

April 15, 2024

The Stillwater Township Board of Education met on April 15, 2024 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, 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 3, 2024. Notices were posted in the Stillwater School, Town Hall, Stillwater Post Office, Swartswood Post Office and the Stillwater School Website.

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

Absent: 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 Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Valeich, to approve the Regular Board of Education Meeting minutes and executive session meeting minutes from March 18, 2024. Motion approved by voice vote: Mrs. Galante- Aye; Mrs. Williver- Aye; Mrs. Kraft-Aye; Mrs. Valeich-Aye; Mr. Franek-Aye; Mr. DeGroat-Aye; Mrs. Voris-Aye; Mrs. Thibault-Aye to Regular Minutes, Abstain on Executive Session minutes.
2. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mrs. Valeich, to approve the February 29, 2024 Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports which balanced in the amount of \$3,269,947.35 pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-16.10(c)3, we certify that as of February 29, 2024 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. 2023-2024 Board and District Goals Update:

Mrs. Galante reported on the following board goals:

GOAL #1: Coordinate with regional partners through utilization of our board liaisons to seek alternate sources or revenue including grants.

-Mrs. Williver has been researching various grants and passing the information along to administration. We have also been working to develop partnerships with local businesses to assist in support of various clubs and activities. Dr. Kochis is also a member of the Chamber of Commerce to assist in developing relationships. Also, succeeded in the partnership to obtain the flight school program.

GOAL #2: Continue to maintain open communication with our community and to support the district's communication efforts in relation to school funding changes.

-The district has a weekly newsletter, discussions at board meetings, our detail budget meeting, and our budget newsletter.

GOAL #3: Continue to support the administration, staff, and students financially to the best of our ability.

-The board continues to have open lines of communication with administration and staff to support the needs of the district.

Dr. Kochis reported on the following status of the district goals:

DISTRICT GOAL 1: Strengthen and streamline the process of collection and analysis of student data to inform curricula and practices (Strategic Plan Goal #1: Teaching and Learning and Strategic Plan Goal #2: Global Citizenship)

Achieved

- Completed an inventory of programs and resources that are currently being used and identifying the student data we can pull.
- Provide professional development opportunities for teachers focused on data analysis
- Analyzing our current benchmark system (Star 360) to best utilize all the aspects of it
- **Next Steps:** Alignment of programs across the region to allow for future regionalized data analysis

DISTRICT GOAL 2: Refine our Response to Intervention program to include prescribed interventions for identified students (Strategic Plan Goal #1: Teaching and Learning).

Achieved

- Hiring of our RTI Interventionist
- Updated the job description of our RTI Interventionist
- Revised RTI forms for data collection
- Provided training to the new RTI Interventionist for specific programs (LLI)
- This allows us to have more options for Tier 2 interventions

DISTRICT GOAL 3: To enhance our culture of acceptance and awareness with staff, students, and the community through mental health and social-emotional learning opportunities (Strategic Plan Goal #2: Global Citizenship and Strategic Plan Goal #4: The Whole Child)

Achieved

- Continued out Parent Academy Nights with a focus on hot topics and issues
- Brought in speakers for our students such as:
 - Brian Thomas for SEL
 - Max Stossel for Social Media
 - CAP program to teach about child abuse
- Collaboration between our Equity Team and CORE team (which involves students) to develop, plan, and run our Den Rallies
- Bringing back community events such as Senior Luncheon
- Prioritizing funding towards SEL Programs and behavioral supports such as Check in/Check out and clubs such as our B-Social Club

4. Reminder: Board member Ethics/Financial Disclosure Forms-Due April 30th!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERSONNEL

1. Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Thibault, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve attached professional days. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
2. Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Thibault, to accept with regret the resignation of Denise Bessemer effective July 1, 2024 for the purpose of retirement. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
3. Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mr. Franek, to accept with regret the resignation of Susan Pierson effective July 1, 2024 for the purpose of retirement. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
4. Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Williver, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following before school program for the 2023-2024 school year. The stipend for each teacher is \$410:

Club Name	Staff Member #1	Staff member #2	Grade Level	Grant
Before School Book Club	Keri Maurer	Kaitlin Phlegar	Grade 4	Title 1 20-231-200-100

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

5. Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Valeich, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following substitute nurse for the 2023-2024 school year:

Marianne Pavone-pending substitute certification

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

6. Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mr. Franek, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to retroactively amend contract with Maria Amella, Part-time paraprofessional, to extend .75 hours on Fridays only beginning April 12-June 30, 2024, to be paid at her previously approved rate of pay. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.

POLICY

None.

EDUCATION & CURRICULUM

1. Motion made by Mrs. Kraft, second by Mr. DeGroat, to approve Chris Henke as the pianist for the 2024 spring concert and rehearsals for a total of \$150.00. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

1. Mrs. Metzgar provided an update on the following Building and Grounds items:
 - Earthquake & additional wall cracks
 - Soffit & Fascia Repairs
2. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mrs. Thibault, to approve G. Zitone Excavating, LLC to repair the Fascia and Soffits in the 1966 wing in the amount of \$41,850.00, paid through ARP ESSER and general fund.

Other Quotes: Fania Roofing Company: \$3,500 for investigation to provide quote
 Alimi Builders- Not interested.
 Drill Construction- No Response
 Tremco Roofing-No Response
 Weathertite Solutions- No Response
 S.J. Carney Maintenance, LLC-No Response

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.

TRANSPORTATION

1. Motion made by Mrs. Valeich, second by Mrs. Kraft, to approve transportation with Stocker Bus for the following field trips for the 2023-2024 school year:

Date	Location	Grade	Cost
May 15, 2024 (Rain Date: May 16, 2024)	Tranquility Farms	Preschool	\$300/bus (2 Busses) =\$600 Total
May 15, 2024	New Jersey State Bar Foundation New Jersey Law Center, New Brunswick NJ Stop at The After Char-Broil Grill	Grades 4 & 5 Pinwheel	\$665
May 15, 2024	Sussex County Fairgrounds Stop at Lodestar Park	Kindergarten	\$375
May 6, 8, 13, & 15, 2024	Fairview Lake YMCA	Grade 6 SEEK	\$83.66/trip=\$334.64 Paid through Title IV
May 21, 2024	Move-Up Day at KRHS	Grade 6	\$278.90

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

2. Motion made by Mrs. Valeich, second by Mr. DeGroat, to approve the Resolution for participation in Joint Transportation Agreement for Special Education, Public/Private School, and Field Trips, with the Sussex County Regional Cooperative for the 2024-2025 school year as needed. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.

BUDGET & FINANCE

1. 2024-2025 Breakfast & Lunch Price Update-Mrs. Metzgar spoke with the board about the recommended increase in breakfast and lunch prices for next year. We are in line with other districts in the area.
2. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mr. DeGroat, to approve the submission of grant application for the 2024 Safety Grant Program through the New Jersey Schools Insurance Group's ERIC WEST Subfund for the purposes described in the application, in the amount of \$2,000 for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
3. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Valeich, to approve transfers from February 1, 2024 to February 29, 2024 as attached. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
4. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mr. DeGroat to authorize the submission of the SRSA REAP Grant application for FY2024, and accept the grant award of these funds upon subsequent approval of the FY2024 application in the amount of \$22,915. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Mrs. Voris reported on the following events:

- Stillwater PTA-Family Fun Son Celebration night- April 26th
- Stillwater Day- June 1st at Veterans Park
- 2024 Miss Stillwater Contest-June 1st
- Stillwater Township Clean Up Day- April 20th
- Water Safety Fair- May 5th at Fairview Lake

Mrs. Thibault also suggested that we honor the Teacher of the Year and Support Staff Member of the Year at a Board Meeting.

LEGISLATIVE

- Sussex County NJSBA Meeting- May 8th

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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Valeich, to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m.
A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



René Metzgar

Business Administrator/Board Secretary