

**Sterling Board of Education**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting**  
**July 21, 2020**  
“EXCELLENCE WITH KINDNESS”  
(This Meeting is Accessible to the Public at 4:00 p.m.)  
(Live Streaming - [www.sterlingschool.org](http://www.sterlingschool.org))

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 pm by F. Bood, Board Chair.

Present were: F. Bood, L. Shippee, D. Capobianco, H. Wood, C. Langlois and M. Rouillard  
Also in attendance were: G. Lanza, H. Nickerson, L. Smith, D. Chrzan, D. Zajac and M. Cartier,  
Plainfield Liaison.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Public Comment**

Any comments pertaining to agenda items should be directed to [board\\_questions@sterlingschool.org](mailto:board_questions@sterlingschool.org). To have your comment addressed during the Public Comment section of the agenda, it must be submitted at least one hour prior to the start of the meeting.

F. Bood noted that there were 3 public comments regarding high school options, number of ghost students and transportation options to NFA. Due to COVID-19 at this time there has not been any meetings to discuss this. Currently our cooperative contract with Plainfield expires in June 2021 so we still have a year. We do not know the percentage of ghost students but it would be in the previous contract available at the school. Woodstock is on board to discuss options when the Board is ready. We would need our own busing if NFA became an option for our students.

**IV. Reports and Communications**

**A. Correspondence**

G. Lanza read a thank you letter from H. Nickerson thanking the Board and hiring committee for the opportunity to be interviewed as Interim Principal. G. Lanza welcomed and congratulated her as our new Interim Principal and said it is going to be amazing for the school, the community, staff and students. F. Bood also congratulated and welcomed her.

**B. Consent Agenda**

1. Minutes of Regular Meeting, June 16, 2020
2. Superintendent/Special Education Director's Report
3. Clinical Supervisor's Report

A motion was made by D. Capobianco and seconded by M. Rouillard to accept the consent agenda as presented. Vote: All in favor.

**C. Budget and Expense Report - June 30, 2020**

G. Lanza reviewed the 2020-21 budget revisions that were discussed at the budget sub-committee meeting on 7/14/20 and will provide a copy to the Board.

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### **D. Plainfield Board of Education Liaison**

Plainfield did not have a regular meeting in July. There will be a special meeting on July 22, 2020 at 6:30 pm to discuss their reopening plan. F. Bood thanked Mr. DiPietro for allowing conditioning and training for student athletes.

### **V. Unfinished Business**

A. RFQ Update

C. Langlois and G. Lanza followed up on references and a special meeting will be held in a few weeks to review the findings.

B. Budget update

Discussed under Item#C Budget and Expense Report

### **VI. New Business**

A. Policies - First Reading

- 4118.231/4218.231 - Personnel - Certified/Non Certified - Alcohol, Drugs & Tobacco
- 5111 Students - Admission/Placement - Admission
- 5112 - Students - Ages of Attendance
- 5131.6 Students - Alcohol Use, Drugs & Tobacco (Including Performance Enhancing Substances)
- 5141.4 Students - Reporting of Child Abuse, Neglect and Sexual Abuse

A motion was made by M. Rouillard and seconded by H. Wood to table Policy#5111 Students - Admission/Placement - Admission. Vote: All in favor.

Policy 4118.231/4218.231 Personnel - Certified/Non Certified - Alcohol, Drugs & Tobacco; Policy 5112 - Students-Ages of Attendance (version 1); Policy and Regulation 5131.6 Students - Alcohol Use, Drugs & Tobacco (Including Performance Enhancing Substances) and Policy and Regulation 5141.4 Students - Reporting of Child Abuse, Neglect and Sexual Abuse (version 1) will be put on the August Agenda as a 2nd reading and vote.

B. School Reopening Update

G. Lanza reviewed the highlights of the Sterling Reopening Access Plan with an executive summary. The complete reopening plan needs to be submitted to the state by Friday, July 24, 2020 and includes 3 different plans: full in person 5 days/week, hybrid (part in and part out) and full distance learning. The 180 student school day requirement has been waived and the 2020-21 school calendar may need to be revised and approved by the Board if we go to 177 school days to offer professional development for staff and parents. A transportation survey for the fall was sent to families. There were 165 responses - 59% yes for transportation to and from school; 14% from school only; 4% to school only and 24% no transportation needed. A survey was sent to families asking if they would be sending their children back to school in the fall. There were 145 responses - 76 ½% of respondents indicated that they would be sending their children back to school, and 23 ½ % of respondents indicated they would not be sending their children back to school. A survey was sent to staff asking if there were reasons that they would not be able to return to the school building. There were 73 responses - 66% have no issues and 34% have possible mitigating circumstances. Focus group meetings will be held this coming Thursday and

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next week. C. Langlois asked what would happen without lockers and mentioned possible chair coverings for student belongings. G. Lanza and F. Coderre met with the District's Medical Director to review the reopening plan and to discuss the health and safety of students and staff. Health and safety is our utmost concern - this is a health issue not an education issue.

**C. Approval of Unaffiliated Contracts**

A motion was made by C. Langlois and seconded by D. Capobianco to approve the unaffiliated contracts for H. Nickerson, K. Gunn and J. Hill as presented. Vote: All in favor.

**D. Line Item Transfers**

A motion was made by L. Shippee and seconded by M. Rouillard to approve the line item transfer of \$40,000.00 out of A.1000.111.01.00.71 Certified Personnel and transfer into A.2310.330.01.00.71 Legal Services. Vote: All in favor.

**VII. Recommendations, Questions and/or Comments**

C. Langlois would like to compliment and thank G. Lanza and all who have worked on reopening the school. Sterling is doing a great job, is well organized and there are a lot of stakeholders involved. F. Bood appreciates all the effort that is being done.

M. Cartier, Plainfield Liaison asked if anyone from Sterling would be attending the Plainfield meeting on July 22nd and C. Langlois said she would be attending.

**VIII. Executive Session**

None

**IX. Adjournment**

A motion was made by H. Wood and seconded by M. Rouillard to adjourn the meeting at 5:25 pm. Vote: All in favor.