

September 12, 2022

The Stillwater Township Board of Education met on September 12, 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 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. Valeich, Mrs. Williver, Mr. Franek, Mrs. Kraft, Mrs. Thibault, Mrs. Frey, Mrs. Voris, and Mrs. Galante (arrived 7:12 pm).

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. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Frey to approve the Regular Board of Education Meeting minutes from August 22, 2022. 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. Motion approved by roll call vote: Mr. DeGroat-Aye; Mrs. Williver- Aye; Mrs. Kraft-Aye; Mr. Franek-Aye; Mrs. Frey-Aye; Mrs. Voris-Aye; Mrs. Galante-Absent; Mrs. Thibault-Aye; Mrs. Valeich-Aye.
2. Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Thibault, to retroactively approve the renewal of Nick Carbonaro's Black Seal boiler license for 1 year in the amount of \$80.00. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
3. Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Frey, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to offer contract to the following part-time 27.5 hours/week Para-Professional staff member for employment for the 2022-2023 school year from September 13, 2022-June 30, 2023 to be paid at an hourly rate, pending criminal history & background check:

Name	Base Hourly Rate	Adjustments	Total Hourly Rate
Palmer, Christine	\$14.00/hour	N/A	\$14.00

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.

- Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Thibault, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to retroactively approve the following staff members to rotate as a bus aide from September 6, 2022 to June 30, 2023 to be paid a daily rate of \$17.17, not to exceed a total of \$3,090 to be paid as per timesheets submitted:

Holly DeStefano
Michelle Gerhardt
Kathleen Pevarnik
Tracey Coombs

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

- Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Williver, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following after school program for the 2022-2023 school year. The stipend for each teacher is \$597. Paid for by the ARP-Beyond the School Day Grant.

Club	Staff Member #1	Staff Member #2	Grade Level
TREPS	Corrine Robinson	Janet Mahedy	Grade 6

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

- Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Frey, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following evening family programs for the 2022-2023 school year. The stipend for each teacher is \$820 paid for by Title I:

Club	Staff Member #1	Staff Member #2	Grade Level
Literacy Connections	Ramona Knapp	Beth Johnson	Grade 1
Family Math	Ramona Knapp	Beth Johnson	Grade 3

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

- Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Williver, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following after school programs for the 2022-2023 school year. The stipend for each teacher is \$410:

Club	Staff Member #1	Staff Member #2	Grade Level	Funding
Green Thumbs-Spring	Elaine Makarevich		Grades 5/6	Title IV
Lego League Jr.	Beth Johnson	Ramona Knapp	Grade 2	Title IV
Lego League Jr.	Beth Johnson	Ramona Knapp	Grade 3	Title IV
Fall Morning Fitness	Maureen Riva	Meghan Earley	Grades K-2	Title IV
Fall Morning Fitness	Maureen Riva	Meghan Earley	Grades 3-6	Title IV
Spring Morning Fitness	Maureen Riva	Meghan Earley	Grades K-3	Title IV
Spring Morning Fitness	Maureen Riva	Meghan Earley	Grades 4-6	Title IV

B-Active Club	Maureen Riva	Meghan Earley	Grades 3-6	Title IV
Let's Be Social	Maureen Riva	Meghan Earley	Grades K-2	ARP- BSD
Let's Be More Social	Maureen Riva	Meghan Earley	Grades K-2	ARP- BSD

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 Stillwater Township School Chapter 27 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan and submit to the County Office. Motion approved by roll call vote: Mr. DeGroat-Aye; Mrs. Williver- Aye; Mrs. Kraft-Aye; Mr. Franek-Aye; Mrs. Frey-Aye; Mrs. Voris-Aye; Mrs. Galante-Absent; Mrs. Thibault-Aye; Mrs. Valeich-Aye.
2. Motion made by Mrs. Kraft, second by Mr. Frey, to approve the revised Safe Return Plan for the Stillwater Township Elementary School as required by ARP ESSER III Funding. Motion approved by roll call vote: Mr. DeGroat-Aye; Mrs. Williver- Aye; Mrs. Kraft-Aye; Mr. Franek-Aye; Mrs. Frey-Aye; Mrs. Voris-Aye; Mrs. Galante-Absent; Mrs. Thibault-Aye; Mrs. Valeich-Aye.
3. Motion made by Mrs. Kraft, second by Mrs. Williver, to approve Maureen Riva to participate in and utilize the Future-Quest Islands Explorations program for the social skills program at Stillwater Township School District. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
4. Motion made by Mrs. Kraft, second by Mrs. Williver to approve the cost of the lifeguard for the Grade 4 Aquatics program at Kittatinny Regional High School from October 3-7, 2022 for a total cost of \$250 to be paid to KRHS. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

1. Mrs. Metzgar provided an update on the following Building and Grounds items:
 - Structural Masonry Project
 - Phase 2 Masonry Repair Project
 - Restroom Renovation Update
 - Direct Install-Lighting Upgrade Project

2. Integrated Pest Management Plan
The plan calls for the use of non-toxic means of addressing pest infestations. Mr. Maggio has been trained in these procedures and is the coordinator of the program. The extermination service that we use must conform to these practices. If there is a situation that requires the use of toxic chemicals, the public must be informed and signs displayed 72 hours before and after the application. Annually we send a letter to parents about the program with a copy of the policy. A copy of the policy is also available on our website.
3. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mr. Franek, to approve revised building and use calendar for September 2022. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
4. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mrs. Thibault, to approve garbage disposal 12-month contract with Waste Management in the amount of \$1,040.24 per month for the 2022-2023 school year. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

TRANSPORTATION

Mrs. Galante arrived at 7:12 pm.

1. Motion made by Mrs. Voris, second by Mrs. Williver, to approve the revised bus routes and stops for the 2022-2023 school year as attached. Motion approved by roll call vote: Mr. DeGroat-Aye; Mrs. Williver- Aye; Mrs. Kraft-Aye; Mr. Franek-Aye; Mrs. Frey-Aye; Mrs. Voris-Aye; Mrs. Galante-Abstain; Mrs. Thibault-Aye; Mrs. Valeich-Aye.
2. Motion made by Mrs. Voris, second by Mrs. Kraft, to approve transportation through the Sussex County Regional Cooperative for the 2022-2023 school year to be paid at a daily rate:

Route	Vendor	Cost
Q-126	Move Me Transportation	\$395/day, not to exceed \$71,100 plus 4% administrative fees.

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

3. Motion made by Mrs. Voris, second by Mrs. Frey, to approve the following field trips for the 2022-2023 school year:

Location	Grade
Paulinskill Watershed Stokes State Forest-Sunrise Mountain Hyper Humus Wetland Swartswood State Park	Grade 5
Kittatinny Regional High School	Aquatic Safety Program-Grade 4

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

- Motion made by Mrs. Voris, second by Mrs. Kraft, to approve transportation with Stocker Bus for the following field trips for the 2022-2023 school year:

Date	Location	Grade	Cost
September 29, 2022 Rain date: September 30, 2022	Paulinskill Watershed Stokes State Forest- Sunrise Mountain Hyper Humus Wetland Swartwood State Park	Grade 5	\$485.00
October 3-7, 2022	Kittatinny Regional High School	Aquatic Safety Program-Grade 4	\$184.42/trip=\$922.10 total

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

BUDGET & FINANCE

- June 30, 2022 Audit update- Mrs. Metzgar informed the board that our 2021-2022 School audit will begin next week.
- Motion made by Mrs. Thibault second by Mrs. Williver, to approve the submission of the Pets in Classroom Sustaining Grant Certificate valued up to \$50, for Mrs. Pagano's preschool classroom. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
- Resolution for Stabilization Aid Application was made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Frey:

WHEREAS, the Stillwater Township School District lost \$293,701 in New Jersey State Aid for fiscal year 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Stillwater Township School District lost \$315,416 in New Jersey State Aid for fiscal year 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Stillwater Township School District lost \$273,829 in New Jersey State Aid for fiscal year 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Stillwater Township School District lost \$177,779 in New Jersey State Aid for fiscal year 2020; and

WHEREAS, The Stillwater Township School District has lost a total of \$1,060,725 in New Jersey State Aid over the past four school years; and

WHEREAS, The Stillwater Township School District anticipates additional New Jersey State funding cuts through fiscal year 2025; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Stillwater Township School District is requesting \$1,060,725 in Stabilization Aid from the State of New Jersey for the 2022-2023 school year in order to offset the significant losses in revenue over the past several years; and

THEREFORE, BE IT ALSO RESOLVED these losses continue to have a significant impact on the school district, our students, our staff, and our community. This Stabilization Aid is necessary for the continued operation of our school district as we navigate our way through a challenging fiscal environment while ensuring the safe and appropriate education of the children in our community. The Stabilization Aid would be utilized for additional staffing to support our students academically, socially, and emotionally as well as for construction projects to maintain a safe and secure space for our students and staff.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Mrs. Williver reported on the following items:

- Sept. 15th- Back to School Night
- Scholastic Book Fair Sept. 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th evening hours
- Sept. 29th- PTA Family Fun Night- Candy Car Bingo 6-8pm in the Cafeteria
- Sept. 17th- The Shoppes at Lafayette Village Vendor/Crafter Event
- Sept. 17th- Sussex Christian School's Fall Festival at The Sussex County Fairgrounds
- Sept. 18th- Sussex County Day at The Sussex County Fairgrounds
- Sept. 24th- Stillwater Clean Up Day (see town website to sign up your group)
- Sept. 24th- KRHS Marching Band Booster Club Annual Fall Tricky Tray
- Oct. 1st- Stillwater PTA Crafter/Vendor Fair here at Stillwater School! 10am-3pm
- Oct. 8th- Stillwater Historical Society Fall Festival
- Oct. 9th- Town of Newton Fall Festival and Car Show
- Oct. 29th- Honey & Garlic Festival at The Sussex County Fairgrounds

Mrs. Thibault added:

- Stillwater Rec basketball sign ups should be coming soon!

LEGISLATIVE

Mrs. Kraft reported on the following regulation:

- Schools will be required to establish a Treat Assessment Team

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

-Alicia Gardner- 921 Millbrook Road, Newton, NJ- Asked if we received the stabilization aid, would that effect taxes for next year?

Mrs. Metzgar responded that the stabilization aid, if granted, is only for this current school year.

Mrs. Gardner also asked for clarification in regards to the additional health curriculum opt out form.

Dr. Kochis responded that since the feedback from the Regional Curriculum night and the recent survey, the form will be changed to allow parents to opt out of specific lessons, rather than an entire unit. The survey will be sent out this week for parents.

-Cody Castner- 929 Fairview Lake Road, Newton, NJ- Asked if there was something parents could do to help get state aid back to our district.

Dr. Kochis informed Mr. Castner that contacting our local politicians and the State would be a great way to advocate. He would provide contact information to him.

Alicia Gardner-921 Millbrook Road, Newton, NJ- mentioned that Stillwater Township implemented a tax relief for military veterans. This will cause the Township to lose taxes and have more burden on other taxpayers.

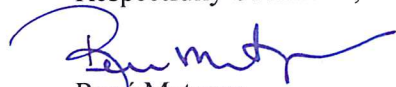
EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Frey to adjourn the meeting at 7:35p.m. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



René Metzgar
Business Administrator/Board Secretary