

November 16, 2020

The Stillwater Township Board of Education met on November 16, 2020, 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 7:00 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 January 7, 2020. 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 November 11, 2020.

Mr. DeGroat led the flag salute. The following Board members were present: Mr. DeGroat, Mrs. Svendsen, Mrs. Nothstine, Mrs. Williver, Mrs. LoCascio, Mrs. Kraft 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. Svendsen, second by Mrs. Nothstine to approve the Committee of the Whole Board of Education Meeting minutes from November 2, 2020. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
2. Motion made by Mrs. LoCascio, second by Mrs. Nothstine to approve the October 31, 2020 Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports which balanced in the amount of \$2,324,384.19 pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-16.10(c)3, we certify that as of October 31, 2020 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.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Kochis reported on the following items:

- Virtual Veterans Day Celebration
- Letter sent home to families explaining the regional status of Covid 19 and the guidelines and potential changes.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Mr. DeGroat received the Stillwater School newsletter today. He wanted to compliment all the staff who put it together. Looks great!

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

ACTION ITEMS:

PERSONNEL

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

-Ryan Mahedy- Pending substitute certification, criminal history & background check.
A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
3. Motion made by Mrs. Nothstine, second by Mrs. LoCascio, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve Jennifer Gryzeski to host a virtual preschool parent night on December 9, 2020, titled, "Supporting Learning from Home," to be paid through PEA funds at an hourly rate of \$34 for 3 hours. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
4. Motion made by Mrs. Nothstine, second by Mrs. LoCascio, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve Katie Bradley to host a virtual preschool parent night on December 9, 2020, titled, "Supporting Learning from Home," to be paid through PEA funds at an hourly rate of \$34 for 3 hours. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
5. Motion made by Mrs. Nothstine, second by Mrs. Svendsen upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to retroactively approve leave of absence under The Families First Coronavirus Response Act for employee #732 from November 9, 2020 to November 20, 2020 (2 weeks) for the purpose of childcare. Pay will be reflected in accordance to FFCRA as 2/3 the daily rate up to \$200. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
6. Motion made by Mrs. Nothstine, second by Mrs. Svendsen, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following substitute teacher/paraprofessional for the 2020-2021 school year, to be paid at the previously approved substitute rate:

Julianne Cacace- Pending criminal history & background check.
A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

7. Motion made by Mrs. Nothstine, second by Mrs. LoCascio, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to offer the leave replacement teacher contract to Julianne Cacace from on or about December 1, 2020 to December 23, 2020 to be hired at BA, Step 0, at a daily rate of \$281.45, pending CEAS certification, criminal history and background check. Official start date pending certification. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.

POLICY

1. Motion made by Mrs. Svendsen, second by Mrs. Thibault, to approve the second and final reading of the following revised polices:

Policy #3514 Equipment
Policy #6713.1 Remote Learning
Policy #6171.2 Gifted and Talented

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

EDUCATION & CURRICULUM

None.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

1. Mrs. Metzgar provided a building & grounds update on the following items:
 - 1966 Boiler Project
 - Preschool Playground
 - Water & Security Grants
2. Building Use update- Mr. Kochis recommended that we table this until January due to the recent increase in Covid-19 cases. He has reached out to other local elementary districts, all which are putting building use on hold at this time. He has also spoken to custodial and the time to clean between events would be very difficult.
3. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mrs. Nothstine to approve building and use calendar for December 2020, pending direction from the State of NJ. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
4. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mrs. Nothstine to approve Parette Somjen Architects for professional services for the Driveway gates and bollards Project at a cost of \$2,500 plus \$250 for reimbursable expenditures for the purpose of submission of the project application and drawings for the School Security Grant through Securing Our Children's Future Bond Act. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
5. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mrs. LoCascio, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the Stillwater Township Board of Education, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, authorizes Parette Somjen Architects to submit all necessary plans and paperwork to the Department of Education concerning the

“Driveway Gates & Safety Bollards Project at Stillwater School” to serve as an application to the Office of School Facilities and an amendment to the District’s Long Range Facilities Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this project shall be a “School Facilities Project/Other Capital” project and the Board of Education is seeking funding through Securing Our Children’s Future Bond Act, and affirms the availability of local funds in case the total estimated costs of the proposed work exceeds the school district’s grant allowance. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.

TRANSPORTATION

None.

BUDGET & FINANCE

1. Motion made by Mrs. LoCascio, second by Mrs. Svendsen to approve regular checks from October 14, 2020-November 16, 2020 numbered 26820-26869, N1015, N1030, N1106, N1112, N1113, void check 26816, for a total of \$767,759.59. Cafeteria checks 2629-2631 in the amount of \$15,128.11. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
2. Motion made by Mrs. LoCascio, 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.
3. Motion made by Mrs. LoCascio, second by Mrs. Svendsen to approve monthly travel as attached. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
4. Motion made by Mrs. LoCascio, second by Mrs. Svendsen to approve transfers from October 1, 2020 to October 31, 2020 as attached. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

LEGISLATION

No report.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Mrs. Williver reported on the following items:

- Stillwater School newsletter was sent out.
- November 30 to December 4th- Holiday Shoppe
- Kittatinny Players- Cookbooks are in, visit the website for pickup details.
- Thank you to all the ordered poinsettias from the Kittatinny Players. Orders will be delivered on December 5th.
- Coming soon: Link to the fall play for KRHS.
- Chili cook off and cookie bake was a success!

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Board member required training- Due December 31, 2020.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mayor Lisa Chammings- The Township wanted to thank Meghan Radimer for the influence you have on our students and community. It is an honor to have you as part of our township & Sussex County Teacher of the Year. The township committee would like to invite you to one of their future meetings.

Mrs. Steffens- Fredon Road, Stillwater, NJ- With the possibility of going full remote, she hopes the parents and community understand we are in a different spot from the Spring and earlier this year. The teachers have formed relationships with their students. The students are collaborating more virtually. Staff had professional development on google features such as breakout rooms. No matter what happens, she feels confident that everything will be okay.

Virtual Safety Roundtable meeting reminder- the security committee will be meeting this week via zoom.

Mr. DeGroat mentioned that a few meetings ago everyone looked a little down. Tonight everyone looks like they are feeling much better! Hopes everyone has a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

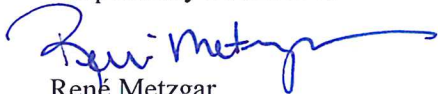
EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mrs. LoCascio, second by Mrs. Svendsen to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m.
A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



René Metzgar
Business Administrator/Board Secretary