

BOARD RETREAT

February 19, 2026

The Board Retreat of the Stafford Township Board of Education was held on February 19, 2026 at 5:45pm at the Oxycocus Elementary School.

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 the district website.

ROLL CALL

Brian Fenlon	Member
Gregory Gioe	Member
Keith Mollema	Member
Matthew Regulski	Member (Enter 6:05pm)
Christopher Smith	Member (Enter 6:30pm)
Bonnie Strouse	Member (Absent)
Joseph Washco	Member
Kevin Cooney	Vice President (Enter 6:25pm)
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

- Mr. Chidiac and Mrs. LaGuardia presented the 2026-2027 Preliminary Budget.
- Mr. Chidiac presented budget philosophy, timelines and projected program enhancements in Curriculum, Technology and Transportation.
- Mrs. LaGuardia presented draft revenue and appropriations reports. Mrs. LaGuardia articulated the impact of increasing enrollment, procurement and appropriations amidst average cost increases of 11% and strategies for projecting forward; revenue challenges, fiscal cliff; the uncertainty of federal and state funding and sustainability. The Budget Address will be on March 19, 2026.

B. CLOSED SESSION – Student Matters – HIB Related and Board Matters

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:

Student Matters – HIB Related and Board Matters

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.

A motion was made by Mr. Gioe and seconded by Mr. Washco to move on the above Resolution. Voice vote: All members present voted yes (5-0); motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Gioe and seconded by Mr. Fenlon to exit closed session. Voice vote: All members present voted yes (5-0); motion passed.

TIME IN: 5:48pm

TIME AT CONCLUSION OF CLOSED SESSION: 6:00pm

C. COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

None

D. PERSONNEL/POLICY

Chairperson Tammy Wagner – Update (Policy Only)

1. To discuss 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 discuss the **second reading** of following **revised** policies and regulations:

- 0142.1 Nepotism (M)
- 1220 Employment of Chief School Administrator (M)

BOARD RETREAT

February 19, 2026

- 2530 Resource Materials
- 5511 Dress and Grooming
- 9130 Public Complaints
- R2530 Resource Materials
- R9130 Public Complaints

Mr. Chidiac discussed the Lifetouch CEO and will now go out for an RFP for School Photography.

E. SPECIAL EDUCATION/CURRICULUM

Chairperson Matthew Regulski – Update

- Mrs. Roselli reviewed the following: the Autism Resolution; CPAC, 8 parents attended – positive interactions. CST meeting – next year related services. Speech providers – challenges – therapist. Pilot IEP guidelines; program reviews with CST teams interacting within school buildings. Implementation of 30 new walkie talkies to support self-contained and 1:1 aides. CPI training – three times a year March, December, September; NJSLA – MD supplement; grounding mats.
- Mrs. Banach discussed differentiated instruction and student engagement; staff input and ideas; March professional development focus on SEL; interventions – bridge gaps. Universal literacy scanner complete, available to parents soon; Google Lens and impact of AI in classroom; Board Policy for AI.

F. FINANCE/BUILDINGS&GROUNDS

Chairperson Joseph Washco – Update

- Mrs. LaGuardia gave an update on the Referendum projects; Ocean Acres leaks; snow removal cost exceeded \$30K; budget challenges; Intermediate proposed new lunchtime.
- Mr. Chidiac gave an overview of Roof Leaks and recent snow/ice storm, emergency placement of Water Diverters on roof at Intermediate.
- Mr. Chidiac discussed terminating Lifetouch contract due to reported ties with Epstein predator. Board authorizes the Business Administrator to release an RFP for School Photography.

G. CLOSED SESSION – Personnel Matters

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;

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The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:

Personnel Matters

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.

A motion was made by Dr. Regulski and seconded by Mr. Gioe to move on the above Resolution. Voice vote: All members present voted yes (8-0); motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Fenlon and seconded by Dr. Regulski to exit closed session. Voice vote: All members present voted yes (8-0); motion passed.

TIME IN: 6:50pm

TIME AT CONCLUSION OF CLOSED SESSION: 7:08pm

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Fenlon and seconded by Dr. Regulski to adjourn the meeting at 7:08pm. Voice vote: All members present voted yes (8-0); motion passed.

Lourdes LaGuardia
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

LL/km/2-27-2026