

June 7, 2021

The Stillwater Township Board of Education met on June 7, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. remotely via Zoom for a Committee of the Whole Board of Education Meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Dennis DeGroat at 7:01 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, Township Journal & Star Ledger on January 5, 2021. Notices were posted in the Stillwater School, Town Hall, Stillwater Post Office, Middleville Post Office, Swartswood Post Office and the Stillwater School Website. Notice of remote meeting access due to current emergency regarding COVID-19 was also provided to the public on May 25, 2021.

Mr. DeGroat led the flag salute. The following Board members were present: Mr. DeGroat, Mrs. LoCascio, Mrs. Svendsen, Mrs. Galante (arrived 7:04 pm), Mrs. Nothstine, Mrs. Williver, Mrs. Kraft, Mr. Franek, and Mrs. Thibault.

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, Cali Roberts, Assistant Principal/Regional Curriculum Coordinator, and members of the public.

## **BOARD BUSINESS**

1. Motion made by Mrs. LoCascio, second by Mr. Franek to approve the Regular Board of Education Meeting minutes & Executive Session meeting minutes from May 10, 2021. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
2. Motion made by Mrs. LoCascio, second by Mrs. Svendsen to approve the April 30, 2021 Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports which balanced in the amount of \$2,413,635.64 pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-16.10(c)3, we certify that as of April 30, 2021 after review of the secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)4, and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
3. Board Self-Assessment/Goal Planning for 2021-2022- Mrs. Metzgar reached out to NJSBA to see availability. Mrs. Helewa is available for our August 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

Mrs. Galante arrived at 7:04 pm.

4. School Board Petitions Update- Mrs. Metzgar reminded board members that petitions are out! They are due to the County Clerk's office by the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday in July, no later than 4:00 pm.
5. Regionalization Bill Update provided by Dr. Kochis- A few weeks ago we met with regional Superintendents, Business Administrators, and BOE representatives from sending districts. At the meeting was Mark Magyar who is Deputy Executive Director

for Senator Sweeney and a key player behind the Regionalization Bill. At the meeting we attempted to get clarification on the Regionalization Bill and Feasibility Study. We will continue to monitor this Bill and have open communication with our regional schools.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **PERSONNEL**

1. Motion made by Mrs. Galante, second by Mrs. Svendsen, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve attached professional days. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
2. Motion made by Mrs. Galante, second by Mrs. LoCascio, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve to following substitute teacher/paraprofessional:  

Margo Donovan (pending criminal history & background check)  
A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
3. Motion made by Mrs. Galante, second by Mrs. LoCascio to accept the resignations of the following part-time paraprofessionals effective June 30, 2021:  
  - Ashley Rossi
  - Nicole DiRienzo
  - Emily PerezA voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
4. Motion made by Mrs. Galante, second by Mrs. LoCascio upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve Daniel Yardley as a substitute technology coordinator if needed at a rate of \$61.20/hour for the 2021-2022 school year. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
5. Motion made by Mrs. Galante, second by Mrs. LoCascio, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to appoint Meghan Radimer as the Staff Wellness Coordinator as per the SHIF grant for the 2021-2022 school year, to be paid a stipend of \$TBD (pending application). To be paid directly from the SHIF. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
6. Motion made by Mrs. Galante, second by Mrs. Svendsen, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following personnel for the summer program from July 6, 2021-July 29, 2021 (16 days), funding source as listed:  
  - Jennifer Gryzeski: Preschool \$2,380 (IDEA-PS)
  - Kerri Huff: Special Education Resource (Grades 1-3) \$2,380 (IDEA-B)
  - Kelly Fryer: Special Education Resource (Grades 4-6) \$2,380 (IDEA-B)
  - Madeline Lenze: Grade 1 (ESSER II-Learning Loss)
  - William Zschack: Grade 2 (ESSER II-Learning Loss)
  - Sam Scocozza: Grades 3/4 and 5/6-\$2,380 ELA (ESSER II-Learning Loss)
  - Janet Mahedy: Grades 3/4 and 5/6-\$2,380 Math (ESSER II-Learning Loss)
  - Jessica Garrigan: Speech \$2,380 (IDEA-B)

Colleen Hurley: Nurse \$2,380 (ESSER II-Learning Loss)  
Jeanne Smetana: Social Worker-10 days- \$2,440 (ESSER II-Mental Health)  
Ana Cristina Walaszczyk: Paraprofessional- \$950 (ESSER II)  
Ana Cristina Walaszczyk: Bus Aide \$280 (IDEA-B)  
Holly Kearney: Paraprofessional- \$950 (IDEA PS)  
Hellen Salitt: Paraprofessional-\$950 (ESSER II)  
Carrie Weeks: Paraprofessional- \$950 (ESSER II)  
Nicole DiRienzo- Paraprofessional- \$950 (ESSER II)  
Meghan Radimer- Substitute Paraprofessional/Substitute Teacher  
A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.

7. Motion made by Mrs. Galante, second by Mrs. Svendsen upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve Kathleen Kane as Treasurer of School Monies from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 for a stipend of \$3,440. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
8. Motion made by Mrs. Galante, second by Mrs. LoCascio, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following staff members for the custodial building use stipend of \$35.00/hour, as worked, for the 2021-2022 school year when organizations are using the building and it is scheduled to be closed:

Nick Carbonaro  
Gary Post  
Michael Maggio

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

9. Motion made by Mrs. Galante, second by Mrs. LoCascio to approve shared service contract agreement with the Stillwater Township Board of Education, Fredon Township Board of Education, Hampton Township Board of Education, Sandyston-Walpack Board of Education, and Kittatinny Regional Board of Education for school security officers as needed for the 2021-2022 school year. Stillwater & Kittatinny will be the LEAs. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
10. Motion made by Mrs. Galante, second by Mrs. LoCascio to approve shared service contract agreement between the Stillwater Township Board of Education, Fredon Township Board of Education, Hampton Township Board of Education, Sandyston-Walpack Board of Education, and Kittatinny Regional Board of Education, for nursing services for the purpose to administer medication when no nurse is available for the 2021-2022 school year. There will be no cost to any district for this service. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

## **POLICY**

1. Motion made by Mrs. Nothstine, second by Mrs. Svendsen to approve the second reading of the following new policy:

Policy #3501 Conservation, Sustainability, and Green Initiatives  
A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

## **EDUCATION & CURRICULUM**

1. Safe Return Plan for the American Rescue Plan Funds Application (ARP ESSER)- Dr. Kochis reviewed the outline of the plan. This is the first step to obtaining funds. The plan is in line with the CDC & health department guidelines, so it can change as the guidance changes from now until the fall semester. The application regarding the use of funds is due in November. We will be assessing our needs over the next few months.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT- Safe Return Plan**

- Mr. Franek- spoke about the new guidance regarding removing masks during excessive heat.
- Mrs. Thibault- asked about use of these funds.
- Mrs. LoCascio- asked about if there is a variance in the fall, are we prepared to handle it?

Motion made by Mrs. LoCascio, second by Mrs. Nothstine to approve the Stillwater Township Safe Return Plan and submit to the State of NJ. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

## **BUILDING & GROUNDS**

1. Mrs. Metzgar provided an update on the following building & grounds items:
  - Cyber Security Insurance
  - Septic Repairs
  - 1966 Boiler/Oil Tank Update
  - Playground borders
2. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mrs. Svendsen, to approve the purchase of new cyber security insurance proposal from Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management with BCS Insurance Company in the amount of \$9,490.00 from July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
3. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mr. Franek, to approve septic repair work & lid replacement to EarthCare for a total of \$2,405.00. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
4. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mrs. LoCascio, to approve McCullough Tree Experts, LLC to remove the maple tree near the preschool playground due to the poor health conditions in the amount of \$850. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
5. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mrs. LoCascio, to approve the renewal of student accident insurance with Bollinger Specialty Group for the 2021-2022 school year for a total cost of \$5,128. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
6. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mrs. LoCascio, to approve the purchase of playground borders and installation for 6 play areas in the amount of \$33,891.26 from Ben Shaffer Recreation Inc. (ESCNJ 20-21/22 & Coop#65MCESCCPS). A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

## TRANSPORTATION

1. Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. LoCascio, to retroactively approve parent transportation contract for student #04182018 from May 25, 2021 to June 30, 2021 for a pro-rated amount of \$88.89 for transportation to PG Chambers School. A roll vote was taken and unanimously approved.
2. Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Svendsen, to approve parent transportation contract for student #04182018 from July 1, 2021-August 31, 2021 for a total amount of \$166.67 for transportation to PG Chambers School. A roll vote was taken and unanimously approved.
3. Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Svendsen, to approve renewal of transportation contracts with Stocker Bus Company for the 2021-2022 school year for the following summer school routes in the following amounts as listed:

<u>Route</u>	<u>Prev. Yrs Cost</u>	<u>Aide</u>	<u># of Days</u>	<u>CPI 1.69%</u>	<u>Inc/Dec</u>	<u>Total renewal Cost</u> <u>Provision</u>
(8) ST 30	\$147.26	N/A	16	\$ 2.48	2.00	\$149.73
(8) ST 31	\$147.26	N/A	16	\$ 2.48	2.00	\$149.73

**TOTAL ANNUAL COST** **\$4,791.36**  
A roll vote was taken and unanimously approved.

## BUDGET & FINANCE

1. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mr. Franek, to approve transfers from April 1, 2021 to April 30, 2021 as attached. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
2. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Svendsen to retroactively approve tuition contract with PG Chambers School from May 25, 2021 to June 30, 2021 for a pro-rated amount of \$6,240.96 for student 04182018. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.
3. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. LoCascio to approve tuition contract with PG Chambers School from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 for total amount of \$89,880 for student 04182018. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.
4. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Svendsen to authorize the submission of the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Fund applications and accept the grant award of these funds upon subsequent approval of the application as listed:

ARP ESSER First Installment: \$131,576  
ARP ESSER Second Installment: \$65,788  
Total ARP ESSER Funds: \$197,364

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

5. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Svendsen to approve contract with Duff & Phelps for \$1,325.00 for Property Record Management as of June 30, 2021. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

### **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

Mrs. Williver provided an update on the following items:

- Thanked everyone who came out for the KRHS Players Medium Night and all who attended the outdoor musical.
- KRHS Free Choir Concert- June 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, in the KRHS parking lot.
- KRHS Jazz in the parking lot- June 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm, in the KRHS parking lot.
- Stillwater School Field day is tomorrow!
- Last day of school is June 16<sup>th</sup>
- KRHS is holding a theater and dance camp this summer
- YMCA will be holding summer camps
- Friday Night is Stillwater School's 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Recognition

### **LEGISLATIVE**

Mrs. Kraft updated the board on the following legislative items:

- Legislation allowing retired teachers to return for up to two years without penalties due to the shortage of qualified teaching staff due to COVID.
- Special Education legislation extending services for an additional year due to COVID.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Christine Bello- 1059 Stillwater Road, Stillwater, NJ 07860- Concerned about students and staff wearing masks in this excessive heat. Also, spoke about the mask mandate being lifted May 28<sup>th</sup>, but in schools they are still required to be masked and behind barriers. She feels that parents should be able to make the choice in the fall whether they feel their child should be masked or not.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by Mrs. LoCascio, second by Mrs. Williver at 8:06 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 discussing Student Privacy, SEA Contract Negotiations & the Superintendent Evaluation 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.

Mrs. Thibault left the meeting at 8:06 pm.

Mrs. Kraft, Mrs. Cramer, and Ms. Roberts were excused from the meeting at 8:17 pm.

Mrs. Kraft and Mrs. Thibault returned to the meeting at 8:23 pm.

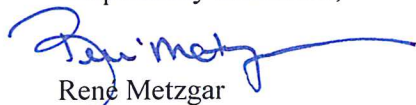
Dr. Kochis was excused from the meeting at 8:23 pm

Motion made by Mrs. LoCascio and seconded by Mrs. Svendsen at 8:32 p.m. to come out of executive session and return to public session. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Mrs. LoCascio, second by Mrs. Svendsen to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rene Metzgar  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary