

December 12, 2022

The Stillwater Township Board of Education met on December 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Stillwater School Library for a Regular Board of Education Meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Dennis DeGroat, President, 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, Mr. Franek, Mrs. Kraft, Mrs. Williver, and Mrs. Frey.

Absent: Mrs. Voris, Mrs. Galante, Mrs. Valeich, and Mrs. Thibault.

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 2021-2022 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. Williver, second by Mrs. Kraft, to approve the Regular Board of Education meeting minutes from November 21, 2022. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
3. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mrs. Frey to approve the November 30, 2022 Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports which balanced in the amount of \$2,573,118.79 pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-16.10(c)3, we certify that as of November 30, 2022 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. Sussex County School Board Association Meeting update: Mr. DeGroat, Mrs. Williver, Mrs. Kraft & Mrs. Frey- The meeting discussed various budget and financial issues that school districts are facing in these difficult times.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Kochis reported on the following items:

- Grade 3 balloon parade- Thanked Mrs. Then for coordinating this event.
- Mrs. Phlegar and Mrs. Celentano are piloting a new "Families Learning Together Program"
- Special guest speaker for Grade 4- PFC, Ty Eldred.
- Trep\$ Night
- Winter Concert rescheduled to December 13th
- Congratulations for the 2022-2023 Governor Educator of the Year- Mrs. Riva
- Congratulations for the 2022-2023 Support Staff Member of the Year- Mr. Nick Carbonaro

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Mr. DeGroat spoke about the recent passing of former board member, Sharon Merle. She was a great board member and did so much for the community. She will be greatly missed.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

*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. ***

None.

ACTION ITEMS:

PERSONNEL

1. Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Williver, 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 the following revised substitute rates effective January 1, 2023 due to the increase in the NJ State Minimum wage requirement:

Teacher	\$92 (with sub cert)
Aide	\$91.85 per day (no sub cert)

Secretary \$91.85 per day (no sub cert)
 Custodian \$14.13 per hour

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

3. Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Williver, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following revised contracts from January 1, 2023- June 30, 2023 due to the increase in the NJ State Minimum wage requirement, salaries to be prorated to start date of January 1, 2023:

Name	Position	Base Hourly Rate	Adjustments	Total Hourly Rate
Palmer, Christine	Part-Time Paraprofessional	\$14.13	N/A	\$14.13
Perez, Emily	Part-Time Paraprofessional	\$14.13	Associates: \$0.50	\$14.63
Sipley, Jennifer	Part-Time Paraprofessional	\$14.13	N/A	\$14.13
Vivian, Heather	Part-Time Paraprofessional	\$14.13	Associates: \$0.50	\$14.63

Name	Position	Base Hourly Rate	Base Salary	Adjustments	Total Salary
Gerkhardt, Michelle	Full-Time Paraprofessional	\$14.13	\$16,715.79	Bachelor's: \$750	\$17,465.79
Kampka, Kimberly	Part-Time Custodian	\$14.13	\$16,956.00	N/A	\$16,956.00
Walaszczyk, A. Cristina	Full-Time Paraprofessional	\$14.13	\$16,715.79	N/A	\$16,715.79

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

4. Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Frey to retroactively approve the following employee to be charged to the IDEA Basic Grant beginning November 16, 2022-June 30, 2023:

Name	Position	Estimated Salary to be charged to grant	% Charged to grant	Expense Account number
Jennifer Sipley (Replaces Heather Vivian being charged to grant)	Paraprofessional	\$10,336	100%	20-250-100-106

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

5. Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Williver, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following teacher to provide specialized after school reading instruction for students in grades 4-6 for a total of 20 weeks, three days/week at a rate of \$50/session beginning December 15, 2022-June 30, 2023. Paid through Title I.

Mary DiRienzo

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

POLICY

None.

EDUCATION & CURRICULUM

1. Motion made by Mrs. Kraft, second by Mr. Franek to approve the ASE/SEEK Program, running May 8, 9, 15, 16, 2023 for a cost to Fairview Lake YMCA in the amount of \$150.00/trip to be paid through Title IV. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

1. Mrs. Metzgar provided an update on the following Building and Grounds items:
 - Board Office remediation
 - Anticipated summer projects: 1941 foundation repairs/drainage and 1966 ventilation upgrades on for approval this evening.
 - Phase 3 Masonry project
 - ROD Grant applications
 - VSWL Operator & Water Testing
2. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mrs. Kraft, to approve building and use calendar for January 2023. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
3. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mrs. Frey to approve Parette Somjen Architects to begin professional services for the 1941 Drainage & Masonry Repairs Project at a cost of \$18,000 plus \$1,400 for reimbursable expenditures. A roll call 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 "1941 Drainage & Masonry Repairs Project 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.
5. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mr. Franek to approve Parette Somjen Architects to begin professional services for the Exhaust Fans Replacement Project at a cost of \$10,000 plus \$800 for reimbursable expenditures. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

6. 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 “Exhaust Fans Replacement Project 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 the use of CRRSA & ARP ESSER funds and if needed, a withdrawal from Capital Reserve. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.

TRANSPORTATION

1. Motion made by Mrs. Frey, second by Mr. Franek to retroactively approve transportation through the Sussex County Regional Cooperative beginning December 1, 2022 for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year to be paid at a daily rate:

Route	Vendor	Cost
Q-126	Move Me Transportation	\$445/day, not to exceed \$80,100 plus 4% administrative fees.

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

BUDGET & FINANCE

1. Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Frey, to approve regular checks from November 22, 2022-December 12, 2022 numbered 28449-28491, N1130 and N1202, void checks numbered 28449-28450, for a total of \$386,784.04. Student Activity checks numbered 6645-6646 for a total amount of \$2,190.00. Cafeteria checks 2674-2678 in the amount of \$34,729.06. For a grand total of \$423,703.10. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
2. Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Kraft, to approve the attached list of purchase orders over \$1,000 for 2022-2023 school year. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
3. Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Kraft, to approve monthly travel as attached. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
4. Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Frey to approve transfers from November 1, 2022 to November 30, 2022 as attached. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
5. Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Williver, to accept the donation of a recorder and flute from Elaine Makarevich, value TBD. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

6. A RESOLUTION made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Kraft, BINDING THE Stillwater Township Board of Education TO PURCHASE ELECTRIC GENERATION SERVICES THROUGH THE ALLIANCE FOR COMPETITIVE ENERGY SERVICES (“ACES”) Bid Cooperative Pricing System ID#E8801-ACESCPS

WHEREAS, the Alliance For Competitive Energy Services (hereinafter referred to as “ACES”), an alliance composed of the New Jersey School Boards Association (hereinafter referred to as “NJSBA”), the New Jersey Association of School Administrators, and the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials, will from time to time during the Effective Period as defined below solicit bids from electric power suppliers for electric generation services through an energy aggregation program in which NJSBA will act as Lead Agency of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System #E8801-ACESCPS in accordance with the “Public School Contracts Law”, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 *et seq.*, and the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act, N.J.S.A. 48:3-49 *et seq.* (“EDECA”) and the regulations promulgated thereunder; and

WHEREAS, the Stillwater Township Board of Education (insert name of District) is a Participating member of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System and is eligible thereby to obtain electric generation services for its own use through one or more contracts to be awarded to electric power suppliers following said bids for electric generation services pursuant to the aggregation program; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency will from time to time during the Effective Period (from date of adoption through May, 2028 hereinafter referred to as “Effective Period”) issue one or more Requests for Bids for electric generation services on behalf of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System pursuant to the Public School Contracts Law and EDECA; and

WHEREAS, due to significant volatility and the potential for price increases in the wholesale electric market, Participating Members will preauthorize the Lead Agency to award contracts for Electric Generation Service in each service territory to one or more electric power suppliers that submit bids which are reasonably forecasted to provide estimated savings to the Participating Member based upon its previous electric usage and utility provided Basic Generation Service rates; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency will only award contracts for said electric generation services to electric power suppliers that submit bids with pricing reasonably estimated to be lower than the utility-provided basic generation service; and

WHEREAS, the District agrees to purchase all electric power needed for its own use (exclusive of on-site electric generation sources) during the Effective Period through any electric power supplier(s) awarded a contract, it being understood that the term of any one contract shall be subject to the provisions of Public School Contracts Law;

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency will notify the Department of Community Affairs’ Division of Local Government Services by mail prior to the issuance a Request for Bids for electric generation services, with the understanding that if the Division of Local Government Services does not respond within 10 business days, it will be deemed to have approved the issuance of the Request for Bids or the Request for Rebids.

NOW, therefore, be it RESOLVED that the District binds itself to the ACES Cooperative Pricing System ##E8801-ACESCPS to purchase all electric power needed for its own use (exclusive of on-site electric generation sources) during the Effective Period from the electric power supplier or suppliers awarded a contract for electric generation services by the Lead Agency; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lead Agency of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System is hereby authorized to execute a master performance agreement that obligates the district to purchase electricity at the terms and conditions stated therein with a third-party supplier or suppliers who have been awarded the contract or contracts by the Lead Agency on behalf of the participating members of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System #E8801-ACESCPS (or any CPS number to be assigned in the future), and provided further that all such contracts shall be at prices reasonably forecast and estimated by the Lead Agency to provide savings to the Districts relative to the price charged for basic generation service by the electric public utility that would otherwise provide such service; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that ACES is authorized to continue to bid to obtain electric generation services at any time during the Effective Period on behalf of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System including, for example, a rebid if energy market conditions do not initially lead to a successful bid, on additional dates to be determined by the Lead Agency; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage. The authorization provided to the NJSBA pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Laws (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5)), and the Local Public and Public School Contracts Laws Administrative Code (N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.1 et seq.) shall be valid until May, 2028 (the Effective Period) at which time the Cooperative Pricing System will be subject to renewal. Any rescission or expiration of this resolution shall not affect any Agreements entered into prior to such rescission or expiration. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.

LEGISLATION

None.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Mrs. Williver reported on the following items:

- PTA Holiday Shop 12/13 to 12/15/22
- Holiday Concert is tomorrow night at 6:30pm.
- The Stillwater PTA movie night on December 15th
- Kittatinny Players are hosting a free community event December 17th at Kittatinny Regional High School.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Board member required training- Due December 31, 2022.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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None.

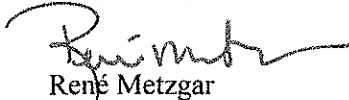
EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mrs. Frey, second by Mrs. Williver to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



René Metzgar
Business Administrator/Board Secretary