

January 2, 2024

The Stillwater Township Board of Education met on January 2, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Stillwater School Library for the Board Reorganization Meeting.

The meeting was called to order by René Metzgar, Board Secretary, 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 November 27, 2023. Notices were posted in the Stillwater School, Town Hall, Stillwater Post Office, Swartswood Post Office and the Stillwater School Website.

Mrs. Metzgar led the flag salute.

**REPORT OF ELECTION RESULTS:**

Mrs. Metzgar reported the following information:

Jeffery Parrott, Sussex County Clerk, certified the following election results for the Stillwater Township Board of Education:

Three-year full term for membership on the Board of Education:

Krista Galante	632 votes
Dennis DeGroat	654 votes
Amy Valeich	620 votes
Write-In	42 votes

**OATHS FOR RETURNING BOARD MEMBERS**

(N.J.S.A:18A:17.11)

Mrs. Metzgar administered the oaths to the following people for the 3-year full term for membership on the Stillwater Township Board of Education:

For the 3-Three-year full term for membership on the Board of Education:

- Dennis DeGroat
- Krista Galante
- Amy Valeich

Mrs. Metzgar congratulated all returning board members!

Mrs. Metzgar then called roll:

The following Board members were present: Mrs. Galante, Mr. DeGroat, Mrs. Kraft, Mrs. Williver, Mrs. Thibault, Mrs. Valeich, Mrs. Voris, and Mrs. Frey.

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.

## **NOMINATIONS & ELECTION OF BOARD PRESIDENT**

1. The President shall be elected by a roll call vote of a majority of Board members in attendance.

Mrs. Metzgar opened the floor for nominations for President of the Stillwater Board of Education.

Nominations: Mr. DeGroat nominated Mrs. Galante. Mrs. Galante accepted the nomination.

Mrs. Metzgar asked for any further nominations. Hearing none;

Mr. DeGroat made a motion to close nominations for Board President, second by Mrs. Thibault. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Mrs. Metzgar closed the nominations for Board President and called for a vote.

Vote: Mr. DeGroat- Mrs. Galante; Mrs. Galante-Mrs. Galante; Mrs. Thibault- Mrs. Galante; Mrs. Frey- Mrs. Galante; Mrs. Voris-Mrs. Galante; Mrs. Valeich-Mrs. Galante; Mrs. Williver- Mrs. Galante; Mrs. Kraft- Mrs. Galante.

Unanimously, Mrs. Krista Galante is elected Board President.

## **THE MEETING IS TURNED OVER TO THE BOARD PRESIDENT**

## **NOMINATIONS & ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT**

1. The Vice President shall be elected by a roll call vote of a majority of Board members in attendance.

Mrs. Galante opened the floor for nominations for Vice President of the Stillwater Board of Education.

Nominations: Mr. DeGroat nominated Mrs. Williver, second by Mrs. Valeich. Mrs. Williver accepted the nomination.

Mrs. Galante asked for any further nominations. Hearing none;

Motion was made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Thibault to close nominations for Board Vice President. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Mrs. Galante closed the nominations for Board Vice President and called for a vote.

Vote: Mr. DeGroat- Mrs. Williver; Mrs. Thibault- Mrs. Williver; Mrs. Frey- Mrs. Williver; Mrs. Voris- Mrs. Williver; Mrs. Valeich- Mrs. Williver; Mrs. Williver- Mrs. Williver; Mrs. Kraft-Mrs. Williver; Mrs. Galante- Mrs. Williver.

Unanimously, Mrs. Cheryl Williver is elected Board Vice President.

**ANNUAL MOTIONS**

- 1. Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Frey, to adopt the present Stillwater Township Board of Education policy manual. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
- 2. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mrs. Thibault, to designate the New Jersey Herald as the official newspaper for the 2024 calendar year and the Star Ledger or The Township Journal as an alternate newspaper and for select advertising. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
- 3. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mr. DeGroat, to approve the following locations for posting all legal notices for the 2024 calendar year:
  - Stillwater Post Office
  - Stillwater Town Hall
  - Swartswood Post Office
  - Stillwater Board of Education Office
  - Stillwater Elementary School
 A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
- 4. Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Frey, to hold Committee of the Whole meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month & regular meetings of the Board of Education on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month, unless otherwise noted, at 7:00 p.m. in the Stillwater School Library according to the attached schedule:

**Committee of the Whole Meeting**

February 12, 2024  
 No Committee Meeting in March  
 April 15, 2024\*  
 No Committee Meeting in May  
 June 3, 2024\*  
 No Committee Meeting in July  
 No Committee Meeting in August  
 September 9, 2024  
 No Committee Meeting in October  
 November 4, 2024\*  
 No Committee Meeting in December

**Regular Meeting**

January 22, 2024  
 February 26, 2024  
 March 18, 2024\*  
 April 29, 2024\*  
 May 13, 2024\*  
 June 24, 2024  
 July 22, 2024  
 August 19, 2024  
 September 23, 2024  
 October 15, 2024\* (Tuesday)  
 November 18, 2024\*  
 December 16, 2024\*

\*Change from 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Monday

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

- 5. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mr. DeGroat, to approve the following resolution regarding public relations and professional services maximum costs for the 2024-2025 school year.

Whereas, NJAC 6A:23A-5.2 provides that a school district must establish a maximum dollar limit prior to budget preparation for public relations and professional services fees, and

Whereas, the Stillwater Board of Education has established the following maximum dollar limits as required:

Public Relations	\$ 3,500
Architects	\$75,000
Attorneys	\$40,000
Auditors	\$15,000
School Physician	\$ 2,500

Whereas, if these professional services exceed the maximum amount listed, the Stillwater Board of Education will consider another motion to increase amounts listed. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.

6. Board Members took turns reading the Board Member Code of Ethics.
7. Motion made by Mrs. Frey, second by Mrs. Thibault, to acknowledge receipt and review of the State of New Jersey Code of Ethics as required by N.J.S.A. 18A. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
8. Review of board member contact information. If any changes/additions are needed, please notify Mrs. Metzgar.

## **ANNUAL BOARD APPOINTMENTS & COMMITTEES**

Mrs. Galante appointed the following Delegates:

1. Delegate and Alternate to the Sussex County School Boards Association  
Delegate: Jennifer Kraft  
Alternate: Karen Thibault
2. Delegate and Alternate to the New Jersey School Boards Association  
Delegate: Cheryl Williver  
Alternate: Christine Voris
3. Committees/Chairpersons-Forms handed out, please return to Board President.

## **BOARD MEMBER TRAINING**

Training required for BOE Members: Registration is completed through Mrs. Metzgar.

Dennis DeGroat- Governance IV  
Darrick Franek- Governance IV  
Margaret Frey-Governance III  
Krista Galante – Governance IV  
Jennifer Kraft- None  
Karen Thibault-None  
Amy Valeich-Governance III  
Christine Voris-Governance III  
Cheryl Williver-None

## **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.

## **ADJOURN**

Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Kraft to adjourn at 7:15 pm. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



René Metzgar  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary