

February 14, 2022

The Stillwater Township Board of Education met on February 14, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Stillwater School All Purpose Room for a Committee of the Whole 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 4, 2022. Notices were posted in the Stillwater School, Town Hall, Stillwater Post Office, Middleville Post Office, Swartswood Post Office and the Stillwater School Website.

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

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. Mr. Anthony Ardito from Ardito & Company presented the 2020-2021 audit. He stated we are in good financial shape however as the state aid continues to decrease it will be difficult to maintain. He also thanked the business office for continuing to do a wonderful job. The presentation is attached to the minutes.
2. Motion made by Mrs. Galante, second by Mrs. LoCascio to approve the Regular Board of Education Meeting minutes and Executive Session minutes from January 24, 2022. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
3. Shared Service Committee Meeting Update-Mrs. Williver provided an update on the meeting held on February 8th. They discussed aligning the curriculum throughout the elementary schools. This upcoming year they will be focusing on the math curriculum. They also discussed the changes to the facemask policies. Finally, they discussed that KRHS will be working on their 5 year strategic planning process.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERSONNEL

1. Motion made by Mrs. LoCascio, second by Mrs. Kraft, 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. Thibault, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve Emily Klysa to complete 10 days of student teaching through East Stroudsburg University with Meghan

Radimer & Steve Tiberi from February 18-April 25, 2022. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

3. Motion made by Mrs. LoCascio, second by Mrs. Kraft, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve Alexandra Caccavale to complete 75 observation hours through Phoenix University with primary teachers beginning February 15, 2022. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
4. Motion made by Mrs. LoCascio, second by Mrs. Frey, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following substitute teachers/ paraprofessionals for the 2021-2022 school year:

-Sandro Mazzola (pending criminal history & background check)

-Eileen Griffiths (pending criminal history & background check)

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

POLICY

1. Motion made by Mrs. Frey, second by Mrs. LoCascio to suspend policy#3542.1 from February 14-16, 2022 for the limited purpose of the PTA Valentine Candy Sale. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
2. Governor Murphy Mask Mandate Discussion (attachment policy #5141.10)- Dr. Kochis led the discussion regarding the Governor lifting the mask mandate as of March 7th. This is now on the districts to make the decision how to move forward and he wanted to see how the board wanted to proceed. Board members discussed their opinions on having masks become optional. While at this time there was no official vote, in summary the board is leaning towards having masks be optional, but they also wanted to watch with any spikes in cases in the school. Also, at this time with no additional health department guidance they wanted to see what the quarantine regulations will also be for our students. Mrs. Thibault stated this is not an easy decision and we need to look at the data to make the best possible decision as a board. It is important to keep as many students in the building.
3. Public participation statement- Mr. DeGroat discussed having a statement on the board agenda for the public to know how public comment works. Mrs. Metzgar has done research on what other districts have and came up with two samples.

Sample #1: At this time, members of the public are invited to address the Board. Please note that public comments are to be made in accordance with Board Policy 9322. Each statement made by all participants may be limited to five minutes in duration. If you would like to address the Board state your name and address before making your statement to the Board.

Sample #2: This public session is designed for members of the public to speak on items for Board consideration. By law, the Board of Education is under no obligation to respond to public comment. If the Board of Education chooses to

respond, it does not waive its right thereafter not to respond. Members of the public are asked to state their name and address for the record.

**** Members of the public are requested to keep their comments to a maximum of 5 minutes. ****

After discussing the pros and cons of the two sample statements above, the board favors sample #2. This will go on for board approval the next meeting.

EDUCATION & CURRICULUM

1. Motion made by Mrs. Kraft, second by Mrs. Thibault, to approve the American Red Cross Licensed Training Provider Agreement for the purpose of the Aquatics Program. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
2. Be It Hereby Resolved by Mrs. Kraft, second by Mrs. LoCascio, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board affirms the Superintendent's decision regarding 2021-2022 Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying Case #1-2122. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

1. Mrs. Metzgar provided an update on the following Buildings & Grounds item:
 - Fire Department Walk through on January 31st- Thank you again for Former Chief Sugar and Chief Hawkins for assisting in coordinating this event.
2. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mrs. LoCascio, to retroactively approve the revised building and use calendar for February 2022. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
3. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mrs. LoCascio, to approve the purchase and installation of a Knox Box for use by the Stillwater Township Fire Department in accordance with Stillwater Township Ordinance 2022-04. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

TRANSPORTATION

Mrs. Voris

1. Motion made by Mrs. Voris, second by Mr. Franek, to approve transportation with Stocker Bus for the following field trips for the 2021-2022 school year:

Date	Location	Grade	Cost
March 7, 11, & 14, 2022	Kittatinny Regional HS	Select Grade 5 & 6 Choir and Band Students	\$258.54/trip=\$775.62 Total
June 6 & 7, 2022	Fairview Lake YMCA	Grade 6	\$165/trip=\$330 Total

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

BUDGET & FINANCE

1. Budget Committee Update & Revised Budget Calendar- Mrs. Thibault provided an update on the budget committee meeting held on February 14, 2022. The committee reviewed the budget timeline, the history of state aid and tax levy, the future impact on the state aid and local tax levy, and discussed the significant anticipated cut in state aid of about \$300,000 for our 22-23 budget.
2. Mrs. Metzgar provided an update regarding the SOARS Administrative Review. The review was completed and we received a perfect review! Mrs. Metzgar thanked Maschio's, the kitchen staff, and Mrs. Hurley for assisting in this process.
3. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. LoCascio to accept the annual audit for the Stillwater Township Board of Education for the year ended June 30, 2021. There were no audit findings or recommendations. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.
4. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mr. Franek, to approve the submission of the 2022 Educator Resource grant application for *How to Grow A Monster*. Grant award consists of a book, curriculum and other student materials related to growing/gardening. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
5. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Frey, to approve the 2020-2021 tuition adjustment with PG Chambers School for student 04182018 in the amount of \$285.92. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
6. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. LoCascio, to rescind the following motion that was approved at the January 24, 2022 Regular Board of Education meeting due to the dishwasher not qualifying for the rebate:

Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Kraft to accept the \$500 rebate for the dishwasher through the JCPL Prescriptive Energy Saving Program for the cafeteria program. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

7. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. LoCascio, to approve the following resolution, Waiver of Requirements in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program:

Whereas, N.J.A.C 6A:23A-5.3 provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district's participation in the Special Education Medicare Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2022-2023 school year, and

Whereas, the Stillwater Township Board of Education desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that it projects having fewer than 40 Medicaid eligible classified students,

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Stillwater Township Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent to submit to the Executive County

Superintendent of Schools in the County of Sussex an appropriate waiver of the requirements of N.J.A.C 6A:23A-5.3 for the 2022-2023 school year.
A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Mrs. Williver reported on the following events:

- KRHS Strategic Planning beginning 2/28/22
- The Fairgrounds is holding a Cabin Fever Vendor Fair this weekend.
- PTA Valentine's Day events
- Remember to read the school newsletter, so many things going on!

Mrs. Cramer mentioned the PTA has postponed the Daddy Daughter Dance until the Spring.

Mrs. Thibault thanked the board on behalf of rec basketball for allowing the use of facilities. Fridays are PK-2 basketball clinics, which are well attended!

LEGISLATIVE

No report.

Mrs. Kraft and Mrs. Williver attending the Sussex County School Boards meeting that was held on February 2nd regarding training on diversity and equity.

The next meeting will be held on March 31st.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

-Kate Teresi- 1001 Fairview Lake Road, Newton, NJ 07860- Is hopeful based on the discussion tonight that we are moving in a good direction of removing masks. She understood the board of health is holding this up with the lack of guidance on quarantine regulations. She cannot wait to be able to see the students faces and for them to see hers. She does have the fear of bullying, but can see it going both ways. We just have to get back to normal.

Stacey Monahan- 907 Old Foundry Road, Newton, NJ 07860- She expressed that it is so important to remove the masks from the children. Her children have been impacted by this and it has affected their learning. She asked for the board to give us our parental rights back to decide what is right for their children. In regards to the quarantine guidance, hopefully parents can be trusted to just keep their children home if they are sick.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Galante to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.
A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



René Metzgar
Business Administrator/Board Secretary