

November 7, 2022

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

The meeting was called to order by Krista Galante 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, Middletown Post Office, Swartswood Post Office and the Stillwater School Website.

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

Absent: Mr. DeGroat and Mrs. Frey.

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. Williver, second by Mr. Franek to approve the Regular Board of Education Meeting minutes from October 17, 2022. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
2. New Jersey School Boards Convention Update- Mrs. Metzgar and Mrs. Williver provided a NJSBA Convention Summary regarding some of the trainings that were attended, and different networking opportunities they experienced.
3. Regional Shared Service Committee Update- Our shared service committee, Dr. Kochis and Mrs. Metzgar were able to meet with Schools Boards to have some questions answered and to learn a little more about the feasibility study. Dr. Kochis reviewed what the feasibility study is, who conducts the study, how the study is funded, and how are state aid will be affected during the study. He also discussed being a participating district or non-participating district, what happens after the study is completed, and the potential outcomes of regionalization or send/receive relationships.
4. Motion to approve the following resolution was made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Thibault:

PARTICIPANT'S RESOLUTION SCHOOL REGIONALIZATION EFFICIENCY PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) is dedicated to helping New Jersey school districts achieve educational excellence and district efficiencies: and

WHEREAS, the School Regionalization Efficiency Program (SREP) Grant supports public school districts and governing bodies across New Jersey who

wish to study the feasibility of school district regionalization and consolidation;
and

WHEREAS, school districts and governing bodies are invited to apply for funding to offset costs associated with conducting feasibility studies that support the creation of meaningful and implementable plans to form or expand regional school districts; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) is tasked with administering these grant funds through the School Regionalization Efficiency Program (SREP); and

WHEREAS, the Stillwater Township School District have evaluated whether (Kittatinny Regional SD, Hampton Township SD, and Fredon Township SD) may be able to attain improved educational quality and efficiencies through consolidation or regionalization; and

WHEREAS, a formal study must be undertaken to accomplish this objective with regional implementation plan development; and

WHEREAS, the Kittatinny Regional Board of Education has agreed to be the lead entity in conducting this study and will submit the application for financial support for this study to DLGS on behalf of all participating school districts and/or governing bodies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Stillwater Township Board of Education, that the Stillwater Township School District does hereby join with (Kittatinny Regional SD, Fredon SD, and Hampton SD) in applying for a SREP Grant to support undertaking a feasibility study.

Discussion: Board members discussed specific topics such as send/receive relationship and the impact on the taxes to the community, debt service/other debt of other districts in the region, the educational impact of regionalizing, and the PEA funding that Stillwater School currently receives. The board also discussed the community impact and the values of the community/the impact of potential regionalization to become a much larger district.

A member of the public wanted to speak at this time, so the board decided to move the motion to later in the meeting so that public would have the opportunity to comment prior to the board vote.

Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Kraft to table the above resolution until after the public participation portion of the meeting for the purpose of hearing public comment. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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.

- Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Thibault, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to hire Kurt Walton, as the Interim Assistant Principal for 2.5 days a week, \$400 per day, from on or about December 20, 2022-May 1, 2023. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.

- Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Kraft, 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:

Title of Course	Dates	Cost
Intro to Research: Data-Based Decision Making	1/7/23-3/4/23	\$2,058

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

- Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Thibault, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following graduate class at the New Jersey City University for Christine Pagano, reimbursement as per SEA contract:

Title of Course	Dates	Cost
Classroom Management, Classroom Behavior, and Positive Behavior Supports	January 2023-May 2023	\$2,402.10

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

POLICY

None.

EDUCATION & CURRICULUM

- Motion made by Mrs. Kraft, second by Mr. Franek, to approve the submission of the application for Samsung's Solve for Tomorrow Competition for the 6th grade pinwheel students. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
- Motion made by Mrs. Kraft, second by Mrs. Valeich, to approve the following student council fundraisers for the 22-23 school year:

Fundraiser	Dates	Purpose
Stuff The Stocking	11/7/22-11/18/22	Collect toys for Project Self-Sufficiency
Veterans Day Spirit Day	11/7/22	Collect \$1 to be donated to the Go GI Fund
PJ Day for CHOP	12/2/22	All donations go to benefit CHOP

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

- Motion made by Mrs. Kraft, second by Mr. Franek to approve the School Nursing Services Plan for Stillwater Township School for the 2022-2023 school year. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

4. BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by Mrs. Kraft, second by Mrs. Thibault, that the Stillwater Township Board of Education approves the submission of the 2023-2024 PEA (Preschool Education Aid) Annual Operational Plan to the NJ Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood Education (Grant application and execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Education for four full-day Pre-K classrooms).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the school administrators are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application & operational plan to the New Jersey Department of Education on behalf of the Stillwater Township Board of Education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Superintendent and Business Administrator are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Stillwater Township Board of Education and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

1. Mrs. Metzgar provided an update on the following Building and Grounds items:
 - Structural Masonry Project
 - Direct Install-Lighting Upgrade Project
 - Board Office Remediation update
 - Anticipated Summer Projects
2. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mr. Franek to approve Hear Construction to complete additional outside masonry work related to the board of education office in the amount of \$5,060.
 - Other quotes: Drill Construction \$6,950
 - Zitone: No Response
 - Murray Contracting: No Response
 - Alimi Builders: No ResponseA voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

TRANSPORTATION

1. Emergency Bus Evacuation Drill Report- Dr. Kochis reported that Stillwater School conducted a bus evacuation drill on October 26, 2022. The drill occurred at 8:25am in the main driveway at arrival. All students riding ST5, ST6, ST7, ST8, ST9, ST25, and the Co-Op van participated in the drill. Ms. Roberts supervised the drill along with several staff members. This is the first bus evacuation drill of the school year.
2. Motion made by Mrs. Voris, second by Mrs. Kraft to approve Kittatinny Regional High School for Joint Transportation coordination services for two additional Sussex Charter students for the 2022-2023 school year beginning November 7, 2022:
 - Route KST-2: \$1,555.68
 - Administrative fee of 4% = \$62.23A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

BUDGET & FINANCE

1. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Valeich, to authorize René Metzgar, Business Administrator, to implement emergency contract approval in accordance with Title 18A-18A-7, as authorized by the County Office for the purpose of remediation & repairs for the board of education offices. Including but not limited to mold remediation, masonry repair, floor replacement, and general construction. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.
2. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Kraft, to authorize the withdrawal of \$25,000 from the Maintenance Reserve account for the purpose of the emergency board of education remediation and construction. Any unused funds will be returned to the maintenance reserve account. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.
3. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mr. Franek, to approve the authorization of submission of the FY23 projected preschool enrollment application. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Mrs. Williver reported on the following items:

- NJEA Convention is this week, School is Closed - 11/10 & 11/11/22
- PTA Meeting - 11/14/22
- Fall Picture Retake/Make-Up - 11/15/22
- Parent Academy Night - 11/15/22
- 12:40 PM Dismissal - 11/23/22
- School Closed 11/24 & 11/25/22
- Stillwater Student Council Annual Toy Drive happening now.
- School-wide Pajama Day on December 2nd. All donations will go directly to CHOP
- The Kittatiny Players are hosting a Holiday Craft Show on Saturday, December 3, 2022 at KRHS.

LEGISLATIVE

Mrs. Kraft reported on the legislation regarding law enforcement to have detailed mapping of school districts.

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. ***

Cody Castner- 929 Fairview Lake Road, Newton, NJ- questioned the feasibility study. Even if it is grant funded, it could be a waste of money if the community will not approve it. He also questioned if the feasibility study only lists the positives or if it lists the negatives to regionalization as well. Mr. Castner also questioned what the study would look at; will it look at security? He brought up the concerns from the Walkkill H.S. situation, and he would not like all the students under one roof.

Dr. Kochis responded that the feasibility study would list both the positive and negatives of the potential regionalization based off the examples of South Hunterdon Regional and Salem County studies. Dr. Kochis also stated that if we regionalize, the students would not be all under one roof. It would be similar to each town stays in their school, or potentially shifted schools by grade levels.

Kaitlyn Hammerle- 952 Millbrook Road, Newton, NJ 07860- Since the South Hunterdon study did not make sense financially, but did educationally, how do they look at the educational piece in the study? Our test scores that were reported out from a prior meeting looked good, so how would regionalizing improve them more? Also, stated she agrees with Mr. Franek that the State is going to take our money anyway. She also does not think regionalization will be accepted in the Stillwater community.

Seeing no more public participation, Mrs. Galante closed the public participation portion of the meeting and moved to the motion that was tabled from the Board Business Section:

1. Motion to approve the following resolution was made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mr. Franek:

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Motion not approved by roll call vote: Mrs. Williver- No; Mrs. Kraft-No; Mr. Franek-No; Mrs. Voris-No; Mrs. Galante-No; Mrs. Thibault-No; Mrs. Valeich-No. Motion defeated.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Valeich at 8:10 p.m. 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/Student Privacy, & Attorney-Client Privilege 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 Thibault and seconded by Mr. Franek at 8:23 p.m. to come out of executive session and return to public session. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

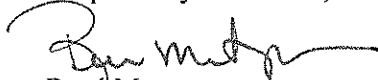
MOTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Kraft to approve settlement agreement in regards to student placement, Agency Ref. No. 2022-34697. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mr. Franek to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rene Metzgar
Business Administrator/Board Secretary