

January 22, 2024

The Stillwater Township Board of Education met on January 22, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Stillwater School Library for a Regular Board of Education Meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Cheryl Williver, Vice 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. Williver led the flag salute. The following Board members were present: Mrs. Williver, Mrs. Valeich, Mr. Franek, Mrs. Frey, Mrs. Voris (arrived 7:01 pm), and Mr. DeGroat.

Absent: Mrs. Galante, Mrs. Kraft 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

Mrs. Voris arrived at 7:01 pm.

1. January is Board Appreciation Month! Special presentation from the Makerspace students regarding the decorated nameplates!
2. Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Valeich, to approve the Reorganization and Committee of the Whole Board of Education meeting minutes & Executive Session Meeting minutes from January 2, 2024. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
3. Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Frey, to approve the December 31, 2023 Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports which balanced in the amount of \$3,378,105.25 pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-16.10(c)3, we certify that as of December 31, 2023 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. Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Valeich, to approve ad hoc committees for budget, negotiations, and regional shared service, as attached. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

5. Honoring Lieutenant John Gray for Dedication to Stillwater School Security and Celebrating Retirement Resolution was made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Frey.

WHEREAS, The Stillwater Township Board of Education acknowledges the dedication and exceptional service of Lieutenant Gray in enhancing and fortifying the security measures within our school; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Gray has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to the safety and well-being of our students, staff, and community, contributing significantly to the enhancement of a secure and conducive learning environment; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Gray's collaboration with school administration, law enforcement agencies, and other stakeholders has been instrumental in fostering a comprehensive and effective security strategy; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education wishes to express its deep gratitude and appreciation to Lieutenant Gray for his outstanding service and commitment to the safety of Stillwater School.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education formally recognizes and honors Lieutenant John Gray for his dedicated service and invaluable contributions to enhancing security measures at Stillwater School and extends heartfelt congratulations on his well-deserved retirement. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Kochis reported on the following items:

- Senior Luncheon- Thanked our students, staff, and Maschio's for all their hard work.
- Winter Concert- Congratulated Mr. Both on his first concert!
- Flight Simulator Update
- MOA between schools and law enforcement update
- NJSLA Scores Update-Thanked Mrs. Mahedy, Mrs. Bickhardt, Mrs. Celentano, and Mrs. Maeurer along with the special education teachers, Mrs. Riva, Mrs. DiRienzo, Mrs. Hoon, and Mrs. Golder.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Mrs. Williver thanked the road crews for the snow clean up so we could get to and from school safely on Friday.

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. ***

Dave Manser- Township Committee Representative- Asked if the flight simulator was part of a grant.
Dr. Kochis responded back yes it was part of the membership of Civil Air Patrol.

ACTION ITEMS:

PERSONNEL

1. Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mr. Franek, 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 the following part-time Para-Professional staff members for employment for the 2023-2024 school year from January 23, 2024-June 30, 2024 to be paid at an hourly rate, pending criminal history and background check:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Base Hourly Rate</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Total Hourly Rate</u>	<u>Contract Hours</u>
Caserta, Rebecca	Special Education	\$15.13	N/A	\$15.13	5 hours/week
Kerkhoven, Nicole	Special Education	\$15.13	N/A	\$15.13	27.5 hours/week

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.

3. Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mr. Franek, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following substitute paraprofessionals/main office secretaries for the 2023-2024 school year, pending criminal history and background check:

Molly Riva

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

4. Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Frey, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the advancement on guide for the following employee for the 2024-2025 school year, pending completion of credits and verification of official transcripts:

Maureen Riva MA to MA+15
Danielle Hoon MA to MA+15
Michelle Visco MA+15 to MA+30

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

5. Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mr. Franek, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to retroactively approve the following sub bus aide from January 10, 2024 to June 30, 2024 to be paid a daily rate of \$18.00 (\$9.00/run), to be paid as per timesheets submitted:

Rebecca Pavlick

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

POLICY

1. Motion made by Mrs. Frey, second by Mrs. Valeich, to suspend policy#3542.1 from February 5-9, 2024 for the limited purpose of the PTA Valentine Candy Sale. (In the event of a snow day during this time, dates may be extended accordingly.) A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

EDUCATION & CURRICULUM

1. Be It Hereby Resolved by Mrs. Voris, second by Mr. DeGroat, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board affirms the Superintendent's decision regarding 2023-2024 Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying Case #3-2324. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

1. Mrs. Metzgar provided an update on the following items:
 - Phone System
 - Gym Wall Crack Investigation
2. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mr. DeGroat, to approve building and use calendar for February 2024. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
3. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mr. DeGroat, to approve contract with Planet Networks to provide a fiber internet connection of 1 Gbps in the amount of \$999/month for a 36 month term. Service to begin July 1, 2024.
 - Other Bids: BrightSpeed: \$1,038/month for a 36 month termA voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

TRANSPORTATION

- Motion made by Mrs. Valeich, second by Mrs. Frey, to retroactively approve transportation through the Sussex County Regional Cooperative beginning January 8, 2024 for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year to be paid at a daily rate:

Route	Vendor	Cost
E-24190	Berkshire Transportation	\$187.25/day plus 4% administrative fees (shared cost with another district)

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

BUDGET & FINANCE

- Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mr. DeGroat, to approve the following checks from December 12, 2023-January 22, 2024 as attached:

Account	Check Numbers	Amount
Funds 10, 11, 12, 20	29203-29259, N1215, N1218, N1222, N0112,	\$929,642.09
Capital Reserve	N/A	\$0
Student Activities	N/A	\$0
Cafeteria	2712	\$12,598.47
Grand Total		\$942,240.56

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

- Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mr. DeGroat, to approve the attached list of purchase orders over \$1,000 for the 2023-2024 school year. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
- Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mr. DeGroat, to approve monthly travel as attached. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
- Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mr. DeGroat, to approve the purchase of new WiFi Access Points and 5-year subscription license beginning July 1, 2024 from CDWG in the total amount of \$21,125.

Other E-Rate Bids: VeeMost Technologies: \$24,483.75
 New Jersey Business Systems: \$42,736
 RELCOMM- \$23,803.25 (3 year)
 All Covered- \$9,875 (1 year)
 Optimus Technology Company- \$30,948.50
 Questivity, Inc. -\$26,934.50
 Custom Computer Specialists- \$24,072.25

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

LEGISLATION

No report.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Mrs. Voris reported on the following community events:

- PTA Meeting January 29th at 6:00 pm
- Family Skate Night- This Thursday!
- Valentine Shop February 2nd-9th
- Glow in the Dark Dance- February 16th
- Tricky Tray March 22nd
- Stillwater Rec Charter Bus to Wind Creek Casino- February 17th
- Senior Citizen fun and game night- February 29th
- Senior Citizen Tai Ji Quan- Beginning February 14th
- Kittatinny Players Booster Club-pop up thrift store this Saturday
- KRHS Players- Beauty and the Beast March 14th-16th

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Board member required training- Due December 31, 2024.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Ethics Disclosure Statements emailed out- due April 30, 2024.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mr. Franek at 7:29 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 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 7:29 pm.

Motion made by Mr. DeGroat and seconded by Mrs. Valeich at 7:45 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 7:45 p.m. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



René Metzgar
Business Administrator/Board Secretary