


Town of Stafford
Board of Finance
Stafford Elementary School
11 Levinthal Run
Special Meeting
March 27, 2017 7:00PM

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TOWN CLERK

Board Members Present:

David Walsh, Gary Fisher, Jane Slater, Chair, Fran Moriarty, and Brian Bagley

Board Alternates Present:

Mike Pifer

Board Members Absent:

Mark Richens,

Board Alternate Absent:

Steve Geryk, and Conrado Ulloa

1. **Call to order** – Jane Slater, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:06PM
2. **Establish a quorum**- Dave Walsh motioned to have Mike Pifer sit for absent member, Mark Richens, Brian Bagley Seconded. The board voted unanimously and a quorum was established.
3. **Approve minutes**– Upon motion of Dave Walsh and seconded by Gary Fisher, the Board unanimously approved the minutes from the March 20, regular meeting.
4. **Discussion of FY 2017/2018 Board of Education Budget: -**
 - a. Mr. Walsh opened by stating that he is proud of our school system but is concerned about what is happening with turnover and legal costs involved as well as the cost of substitutes and paid leave.
 - i. Pat Collin, Superintendent, first provided clarification regarding multiple vendors affiliated with legal fees and the need for more than one attorney in situation in which there may be a perceived conflict of interest. She explained the difference between mediation and arbitration, the latter of which is much more costly.
 - b. Mr. Bagley asked how we are able to manage paid leave and substitutes and inquired about retiring teachers.
 - i. Pat Collin, Superintendent, stated that when a staff member is placed on paid administrative leave, he/she maintains his employment with the district and continues to assume responsibilities as directed by the Superintendent (e.g. lesson

plans, grading student work and assessments, etc.). She also added that prior placing a staff member on leave, or taking any disciplinary action, she consults with an attorney. In addition to concerns about interference with an investigation, a staff member is placed on leave if there is concern about harm to students, in which case, failure to place the staff member on leave could result in an increase in liability for the district. She also indicated that to date, three teachers have submitted their notice of intent to retire at the end of the current school year.

- c. Mr. Fisher stated that he is in favor of the STEM instructional position and hopes that if there are cuts that the Board would consider keeping this position.
- d. Ms. Slater inquired about the number of new instructors and is concerned that the cost will mean cuts in other areas.
 - i. Pat Collin, Superintendent, discussed the need for intervention, which would one of the roles of the Instructional Support Teacher, at the lower grade levels.
- e. The Board also brought up the closure of St. Edwards School and how it would impact the budget.
 - i. Pat Collin, Superintendent, stated that she has been in contact with MaryAnne Pelletier, Principal of St. Edward School. At this time, Administration is closely monitoring the impact of class sizes at Stafford Elementary School, in particular, to see whether the number of students enrolling in public school from St. Edward School at any one grade level, may warrant the need for an additional elementary teacher.

5. **Adjournment** – Upon motion by Dave Walsh and seconded by Brian Bagley the meeting adjourned at 7:42pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lisa Baxter
Recording Secretary
Board of Finance