

January 6, 2020

The Stillwater Township Board of Education met on January 6, 2020, at 7:16 p.m. in the Stillwater School Library for a Committee of the Whole Board of Education Meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Dennis DeGroat at 7:16 p.m. In accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law, the time, date and location of this meeting was provided to the New Jersey Herald & Star Ledger on November 5, 2019. Notices were posted in the Stillwater School, Town Hall, Stillwater Post Office, Middleville Post Office, Swartwood Post Office, and the Stillwater School website.

Mr. DeGroat led the flag salute. The following Board members were present: Mrs. Svendsen, Mrs. Nothstine, Mr. DeGroat, Mrs. Williver, Mrs. LoCascio, Mrs. Kraft, Mrs. Thibault, Mrs. Galante, and Mrs. Saul.

Absent: None.

Also present were William Kochis, Superintendent, René Metzgar, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Marissa Cramer, Principal/Supervisor of CST and Special Education/Basic Skills, and members of the public.

## **BOARD BUSINESS**

1. Motion made by Mrs. Svendsen, second by Mrs. LoCascio to approve the Regular Board of Education Meeting minutes and Executive Session minutes from December 16, 2019. Motion approved by voice vote: Mrs. Svendsen-Aye; Mrs. Nothstine-Aye; Mrs. Galante-Aye; Mrs. Saul-Aye; Mrs. LoCascio-Aye; Mr. DeGroat-Aye; Mrs. Williver- Aye; Mrs. Thibault-Aye; Mrs. Kraft-Abstain.
2. Mr. Kochis provided an update on the Sussex County School Boards Meeting. It was attended by Mr. DeGroat and himself. A panel spoke about the loss of state aid in Sussex County. They also spoke about different shared services, and regionalization.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **PERSONNEL**

1. Motion made by Mrs. Nothstine, second by Mrs. Thibault to approve attached professional days. Motion approved by voice vote: Mrs. Svendsen-Aye; Mrs. Nothstine-Aye; Mrs. Galante-Aye; Mrs. Saul-Aye; Mrs. LoCascio-Aye; Mr. DeGroat-Aye; Mrs. Williver- Aye; Mrs. Thibault-Aye; Mrs. Kraft-Abstain.
2. Motion made by Mrs. Nothstine, second by Mrs. LoCascio to accept with regret, the resignation of Heather Ostendorff, effective January 6, 2020. Motion approved by voice vote: Mrs. Svendsen-Aye; Mrs. Nothstine-Aye; Mrs. Galante-Aye; Mrs. Saul-Aye; Mrs. LoCascio-Aye; Mr. DeGroat-Aye; Mrs. Williver-Aye; Mrs. Thibault-Aye; Mrs. Kraft-Abstain.

3. Motion made by Mrs. Nothstine, second by Mrs. LoCascio to approve maternity leave for Brittany Celentano beginning on or about March 2, 2020 with the intent to return on or about June 1, 2020. This leave includes up to 12 weeks covered by FMLA & NJFLA. Motion approved by voice vote: Mrs. Svendsen-Aye; Mrs. Nothstine-Aye; Mrs. Galante-Aye; Mrs. Saul-Aye; Mrs. LoCascio-Aye; Mr. DeGroat-Aye; Mrs. Williver- Aye; Mrs. Thibault-Aye; Mrs. Kraft-Abstain.
  
4. Motion made by Mrs. Nothstine, second by Mrs. Svendsen to approve the advancement on guide for the following employee for the 2020-2021 school year, pending completion of credits and verification of official transcripts:  
 Elaine Makarevich from MA+15 to MA+30  
 Motion approved by voice vote: Mrs. Svendsen-Aye; Mrs. Nothstine-Aye; Mrs. Galante-Aye; Mrs. Saul-Aye; Mrs. LoCascio-Aye; Mr. DeGroat-Aye; Mrs. Williver- Aye; Mrs. Thibault-Aye; Mrs. Kraft-Abstain.
  
5. Motion made by Mrs. Nothstine, second by Mrs. Svendsen, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following part-time paraprofessional for 27.5 hrs/week from January 7, 2020 to June 30, 2020, pending receipt of criminal history and background check:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Base Hourly Rate</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Total Hourly Rate</u>
Morgan Philhower	\$12.83	Bachelor's Degree: \$750=\$0.75/hour (pending receipt of transcripts)	\$13.58

Motion approved by voice vote: Mrs. Svendsen-Aye; Mrs. Nothstine-Aye; Mrs. Galante-Aye; Mrs. Saul-Aye; Mrs. LoCascio-Aye; Mr. DeGroat-Aye; Mrs. Williver- Aye; Mrs. Thibault-Aye; Mrs. Kraft-Abstain.

6. Motion made by Mrs. Nothstine, second by Mrs. LoCascio to approve maternity leave for Laura Ciccolella beginning on or about May 2, 2020 with the intent to return for the 2020-2021 school year. This leave includes up to 12 weeks covered by FMLA & NJFLA. Motion approved by voice vote: Mrs. Svendsen-Aye; Mrs. Nothstine-Aye; Mrs. Galante-Aye; Mrs. Saul-Aye; Mrs. LoCascio-Aye; Mr. DeGroat-Aye; Mrs. Williver- Aye; Mrs. Thibault-Aye; Mrs. Kraft-Abstain.
  
7. Motion made by Mrs. Nothstine, second by Mrs. LoCascio, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to fund 100% of Heather Vivian's hourly salary (\$13.33/hour) through IDEA-B from January 6, 2020 to June 30, 2020. Motion approved by voice vote: Mrs. Svendsen-Aye; Mrs. Nothstine-Aye; Mrs. Galante-Aye; Mrs. Saul-Aye; Mrs. LoCascio-Aye; Mr. DeGroat-Aye; Mrs. Williver- Aye; Mrs. Thibault-Aye; Mrs. Kraft-Abstain.

**POLICY**

1. Motion made by Mrs. Svendsen, second by Mrs. LoCascio to approve the first reading of the following revised policies:

Policy# 1330 Use of School Facilities Building Use Form

Regulation#5131/5131.7 Student Code of Conduct  
Motion approved by voice vote: Mrs. Svendsen-Aye; Mrs. Nothstine-Aye; Mrs. Galante-Aye; Mrs. Saul-Aye; Mrs. LoCascio-Aye; Mr. DeGroat-Aye; Mrs. Williver-Aye; Mrs. Thibault-Aye; Mrs. Kraft-Abstain.

## **EDUCATION & CURRICULUM**

None.

## **BUILDING & GROUNDS**

1. Mrs. Metzgar provided an update on the following building & grounds items:
  - 1966 Emergency Roof Project Completion
  - Building Use Forms & Compliance Audit Review
2. Motion made by Mrs. Galante, second by Mrs. LoCascio to approve RFS Commercial to install new window shades for the preschool rooms and the 1966 downstairs front rooms for the amounts as listed as per NJ State Contract #ESCNJ 17/18-16:
  - Preschool Rooms-\$3,605 (Funded by PEA)
  - 1966 Downstairs front rooms-\$ 4,400Motion approved by voice vote: Mrs. Svendsen-Aye; Mrs. Nothstine-Aye; Mrs. Galante-Aye; Mrs. Saul-Aye; Mrs. LoCascio-Aye; Mr. DeGroat-Aye; Mrs. Williver-Aye; Mrs. Thibault-Aye; Mrs. Kraft-Abstain.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

None.

## **BUDGET & FINANCE**

1. Mrs. Metzgar distributed a tentative budget calendar. This calendar will be updated as more information is received. The budget process has begun. Our first committee meeting is scheduled for January 27<sup>th</sup>.
2. Motion made by Mrs. LoCascio, second by Mrs. Svendsen to accept the annual audit for the Stillwater Township Board of Education for the year ended June 30, 2019. There were no audit findings or recommendations. Motion approved by roll call vote: Mrs. Svendsen-Aye; Mrs. Nothstine-Aye; Mrs. Galante-Aye; Mrs. Saul-Aye; Mrs. LoCascio-Aye; Mr. DeGroat-Aye; Mrs. Williver-Aye; Mrs. Thibault-Aye; Mrs. Kraft-Abstain.
3. Motion made by Mrs. LoCascio, second by Mrs. Nothstine to accept the School Health Insurance Fund dividend in the amount of \$17,188. Motion approved by roll call vote: Mrs. Svendsen-Aye; Mrs. Nothstine-Aye; Mrs. Galante-Aye; Mrs. Saul-Aye; Mrs. LoCascio-Aye; Mr. DeGroat-Aye; Mrs. Williver-Aye; Mrs. Thibault-Aye; Mrs. Kraft-Abstain.

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

- Mrs. Thibault announced the basketball clinic starts Wednesday. Thank you again to Mr. Nick and Mr. Reed.
- The General Store opened today!
- Letters for Soldiers are in process.
- PTA would like to help families offset the costs of yearbooks this year. We will be able to offer them at a discounted rate!
- Strategic Planning Meeting #1 will be January 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Stress Less Parent Meeting- January 7<sup>th</sup>
- Community Awareness Night- January 7<sup>th</sup> at KRHS
- KRHS Players club will be performing the Addams Family

## **LEGISLATIVE**

None.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Svendsen at 7:34 pm the Stillwater Township Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 and 10:4-13 that said public body hold a closed session for the purpose of personnel matters and attorney client privilege, it is expected that the minutes taken of this closed session will be made public when the reason for confidentiality no longer exists. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

A five minute break was taken before entering into executive session to take a board of education picture for the yearbook.

Motion made by Mrs. LoCascio and seconded by Mrs. Galante at 8:34p.m. to come out of executive session and return to public session. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

## **MOTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The following resolution was made by Mrs. Nothstine, second by Mrs. Svendsen:

WHEREAS, the Stillwater Township Board of Education has been named in a lawsuit by a former parent (the Petitioner) related to the provision or the failure to provide educational services to her child; and

WHEREAS, there is currently pending in the Office of Administrative Law a complaint seeking legal redress to the Petitioner under docket no. EDS 10047-19 M.J. o/b/o W.S. Stillwater Board of Education, et al. and

WHEREAS, the parties wish to resolve the matter without the time and expense of a full hearing; and

WHEREAS, the District maintains it properly educated W.S. and is entering this agreement without the admission of any wrong doing or educational errors whatsoever.

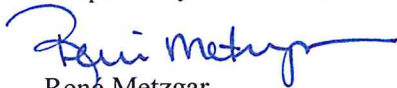
THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board authorizes its counsel to effectuate a settlement and release agreement ("the Agreement") which is attached as Exhibit A and which provides for certain payment to the Petitioners which are contained in the Agreement and consents to a payment by its insurance company to Petitioner's counsel for legal fees, again as set forth in the agreement and to further report to the OAL that the matter has been resolved.

Motion approved by roll call vote: Mrs. Svendsen-Aye; Mrs. Nothstine-Aye; Mrs. Galante-Aye; Mrs. Saul-Aye; Mrs. LoCascio-Aye; Mr. DeGroat-Aye; Mrs. Williver- Aye; Mrs. Thibault-Aye; Mrs. Kraft-Abstain.

### **ADJOURN**

Motion made by Mrs. Svendsen, second by Mrs. LoCascio to adjourn the meeting at 8:35p.m. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



René Metzgar  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary