

STAFFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
Manahawkin, NJ

PUBLIC AGENDA

REORGANIZATION MEETING

PLACE: Oxycocus Elementary School

DATE: January 7, 2026

TIME: 5:30pm

CALL TO ORDER – Board Secretary

The Stafford Township's 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 on TAPinto. Notice has been posted in the office of the Stafford Township Clerk and all school buildings. A mechanical device is being used to video record this meeting. Further, please take notice that this is the first regular meeting of the Board of Education and required Reorganization of elected board members pursuant to 18A:10-3 through 10-6.

FLAG SALUTE

ELECTION RESULTS

The following are the official results of the November 4, 2025 annual school election for three, three-year term office seats 2026-2028.

<u>Three-Year Term</u>	
Christopher Smith	6,402 votes
Kevin Cooney	5,180 votes
Joseph Washco	4,489 votes
Barbara Crystal	3,867 votes
Erica Petrillo	3,459 votes
Write-In	107 votes

SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBERS – Board Secretary
ROLL CALL

Kevin Cooney	Member
Brian Fenlon	Member
Gregory Gioe	Member
Keith Mollema	Member
Matthew Regulski	Member
Christopher Smith	Member
Bonnie Strouse	Member
Tammy Wagner	Member
Joseph Washco	Member

ALSO PRESENT

George J. Chidiac	Superintendent
Lourdes LaGuardia	School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Martin J. Buckley, Esq.	Board of Education Attorney

THE BOARD SECRETARY ENTERTAINS NOMINATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF BOARD PRESIDENT

1. _____ is nominated by _____ for the office of Board President. Seconded by _____.

Motion to close nominations for the office of President and that the Board Secretary cast the ballot(s) for _____ for Board President.

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Ab		Yes	No	Ab
Kevin Cooney	___	___	___	Christopher Smith	___	___	___
Brian Fenlon	___	___	___	Bonnie Strouse	___	___	___
Gregory Gioe	___	___	___	Tammy Wagner	___	___	___
Keith Mollema	___	___	___	Joseph Washco	___	___	___
Matthew Regulski	___	___	___				

The Board Secretary turns the meeting over to the Board President.

THE BOARD PRESIDENT ENTERTAINS NOMINATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF BOARD VICE PRESIDENT

1. _____ is nominated by _____ for the office of Board Vice President. Seconded by _____.

Motion to close nominations for the office of Board Vice President and that the Board Secretary cast the ballot(s) for _____ for Board Vice President.

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Ab		Yes	No	Ab
Kevin Cooney	___	___	___	Christopher Smith	___	___	___
Brian Fenlon	___	___	___	Bonnie Strouse	___	___	___
Gregory Gioe	___	___	___	Tammy Wagner	___	___	___
Keith Mollema	___	___	___	Joseph Washco	___	___	___
Matthew Regulski	___	___	___				

RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

~District and Board Goals Update – Presentation – George J. Chidiac

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

School boards are required to set aside a portion of every meeting for public comments. School boards use the public comment period as an opportunity to listen to community concerns - not to debate issues or enter into a question-and-answer session. School boards are not required to respond to questions but may choose to respond to public comments by seeking additional information or delegating authority to the superintendent or a designee to investigate an issue brought forth during public comment.

While public education can be an emotional issue, the school board strives to maintain a certain level of decorum at its meeting. As such, all persons speaking during the public comment period should maintain a tone of respect and civility. Courteous behavior is extremely important by all members and attendees.

To allow all speakers to address their comments to the board, it may be necessary for the board and/or administration to hold any responses until after the conclusion of the public comment period; rather than respond to individual speakers. The board cannot recognize proxies, nor will the board tolerate persons that call out, shout down or disrupt others in attendance during public comment; any person who cannot abide by this will be asked to leave.

The Stafford Township Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters of community interest, especially when it is intended to assist the Board of Education.

Please feel free to speak to the Board during the public session. Pursuant to Board Policy 0167, comments and discussion will be limited to one three (3) minute period per individual unless requested by the chairperson to continue on a point of clarification.

Public comment at special meetings of the Board shall be related to the call of the meeting. In accordance with the Board of Education Policy, each participant must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface their comments by an announcement of their name, address and group affiliation, if applicable.

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

For additional information, please review the "Guide to Board of Education Meetings in New Jersey" available on the New Jersey Boards Association website at www.njsba.org.

BOARD BUSINESS

1. To approve the Acknowledgement of Receipt for the Code of Ethics and to adopt the Code of Ethics as distributed.
2. To reapprove the 2025-2026 Board of Education Goals and the 2025-2026 Stafford Township School District Goals as attached.
3. To approve the Board of Education meeting dates from January through December 2026 as attached.
4. To adopt Roberts Rules of Order as the official parliamentary procedure manual to be used to conduct Board meetings and appoint the Board Secretary and Board Attorney to act as the parliamentarian ending at the next organization meeting of the Board of Education.
5. To designate Atlantic City Press, Asbury Park Press, TAPinto and/or The Beacon as official Board newspapers/websites for advertisements and on-line services through December 2026.
6. To designate OceanFirst Bank as official depository for all Board funds with the following signatories: Stafford Township Board of Education President, Treasurer of School Monies, Board Secretary/School Business Administrator through December 2026.

7. To designate Addison Capital as a legal depository for Board funds and further to authorize the Board Secretary/School Business Administrator as the authorized agent for Cash Management Transactions through December 2026.
8. To approve Brown & Brown Benefit Advisors of Shrewsbury, NJ for the Provision of Employee Benefits Brokerage Services for Medical/Prescription/Dental/Vision Coverage at a cost of \$24,000 from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 with two one-year renewal options. This exception to the advertised bidding requirements is in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5. Proposals were solicited for the 2026-2027 school year with two one-year renewal options. The proposal as one of one received and was selected based on the factors set forth in the RFP. (Year 1 of 3)
9. To acknowledge the following providers for Life Insurance Options:
 - a. Legacy Benefits Group to broker New York Life's Voluntary Guaranteed Issue Whole Life Insurance Program and Colonial Life's Voluntary Guaranteed Issue Short Term Disability Insurance Program as voluntary providers for Stafford Township Board of Education. All plans will be offered at no cost to the school district through payroll deduction.
 - b. Creative Financial Group to broker MassMutual's Voluntary Group Whole Life Insurance as a voluntary provider for Stafford Township Board of Education. All plans will be offered at no cost to the school district through payroll deduction.
10. To approve Spiezle Architectural Group of Hamilton, NJ as Architect of Record from January 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026, with three one-year renewal options. The proposal was one of one received and was selected based on the factors set forth in the RFP.
11. To approve Ford-Scott and Associates of Ocean City, NJ as Auditor of Record from July 1, 2025 through the completion of the June 30, 2026 audit, with two one-year renewal options. The annual audit service fee for the year ending June 30, 2026 is \$36,000. Rates for additional services were provided. The proposal was one of one received and was selected based on the factors set forth in the RFP. (Year 1 of 3).
12. To appoint Acacia of Marlton, NJ as Financial Advisor through December 2026. This is a professional service.
13. To approve Dasti, Murphy, McGuckin, Ulaky & Connors of Forked River, NJ as Board Attorney through December 2026. Proposals were solicited for the 2024 calendar year with option to renew for two additional years. (Year 3 of 3)

14. To acknowledge the following Stafford Board of Education law firms, as previously appointed:

- a. Machado Law Group of Springfield, NJ as Legal Counsel for Special Education Issues (July 2025 – June 2026)
- b. Comegno Law Group of Moorestown, NJ as Conflict Attorney (July 2025 – June 2026)
- c. Comegno Law Group of Moorestown, NJ as Legal Counsel for Labor Relations Services (July 2025 – June 2026)
- d. Lenox Law Firm of Lawrenceville, NJ for Legal Services as Special Counsel (July 2025 – June 2026)
- e. Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A. of Woodbridge, NJ as Bond Counsel (January – December 2026)

These are professional services. Selection factors and documentation are on file in the Board Secretary/Business Administrator's Office.

15. To appoint Flett Exchange of Jersey City, NJ as an option to manage the sale of solar generated SRECs through December 2026.

16. To appoint Marex Spectron of New York, NY as an option to manage the sale of solar generated SRECs through December 2026.

17. To approve authorization to award contracts up to bid threshold of \$53,000 and quote threshold of \$7,950 through June 2026, based upon the Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA) certification of the Business Administrator.

18. To approve the Stafford Township Board of Education Travel Expense Reimbursement District Maximum and Travel Expense Reimbursement per Employee Resolutions through December 2026 as attached.

Roll Call Vote: :

	Yes	No	Ab		Yes	No	Ab
Kevin Cooney	___	___	___	Christopher Smith	___	___	___
Brian Fenlon	___	___	___	Bonnie Strouse	___	___	___
Gregory Gioe	___	___	___	Tammy Wagner	___	___	___
Keith Mollema	___	___	___	Joseph Washco	___	___	___
Matthew Regulski	___	___	___				

ADVANCED PLANNING

PUBLIC COMMENT

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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
Kevin Cooney	___	___	___	Christopher Smith	___	___	___
Brian Fenlon	___	___	___	Bonnie Strouse	___	___	___
Gregory Gioe	___	___	___	Tammy Wagner	___	___	___
Keith Mollema	___	___	___	Joseph Washco	___	___	___
Matthew Regulski	___	___	___				