STAFFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
Manahawkin, NJ 08050

PUBLIC AGENDA

BUSINESS MEETING

PLACE: Oxycocus Elementary School
Stafford Room

DATE: November 17, 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

~Oxycocus Student and Staff Recognition

~ Presentation of the 2024-2025 Annual Audit by Michael Garcia, CPA/RMA of Ford, Scott & Associates, Certified Public Auditors.

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. October 2, 2025 Committee of the Whole – 2 Absences (C. Smith, J. Washco)
2. October 2, 2025 Business Meeting – 2 Absences (C. Smith, J. Washco)
3. October 2, 2025 Closed Session – 1 Absence (C. Smith, J. Washco)

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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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.

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Your anticipated courtesy to the members of the public and the Board is appreciated.

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E. CORRESPONDENCE TO AND FROM THE BOARD

F. BOARD BUSINESS

1. There was one incident of harassment, intimidation, and bullying.

2. To affirm the determination of the Superintendent regarding harassment, intimidation, and bullying incident investigation – Intermediate #1

3. To accept the resignation of Robert Morello as a member of the Stafford Township Board of Education effective as of November 13, 2025.

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 2025-2026 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.

Board Secretary's Certification:

I, Lourdes LaGuardia, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary certifies that no line item has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-A-16.10 (c) 3 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

_____ _____
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Date

1. To approve for payment of November 2025 bills list totaling $1,612,679.29 as attached. (G-1)

   Fund 10 - $1,010,683.84
   Fund 20 - $360,674.67
   Fund 30 - $130,395.66
   Fund 40 - $0
   Fund 60 - $101,464.76
   Fund 61 - $400.63
   Fund 62 - $9,059.73

   *Note - $665,401.48 of the amounts listed were made as EFT payments. (G-1a)

   *To approve for payment of October 2025 additional bills list totaling $552,790.90 as attached. (G-1b)

   Fund 10 - $436,919.12
   Fund 20 - $81,091.07
   Fund 30 - $31,025
   Fund 40 - $0

Fund 60 - $136.45 Refund 60/62 $16.45
Fund 61 - $1,987.91
Fund 62 - $1,631.35

*Note - $1,987.91 of the amounts listed were made as EFT payments. (G-1c)

*To approve for payment of September 2025 additional bills list totaling $2,477.30 as attached. (G-1d)

Fund 10 - $81.65
Fund 20 - $2,384.79
Fund 30 - $0
Fund 40 - $0
Fund 60 - $0
Fund 61 - $0
Fund 62 - $10.86

*Note - $76 of the amounts listed were made as EFT payments. (G-1e)

2. To approve for payment of payroll

   a. dated October 15, 2025 totaling $1,671,033.38
   b. dated October 30, 2025 totaling $980.12
   c. dated October 30, 2025 totaling $1,694,505.96

3. To accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of September 2025.

4. To accept the Secretary's Report for the month of September 2025.

5. To approve the attached line item transfers for September 2025.

6. To authorize the Business Administrator to make payment of post-Board meeting bills for the month of November 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.

7. To accept the 2024-2025 Annual Audit, Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and approve the Corrective Action Plan (if applicable) as previously presented by Michael Garcia, CPA/RMA of Ford, Scott & Associates, Certified Public Auditors.

8. To approve the submission of the entire Preschool Plan (MS Form Survey, Statement of Assurance, District Contact Chart) for the 2026-2027 Preschool Operational Plan and 2026-2027 Enrollment Projection.

9. To approve the attached Change Order #M-02 from Thermal Piping in the amount of $1,633.67 for supply and install condensate pumps on units AC #2, #3, and #4 due to the new unit condensation lines not lining up with the existing lines. Total amount of $1,633.67 to be deducted from Allowance Balance of $17,521.80, leaving an Allowance Balance of $15,888.13, which will be credited to the district. This creates a final contract value of $666,111.87. This was for the HVAC System Upgrades at Ocean Acres School under the ROD Grant.

10. To approve the attached Agreement from Lifetouch National School Studios, Inc. for photographic services for the 2026-2027 school year. The financial giveback will be 15% on fall package sales and 10% on spring package sales for each school, less sales tax to be paid on packages purchased from the flyer package selection up to 48 hours after picture day. These proceeds will be deposited to the student activity account for each school.

11. To approve the attached School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill Reports for the Intermediate, McKinley, Ocean Acres, Primary Learning Center and Oxycocus schools, as well as The Learning Experience, Happy Days I & II which took place on October 15th and 16th, 2025.

12. To approve the contract with Care Options for Kids for the 2025-2026 school year, commencing October 8, 2025 for student #25813. This Out of District student requires one to one nursing services. Rate is $65/hr for RN and $65/hr for LPN services provided under this agreement.

13. To approve the in district tuition contract with the Edison Township Board of Education for McKinney-Vento student #9309646937 in the pro-rated amount of $14,136.71 for tuition for the 2025-2026 school year, commencing September 8, 2025.

14. To approve student #24190 to receive home instruction for the 2025-2026 school year, commencing October 1, 2025 until December 1, 2025. This student will receive 10 hours of home instruction per week at the rate of $51.44 per hour.

15. To approve student #24139 to receive home instruction for the 2025-2026 school year, commencing September 4, 2025 until November 30, 2025. This student will receive 10 hours of home instruction per week at the rate of $51.44 per hour.

16. To approve student #23126 to receive home instruction for the 2025-2026 school year, commencing October 24, 2025 until November 30, 2025. This student will receive 10 hours of home instruction per week at the rate of $51.44 per hour.

17. To approve LearnWell to provide 10 hours of homebound instruction per week at $64.90 per hour of instruction to student #23126 while in the hospital from September 2, 2025 to September 16, 2025. Each 3 hours of teaching generates one hour of admin/prep time cost.

18. To approve Union County Educational Services Commission to provide 10 hours of homebound instruction per week at $76 per hour of instruction to student #23126 while in the hospital from September 25, 2025 to October 31, 2025.

19. To approve the submission of the Federal Grant Application for Community and Schools Youth Drug Prevention funding in the amount of $3,994, commencing May 1, 2026 and ending May 30, 2026.

20. To approve the Grant Application Approval from the state and accept the amount of $12,260 for the FY26 Funding for Optimal Comprehensive Universal Screeners (FOCUS) Grant from the NJDOE 26-TL03-G03, commencing November 1, 2025 and ending September 30, 2026. The grant will provide necessary funding to implement the state NJDOE's Literacy Framework's Universal Screener cost for grades K-3.

21. To approve the submission of the Hackensack Meridian Children's Health School Wellness Mini Grant in the amount of $1,500, commencing February 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2026.

22. BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford Township Board of Education to accept and approve the bid proposal from G.B.I. Inc T/A Thermal Piping of Wrightstown, NJ in the total amount not to exceed $3,143,000 for the Base Bid, which includes Allowance AL-1: $150,000 and Alternate Bid AB-1 in the total amount not to exceed $110,000 for the HVAC Upgrades at Multiple Schools. This was one of seven bids received and was selected on lowest amount. Attached is the Bid Tabulation. This project is part of the Referendum Projects.

23. To approve the resubmission of the bid specs to the NJ Office of the State Comptroller for the OSC 26-136 / 24K066 / Stafford Addition and Alterations at Oxycocus Elementary School to include verbiage for the Project Labor Agreement (PLA)**,** which is a pre-hire collective bargaining agreement between a project's owner and one or more labor unions that establishes the terms and conditions of employment for a specific project. Key provisions typically include wage rates, benefits, and rules for resolving labor disputes**.**

24. BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford Township Board of Education to accept and approve the bid proposal from SRJ Mechanical of Hillsborough, NJ in the total amount not to exceed $2,054,000 for the Base Bid for the HVAC project at Ocean Acres Elementary School. This was one of ten bids received and was selected on lowest amount. Attached is the Bid Tabulation. This project is part of the Referendum Projects.

25. To approve the following Resolution:

Resolution of Support from Stafford Township Board of Education Authorizing the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Small Grant Application

WHEREAS, Sustainability means using resources wisely, saving money and reducing our impact on the environment, all of which will ensure the future health, safety, and prosperity of our children; and;

WHEREAS, The Stafford Township Board of Education seeks to support and work with school staff and administrators, students and parents to ensure a safe and healthy environment for students by encouraging our school community to implement sustainable, energy-smart, eco-friendly and cost-effective solutions;

WHEREAS, Stafford Township Board of Education is participating in the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Program; and
WHEREAS, one of the purposes of the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Program is to provide resources to school districts to make progress on sustainability issues, and they have created a grant program called the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Small Grants Program;

THEREFORE, The Stafford Township Board of Education has determined that Stafford should apply for the aforementioned grant program. The Grant will provide Nature as a Classroom: Outdoor Seating for Engaged Learning at the Primary Learning Center;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that of the Stafford Township Board of Education, State of New Jersey, authorize the submission of the aforementioned Sustainable Jersey for Schools Grant.

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 2025-2026 board/district goals.

1. To approve the attached Comprehensive Maintenance Plan and Annual Maintenance Budget Amount Worksheet (M-1) for 2025-2026.

2. To approve the attached 2025-2026 Annual Facilities Checklist – Health and Safety Evaluation of School Buildings.

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 2025-2026 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.

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 2025-2026 board/district goals.

1. To approve the attached list of substitutes for the 2025-2026 school year.

2. To approve the change of assignment for the attached list of personnel for the 2025-202 school year.

3. To approve the following retirement:
    a. Jeanie Carbone, Speech Teacher, effective January 12, 2026

4. To approve the following resignations:
    a. Heather Giles, Teacher Aide, effective October 17, 2025
    b. Sean Reilly, Director of Special Serviced, effective January 1, 2026
    c. Melissa Smentkowski, Teacher Aide, effective November 18, 2025
    d. Jessica Fedor, Teacher, effective January 12, 2026

5. To approve the following leaves:
    a. Employee ID #6459, unpaid family leave FMLA, beginning November 10, 2025 and returning February 17, 2026
    b. Employee ID #6459, unpaid contractual child rearing leave, beginning February 17, 2026 and returning March 2, 2026
    c. Employee ID #5705, unpaid family leave FMLA, beginning October 31, 2025 and returning February 17, 2026
    d. Employee ID #5705, unpaid contractual child rearing leave, beginning February 17, 2026 and returning July 1, 2026
    e. Employee ID #5730, unpaid family leave FMLA REVISED, beginning November 14, 2025 and returning February 23, 2026

f. Employee ID #5730, unpaid contractual child rearing leave, beginning February 23, 2026 and returning March 9, 2026
g. Employee ID #4336, unpaid family leave FMLA, beginning December 10, 2025 and returning March 13, 2026
h. Employee #4336, unpaid leave of absence, beginning March 16, 2026 and returning July 1, 2026
i. Employee ID #6712, unpaid family leave FMLA, beginning November 18, 2025(½ DAY PM) and returning February 20, 2026
j. Employee ID #6712, unpaid contractual child rearing leave, beginning February 20, 2026 and returning June 1, 2026

6. To approve the personnel below to substitute for Extra -Curricular and Enrichment Programs for the 2025-2026 school year:
    a. Koryn Chanda
    b. Katrina Tittermary
    c. Megan Galeotafiore

7. To approve Edward Itte as a non-family volunteer for the 4/5 Musical, Winter Chorus/Concert and Spring Chorus/Concert for the 2025-2026 school year.

8. To approve the attached list of student fieldwork placements for the 2025-2026 school year.

9. To approve Emily Halloran as an Afterschool Detention Monitor for the 2025-2026 school year.

10. To approve the attached per diem pay for the Interim Administrators for the 2025-2026 school year.

11. To approve Tina Hudacko as Part Time Hourly Teacher Aide, Preschool, Ronald L. Meinders Primary Learning Center, beginning October 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, Step 2, pro-rated, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement. This is a replacement position.

12. To approve Halee Houser as Part Time Hourly Teacher Aide, LLD Class, Ronald L. Meinders Primary Learning Center, beginning October 27, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, Step 1, +60 credits, pro-rated, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement. This is a replacement position.

13. To approve Shari Zurla as Cafeteria Playground Aide, Ocean Acres Elementary School, beginning November 10, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, Step 1, pro-rated, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement. This is a replacement position.

14. To approve Amanda Hafner as Registered Behavior Technician, Grade Preschool/Kindergarten, Ronald L. Meinders Primary Learning Center and Oxycocus Elementary School, beginning December 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, Step 17 (TA Guide), +BT Stipend, +BA, pro-rated, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement.

15. To approve Lauren Tatro as Elementary School Teacher, PENDING CERTIFICATON, ERI Class, Ronald L. Meinders Primary Learning Center, beginning January 16, 2026 and ending June 30, 2026, Step A, prorated, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement.

16. To approve Harry Louth as Interim Administrator, District Wide, beginning November 10, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, per diem rate as attached, on an as needed basis.

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 2025-2026 board/district goals.

1. To approve the **second reading** of following **revised** regulation:
   - R7510 Use of School Facilities

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 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	___	___	___				