

March 29, 2021

The Stillwater Township Board of Education met on March 29, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. remotely via Zoom for a Regular 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 March 23, 2021.

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

Absent: Mrs. Galante.

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 Mrs. Nothstine to approve the Committee of the Whole Board of Education Meeting minutes from March 15, 2021. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
2. Motion made by Mrs. LoCascio, second by Mr. Franek to approve the Executive Session Board of Education Meeting minutes from March 15, 2021. Motion approved by voice vote: Mrs. Svendsen-Aye; Mrs. Nothstine-Aye; Mr. DeGroat-Aye; Mrs. Williver- Aye; Mrs. Thibault-Abstain; Mrs. Kraft-Abstain; Mr. Franek-Aye; Mrs. LoCascio-Aye.
3. Motion made by Mrs. LoCascio, second by Mrs. Svendsen to approve the February 28, 2021 Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports which balanced in the amount \$2,513,060.72 pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-16.10(c)3, we certify that as of February 28, 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.
4. Motion made by Mrs. LoCascio, second by Mrs. Thibault to approve the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary to advertise in the New Jersey Herald for the public hearing on the 2021-2022 school budget to be held on April 26, 2021 remotely via Zoom, beginning at 7:00 pm, with the regular meeting to follow. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

5. Motion made by Mrs. LoCascio, second by Mrs. Svendsen to approve the Board of Education's support of and possible participation in a "regionalization" feasibility study for the Kittatinny cluster of school districts so long as the feasibility study is paid for by a Local Achievement Efficiency Program (LEAP) Grant or by the approval of Senate Bill S. 3488 and the agreement among the majority of the regional school districts.

Discussion was led by Dr. Kochis. The KRHS region Superintendents met with Senator Oroho to discuss the loss of state aid and the new regionalization legislation. The Superintendents will be compiling questions to send to Senator Oroho to gain more of an understanding on this new legislation.

Mr. DeGroat provided each board member a chance to express their opinions on this topic. Many of the board members were concerned regarding the feasibility study and the language in the new bill. There was also concern that what is best for Stillwater, may not be what is best for the whole region. Also, what the State feels could be the best, may not be the best for Stillwater. There are still so many unknown facts that more information needs to be provided prior to committing to a study from the state.

Motion to table the above motion was made by Mrs. LoCascio, second by Mrs. Thibault. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Kochis reported on the following items:

- Internet outage update
- Covid-19 Update
- Recognized Teachers and PTA for Hearts of Hope project
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Recognition Ceremony Update
- Kindergarten Orientation Update
- State Testing Update

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Thank you letter to the BOE for the Hearts for Hearts of Hope- Lisa Hutcheson

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### **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

Mr. DeGroat congratulated Dr. Kochis on completing his Doctorate Program!

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

## ACTION ITEMS:

### PERSONNEL

1. Motion made by Mrs. LoCascio, 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. LoCascio, second by Mrs. Svendsen, to accept with regret the resignation of Joann Graupe effective June 30, 2021. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
3. Motion made by Mrs. LoCascio, second by Mrs. Thibault to accept with regret the resignation of Joseph VanSkiver effective April 1, 2021 for the purpose of retirement. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
4. Motion made by Mrs. LoCascio, second by Mrs. Svendsen, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to retroactively approve leave of absence under FMLA & NJFLA for employee #859 from March 15, 2021 with the intent to return no later than June 7, 2021 or earlier if employee no longer qualifies for the leave. This leave includes the maximum 12 weeks under FMLA & NJFLA. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
5. Motion made by Mrs. LoCascio, second by Mrs. Svendsen, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following graduate classes at Fairleigh Dickinson University for Janet Mahedy:

<u>Title of Course</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>BOE Reimbursement</u>
Data Analysis & Probability	May 24, 2021-August 14, 2021	\$2,019	Yes

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

### POLICY

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

Policy #3541.1 Transportation Routes and Services

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

### EDUCATION & CURRICULUM

1. Motion made by Mrs. Svendsen, second by Mrs. Thibault to approve the total student cost (paid by parents) for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade class trip to the YMCA Camp Linwood McDonald on June 1, 2021 & June 2, 2021 in the amount of \$110.00/person. Transportation to be paid for by the Board of Education. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

**BUILDING & GROUNDS**

1. Mrs. Metzgar provided an update on the following Buildings and Grounds items:
  - 1966 Section Boiler Project
  - Single Stall Restroom Project
  - Ionizers for univents
  - Dishwasher update
  
2. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mrs. Svendsen to approve building and use calendar for April 2021. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
  
3. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mrs. LoCascio, to award the Single Stall Restroom Renovations Project at the Stillwater Township School bid to Frankoski Construction Co., Inc. for a total bid price of \$246,093. This will include alternate #1 and #2.

Bids :

<b>Bidders</b>	<b>Base Bid</b>	<b>Alt. #1</b>	<b>Alt. #2</b>	<b>Total</b>
Wallkill Group, Inc.	\$215,000	\$22,000	\$33,000	\$270,000
CIS	No bid submitted			
North Creek Construction	\$229,400	\$18,500	\$27,000	\$274,900
Premier Building & Construction Management, Inc.	No bid submitted			
Zitone Construction & Supply, Inc.	\$213,300	\$26,700	\$32,000	\$272,000
A&M Constructing	No bid submitted			
AB Contracting, LLC	No bid submitted			
Lanyi & Tevald, Inc.	\$189,000	\$20,500	\$50,700	\$260,200
Catcord Construction	No bid submitted			
Construct Connect	No bid submitted			
AERO Plumbing & Heating Co	\$309,485	\$20,000	\$22,000	\$351,485
The Blue Book Network	No bid submitted			
Frankoski Construction Co., Inc	\$194,493	\$19,600	\$32,000	\$246,093
Dodge Data & Analytics	No bid submitted			
NJ/SB Construction, LLC	No bid submitted			
Drill Construction	\$219,000	\$26,000	\$26,000	\$271,000
Billy Contracting & Restoration	No bid submitted			

V&K Construction, Inc.	No bid submitted			
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A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

1. Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. LoCascio, to approve Stocker Bus to provide round trip transportation to and from the YMCA Camp Linwood McDonald on June 1, 2021 & June 2, 2021 for a cost of \$275 per day for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade field trip. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

### **BUDGET & FINANCE**

1. Federal Procurement Review of School Nutrition Programs- Mrs. Metzgar notified the board that we were selected for a procurement audit this year. We have also successfully completed our SSO review for COVID-19 procedures.
2. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Svendsen to approve regular checks from February 23, 2021-March 29, 2021 numbered 27022-27085, N0226, N0301, N0312, N0315, void check#27076 & 27077, for a total of \$779,604.37. Cafeteria checks 2635-2638 in the amount of \$7,096.15. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
3. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Svendsen to approve the attached list of purchase orders over \$1,000 for 2020-2021 school year. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
4. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. LoCascio to approve transfers from January 1, 2021 to February 28, 2021 as attached. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
5. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Svendsen to approve monthly travel as attached. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
6. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Svendsen to approve the transfer of the remaining funds from the 1966 boiler project and return to capital reserve in the amount of \$251,754.59. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
7. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Svendsen to approve submission of the Fuel Up to Play 60 grant in the amount up to \$4,000 for healthy eating and physical education. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
8. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Svendsen to approve the attached ACES-Cooperative Pricing System Agreement and authorize the Board President and School Business Administrator/Board Secretary to sign on behalf of the district for continued participation in ACES-CPS. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

9. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Svendsen to approve the amendments for the 2020-2021 school year to the following grants due to COVID-19:

- ESSA Title 1
- ESSA Title 4
- IDEA Basic

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

## **LEGISLATION**

Mrs. Kraft provided an update on the following:

- Energy Efficiency stimulus program- water & ventilation.

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

Mrs. Williver reported on the following items:

- Stillwater School Newsletter- two great links with activities for students over spring break.
- Easter Bunny visit at the Shoppes of Lafayette Village on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Rivers Edge Horse Rescue Sanctuary- Meet and Greet the animals
- Fish & Chips Dinner- Newton VFW- April 2<sup>nd</sup>

The Stillwater PTA is looking for executive board members. If interested please reach out to the PTA President!

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Board member required training- Due December 31, 2021.
2. Board member Ethics/Financial Disclosure Forms-Due April 30, 2021

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Save the date! Sussex County School Boards Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 8, 2021, virtually. Program 6:30pm-8:00pm. Topic: Discuss issues of concern, NJSBA legislative update and NJSBA field representative update. Board members may register themselves if interested.
2. Superintendent Evaluation & Board Self Evaluation Update

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Moira Douglas- Ridge Road, Stillwater, NJ- Asked if Stillwater School is moving to Planet Networks. Also asked if the issue today was Century Link or the School and if this would have an additional cost.

Mrs. Metzgar responded that Planet Networks was awarded the new internet contract to begin July 1. This recent internet outage was due to the power outages on Friday. Unfortunately, it damaged a component owned by century link. There should be no additional charge for this repair.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Svendsen 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 SEA Contract Negotiations 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.

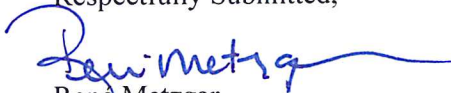
Mrs. Kraft, Mrs. Thibault, Mrs. Cramer and Mrs. Roberts were excused from the meeting at 8:06 pm.

Motion made by Mrs. LoCascio and seconded by Mrs. Svendsen at 8:54 p.m. to come out of executive session and return to public session. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

## ADJOURN

Motion made by Mrs. Nothstine, second by Mrs. LoCascio to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



René Metzgar  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary