

STAFFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
Manahawkin, NJ 08050

PUBLIC AGENDA

BUSINESS MEETING

PLACE: Oxycocus Elementary School
Stafford Room

DATE: February 19, 2026

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 on TAPinto. 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
Keith Mollema	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

~McKinley Student and Staff Recognition

~Intermediate Student Recognition

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. January 7, 2026 Reorganization Meeting – No Absences
2. January 22, 2026 Committee of the Whole – 1 Absence (B. Fenlon)
3. January 22, 2026 Business Meeting – 1 Absence (B. Fenlon)
4. January 22, 2026 Closed Session – 1 Absence (B. Fenlon)

Roll Call Vote:

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

D. 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.

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 – McKinley #2.
3. To approve the Request to Establish a Special Education Program, Autism Class at each of the following schools: Intermediate School, McKinley Avenue Elementary School, Ocean Acres Elementary School, and the Primary Learning Center, beginning September 2026.

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Ab		Yes	No	Ab
Brian Fenlon	___	___	___	Bonnie Strouse	___	___	___
Gregory Gioe	___	___	___	Joseph Washco	___	___	___
Keith Mollema	___	___	___	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 February 2026 bills list totaling \$2,780,824.50 as attached. (G-1)

Fund 10 - \$1,442,082.99
Fund 20 - \$231,615.07
Fund 30 - \$694,177.66
Fund 40 - \$0
Fund 60 - \$406,612.47
Fund 61 - \$1,783.41
Fund 62 - \$4,552.90

*Note - \$800,261.33 of the amounts listed were made as EFT payments. (G-1a)

*To approve for payment of January 2026 additional bills list totaling \$291,142.37 as attached. (G-1b)

Fund 10 - \$239,037.25
Fund 20 - \$51,655.33

Fund 30 - \$218.47
Fund 40 - \$0
Fund 60 - \$0
Fund 61 - \$0
Fund 62 - \$231.32

*Note - \$34,497 of the amounts listed were made as EFT payments. (G-1c)

2. To approve for payment of payroll
 - a. dated January 12, 2026 totaling \$1,611,028.12
 - b. dated January 30, 2026 totaling \$1,664,547.54
3. To accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of December 2025.
4. To accept the Secretary's Report for the month of December 2025.
5. To approve the attached line item transfers for December 2025.
6. To authorize the Business Administrator to make payment of post-Board meeting bills for the month of February 2026 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 approve the attached list of donations.
8. To approve the following Resolution:

Whereas, the Stafford Township Board of Education desires to apply for and obtain a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for approximately \$75,000 to carry out a project to recondition the existing Gym floor at the Ocean Acres Elementary School. In addition to daily activities during the school year, this gym is utilized by community organizations including, but not limited to, basketball, volleyball, lacrosse, and softball.

Be it therefore RESOLVED,

1) that the Stafford Township Board of Education does hereby authorize the application for such a grant; and, 2) recognizes and accepts that the Department may offer a lesser or greater amount and therefore, upon receipt of the grant agreement from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, does further authorize the execution of any such grant agreement; and also, upon receipt of the fully executed agreement from the Department, does further authorize the expenditure of funds pursuant to the terms of the agreement between Stafford Township Board of Education and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

Be it further RESOLVED, that the persons whose names, titles, and signatures appear below are authorized to sign the application, and that they or their successors in said titles are authorized to sign the agreement, and any other documents necessary in connection therewith:

CERTIFICATION: I, Lourdes LaGuardia, the Board Secretary of the Stafford Township Board of Education hereby certify that at a meeting of the Board of Education held on February 19, 2026 the above RESOLUTION was duly adopted.

9. To approve a contract with Bayada Nursing Services for student #25707 for the 2025-2026 school year, commencing December 2, 2025. This student requires one to one nursing services. The rate is \$65/hr for RN and \$65/hr for LPN services provided under this agreement.
10. To approve LearnWell to provide five hours of homebound instruction per week at \$64.90/hr to student #22666 while in the hospital from January 21, 2026 to January 25, 2026.
11. To approve student #24138 to receive home instruction for the 2025-2026 school year, commencing January 5, 2026 and ending February 27, 2026. This student will receive 10 hours of home instruction per week at the rate of \$51.44/hr.
12. To approve student #23900 to receive home instruction for the 2025-2026 school year, commencing January 22, 2026 and ending February 4, 2026. This student will receive five hours of home instruction per week at the rate of \$51.44/hr.
13. To approve student #22111 to receive home instruction for the 2025-2026 school year, commencing January 6, 2026 with exception of the days the student is medically able to attend in person. This student will receive five hours of home instruction per week at the rate of \$51.44/hr.
14. RESOLVED that United for Stafford Fund was an employee-based contribution that was initially designated for family assistance for Pre-K, summer camp and unpaid school meals. Due to lack of participation, the United for Stafford fund will be abolished. Remaining funds will be disbursed to school level student activity funds on a per pupil count basis.
15. To approve Dr. S. Zaidi with Freehold Child Diagnostic Center, Inc. to perform psychiatric evaluations in the amount of \$500 for the 2025-2026 school year, commencing February 19, 2026.

16. Whereas, the Board acknowledges the need for additional buses. That the Board is committed to fiscal prudence in acquiring transportation vehicles for student transport. Therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Education authorizes the Business Administrator to submit a bid pursuant to general provisions and instructions for bidders through the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission, to submit an offer on behalf of the school district for student transportation vehicles. Further that the board intends to finance said equipment including associated fees through a tax-exempt lease purchase financing. The Board further acknowledges said interest in bidding for a 2023 Ford Transit Van wheelchair lifted vehicle.

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Ab		Yes	No	Ab
Brian Fenlon	___	___	___	Bonnie Strouse	___	___	___
Gregory Gioe	___	___	___	Joseph Washco	___	___	___
Keith Mollema	___	___	___	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.

NO ACTION ITEMS

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Ab		Yes	No	Ab
Brian Fenlon	___	___	___	Bonnie Strouse	___	___	___
Gregory Gioe	___	___	___	Joseph Washco	___	___	___
Keith Mollema	___	___	___	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	___	___	___
Keith Mollema	___	___	___	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 following retirements:
 - a. Marie Woolf, Teacher Aide, effective July 1, 2026
 - b. Mandy Nelson, Teacher, effective July 1, 2026
 - c. Lisa Toci, Teacher, effective July 1, 2026
3. To approve the following resignations:
 - a. Sara Poley, PT Custodian, effective February 13, 2026
 - b. Christine Mesagna, Bookkeeper, effective February 23, 2026
 - c. Kathleen Rubino, Teacher Aide, effective July 1, 2026
 - d. Adreiana Cocciolillo, Teacher Aide, effective February 2, 2026
4. To approve the following leaves:
 - a. Employee ID #4459, unpaid family leave extension FMLA, beginning January 20, 2026 and returning January 22, 2026
 - b. Employee ID #4459, unpaid family leave FMLA, beginning January 28, 2026 and returning February 5, 2026
 - c. Employee ID #6522, unpaid family leave FMLA, beginning April 16, 2026 and returning June 16, 2026
 - d. Employee ID #7026, unpaid leave of absence, beginning January 12, 2026 and returning January 14, 2026
 - e. Employee ID #6589, unpaid family leave FMLA, beginning January 12, 2026 and returning February 9, 2026
 - f. Employee ID #6589, unpaid family leave FMLA, beginning April 20, 2026 and returning July 1, 2026
 - g. Employee ID #4086, unpaid family leave FMLA, beginning February 2, 2026 and returning February 23, 2026
 - h. Employee ID #7021, unpaid leave of absence, beginning February 23, 2026 and returning March 2, 2026
5. To approve the attached revised job description:
 - a. A-23 Transportation Assistant Supervisor
6. To approve the following teachers as Homebound Instruction Teachers for the 2025-2026 school year:
 - a. Michelle Kelly
 - b. Erica Leming
7. To approve Maria Calvi to receive BA Stipend as per the STEA Contract, beginning September 1, 2026.
8. To approve the attached Internship Learning Agreement with Goucher College.

9. To approve the attached list of student fieldwork placements for the 2025-2026 school year.
10. To approve the personnel listed below for Extra-Curricular and Enrichment Programs for the 2025-2026 school year:
 - a. Ivette Zambardi
11. To approve Irene Montes as Probationary Part Time Custodian, Intermediate School, beginning February 1, 2026 and ending April 30, 2026, Step 1, pro-rated, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement. This is a replacement position.
12. To approve Shane Devello as Building Mechanic, Intermediate School, beginning February 16, 2026 and ending June 30, 2026, Step 6, +BM Stipend, pro-rated, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement. This is a 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.

Roll Call Vote:

	Yes	No	Ab		Yes	No	Ab
Brian Fenlon	==	==	==	Bonnie Strouse	==	==	==
Gregory Gioe	==	==	==	Joseph Washco	==	==	==
Keith Mollema	==	==	==	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 **new** policies and regulations:

- 1552 Sexual Harassment – Staff (M)
- 2535 Library Material (M)
- R1552 Sexual Harassment – Staff (M)
- R2535 Library Material (M)

2. To approve the **second reading** of following **revised** policies and regulations:

- 0142.1 Nepotism (M)
- 1220 Employment of Chief School Administrator (M)
- 2530 Resource Materials
- 5511 Dress and Grooming
- 9130 Public Complaints
- R2530 Resource Materials
- R9130 Public Complaints

Roll Call Vote:

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