

February 12, 2024

The Stillwater Township Board of Education met on February 12, 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 7:01 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, Mrs. Kraft, Mrs. Voris, Mr. DeGroat, Mrs. Frey, Mrs. Thibault, and Mrs. Valeich.

Absent: Mr. Franek.

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. Frey, second by Mr. DeGroat to approve the Regular Board of Education Meeting minutes and executive session meeting minutes from January 22, 2024. Motion approved by voice vote: Mrs. Galante- Abstain; Mrs. Williver- Aye; Mrs. Kraft-Abstain; Mrs. Valeich-Aye; Mrs. Frey-Aye; Mr. DeGroat-Aye; Mrs. Thibault-Abstain; Mrs. Voris-Aye.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERSONNEL

1. Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, 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. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Frey, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve Kristin Oyen as the full-time special education long term maternity leave teacher to begin on or about March 11, 2024-June 5, 2024 at a rate of \$384.66 per day (MA+15,11), no benefits, to be paid on the same schedule as all other substitute teachers. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.
3. Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Kraft, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve Meghan Earley and Janessa Green to receive a stipend of \$75.00 per person for attending the 6th Grade Activity night at Kittatinny Regional High School on March 22, 2024. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

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

-Rebecca Caserta

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

POLICY

None.

EDUCATION & CURRICULUM

1. SSDS Report- Reporting Period 1 (September 1, 2023-December 31, 2023) – Dr. Kochis reported there were 4 incidents during this period, 3 alleged HIBs and 1 confirmed. HIB training was provided this period to all school staff, BOE members, contracted service providers, and substitute teachers. Various programs were held during this time period such HIB guidance lessons in the classroom, Week of Respect, School Violence Awareness Week, Middle School Summit, Red Ribbon Week, Kindness Challenge activities, mix it up lunches and the School Pep Rally.
2. Motion made by Mrs. Kraft, second by Mrs. Williver, to approve the revised Safe Return Plan for the Stillwater Township Elementary School as required by ARP ESSER III Funding. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
3. Motion made by Mrs. Kraft, second by Mrs. Thibault, to approve the 2024-2025 school calendar for the Stillwater Township Board of Education. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.
4. Motion made by Mrs. Kraft, second by Mr. DeGroat, to approve the 6th grade class trip to the YMCA Fairview Lake Camp on October 17 & 18, 2024. Student cost is \$TBD. Transportation to be paid for by the Board of Education. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

1. Building and Grounds Update- Mrs. Metzgar provided an update on the 1988 building cracks.
2. Police Training Discussion-Dr. Kochis discussed the law enforcement training being held again at Stillwater School over spring break. This training is anticipated to be board approved on the building use calendar at our next meeting.

3. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mrs. Valeich, to accept the donation of a flag case for a flag flown in Baghdad, Iraq from Craig Robbins. This flag is a thank you to our staff from a parent. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
4. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mrs. Kraft, to approve the renewal of Gary Post's Black Seal boiler license for 3 years in the amount of \$160.00. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

TRANSPORTATION

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

Date	Location	Grade	Cost
March 7, 2024	KRHS to Stillwater School (one way). Stop at Fredon School for drop off	Grades 5 & 6 Pinwheel Students	\$135.00 to be split with Fredon School
March 19, 22, & 25, 2024	KRHS- All District Honors Band/Chorus	Grades 5 & 6	\$278.90/bus, 3 days= \$836.70
May 8, 2024	KRHS- Moana Jr. Play	Grades 5 & 6	\$251.01/bus, 2 busses needed= \$502.02

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

BUDGET & FINANCE

1. Budget Committee Update- Mrs. Thibault provided an update on the budget committee. Items discussed were the budget process, budget calendar, anticipated loss of state aid, possible tax levy scenarios, and major expenditures/changes we are anticipating.
2. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Valeich, to approve the following resolution, Waiver of Requirements in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program:

Whereas, N.J.A.C 6A:23A-5.3 provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district's participation in the Special Education Medicare Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2024-2025 school year, and

Whereas, the Stillwater Township Board of Education desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that it projects having fewer than 40 Medicaid eligible classified students,

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Stillwater Township Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent to submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in the County of Sussex an appropriate waiver of the requirements of N.J.A.C 6A:23A-5.3 for the 2024-2025 school year. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.

3. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Frey, to approve submission of the Expanding Access to Climate Change Education and the New Jersey Student Learning Standards through Interdisciplinary Learning and Community Resilience Projects Grant application in EWEG and furthermore, partner with the Township of Stillwater in support of executing this grant application. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
4. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Kraft, to approve submission of the certification in support of receipt of FY2024 Funding to the SDA for “SDA Emergent Needs and Capital Maintenance in School Districts” and accept the grant allocation in the amount of \$6,678. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Mrs. Voris reported on the following items:

- PTA Family Skate Nights- March 7th & 28th
- Valentines shop update
- Glow Dance- February 16th
- Tricky Tray- March 22nd
- Stillwater Rec Commission- Wind Creek Casino Trip- February 17th
- Senior Citizen fund and game night- February 29th
- Kittatinny Players- Beauty and the Beast March 14th-March 16th
- Beauty and the Beast Luncheon, Sunday March 10th at Andres Lakeside Dining

LEGISLATIVE

Mrs. Kraft reported on the virtual Sussex County School Boards meeting held in January. They spoke about Board Retreats and earning credits for board certification.

Mrs. Galante mentioned that there is a Take It Down website for children being photographed inappropriately and having their photos leaked on the web. This website will scrub the internet for the photo and remove it from any site.

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

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Valeich at 7:2 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 Student Privacy, 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.

Mrs. Cramer left the meeting at 7:39 pm.

Mrs. Thibault left the meeting at 7:50 pm.

Motion made by Mr. DeGroat and seconded by Mrs. Valeich at 7:59 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 Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Valeich, to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



René Metzgar

Business Administrator/Board Secretary