Sterling Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
February 19, 2025
Community Room - 6:00pm
"EXCELLENCE WITH KINDNESS"

I. <u>Call to Order</u>

The meeting was called to order by Courtney Langlois, Board Chair at 6:00pm

Present: Dorothy Capobianco, Treasurer; Victoria Robinson-Lewis, Vice Treasurer; John Brady, Board Member; Catherine Malo, Board Member

Absent: Jennifer Mossner, Board Vice Chair

Also Present: Theodore Friend, Superintendent; Heather Nickerson, Principal; Laura Smith, Clinical Supervisor; Sara Howley, Business Manager; Christine Chandler, Board Clerk

II. <u>Pledge of Allegiance</u>

- A motion was made by V. Robinson-Lewis and seconded by D. Capobianco to move Item A under New Business to III on the agenda.

III. <u>New Business</u>

A. Introduction of 2024-2025 CAPSS award recipients, Mercedez Heltke and Drake McDonald. The CAPSS Award Ceremony will be held at Killingly High School on March 25, 2025 at 5:30pm.

Mrs. Nickerson shared a few words about each student's accomplishments. The students were congratulated by all in attendance and were presented with a card and gift card from the Board.

IV. <u>Public Comment</u>

No one was present

V. <u>Reports and Communications</u>

A. **Correspondence**

B. **Consent Agenda**

1. Minutes of Meeting January 15, 2025
2. Superintendent's Report
3. Special Education Director's Report
4. Principal's Report
5. Clinical Supervisor's Report
6. Monthly Check Register

- A motion made by V. Robinson-Lewis and seconded by D. Capobianco to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
  - Vote: All in favor
  - Motion: Passed

C. **Budget and Expense Report**

- The audit is still being done and the school has provided all that the auditors have requested.
- We will be requesting to move the 24FY budget remaining balance $83,245 to the 2% Non-Lapsing Account.
- We are still in good budget standing for this school year.
- We received the first estimate from the State for the Excess Cost Grant - Sterling capped at $317,000, approx. 64% reimbursement. Legislation is meeting on Monday, February 24th to vote on providing an additional $40 million in funding in the current FY25 - this would bring Sterling's projected reimbursement to $389,000.
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- A motion made by D. Capobianco and seconded by J. Brady to approve the Budget and Expense report as presented.
  - Vote: All in favor
  - Motion: Passed

D. **Plainfield Board of Education Liaison**

J. Brady was able to attend the meeting and noted the following:

- There was a presentation by the after-school clubs 20% of the students attend the after-school programs.
- Early childhood program now is all partial day, they are looking to make it ⅓ full of the day.
- They are meeting with the SDE on Magnet High School Programming. They have not picked out the subject matter yet.
- Plainfield 25/26 proposed budget increase of 5.27%.

E. **Personnel - Resignation/Retirement**

None to report at this time

VI. <u>Unfinished Business</u>

No unfinished business at this time

VII. <u>New Business</u>

A. Moved to III on the agenda

B. Review, discussion, and possible approval of adding Killingly High School as another traditional high school for Sterling students.
   - It was decided by the Board to "Table" this until next month's meeting on March 19, 2025.

C. Review, discussion, and possible approval of a 3rd Grade Field Study to Southwick Zoo in Mendon, MA.

- A motion made by V. Robinson-Lewis and seconded by C. Malo to approve 3rd grade's field trip to Southwick Zoo, Mendon, MA.
  - Vote: All in favor
  - Motion: Passed

D. Review, discussion and possible approval of declaring computers/chromebooks obsolete.
   - The Board decided to "Table" this until next month's meeting on March 19, 2025 when a list of obsolete computers/chromebooks could be provided.

E. Discussion and possible approval of giving Sterling Community School's obsolete computer/chromebooks to community members in need.

- A motion made by V. Robinson-Lewis and seconded by C. Malo to approve giving any computers/chromebooks that are declared obsolete to community members in need.
  - Vote: All in favor
  - Motion: Passed

F. Review, discussion, and possible approval of the transfer of $83,245 from the 23/24 Fiscal Year Budget to the 10-248A 2% Non-Lapsing Account.

- A motion was made by V. Robinson-Lewis and seconded by C. Malo to approve the transfer of $83,245 from the 23/24 budget to the 10-248A 2% Non-Lapsing Account.
  - Vote: All in favor
  - Motion: Passed

VIII. Committee Updates

A. Policy
B. Budget - 25/26 projected overall increase 2.7% - the state average is 5.52%
Budget will be presented to the Board at the March 19, 2025 meeting.
C. Negotiations

IX. Recommendations, Questions and/or Comments

Nothing at this time

X. Public Comment

No one was present

XI. Executive Session

Not needed at this time

XII. Adjournment

- A motion made by V. Robinson-Lewis and seconded by D. Capobianco to adjourn the meeting.
  - Vote: All in favor
  - Motion: Passed

Meeting adjourned at: 6:25pm