

January 24, 2022

The Stillwater Township Board of Education met on January 24, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Stillwater School All Purpose Room 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 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. Williver, Mr. Franek, Mrs. Kraft, Mrs. Thibault, Mrs. Frey, and Mrs. Voris.

Absent: Mrs. LoCascio.

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 Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Galante to approve the Reorganization Meeting minutes & the Committee of the Whole Board of Education meeting minutes from January 3, 2022. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
2. Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Kraft to approve the December 31, 2021 Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports which balanced in the amount of \$2,502,148.31 pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-16.10(c)3, we certify that as of December 31, 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. Handouts: Board Member Listings & Committee Assignments.
4. Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Kraft to approve ad hoc committees for budget and negotiations as attached. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
5. Shared Service ad hoc committee reestablishment- Mr. DeGroat asked for volunteers to join the shared service ad hoc committee.
6. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Kraft, to approve the ad hoc shared service committee with the following members:
 - Cheryl Williver
 - Margaret Frey
 - Christine Voris
 - Dennis DeGroatA voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

7. January is Board Recognition Month!! Dr. Kochis thanked the Board of Education for everything they do and always putting our students first. Our students and staff created a Thank You banner with notes for all the things they were thankful for from the board.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Kochis reported on the following items:

- Covid-19 Update- cases trending lower
- Governor Murphy extended the mask mandate and testing for non-vaccinated staff
- Quarantine guidance update
- Winter Weather update-Thanked the custodial staff and the DPW for clearing the roads to allow for school to open.
- Legislative Update- S3488 Regionalization/Consolidation Bill

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Mr. DeGroat stated he was happy to see they revised the regionalization bill to include consolidation.

Mr. DeGroat also applauded the Administration and staff for how well they have been handling all the aspects of Covid.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Alicia Gardner- 921 Millbrook Road, Newton, NJ- Wanted to introduce our new Township Liaison, Paul Barta. She also informed the board that the Fire Department had sworn in former Stillwater student, Aiden Bello as a new Jr. Fire Fighter. The new Recycling Coordinator is Paul Hawkins. Also, the Township has taken action on the ordinance for Knox boxes to be allowed on public buildings.

Paul Barta- 902 Owassa Road, Newton, NJ- Expressed that this is a learning experience on how the board of education works. He is realizing there are many forces against us. He appreciated Dr. Kochis speaking with him and having an open door policy for any questions or concerns. He expressed if there is anything the Township can assist with to reach out to him.

ACTION ITEMS:

PERSONNEL

1. Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Galante, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve attached professional days. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

2. Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Frey, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve submission of the Statement of Assurance Regarding the Use of Paraprofessional Staff for January-June 2022 to the County Office. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
3. Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Kraft, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to retroactively approve FMLA Leave extension for employee#625 from December 14, 2021 and return on January 5, 2022. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
4. Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Thibault, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the advancement on guide for the following employees for the 2022-2023 school year, pending completion of credits and verification of official transcripts:

Janet Mahedy	MA+15 to MA+30
Maureen Riva	BA to BA+15

 A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.
5. Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Williver, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to retroactively approve Colleen Hurley to be paid at a rate of \$56.71/hour (pending negotiations) for additional hours worked when school is not in session, as needed due to COVID-19 from December 28, 2021-June 30, 2022. Paid for by ESSER II Mental Health Funds. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
6. Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Kraft to rescind the following motion that was approved at the August 23, 2021 Regular Board of Education Meeting: *Motion made by Mrs. Galante, second by Mrs. Thibault, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve Lorraine Bickhardt to mentor Katie Bradley for a stipend of \$550 for the 2021-2022 school year. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.* A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
7. Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Williver, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve Lorraine Bickhardt to mentor Katie Bradley for a pro-rated stipend of \$220 from September 1, 2021-December 31, 2021. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.

POLICY

None.

Mr. DeGroat reminded the board that we would like to begin to review some of our critical policies.

EDUCATION & CURRICULUM

1. 2021-2022 Start Strong Assessment-Dr. Kochis reviewed the district's Start Strong Assessment Results. The presentation is attached to the minutes.

2. Mrs. Roberts reported on the following: SSDS Reporting Period 1: September 1, 2021- December 31, 2021- There were 2 incidents total - Other Incidents Leading to Removal. HIB training was provided this period to all school staff, BOE members, contracted service providers, and substitute teachers. Various programs were held during this time period such HIB guidance lessons in the classroom, Fall Service Project to support the city of Manville, Week of Respect, School Violence Awareness Week, Middle School Summit, and Community Service Project for Benny's Bodega.
3. Motion made by Mrs. Kraft, second by Mrs. Williver to approve the purchase of the 6th grade t-shirts by the Board of Education, in the amount not to exceed \$450. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

1. Mrs. Metzgar provided and update on the following Buildings and Grounds items:
 - Univent Upgrades
 - Masonry Project-Phase 2
 - Fire Department Walkthrough
2. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mr. Franek to approve building and use calendar for February 2022. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
3. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mrs. Thibault to approve Parette Somjen Architects to begin professional services for the Masonry Repairs Project at a cost of \$16,800 plus \$1,000 for reimbursable expenditures. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
4. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mrs. Kraft, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve that 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 "Masonry Repairs at Stillwater Township 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 an "Other Capital" project and the Board of Education is NOT seeking state funding, but will fund the project through a withdrawal from Capital Reserve. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.

TRANSPORTATION

1. Motion made by Mrs. Voris, second by Mrs. Kraft to approve the following field trips for the 2021-2022 school year:

Location	Grade
LifeTown- Livingston, NJ	LLD Class Grades 4-6

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

BUDGET & FINANCE

1. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Frey to approve regular checks from December 14, 2021-January 24, 2022 numbered 27663-27783, N1215, N1223, N0103, N0114, void checks#27663-27721 for a total of \$827,411.75. Cafeteria check 2652-2655, void checks 2652-2653 for a total amount of \$13,702.91. No Student activity checks. Grand total: \$841,114.66. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
2. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mr. Franek to approve the attached list of purchase orders over \$1,000 for 2021-2022 school year. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
3. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Galante to approve monthly travel as attached. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
4. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Galante to approve transfers from December 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 as attached. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
5. 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.
6. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mr. Franek to accept the donation from Jennifer Gryzeski of an iPad mini 8. Value TBD. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

LEGISLATION

Mrs. Kraft reported on the following legislation:

- On January 18th many of the outstanding bills were signed by Governor Murphy.
- One new bill for districts with grades 9-12 will be having a student representative for the board of education.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Mrs. Williver reported on the following:

- Winter Wonderland hosted by the Girl Scouts January 19-February 16.
- YMCA is hosting kid's night, various sports programs, and camp registration
- Stillwater Fire Department is looking for new members
- 6th Grade School Spirit Wear Fundraiser is still ongoing
- Shawnee Mountain Snow Pass Program
- Kittatinny Players Annual Clothing Drive January 3-January 22. Thrift Shop January 28 & 29
- High School Musical, 9 to 5! March 3, 4, and 5 at KRHS.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Board member Ethics/Financial Disclosure Forms
2. New Website Update
3. Public Participation Agenda Statement- Mr. DeGroat spoke about how other boards have some sort of write up so public are aware of the policy.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Alicia Gardner- 921 Millbrook Road, Newton, NJ- Asked if Start Strong will continue for next year? Was it completed on a Chromebook? Were answers left blank? Were they given scrap paper for math problems?

Mrs. Roberts informed Mrs. Gardner that the test was taken on a Chromebook. The Test Nav system for staff was really helpful and they can see if students missed any questions and how they were working through the questions. They were given scrap paper and their calculators for math.

Mrs. Gardner also ask about if we could get a grade 7 pretest for math for our 6th graders so they know what to expect. Also asked if we plan to prioritize students for summer school who need more support?

Dr. Kochis and Mrs. Roberts responded that it would be up to Kittatinny to create a pretest, however, our teachers do meet with the 7th and 8th grade teachers to help with the transition to the high school. Our summer program does prioritize students that may need additional support.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by Mrs. Galante, second by Mrs. Kraft at 8:23 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, Individual Privacy, and 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. Roberts was excused from the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Mrs. Thibault was excused from the meeting at 8:44 pm.

Motion made by Mr. Franek and seconded by Mrs. Frey at 9:04 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 Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Kraft to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



René Metzgar
Business Administrator/Board Secretary