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**Board of Finance
Special Meeting
March 1, 2021 6:30 PM
Zoom Meeting ID 858 6467 1346**

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm.
2. Present via Zoom were Chairman Francis Moriarty, members Steve Geryk, Matthew McKenney, Tony Pellegrino, Sal Titus, Dave Walsh, and alternate members Richard Shuck and Conrado Ulloa. A quorum was established.

Also present via Zoom were Chief Financial Officer Lisa Baxter, Superintendent of Schools Steve Moccio, Board of Education Chairman Sonya Shegogue, Board of Education members Andrea Quinn, George Melnick, Laura Lybarger, Jennifer Davis, School Business Manager Diane Peters and staff.

3. Upon motion of Mr. Walsh and seconded by Mr. Pellegrino, the Board unanimously approved the minutes for the February 22, 2021 special meeting.
4. Chairman Moriarty called upon Superintendent Moccio to present the FY 21/22 Board of Education (BOE) budget that was approved at the February 8, 2021 BOE meeting. Prior to tonight's meeting, members of the Board of Finance received a budget binder from the Board of Education which included a Power Point presentation, a detailed budget breakdown and summary, enrollment details, staffing proposals, and State and Town information. *(see attached)*

Mr. Moccio expressed that the budget as presented is fiscally responsible to meet the individual needs of the students, and the health and safety of staff and students in the schools. He noted that during the last year due to the pandemic, he has seen significant instructional and achievement loss, and cautioned that there will be a lot of work needed to bring the students current.

Two budgets were compared by Mr. Moccio and his leadership team, one with keeping Staffordville School (SVS) open, and one with the closing and restructuring of SVS. After much work and research, Mr. Moccio and the leadership team ultimately recommended the closure of SVS for the 21/22 school year. The overall budget retained includes an increase of 3.90%.

Certified salaries and employee benefits make up 78% of the budget. Other large increases include the offset for Medicaid reimbursements, student transportation, out of district tuition, computer software, and IT licensing fees.

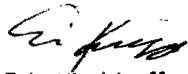
Major decreases to the budget include the elimination of the principal, nurse, secretary, library paraprofessional, custodial positions, and overtime and substitute salaries at SVS, and the removal of permanent building substitutes and reduced academic support services at SES, SMS, and SHS. There are also decreases in building supply services, electricity, propane gas, trash removal, and duplicative licenses removed due to SVS closing.

Following a brief discussion, the Board of Finance thanked Superintendent Moccio for his well detailed presentation.

Chairman Moriarty thanked Stafford resident Mark Lindahl for his letter to the Board of Finance concerning the closing of Staffordville School.

5. Upon motion of Mr. Walsh and seconded by Mr. Pellegrino, the Board adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Erin Kirchhoffer
Recording Secretary

(attachment)

The video recording of the meeting is posted to the Town Website www.staffordct.org