BUSINESS MEETING February 19, 2026

The Business Meeting of the Stafford Township Board of Education was held on February 19, 2026 at 7:11pm 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 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 (Absent)
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

- Mrs. Aliseo recognized a group of staff members as dedicated professionals working tirelessly behind the scenes, providing the crucial intervention and support targeted towards closing a multitude of educational gaps which result in great gains and progress for the students they come in contact with. Mrs. Aliseo said that they like to refer to these individuals as unsung heroes or even miracle workers that not only support the students but the staff by bringing innovative strategies and ideas to the table. The staff members who were recognized were: Sarah Baart, Megan Beauchemin, Lisa Calantoni, Sherry Dohn, Pia McCoy, Meghan Mikuletzky, Lori Rechenberg, Elise St. Germain, Maria Stout and Chelsea Terry.

Mrs. Aliseo also recognized three students who consistently bring light, kindness, and integrity to the school. These students are always caught doing the right thing, even when no one is watching. They represent the very best of our school community, not just through their actions but through their genuine nature and exemplary character, making them students that everyone wants to be around.

~Intermediate Student Recognition

- Mrs. Zaun and Mrs. Ducker recognized a student who auditioned and was accepted into the South Jersey Band and Orchestra Directors Association - New Jersey Music Educators Association Region 3 Junior High String Ensemble. She is not only a fifth-grade student in school history to make it in but also the first violin. Both Mrs. Zaun and Mrs. Ducker expressed how proud they were of how hard she has worked.

B. SUPERINTENDENT'S EDUCATIONAL REPORT - Attachment

- Mr. Chidiac gave an update on the district events:

STAC Events

- Taylor's Song 3/1/2025 @ 7:30pm
- The Doo Wop Project 3/13/2025 @7:30pm

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

Oxycocus - The students started the month of January by celebrating 2026! The student unit of study was Wheels. They explored the various types and uses. Students were excited by the snow that came our way this month. This helped students learn about winter weather and about winter animals and animals that hibernate. Students learned about diversity in recognition of Martin Luther King Day.

PLC - This month started with the PLC students learning about Martin Luther King and his many civil right advances and accomplishments. On January 16th we celebrated International Day with a parade of many countries and each class celebrated their country with traditional foods and activities. On January 21st parents, guardians, and students came out for an exciting Winter Blues Night where staff read stories, created crafts and had snowball fights with the PLC families! During the week of the 26th – The PLC kicked off the Great Kindness Challenge! We shared many kind acts; reading to our preschool friends and each other's classes, taking photos on our wall, I am the "I" in Kind. We were excited to be able to share this amazing event with our kindergarteners, preschoolers and community members! We finished off the week with Stafford Community/Staff/Students collecting mega "Boxes of Cereal" for the St. Francis Food Pantry!

Ocean Acres - The New Year started off with the students making resolutions for 2026. Before we knew it, Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday was here. Classes celebrated by recognizing his contribution to our nation's history. Ms. Cracchiolo and the second-grade chorus put on a wonderful concert showcasing songs about leadership. The month ended with the students showing their school spirit with our annual OA Spirit Week. From flannel wear to crazy hats, students got in the spirit and were happy to participate.

McKinley - Students and staff returned to McKinley relaxed and ready to go after the Winter Break! Starting the month off, on January 7th McKinley held its first Family Art Night of the new year, where students and parents of their choice, came out for a fun night of painting and pizza! Many thanks to our STEA for sponsoring the event and a special thanks to Mrs. Willadsen for bringing her love of art to the students and parents of our school. On January 13th over 200 fourth graders took the stage to perform at our Winter Concert first during the day for our student population and then in the evening for family and friends. The chorus, under the direction of Ms. Tylicki and Ms. Aljoe, performed season themed songs such as "Snow" and "Step in Winter". The strings, directed by Ms. Myers, performed the classic favorite "Rolling Along", and Mrs. Wright led the band as they performed "Count and Play" and "Two´s A Team". A big round of applause to all three teachers for sharing the wonderful display of holiday spirit performed by their talented students. Next, McKinley held its annual Family STEAM night. This year it was entitled "The Global Tour" and took place on January 14th at the Intermediate School. This year brought a few changes with a theme of traveling around the world of STEAM. A big thank you to Mrs. Kilgallon, our STEAM teacher, for putting this night together and encouraging our students to explore the many exciting facets of STEAM.

Intermediate - Our school community showed great spirit during the Capture the Cup Team Challenge, where teamwork, perseverance, and friendly competition were on full display. In addition, families and students came together for a fun and engaging STEAM Night, celebrating innovation, problem-solving, and hands-on learning. The arts were also a highlight this month, with students shining in performances of *Alice in Wonderland Jr.* the 6th Grade Musical, showcasing their creativity and hard work. January was truly a wonderful month of growth, collaboration, and school pride.

Mr. Chidiac also congratulated Rich Meyer on a great job securing a $2,000 grant from the NJEA Sustainable Jersey for outdoor seating at the PLC. This money will be put to good use.

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)

A motion was made by Dr. Regulski and seconded by Mr. Gioe to approve Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s) #1-4. Roll call vote item #1: eight (8) members present voted yes; motion passed. Roll call vote items #2-4: seven (7) members present voted yes; motion passed. Mr. Fenlon abstained on items #2-4.

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 – 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.

A motion was made by Dr. Regulski and seconded by Mr. Fenlon to approve Board Business item(s) #1-3. Roll call vote: eight (8) 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 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, 2026to 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.

A motion was made by Dr. Regulski and seconded by Mr. Cooney to approve Finance/Insurance/Transportation item(s) #1-16. Roll call vote item #1: eight (8) members present voted yes; motion passed. Roll call vote item #2: seven (7) members present voted yes; motion passed. Mr. Gioe abstained on item #2. Roll call vote items #3-16: eight (8) 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.

NO ACTION ITEMS

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. Cooney and seconded by Mr. Gioe to approve Curriculum/Instruction/Technology item(s) #1. Roll call vote: eight (8) 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 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.

A motion was made by Dr. Regulski and seconded by Mr. Washco to approve Personnel item(s) #1-12. Roll call vote: eight (8) 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 **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

A motion was made by Dr. Regulski and seconded by Mr. Gioe to approve Policy/Legislative item(s) #1-2. Roll call vote: eight (8) members present voted yes; motion passed.

L. ADVANCED PLANNING

March 19, 2026 – Committee of the Whole at 6:00pm at the Oxycocus Elementary School.

March 19, 2026 – Business Meeting at 7:00pm at the Oxycocus Elementary School.

M. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

N. BOARD INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

O. CLOSED SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dr. Regulski and seconded by Mr. Fenlon to adjourn the meeting at 7:28pm. Voice vote: All members present voted yes (8-0); motion passed.

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Lourdes LaGuardia
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

LL/km/2-26-2026