BUSINESS MEETING November 17, 2025

The Business Meeting of the Stafford Township Board of Education was held on November 17, 2025 at 7:02pm at the Oxycocus Elementary School 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 (Via Telephone)
Gregory Gioe	Member
Robert Morello	Member (Absent)
Matthew Regulski	Member
Christopher Smith	Member (Absent)
Bonnie Strouse	Member
Joseph Washco	Member
Kevin Cooney	Vice President (Absent)
Tammy Wagner	President

ALSO PRESENT

George J. Chidiac	Superintendent
Lourdes LaGuardia	Business Administrator/Board of Education Secretary
Patrick Varga, Esq.	Board of Education Attorney

FLAG SALUTE

A. RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

~Oxycocus Student and Staff Recognition

- Mr. Wilkinson recognized several of his staff members. As with any building, the secretaries are the heart of the building. They help “pump” all the necessary information to all areas of the building. Mrs. Tara Glory and Mrs. June Scherer’s organization and communication helped Oxycocus and all the staff with the summer moves within and outside of the building.

  If the secretaries are the heart of the building, then the custodian is the skeleton and muscle of the building. Ms. Reyna Flores managed the entire summer cleaning and moving all of the internal staff at Oxycocus on her own. This was a huge task and she was able to accomplish it with great effectiveness.

Mr. Zach Miljus was hired as a transportation assistant, however, over the last several years he has been working between the AM and PM bus runs as a sub teacher assistant in our Preschool Classrooms. This year he has predominately worked in Mrs. Boeta's classroom. When asked to describe him, this is what was shared: Zach has a huge heart and has really become a part of our classroom. He has genuine love and compassion for the students and they absolutely adore him. He is able to make connections with them and has a great rapport with everyone he interacts with. He is always willing to step up and help a student out- even if it means him having to face some of his own fears regarding germs. Zach is so helpful and will do whatever is asked of him with a smile. He is a hard worker and we are lucky to have him here with us.

Mr. Wilkinson recognized four students; the first student came in 2 ½ years ago with very limited language and no interest in other kids. He had a really tough time transitioning into school. The progress he has shown has been tremendous. He is now not only socializing and seeking out peers to interact with, but he is also taking care of and guiding our younger students. Sam is now having conversations with his teachers and peers daily. We are so proud of how far he has come and can't wait to see what this last year here has in store for him.

The second student has shown tremendous growth since last school year. He's become much more aware of his surroundings and uses his words effectively to express his feelings and needs. He has taken on a leadership role in the classroom, showing other students how to play and encouraging them to try new things. Isaac is truly a pleasure to have in class, and is being recognized for how far he has come since starting Oxy a year and half ago.

The third student came to Oxycocus last year as a three-year-old and new to the school setting. He had some difficulties finding his way in a school setting and getting along with peers. However, this year, he is blossoming into a great friend and helper in his classroom. He continually has a great smile and which just adds to his overall charm.

At our recent bus evacuations- the fourth student was the first one off the bus and he went over by the building where he was instructed to go. He then assisted the adults by appropriately waving the other students over so they knew where to go. He also was scooted down to make room for a peer fit in along the wall. His actions were kind and helpful.

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

- Mr. Garcia provided the board members copies and presented the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for June 30, 2025, reviewed the Management Report and shared the financial balance and financial status. Mr.

Garcia also reviewed the State Aid Reductions. There were no recommendations.

B. SUPERINTENDENT'S EDUCATIONAL REPORT - Attachment

Mr. Chidiac gave an update on the district events:

STAC Events

Please go to our website www.stacnj.com for tickets.

It's a Shore Holiday – November 30, 2025 @ 3:00pm
Holiday Oldies – December 7, 2025 @3:00pm
The American Ride – December 13, 2025 @ 7:30pm

Oxycocus

The Oxycocus Elementary School had a fun filled month. Lessons and activities focused around buildings and Halloween. The week of Halloween had the gym transformed into a the Oxycocus Spooktacular Obstacle course. Halloween began with "spooky" festivities followed by the parade including snacks, crafts and games. The parade was well attended by families.

PLC

The month of October is known for teaching RESPECT – During the week of October 6th – students and staff wore blue/gold, favorite sweatshirts and jerseys to support and show respect! Kelsey Schmidt, the guidance counselor, read "The One" to discuss what respect means and what it means to be an Upstander! During the week of October 20th- students and staff wore and spoke of uplifting messages, uniqueness, and hats for school violence week! During the week of October 27th Officer Szwed visited our classes to review Halloween Safety, including the importance of having parents/guardians check all treats before eating!

Ocean Acres

The weather at the start of October was wonderful. Classes have been enjoying the outdoor classroom spaces. The Special Education classes participated in the annual Stafford Olympics. It was a morning filled with fun events and bonding with friends. Ms. Cracchiolo led the students through a variety of dances. Fun was had by all. The month ended with a Halloween dress-up day and the annual Halloween parade for staff, students, and families to enjoy. It was a spooktacular month at Ocean Acres.

McKinley

October was a busy month for the McKinley Mustangs! We began the month with the Week of Respect. Students were asked to show their Stafford pride by wearing the school colors and participating in other dress up days. This year, McKinley's Make A Difference Day raised over $22,000 for Tunnel To Towers Foundation!! Way to go McKinley Mustangs!!! Everyone was in high spirits and the variety of costumes

was a sight to behold! Our amazing PTO sponsored a trunk-or-treat for all of our students to enjoy.

Intermediate

Stafford Intermediate School celebrated a variety of exciting and meaningful events that brought students and staff together in school spirit and community pride this month. It began with Violence and Vandalism Awareness Week and the Week of Respect, where students participated in spirit days and activities that promoted kindness, respect, and responsibility. Energy and teamwork filled the air during the Stafford Olympics, as classes competed in fun games that encouraged collaboration and school pride. The Little Mermaid Jr. Musical showcased the incredible talents of the school's young fourth and fifth grade performers. Proud to announce that our 6th grade students (now 7th grade) took second place overall in the NJ STEAM competition.

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)

A motion was made by Mrs. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Gioe to approve Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s) #1-3. Roll call vote: five (5) members present voted yes; motion passed. Mr. Washco abstained on items #1-3.

D. COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

None

E. CORRESPONDENCE TO AND FROM THE BOARD

None

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.

A motion was made by Dr. Regulski and seconded by Mr. Washco to approve Board Business item(s) #1-3. Roll call vote: six (6) 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 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.

A motion was made by Dr. Regulski and seconded by Mrs. Strouse to approve Finance/Insurance/Transportation item(s) #1-25. Roll call vote item #1: six (6) members present voted yes; motion passed. Roll call vote item #2: five (5) members present voted yes; motion passed. Mr. Gioe abstained on item #2. Roll call vote items #3-25: six (6) 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 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.

A motion was made by Mr. Washco and seconded by Mr. Gioe to approve Buildings/Grounds/Cafeteria item(s) #1-2. Roll call vote: six (6) 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 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.

A motion was made by Mr. Washco and seconded by Mr. Gioe to approve Curriculum/Instruction/Technology item(s) #1. Roll call vote: six (6) 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 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.

A motion was made by Dr. Regulski and seconded by Mr. Gioe to approve Personnel item(s) #1-16. Roll call vote: six (6) 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 2025-2026 board/district goals.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Washco and seconded by Mrs. Strouse to approve Policy/Legislative item(s) #1. Roll call vote: six (6) members present voted yes; motion passed.

L. ADVANCED PLANNING

None

M. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

N. BOARD INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

O. CLOSED SESSION (IF NEEDED)

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Gioe to adjourn the meeting at 7:30pm. Voice vote: All members present voted yes (6-0); motion passed.

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Lourdes LaGuardia
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

LL/km/11-21-2025