REORGANIZATION MEETING **January 7, 2026**

The Reorganization Meeting of the Stafford Township Board of Education was held on January 7, 2026 at 5:35pm at the Oxycocus Elementary School.

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. 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.

Three-Year Term	
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

Kevin Cooney
Keith Mollema
Christopher Smith
Joseph Washco

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. Tammy Wagner was nominated by Dr. Regulski for the office of Board President.

It was moved by Dr. Regulski and seconded by Mr. Washco for Tammy Wagner as Board President. Roll call vote: nine (9) members present voted yes; motion passed.

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

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

1. Kevin Cooney was nominated by Dr. Regulski for the office of Board Vice President.

It was moved by Dr. Regulski and seconded by Mr. Fenlon for Kevin Cooney as Board Vice President. Roll call vote: nine (9) members present voted yes; motion passed.

RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

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

- Mr. Chidiac presented the District and Board Goals Update

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

- Barbara Crystal (community member) emphasized the importance of improving communication between the board and taxpayers, including holding the district superintendent accountable, thus to help build confidence in the Board. She said there is a call for thorough oversight and enhanced transparency regarding the district's construction projects, considering the impact of property valuation notices on 2026 taxes. Mrs. Crystal thanked supporters for their help during the campaign and mentioned adherence to New Jersey School Board Association's candidate guidelines. She indicated that all of her New Jersey mandated forms were filed, and all contributions and expenditures were reported, with a clear display of the district's colors on campaign materials. Mrs. Crystal highlights that none of her

opponents' signs were touched, blocked, destroyed, or stolen during the campaign, indicating an honorable campaign. Mrs. Crystal said that the announcement, interview, and selection process for the vacant board seat opened just nine days after the November 4th general election is questioned for its timing. Mrs. Crystal hopes that board members will take their responsibilities seriously and perform their duties professionally for the benefit of students, families, and the community.

- Mr. Chidiac praises the district for its success over the past 13 years, with teachers, families, and staff being attracted to the district. The district is described as exceptional from curriculum to technology, buildings, and grounds, with a great board and staff. The district passes audits and QSAC (Quality Single Accountability Continuum) monitoring by the state every year, indicating strong performance. Positive feedback from staff members, families, and teachers is noted, with a lack of negative comments at Board of Education meetings.

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.

A motion was made by Dr. Regulski and seconded by Mr. Smith to approve Board Business item(s) #1-18. Roll call vote: eight (8) members present voted yes; motion passed. Mr. Mollema abstained on items #1-18.

ADVANCED PLANNING

- Committee of the Whole Meeting scheduled for January 22, 2026 at 6:00pm at the Stafford Township Arts Center.

- Business Meeting scheduled for January 22, 2026 at 7:00pm at the Stafford Township Arts Center.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CLOSED SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dr. Regulski and seconded by Mr. Gioe to adjourn the meeting at 5:49pm. Voice vote: All members present voted yes (9-0); motion passed.

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Lourdes LaGuardia
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

LL/km/2-3-2026