

December 13, 2021

The Stillwater Township Board of Education met on December 13, 2021 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, Township Journal & Star Ledger on January 5, 2021. Change of location was provided to the New Jersey Herald on September 30, 2021. 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. Svendsen, Mrs. Williver, Mr. Franek, Mrs. Kraft, and Mrs. Galante.

Absent: Mrs. Thibault, Mrs. LoCascio and Mrs. Nothstine.

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. Motion made by Mrs. Svendsen, second by Mrs. Kraft to approve the Regular Board of Education Meeting minutes from November 15, 2021. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
2. Motion made by Mrs. Svendsen, second by Mr. Franek to approve the November 30, 2021 Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports which balanced in the amount of \$2,008,182.30 pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-16.10(c)3, we certify that as of November 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. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mr. Franek to approve the following resolution:
WHEREAS, your personal commitment to quality education, your valued participation in establishing effective policies and your readiness to render services in seeking educational excellence have contributed immeasurable to the progress of our school system;

BE IT RESOLVED, that on behalf of your colleagues, teachers and students, we thank you for your dedicated services and wish you good health and happiness in your years to come.

STILLWATER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS:

Shannon Nothstine
Kathleen Svendsen

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Kochis reported on the following items:

- Thanked Mrs. Nothstine and Mrs. Svendsen for their service on the board.
- COVID-19 Update- change in quarantine regulations.
- Water Issue Update- contractors have been on site, bottled water is available to all building occupants.
- Congratulated the Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Pagano, and the Service Professional of the Year, Mrs. Roycroft.

CORRESPONDENCE

-Wishing everyone a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year. Thanked the Board of everything they do for our children.-Vera Rumsey

-Letter to say goodbye to all the board members, continue the good work! Apologizes for having to miss her last meeting.-Shannon Nothstine

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Mr. DeGroat thanked Shannon and Kathleen for their service on the board. They will be greatly missed!

He also wished everyone Happy Holiday, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Condolences went to all the residents in Kentucky and the mid west for the devastation caused by the recent tornados.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Kate Teresi-1001 Fairview Lake Road, Stillwater, NJ- Expressed that she was disgusted to hear from her children that they were discussing COVID vaccinations in class today by their teachers. Why are teachers discussing their opinions about such a sensitive topic? She also felt this mandatory 14-day quarantine is ridiculous for the unvaccinated. Students are being quarantined multiple times this year, losing valuable educational time. Mrs. Teresi asked what the statistics are of positive cases from those quarantined for close contact? We need to look at the data, not just listen to the media. She also expressed she is sick of excuses and that we need to stop targeting the unvaccinated.

Katie Scott-925 Fairview Lake Road, Stillwater NJ- Also agreed with Mrs. Teresi and the teachers should not be pushing vaccinations on our students.

Kylah Meo-911 Duck Pond Road, Stillwater, NJ- Mrs. Meo also said other children are saying their teachers are discussing vaccinations. She asked what are the enrollment numbers we need to keep before we start losing state funding? How many students need to unenroll before the parents take back the school? She was thankful we were able to hold a holiday concert for the students, but she saw these children just have blank stares. She could not imagine having to wear a mask all day. At what point will this end?

Paul Barta- 902 Owassa Road, Stillwater, NJ- Asked what is the data used to determine that we are in an “orange” zone? What are the actual numbers making us in the orange?

Mr. DeGroat reminded the public that public comment is not a time for public scrutiny or a time for back and forth. He reminded this is a time for the public to speak, we welcome the comments, but to please follow the chain of command regarding concerns. Parents should be addressing concerns first with the Principal or Assistant Principal, followed by the Superintendent, then the board.

Dr. Kochis let Mr. Barta know he would be happy to email him the information in regards to the orange zone, or meet with him to discuss any questions he had on our COVID protocols.

ACTION ITEMS:

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. Svendsen, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following substitute teacher/paraprofessional for the 2021-2022 school year:

-Katelyn Chadwick (pending criminal history & background check)
A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.

3. 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 December 13, 2021 to June 30, 2022 for a stipend of \$2,006.67 (\$3,440 annually). A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.

4. Motion made by Mrs. Galante, second by Mrs. Svendsen, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following after school program for the 2021-2022 school year. The stipend for each teacher is \$597.

TREPPS Corrine Robinson Janet Mahedy Grade 6
A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.

5. Motion made by Mrs. Galante, second by Mrs. Svendsen, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to offer the following contract to the new non-tenured instructional staff member for employment for the 2021-2022 school year from January 3, 2022 to June 30, 2022 (pending negotiations):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Jacqueline Orlando	Part-time Teacher (.8 FTE)	BA, Step 4	\$47,884 to be pro-rated to time worked

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.

6. Motion made by Mrs. Galante, second by Mrs. Svendsen, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to offer the following full time contract (employee was previously part-time) to the non-tenured instructional staff member for employment for the 2021-2022 school year from January 3, 2022 to June 30, 2022 (pending negotiations):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Danielle Hoon	Special Education/Interventionist	MA, Step 0	\$60,490 (to be pro-rated to time worked)

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 retroactively approve FMLA Leave for employee#625 from December 7, 2021 and return on or about December 14, 2021. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
8. Motion made by Mrs. Galante, second by Mrs. Kraft, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve FMLA Leave for employee#587 from January 20, 2022 and return on or about January 31, 2022. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
9. Motion made by Mrs. Galante, second by Mrs. Williver, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to appoint Brittany Celentano as Teacher in Charge from January 3, 2022-June 30, 2022. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
8. Motion made by Mrs. Galante, second by Mrs. Svendsen upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following graduate class at The College of New Jersey for Maureen Riva, reimbursement as per SEA contract:

<u>Title of Course</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Theory and Practice of Teaching a Second Language	1/24/22-2/11/22	\$1,803

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

POLICY

None.

EDUCATION & CURRICULUM

None.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

1. Mrs. Metzgar provided an update on the following Building & Grounds items:
- Restroom Project
 - Univent project update
 - JCP&L Rebate Program for the dishwasher

2. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mrs. Galante to approve the revised building and use calendar for December 2021. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
3. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mrs. Galante to approve building and use calendar for January 2022. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

TRANSPORTATION

1. Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Svendsen to approve the following new bus stop for the 2021-2022 school year:

ST 7- Owassa Road @ Fairview Lake Road
A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

BUDGET & FINANCE

1. Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Svendsen to approve regular checks from November 16, 2021-December 13, 2021 numbered 27607-27662, N1122 & N1130, void check#27659 for a total of \$397,495.57. Cafeteria check 2651 in the amount of \$13,444.42. No Student activity checks. Grand total: \$410,939.99. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
2. Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Svendsen 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 Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Svendsen to approve monthly travel as attached. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
4. Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Svendsen to approve transfers from November 1, 2021 to November 30, 2021 as attached. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
5. Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Svendsen to approve the submission of the SJS NJEA Grant Proposal titled, "I'm Still Hungry-Cafeteria Connection solves food insecurity through managing food waste!" in the amount of \$2,000. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
6. Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Svendsen to approve submission of the certification in support of receipt of FY2022 Funding for return of students to the SDA for "SDA Emergent Needs and Capital Maintenance in School Districts" and accept the grant allocation in the amount of \$5,362. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.

LEGISLATION

Mrs. Kraft reported on the following legislation:

- Mercury in flooring bill
- Electronic school bus bill
- Screening for child abuse during a pandemic/staff training

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Mrs. Williver reported on the following items:

- Student Council holiday spirit week is coming up!
- Check the newsletter for list of fun activities!
- PTA Holiday Shoppe is happening this week
- PTA Family Fun night- December 16th
- Stillwater PTA is holding the reflections art contest
- Girl Scouts- Winter Wonderland at home activity
- Fundraiser: 6th grade Gourmet Coffee and Snacks
- Fundraiser: Spirit Wear Fundraiser
- Kittatinny Players Clothing Drive- Starts in January!

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Board member required training- Due December 31, 2021- Mrs. Metzgar reported that all board of education member completed their required training.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by Mrs. Williver, second by Mrs. Svendsen at 7:37 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 Legal Matters 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.

A five minute break was to be taken prior to entering into executive session. During this break, a public member said she missed public session and would like to read a letter. Mr. DeGroat said prior to entering executive session, we can go back and have another public comment section.

Motion made by Mrs. Williver and seconded by Mrs. Kraft at 7:41 p.m. to return to public session for the purpose of public comment. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Alicia Gardner- 921 Millbrook Road, Stillwater, NJ- read a letter in regards to the discrimination of the non-vaccinated. It is not right to deny our children education and sports. Vaccinated children do not even have to be tested, when we know they can still get the virus. Our children have constitutional rights as well. We petition to change the guidelines immediately. This is devastating to our children's mental health. Mrs. Garner thanked the board of education for the opportunity to be heard.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

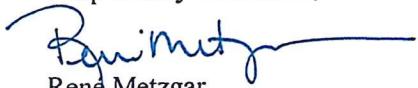
BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by Mrs. Williver, second by Mrs. Svendsen at 7:45 pm the Stillwater Township Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 and 10:4-13 that said public body hold a closed session for the purpose of discussing Legal Matters and SEA Contract Negotiations it is expected that the 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.

Motion made by Mrs. Svendsen and seconded by Mrs. Galante at 7:56 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. Svendsen, second by Mrs. Mrs. Kraft to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



René Metzgar
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

