

STAFFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
Manahawkin, NJ 08050

PUBLIC AGENDA

BUSINESS MEETING

PLACE: Oxycocus Elementary School
Stafford Room

DATE: October 8, 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

~PLC Student and Staff 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. September 17, 2026 Committee of the Whole – No Absences
2. September 17, 2026 Business Meeting – No Absences
3. September 17, 2026 Closed Session – No Absences

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 were no incidents of harassment, intimidation, and bullying.
2. To approve the attached Resolution Terminating Participation in State Health Benefits Program (SHBP) and School Employees' Health Benefits Program (SEHBP), effective January 1, 2027.

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 2026-2027 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 October 2026 bills list totaling \$3,877,195.66 as attached. (G-1)

Fund 10 - \$1,340,786.85

Fund 20 - \$333,502.84

Fund 30 - \$2,190,381.63

Fund 40 - \$0

Fund 60 - \$0

Fund 61 - \$0

Fund 62 - \$12,524.34

*Note - \$2,482,430.46 of the amounts listed were made as EFT payments. (G-1a)

*To approve for payment of September 2026 additional bills list totaling \$313,708.42 as attached. (G-1b)

Fund 10 - \$234,750.67

Fund 20 - \$78,069.93

Fund 30 - \$0

Fund 40 - \$0
Fund 60 - \$20.05 refund 60/62 \$20.05
Fund 61 - \$700.79
Fund 62 - \$166.98

*Note - \$59,904.79 of the amounts listed were made as EFT payments. (G-1c)

2. To approve for payment of payroll
 - a. dated September 15, 2026 totaling \$1,631,734.90
3. To accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of August 2026.
4. To accept the Secretary's Report for the month of August 2026.
5. To approve the attached line item transfers for August 2026.
6. To authorize the Business Administrator to make payment of post-Board meeting bills for the month of October 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 submission of the entire Preschool Plan (MS Form Survey, Statement of Assurance, District Contact Chart) for the 2027-2028 Preschool Operational Plan and 2027-2028 Enrollment Projection.
9. To approve Foundations Behavioral Health to provide ten (10) hours of academic tutoring per week at a rate of \$56.00 per hour of instruction to student #22509 while in the hospital, commencing August 27, 2026 through September 30, 2026.
10. To approve the attached Jointure Transportation Agreement with Barnegat Township Board of Education for one Stafford student to attend Ocean Academy School at a cost of \$18,000 for the 2026-2027 school year.
11. To approve the attached Jointure Transportation Agreement with Barnegat Township Board of Education for three Stafford students to attend YALE School Northfield at a cost of \$18,000 per student for the 2026-2027 school year.
12. To approve to RESCIND Choice Student Shared Services Transportation Contracts originally approved at the September 17, 2026 Board Meeting with Barnegat Township Board of Education for students ID #25626 and #24922 for the 2026-2027 school year. These contracts were for \$500/each for transporting these students to and from school.

13. To approve to RESCIND a Choice Student Shared Services Transportation Contract originally approved at the August 12, 2026 Board Meeting with Lacey Township Board of Education for student #25607 for the 2026-2027 school year. This contract was for \$500 for transporting this student to and from school.
14. To approve to RESCIND a Choice Student Shared Services Transportation Contract originally approved at the August 12, 2026 Board Meeting with Little Egg Harbor Township Board of Education for student ID #25960 for the 2026-2027 school year. This contract was for \$500 for transporting this student to and from school.
15. To approve the submission of the Hackensack Meridian Children's Health School Wellness Mini Grant in the amount of \$2,437 to purchase equipment for the Stafford Intermediate Fitness Room, commencing February 1, 2027 and ending June 30, 2027.
16. To approve the attached agreement with Ocean Pediatric Feeding to provide four student-specific training and consultation sessions for the student's teacher and aides at a cost of \$350 per training session for the 2026-2027 school year, commencing September 29, 2026 and ending April 13, 2027. This is for staff training only within the school setting.

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 2026-2027 board/district goals.

1. To approve the attached Comprehensive Maintenance Plan and Annual Maintenance Budget Amount Worksheet (M-1) for 2026-2027.

2. To approve the attached 2026-2027 Annual Facilities Checklist – Health and Safety Evaluation of School Buildings.
3. To approve the disposal of Asset Tag #160032 for out of order Savin copier through Atlantic Tomorrow's Office.
4. To approve the retirement and disposal of Asset Tag #160657 as this item is no longer property of the Stafford Township School District. This item has been sold to the Barnegat Township School District as it was a special education custom handicapped chair that followed the out of district student.

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 2026-2027 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 2026-2027 board/district goals.

1. To approve the attached list of substitutes for the 2026-2027 school year.
2. To approve the change of assignment for the attached list of personnel for the 2026-2027 school year.
3. To approve the transfers for the attached list of personnel for the 2026-2027 school year.
4. To approve the following resignations:
 - a. Kathryn Archer, Teacher Aide, effective October 1, 2026
 - b. Nancy Melito, Teacher Aide, effective October 7, 2026
 - c. Sandra DeVico, Teacher aide, effective September 30, 2026
 - d. Daniel Lowe, Building Mechanic, effective October 13, 2026
 - e. Taylor Loevlie, Teacher, effective December 7, 2026
 - f. Ashley Ryan, Teacher Aide, effective October 21, 2026
5. To approve the following leaves:
 - a. Employee ID #5458, unpaid family leave FMLA, beginning September 1, 2026 and returning September 14, 2026
 - b. Employee ID #6179, unpaid family leave FMLA, beginning March 8, 2027 and returning June 7, 2027
 - c. Employee ID #6179, unpaid contractual child rearing leave, beginning June 7, 2027 and returning July 1, 2027
 - d. Employee Id #5757, unpaid family leave FMLA, beginning December 14, 2026 and returning March 15, 2027

- e. Employee ID #6057, unpaid leave of absence, beginning September 1, 2026 and returning September 8, 2026
6. To approve the attached additional personnel below for Extra-Curricular and Enrichment Programs for the 2026-2027 school year.
7. To approve the attached list of student fieldwork placements for the 2026-2027 school year.
8. To approve Adrianna Kappmeier as Music Teacher, Grades 1&2, Ocean Acres Elementary School, beginning December 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, Step A, pro-rated, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement. This is a non-tenure track leave replacement position.
9. To approve Kelly Gomes as Part Time Hourly Teacher Aide, Autistic Class-Personal, Ocean Acres Elementary School, beginning October 16, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, Step 2, pro-rated, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement. This is a replacement position.
10. To approve Heather Weisz as Part Time Hourly Teacher Aide, MD Class, Ronald L. Meinders Primary Learning Center, beginning October 16, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, Step 1, +BA, pro-rated, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement.
11. To approve Madison Molinaro as Part Time Hourly Teacher Aide, ERI Class, Ronald L. Meinders Primary Learning Center, beginning October 16, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, Step 2, +BA, pro-rated, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement. This is a replacement position.
12. To approve Jeffrey Gardner as Part Time Hourly Teacher Aide, MD Class, Ronald L. Meinders Primary Learning Center, beginning October 16, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, Step 7, pro-rated, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement.
13. To approve Christine Rodriguez as Part Time Hourly Teacher Aide, Autistic Class, McKinley Avenue Elementary School, beginning October 16, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, Step 1, +90CC, pro-rated, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement. This is a replacement position.
14. To approve Krista Ritter as Elementary School Teacher, Autistic Class, McKinley Avenue Elementary School, beginning November 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, Step D, BA+15, pro-rated, of the Stafford Township Board of Education/STEA Agreement. This is a 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 2026-2027 board/district goals.

1. To approve the **second reading** of following **revised** policy:
 - 9150 School Visitors

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	___	___	___				