program, highlighting its focus on teaching students to identify problems and develop innovative solutions for sustainable, healthy, equitable, and safe New Jersey communities. She noted that 430 K-12 STEAM teams across the state presented their solutions to real-world problems.

Grades 1-2 Team (Ocean Acres School): Congratulations were extended to four students for advancing to the 2025 Steam Tank Challenge final round. They created a recycling board game from scratch that teaches people how to recycle. Their team teacher, Mrs. Watson was also acknowledged for assistance. The final competition is in three weeks.

Mrs. Ducker then shared information about the Intermediate School team:

- Grades 5-6 Team (Intermediate School): She expressed pride in the sixth-grade students who created the "State Grocery Gadget." This is a mobility device designed to help individuals with mobility issues transport groceries in and out of their homes without heavy lifting or bending. Mrs. Ducker highlighted that these sixth-grade students competed against middle school students (seventh and eighth graders) statewide, not just within Ocean County. The invention has the potential to "change lives for millions of people."

Mr. Chidiac emphasized that teachers and staff are the "two most important pillars of our school community," celebrating their "passion, commitment, and heart." Mr. Chidiac said that Teachers of the Year are described as those who create "spaces of transformation" where students are "seen, heard, empowered." Mr. Chidiac praised Staff Members of the Year for their "care, teamwork, and dedication," providing essential support behind the scenes.

Mr. Chidiac thanked the Retirees for their "tremendous impact" on students and the community, with best wishes for their future endeavors. The Superintendent proudly stated that the Stafford Township School District's staff is "amazing," making the district "unique and special."

- Oxycocus – Mr. Wilkinson and Mr. Meyer presented and/or acknowledged the following staff members with their respective award:
 - Colleen Eldridge – Retiree
 - Susan Kennard – Retiree
 - Mary Cummins – Retiree
 - Janice O'Brien – Support Staff Recognition
 - Alyssa Elia-Way – Teacher of the Year
- PLC – Ms. Reo and Mr. Meyer presented and/or acknowledged the following staff members with their respective award:
 - Susan Vliet – Retiree
 - Lynn Norman - Retiree
 - Dena O'Brien – Retiree
 - Debbie Dealessandro – Support Staff Recognition
 - Amanda Toth – Teacher of the Year
 - Kelsey Schmidt – Educational Services Professional

BUSINESS MEETING

April 30, 2025

- Ocean Acres – Mrs. D'Alessandro and Mrs. Lowe presented and/or acknowledged the following staff members with their respective award:
Maura Davis – Retiree
Diane O'Keefe – Retiree
Roman Isaryk – Support Staff Recognition
Alexandra Reilly – Teacher of the Year
- McKinley – Mrs. Eberle and Ms. Aliseo presented and/or acknowledged the following staff members with their respective award:
Giacinto D'Agostino – Retiree
Lena Colucci - Retiree
Maryanne Tallon - Retiree
Andres Martinez – Support Staff Recognition
Kelly Bodziak – Teacher of the Year
- Intermediate – Mrs. Zaun and Mrs. Ducker presented and/or acknowledged the following staff members with their respective award:
Kathleen Redling – Retiree
Susan Cassaro – Retiree
Linda Fishman – Retiree
Michelle Horn – Support Staff Recognition
Jennifer Rowland – Teacher of the Year
- Transportation – Mrs. LaGuardia presented and/or acknowledged the following staff members with their respective award:
Jonathon Hughes – Retiree
Harold Hammonds – Support Staff Recognition

The acknowledgments concluded with a special video tribute to all honorees.

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

8:00pm - A motion was made by Mr. Washco and seconded by Mr. Gioe to open the Public Budget Hearing and discuss the 2025-2026 budget. Voice vote: All members present voted yes (5-0); motion passed.

BUDGET PRESENTATION

~ The 2025-2026 Budget as presented by George Chidiac, Superintendent and Lourdes LaGuardia, School Business Administrator.

- The 2025-2026 public budget, developed jointly by Mr. Chidiac and Mrs. LaGuardia was presented. This budget was particularly challenging due to state-level complexities and significant state aid reductions over the past seven years.

The district's budget philosophy is "students first," focusing on meeting students' physical, social, emotional, and academic needs while maintaining class sizes of 21-24 students. Budget development is guided by student needs, state mandates, curriculum needs, contractual obligations, and facility needs, with the process beginning informally in November and State Aid figures released in March.

Key budget highlights and enhancements include:

- **Curriculum & Learning:** "LinkIt Program" (\$65,000), "I-Ready Math" (\$60,000), Math Additional Practice Books (\$5,000), and EOA Program Consumables (\$30,000).
- **Technology Enhancements:** Overhead projector revamp (\$80,000) and Chromebook replenishment for 5th graders in 2025-2026 (\$130,000).

Mrs. LaGuardia, the Business Administrator, provided further financial details. She emphasized that budget development follows strict timelines, but district needs, especially increased enrollments and revenue shortfalls, necessitate regular communication between the administration and Board. Student enrollment is at an all-time high, with a 7% increase and over a hundred new students in the last four years. Additionally, there's been a 26% increase in "at-risk" or "special education" students, significantly impacting the budget.

Projected cost increases of 8.5% for the 2025-2026 school year are due to increased enrollment and inflation, leading to decreased contingencies. Student services account for 71% of the budget. The estimated average daily cost per child is \$77 for general education and \$160 for those requiring specialist assistance.

To manage costs, the district utilizes sound purchasing and shared services. Significant capital projects are underway, with state approval for up to \$1.8 million (requiring a 60% district match) for mechanical upgrades, HVAC, and roofing, offsetting \$4.5 million in general operations costs. A recent referendum also secured voter approval for \$75 million for building renovations, including expanding pre-kindergarten space and updating infrastructure.

Revenue drivers are primarily fixed, with the local levy accounting for 70% of projected revenues (\$36,656,985). State aid, once the second-highest resource, now provides only 11% of total revenues, having decreased by over 15% in recent years due to the S2 funding formula modification. Despite a slight increase of \$123,380 in state aid this year, the district has lost 48% of its state aid allocation in the last eight years. Other revenue sources include collaborations, interest revenue, shared services agreements (e.g., with LBI and Eagleswood), a \$240,000 withdrawal from the maintenance reserve for security, and discretionary grants. The preschool budget is a separate submission, partly subsidized by private providers.

BUSINESS MEETING

April 30, 2025

The Debt Service Fund, separate from the operating budget, finances capital projects approved by voters and is subsidized by annual state aid (\$232,152 this year). Community growth, with a \$43 million net taxable ratable increase, helps offset taxpayer impact. The general levy, limited to a 2% increase, accounts for 73% of the operating budget. The total proposed levy for 2025-2026 is \$36,656,009.85. The tax impact for an average Stafford homeowner (valued at \$296,476) is projected to increase by \$213.38, from \$2,216 to \$2,430.

The presentation concluded with Mr. Chidiac giving thanks to Mrs. LaGuardia, the Board and administrators for their hard work in navigating a challenging budget while maintaining services for students and staff.

A motion was made by Mr. Washco and seconded by Mr. Gioe to open Communication from the Public for Public Budget Hearing Only. Voice vote: All members present voted yes (5-0); motion passed.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC (PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING ONLY)

None

8:27pm - A motion was made by Mr. Washco and seconded by Mr. Gioe to close the Public Budget Hearing and resume the regular Business Meeting. Voice vote: All members present voted yes (5-0); motion passed.

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. March 13, 2025 | Committee of the Whole Meeting – 1 Absence (B. Fenlon) |
| 2. March 13, 2025 | Business Meeting – 1 Absence (B. Fenlon) |
| 3. March 13, 2025 | Closed Session – 1 Absence (B. Fenlon) |
| 4. March 18, 2025 | Special Meeting – 1 Absence (M. Regulski) |
| 5. March 18, 2025 | Closed Session – 1 Absence (M. Regulski) |
| 6. April 3, 2025 | Board Retreat – No Absences |
| 7. April 3, 2025 | Closed Session – No Absences |

A motion was made by Mr. Washco and seconded by Mr. Cooney to approve Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s) #1-7. Roll call vote: five (5) members present voted yes; motion passed.

D. COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

None

E. CORRESPONDENCE TO AND FROM THE BOARD

None

F. BOARD BUSINESS

1. There were eight incidents of harassment, intimidation, and bullying.
2. To affirm the determination of the Superintendent regarding harassment, intimidation, and bullying incident investigation – Intermediate #2, Intermediate #3, Intermediate #4, Intermediate #5.
3. To approve the attached Memorandum of Agreement between Stafford Township Board of Education and Stafford Township Administrators' Association for the period July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028.
4. To approve the Affirmative Action Team to conduct the needs assessment and develop a Comprehensive Equity Plan for the school years 2025-2026 through 2027-2028.
5. To approve the attached Comprehensive Equity Plan for the school years 2025-2026 through 2027-2028.
6. 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 2025-2026 school year: Neurology Services, Nursing Services, Speech Services, Environmental Specialist

A motion was made by Mr. Cooney and seconded by Mrs. Strouse to approve Board Business item(s) #1-6. Roll call vote: five (5) members present voted yes; motion passed.

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.

The Board President, Mrs. Wagner stated that Finance/Insurance/Transportation Item #G-21 needs to be amended to list the pending approvals:

On paragraph 7 add "pending final approvals from the Commissioner of Education". On paragraph 8 to change from "has been granted" to "is under review". Under paragraph 10a, to add "pending New Jersey Department of Education final approval". Under paragraph 11 to add "pending New Jersey Department of Education final approval".

A motion was made by Mr. Gioe and seconded by Mr. Washco to Amend Item #G-21. Voice vote: All members present voted yes (5-0); motion approved.

1. To approve for payment of April 2025 bills list totaling \$2,106,589.24 as attached. (G-1)

Fund 10 - \$1,307,080.16
Fund 20 - \$278,940.37
Fund 30 - \$391,152.28
Fund 40 - \$0
Fund 60 - \$91,815.04
Fund 61 - \$1,489.42
Fund 62 - \$36,111.97

*Note - \$671,917.43 of the amounts listed were made as EFT payments. (G-1a)

*To approve for payment of March 2025 additional bills list totaling \$231,820.40 as attached. (G-1b)

Fund 10 - \$173,962.66
Fund 20 - \$37,805.14
Fund 30 - \$6,570
Fund 40 - \$0
Fund 60 - \$0
Fund 61 - \$1,648.74
Fund 62 - \$11,833.86

*Note - \$1,603.01 of the amounts listed were made as EFT payments. (G-1c)

2. To approve for payment of payroll

- a. dated March 14, 2025 totaling \$1,554,136.92
 - b. dated March 28, 2025 totaling \$1,594,401.74
- 3. To accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of February 2025.
 - 4. To accept the Secretary's Report for the month of February 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 February 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 February 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 February 2025.
- 7. To authorize the Business Administrator to make payment of post-Board meeting bills for the month of April 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.
- 9. To approve the Preschool Private Provider Budget Workbook Submission for participation in the Preschool Program for the 2025-2026 school year.
 - a. Happy Days Preschool I
 - b. Happy Days Preschool II
 - c. Little Graduates Preschool and Learning Center
 - d. The Learning Experience

10. To approve the attached five-year Master Collaborative Service Agreement with Educational Services Commission of New Jersey (ESCNJ) for the 2025-2026 school year, commencing July 1, 2025. (Year 1 of 5)
11. To approve the attached Agreement from X-Tel Communications for Ethernet 2000 M (2Gb) EDIA and IP Addresses 16 (13 usable) at a cost of \$1,672 monthly for 36 months, commencing August 2025. X-Tel bid through E-Rate – Category 1 funding.
12. To approve the attached proposal from ATRA Janitorial Supply of Pompton Plains, NJ for the Serving Counter at Intermediate School. The total cost of this proposal is \$278,697 and is based on pricing through OMNIA Partners Bid #23FS4.
13. To approve an in district tuition contract with Eagleswood Township Board of Education for student #25734 in the amount of \$35,113 prorated for the ERI program plus \$100 per month for related services for the 2024-2025 school year, commencing March 24, 2025.
14. To approve the out of district tuition contract with the Barnegat Board of Education for student #0108747 for the 2024-2025 school year, commencing September 4, 2024 at an annual tuition cost of \$16,494. This is a McKinney Vento student and Stafford Township Board of Education is responsible for the payment for education of this student until June 2025.
15. To approve the out of district tuition contract with Children's Center of Monmouth County, Inc. for student #25722 for the 2024-2025 school year, commencing February 21, 2025 at an annual tuition cost of \$28,798.58. Stafford Township is responsible for the education of this student.
16. To approve student #22666 to receive home instruction for the 2024-2025 school year, commencing March 8, 2025 and ending May 6, 2025 at a rate of \$51.44/hour. This student will receive 5 hours of home instruction per week.
17. To approve student #23050 to receive home instruction for the 2024-2025 school year, commencing March 17, 2025 and ending April 11, 2025 at a rate of \$51.44/hour. This student will receive 10 hours of home instruction per week.
18. To approve the attached School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill Reports for Intermediate, McKinley, Ocean Acres, Primary Learning Center, Oxycocus School and Happy Days I and II that took place on April 8th, 9th and 10th, 2025.
19. To accept Award of New Electric Supply Contract (RSCP) with Direct Energy for a 24-month term, May 2025 through May 2026 as bid through the NJ School Boards ACES Member Agreement at a contract price of:

<u>Bid Group</u>	<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Contract Price</u>
AGS prim/sec, MGS	Direct Energy Business	\$.07927/kwh (Fixed-Energy Charge)

Capacity and transmission charges will be passed through monthly as actual costs.

20. To accept Award of New Electric Supply Contract (Street-Lighting) with Approved Energy for a 24-month term, May 2025 through May 2026 as bidded through the NJ School Boards ACES Member Agreement at a contract price of:

<u>Bid Group</u>	<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Contract Price</u>
CSL, SPL	Approved Energy	\$.07927/kwh (All-In Fixed Charge)

21. To approve the following Resolution:

ADOPTION OF THE FINAL BUDGET
2025-2026

Adoption of the FINAL BUDGET, with modifications to the TENTATIVE BUDGET approved by the NJDOE Interim Executive County Superintendent.

WHEREAS, the Stafford Township Board of Education adopted a TENTATIVE budget on April 3, 2025, and submitted it to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval, and

WHEREAS, the TENTATIVE budget was approved by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools on April 7, 2025, and

WHEREAS, the TENTATIVE budget was advertised in the legal section of the Atlantic City Press on April 17, 2025, and

WHEREAS, in the proposed FY2026 State Budget, certain districts had the opportunity to apply to the Commissioner of Education to increase expenditures, including an allocation of Tax Levy Incentive Aid, in order to satisfy the thoroughness and efficiency standards established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-46.

WHEREAS, Stafford Township School District is below local fair share and spending below adequacy to be eligible to participate in this program.

WHEREAS, Stafford Township School District is eligible to increase expenditures by \$1,096,342 and qualify for Tax Levy Incentive Aid in the amount of \$52,207 pending final approvals from the Commissioner of Education.

WHEREAS, Stafford Township School District is under review to increase expenditures based on the following reasons: to maintain teaching positions and programs due to continuing increase in enrollment growth, purchase additional

textbooks for language arts, to purchase chrome book computers and classroom projectors for teaching and students for its 1:1 initiative, and to maintain indoor air quality and rising costs associated with heating and cooling.

WHEREAS, the FINAL BUDGET including the increase in accordance with the tax levy incentive aid was presented to the public during a public hearing held at the Stafford Township Arts Center, Manahawkin, NJ, on April 30, 2025.

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has substantiated the need to make modifications as submitted to the State and to amend the Tentative Budget as follows, pending NJ Department of Education final approval. The Board of Education authorizes the Business Administrator to make necessary changes for submission, pending NJ Department of Education final approval.

Increase in Revenues:

Revenue Budget Line	Description	Tentative Budget	Final Budget	Change	Explanation
10-1210-000	Tax Levy	\$35,612,850	\$36,656,985	\$1,044,135	Tax Levy Incentive Program
10-3190-000	Other State Aid	\$0	\$52,207	\$52,207	Tax Levy Incentive Aid
TOTAL		\$35,612,850	\$36,709,192	\$1,096,342	

Increase in Appropriations:

Budget Appropriation Line	Description	Tentative Budget	Change	Final Budget	Explanation
11-000-100-566	OOD special ed	\$221,552	\$129,038	\$350,590	Increased need for special ed programs
11-000-213-500	Other Professional Svcs	\$400	\$62,483	\$62,883	Health and safety 1:1 in-district special needs students
11-000-221-104	Salary Other Professional Staff	\$137,200	\$48,355	\$185,555	At risk, social, emotional supports: I&RS
11-000-230-331	Legal	\$40,036	\$32,935	\$72,971	Compliance Increased cost district representation Spec Ed
11-000-262-100	Salaries	\$1,119,031	\$48,000	\$1,167,031	Custodial: facility safety and security
11-000-262-622	Electric	\$545,208	\$134,000	\$679,208	Safety and security; increasing expenditures
11-000-270-518	Contracted Services (SpecEd Students)	\$444,448	\$136,615	\$581,063	Compliance special needs OOD
11-110-100-101	Kindergarten Salaries of Teachers	\$1,339,603	\$60,283	\$1,399,886	Class size: Enrolment increases Kindergarten
11-120-100-101	Grades 1-5 Salaries of Teachers	\$7,284,184	\$49,713	\$7,333,897	Class size: Enrolment increases
11-190-100-610	General Supplies	\$370,665	\$79,200	\$449,865	School Supply: technology upgrades learning component
11-190-100-640	Textbooks	\$183,550	\$25,428	\$208,978	Teaching needs: new students and replacements
11-000-291-220	Benefit -Social Security	\$819,959	\$14,133	\$834,092	FICA required employer contribution

BUSINESS MEETING

April 30, 2025

11-204-100-101	Salaries Teachers LLD	\$706,597	\$62,133	\$768,730	At Risk Special Ed - Increased needs Increased Enrollments
11-213-100-101	Salaries Teachers Resource	\$1,482,700	\$62,133	\$1,544,833	At Risk Special Ed - Increased needs Increased Enrollments
11-212-100-101	Salaries of Teachers MD	\$340,573	\$62,133	\$402,706	Special Ed : Increased needs Increased Enrollments
11-212-100-106	Other Salaries Instructions MD	\$525,922	\$49,818	\$575,740	Special Ed Aide : Increased needs Increased Enrollments
11-216-100-101-	Salaries -PSD	\$422,860	\$39,942	\$462,802	Special Ed : Increased needs Increased Enrollments

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in consideration of the above, the Board of Education hereby adopts the following FINAL Budget for SY2025-2026 pending NJ Department of Education final approval:

SY2025-2026	Budget	Tax Levy
General Fund	\$49,614,436	\$36,656,985
Special Revenue	\$8,017,179	\$0
Debt Service	\$682,800	\$450,648
Total Base Budget	\$58,314,415	\$37,107,633

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 \$580,076 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.

A motion was made by Mr. Washco and seconded by Mr. Cooney to approve Finance/Insurance/Transportation item(s) #1-21. Roll call vote item #1: five (5) members present voted yes; motion passed. Roll call vote item #2: four (4) members present voted yes; motion passed. Mr. Gioe abstained on item #2. Roll call vote items #3-21: five (5) members present voted yes; motion passed.

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.

1. To approve the submission of Form #72 Consolidation Agreement with Long Beach Island School District to provide food services for the 2025-2026 school year as per the Department of Agriculture regulations.
2. To approve the attached Shared Services Agreement with Long Beach Island School District to provide food services for the 2025-2026 school year.

A motion was made by Mrs. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Cooney to approve Buildings/Grounds/Cafeteria item(s) #1-2. Roll call vote: five (5) members present voted yes; motion passed.

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 attached revised district calendar for the 2024-2025 school year.
2. To approve the attached district calendar for the 2025-2026 school year.
3. To approve the attached Stafford Township School District school hours for the 2025-2026 school year.
4. To approve the attached Extended School Year Program, beginning July 7, 2025 and ending August 14, 2025. This program will be held at the McKinley Avenue Elementary School.

A motion was made by Mr. Cooney and seconded by Mr. Washco to approve Curriculum/Instruction/Technology item(s) #1-4. Roll call vote: five (5) members present voted yes; motion passed.

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 and the 2025-2026 school year.
3. To approve the following resignations:
 - a. Rachell Yatkowitz, Teacher Aide, effective April 1, 2025
 - b. Melissa Stager, Teacher Aide, effective March 17, 2025
 - c. Megan Fastige, Teacher Aide, effective April 7, 2025
 - d. Rachel Jones, Teacher Aide, effective April 15, 2025
 - e. Carla Nodine, Teacher Aide, effective July 1, 2025
 - f. Christine MacCotter, Teacher Aide, effective April 30, 2025
 - g. Susan Townsend, Teacher Aide, effective April 14, 2025
 - h. Nina DeFilippo, Teacher Aide, effective, April 15, 2025
4. To approve to rescind the offer of PT Teacher Aide contract to Kaitlyn Sorbara for the 2024/2025 school year.
5. To approve the following leaves:
 - a. Employee ID #6722, unpaid family leave FMLA, beginning March 24, 2025 and returning April 15, 2025
 - b. Employee ID #6663, unpaid leave of absence, beginning March 3, 2025 and returning April 8, 2025
 - c. Employee ID #6452, unpaid leave of absence, beginning February 14, 2025 (1/2 day PM) and returning February 24, 2025
 - d. Employee ID #6334, unpaid contractual child rearing leave REVISED, beginning January 27, 2025 and returning March 26, 2025
 - e. Employee ID #6870, unpaid leave of absence, beginning February 27, 2025 and returning March 3, 2025 AND beginning March 6, 2025 and returning March 10, 2025
 - f. Employee ID #6786, unpaid leave of absence, beginning March 12, 2025 (1/2 day PM) and returning March 13, 2025

- g. Employee ID #6746, unpaid leave of absence, beginning March 13, 2025 and returning March 14, 2025
 - h. Employee ID #6788, unpaid leave of absence, beginning March 19, 2025 and returning March 24, 2025
 - i. Employee ID #6870, unpaid leave of absence, beginning March 14, 2025 and returning March 24, 2025
 - j. Employee ID #6452, unpaid leave of absence, beginning March 14, 2025 and returning March 17, 2025
 - k. Employee ID #4543, unpaid leave of absence, beginning March 18, 2025 and returning March 19, 2025
 - l. Employee ID #6665, unpaid leave of absence, beginning March 26, 2025 and returning March 27, 2025
 - m. Employee ID #5825, unpaid leave of absence, beginning March 31, 2025 and returning May 1, 2025
 - n. Employee ID #6821, unpaid leave of absence, beginning March 10, 2025 and returning March 17, 2025 AND beginning March 24, 2025 and returning March 25, 2025
 - o. Employee ID #6174, unpaid contractual child rearing leave, beginning September 1, 2025 and returning July 1, 2026
6. To approve the attached revised job descriptions:
- a. A-23 Transportation Assistant Coordinator
 - b. C-11 Transportation Dispatcher
7. To approve Jamie Weber as Homebound Instruction Teacher for the 2024-2025 school year.
8. To approve the affiliation with Stafford Township Board of Education and University of Pittsburgh for the 2024-2025 school year.
9. To approve the affiliation with Stafford Township Board of Education and Columbia University for the 2025-2026 school year.
10. To approve the attached list of student fieldwork placements for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years.
11. To approve Rachel Schenk as Elementary School Teacher, Grade 2, Ocean Acres Elementary School, beginning May 5, 2025 and ending June 30, 2025, Step 4, pro-rated, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement. This is a non-tenure fill-in position.
12. To approve the attached contract between the Stafford Township Board of Education and Lourdes LaGuardia, Business Administrator, beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026. This contract has been approved by the Executive County Superintendent.

BUSINESS MEETING

April 30, 2025

13. To approve the attached contract between Stafford Township Board of Education and Stephanie Bush, Director of Personnel, beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.
14. To approve Jessica Fedor as Elementary School Teacher, Grade 2, Ocean Acres Elementary School, beginning May 5, 2025 and ending June 30, 2025, Step B, +MA, pro-rated, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement. This is a non-tenured track leave replacement position.
15. To approve Rachel Goodman as Elementary School Teacher, Grade 5, Intermediate School, beginning April 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2025, Step C, pro-rated, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement. This is a non-tenured track leave replacement position.

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.

A motion was made by Mr. Cooney and seconded by Mr. Gioe to approve Personnel item(s) #1-15. Roll call vote: five (5) members present voted yes; motion passed.

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.

NO ACTION ITEMS

L. ADVANCED PLANNING

M. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

N. BOARD INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

O. CLOSED SESSION

None

BUSINESS MEETING

April 30, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Washco and seconded by Mr. Cooney to adjourn the meeting at 8:32pm. Voice vote: All members present voted yes (5-0); motion passed.

Lourdes LaGuardia
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

LL/km/5-20-2025