

Sterling Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
October 16, 2024
Community Room - 6:00pm
“EXCELLENCE WITH KINDNESS”

I. Call to Order

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

Present at the meeting were Jennifer Mossner, Vice Chair; Dorothy Capobianco, Treasure; Victoria Robinson-Lewis, Vice Treasurer; John Brady, Board Member

Arrived at 6:30pm: Catherine Malo, Board Member

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

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Public Comment

As no one came forward, the Chair moved on to the next item on the agenda.

IV. Reports and Communications

A. Correspondence

B. Consent Agenda

1. Minutes of Meeting September 18, 2024
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 was made by V. Robinson-Lewis and seconded by J. Brady to approve the consent agenda as presented.
 - Vote: All in favor (5)
 - Motion: Passed

C. Budget and Expense Report

S. Howley gave a budget update and noted that she will continue to watch the Maintenance Repair Costs line and High School Tuition Costs line. She also made the Board aware that the Town Treasurer was working on scheduling the annual audit.

- A motion was made by V. Robinson-Lewis and seconded by J. Mossner to approve the Budget and Expense Report as presented.
 - Vote: All in favor (5)
 - Motion: Passed

D. Plainfield Board of Education Liaison

C. Langlois attended the Plainfield Board of Education meeting. She noted the following items from the meeting.

- Plainfield's Central Office has moved to Shepard Hill
- There wasn't a Sterling Student Representative on the Board
 - D. Capobianco is going to call the high school
- They are planning Homecoming
- That there was a positive start to the school year
- They noted that the Budget is tight
- There were several resignations and new hires
- They are short staff
- All students are eligible for free breakfast for the remainder of the school year

E. Personnel - Resignation/Retirement

Kristen Cavaliere - Director of Student Services - Resignation

- A motion was made by V. Robinson-Lewis and seconded by J. Brady to accept the resignation of Kristen Cavaliere.
 - Vote: All in favor (5)
 - Motion: Passed

V. Unfinished Business

As there was no Unfinished Business, the chair moved to the next item on the agenda

VI. New Business

- a. Review, discussion, and possible approval of Theodore Friend's 2024/2025 Goals.
 - i. Mr. Friend reviewed his 2024/2025 Goals with the Board.
 - A motion was made by V. Robinson-Lewis and seconded by D. Capobianco to approve Theodore Friend's 2024/2025 Goals.

- Vote: All in favor (5)
- Motion: Passed

6:30pm

- b. Presentation by Erik Nelson from Silber Brook Energy about the Eversource NRES incentive that is available to the school.
 - Erik Nelson presented the information about an incentive program available from Eversource to the school. V. Robinson-Lewis will be doing some research to bring back to the Board.

VII. Committee Updates

- A. Policy - Meeting is set for November
- B. Budget - In December we will have a Budget Sub-Committee Meeting
- C. Negotiations - Will be discussed in Executive Session

VIII. Recommendations, Questions and/or Comments

As there were no Recommendations, Questions and/or Comments the Chair moved to the next agenda item.

IX. Public Comment

As there were no speakers at this time, the Chair moved to the next agenda item.

X. Executive Session

- A. Contract Negotiations - Sterling Education Association (SEA)
- B. Director of Student Services Position
- C. Theodore Friend, Superintendent's Contract - MOA
- D. Sterling Education Association - MOA

- A motion was made by V. Robinson-Lewis and seconded by C. Malo to enter into Executive Session to discuss SEA Contract Negotiations, the Director of Student Services Position, MOA to Theodore Friend's Contract, and a SEA MOA and to invite T. Friend and S. Howley.
 - Vote: All in favor (6)
 - Motion: Passed

Entered Executive Session at: 7:05pm

Exited Executive Session at: 7:40pm

- A motion was made by J. Brady and seconded by C. Malo to Ratify the Collective Bargaining agreement between the Sterling Board of Education and the Sterling Education Association.
 - Vote: All in favor (6)
 - Motion: Passed

- A motion was made by V. Robinson-Lewis and seconded by J. Mossner to approve the Memorandum of Agreement for the Superintendent to also serve as the Director of Student Services with compensation of \$15,000 to be paid in three (3) \$5000 stipends at the end of each trimester.
 - Vote: All in favor (6)
 - Motion: Passed

XI. Adjournment

- A motion was made by V. Robinson-Lewis and seconded by C. Malo to adjourn the meeting.
 - Vote: All (6) in favor
 - Motion: Passed
 - Meeting adjourned at 7:41pm