BUSINESS MEETING October 8, 2026

The Business Meeting of the Stafford Township Board of Education was held on October 8, 2026 at 7:03pm 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 (Absent)
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

Ms. Reo recognized two staff members for their dedication and contributions:

- Stacey Suydam was recognized for over 23 years of service to the district. Ms. Reo highlighted Ms. Suydam's dependable and efficient support behind the scenes, noting her consistent willingness to assist and support the PLC community.

- Janet Conforti was recognized for over 30 years of service to the district. Ms. Reo highlighted Mrs. Conforti's creation of the PLC Duck Shop during the previous school year, co-founded with Mrs. Carly Wilhelm. The Duck Shop is a weekly push-in program in Kindergarten/Occupational (KO) designed to foster pre-vocational and functional life skills through hands-on activities. Ms. Reo commended the creativity and dedication brought to this initiative, emphasizing how the program supports student resilience—a core PLC character trait defined as the capacity to bounce back, adapt, and recover from challenges.

Ms. Reo recognized two students for their outstanding resilience and positive spirit:

- A student was honored for overcoming significant health challenges stemming from a congenital heart condition and a recent surgical procedure in August 2025. Despite these early obstacles, the student maintains perfect attendance with enthusiasm and a positive attitude that uplifts the school community.

- A student was recognized for adapting remarkably well following an emergency surgery for a serious leg injury. Demonstrating remarkable independence and determination, the student quickly adapted to navigating the school day in a wheelchair with optimism and without complaint.

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

A motion was made by Dr. Regulski and seconded by Mr. Gioe to approve Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s) #1-3. Roll call vote: eight (8) members present voted yes; motion passed.

D. COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

None

E. CORRESPONDENCE TO AND FROM THE BOARD

None

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.

A motion was made by Mr. Mollema and seconded by Mr. Cooney to approve Board Business item(s) #1-2. 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 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.

A motion was made by Dr. Regulski and seconded by Mr. Smith 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 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.

A motion was made by Dr. Regulski and seconded by Mr. Smith to approve Buildings/Grounds/Cafeteria item(s) #1-4. Roll call vote: eight (8) members present voted yes; motion passed.

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.

A motion was made by Dr. Regulski 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 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 Rodriquez 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.

A motion was made by Dr. Regulski and seconded by Mr. Mollema to approve Personnel item(s) #1-14. 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 2026-2027 board/district goals.

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

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

L. ADVANCED PLANNING

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

November 19, 2026 – Business Meeting at 7:00pm at Oxycocus Elementary School

M. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

N. BOARD INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

O. CLOSED SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Gioe and seconded by Mr. Mollema to adjourn the meeting at 7:16pm. Vote voice: All members present voted yes (8-0); motion passed.

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Lourdes LaGuardia
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

LL/km/10-9-2026