

November 20, 2023

The Stillwater Township Board of Education met on November 20, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Stillwater School Library for a Regular 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 10, 2023. 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. Kraft, Mrs. Valeich, Mrs. Williver, Mr. Franek, Mrs. Frey, Mrs. Voris, and Mrs. Thibault.

Absent: Mr. DeGroat.

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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Valeich at 7:02 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 Legal Matters 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. Voris was excused from the meeting at 7:02 pm.

Motion made by Mrs. Frey, second by Mrs. Kraft at 7:06 p.m. to come out of executive session. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Mrs. Voris returned to the meeting at 7:06 pm.

Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mr. Franek to return to public session. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

BOARD BUSINESS

1. Motion made by Mrs. Frey, second by Mrs. Thibault, to approve the Committee of the Whole Board of Education meeting minutes from November 6, 2023. Motion approved by voice vote: Mrs. Galante-Aye; Mrs. Williver-Aye; Mrs. Kraft-Aye; Mrs. Valeich-Aye; Mrs. Frey-Aye; Mr. Franek-Aye, Mrs. Thibault-Aye; Mrs. Voris-Abstain.
2. Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Valeich, to approve the October 31, 2023 Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports which balanced in the amount of \$3,276,651.48 pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)3, we certify that as of October 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.

3. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mrs. Frey, to approve the 2024 Board Reorganization Meeting & Committee of the Whole Meeting to be held on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 with a snow date of Wednesday, January 3, 2024, beginning at 7:00 pm. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
4. Unofficial Election Results- Mrs. Metzgar reported the election results and congratulated Mr. DeGroat, Mrs. Galante, Mrs. Valeich, for being the successful candidates for the 3 year seats.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Kochis reported on the following items:

- Safety & Security Meetings/Security Risk Assessment
- New Parent pick app- Pick Up Patrol

CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you letter from Mrs. Williver regarding the NJSBA Convention.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Mrs. Galante commented on the Security Risk Assessment- She extended appreciation as a parent, Board President, and Sherriff's Officer for Stillwater School really putting safety and security as a top priority.

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.

ACTION ITEMS:

PERSONNEL

1. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mrs. Thibault, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to retroactively approve attached professional days. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
2. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mr. Franek, to approve maternity leave for employee #892 beginning on or about March 14, 2024 with the intent to return on or about June 5, 2024. This leave includes up to 12 weeks covered by FMLA & NJFLA. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
3. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mrs. Frey, to retroactively approve medical leave of absence for employee #721 beginning November 15, 2023 with the intent to return January 2, 2024. This leave includes up to 6 weeks covered by FMLA. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
4. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mrs. Kraft, to approve Membership dues to Sussex County Chamber of Commerce for William Kochis for the 2023-2024 school year at a total cost of \$304.00. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
5. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mrs. Thibault, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following substitute custodian for the 2023-2024 school year:

Jennifer Siple: \$14.53/hour

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

POLICY

1. Motion made by Mrs. Frey, second by Mrs. Valeich, to approve the first reading of the following new policy:

Policy #3320.1 Green Purchasing

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

EDUCATION & CURRICULUM

1. Be It Hereby Resolved, by Mrs. Kraft, second by Mrs. Williver, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board affirms the Superintendent's decision regarding 2023-2024 Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying Case #1-2324. Motion approved by roll call vote: Mrs. Galante- Aye; Mrs. Williver- Aye; Mrs. Kraft-Aye; Mrs. Valeich-Aye; Mrs. Frey-Aye; Mr. Franek-Aye, Mrs. Thibault-Aye; Mrs. Voris-Abstain.

2. Be It Hereby Resolved, by Mrs. Kraft, second by Mrs. Frey, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board affirms the Superintendent's decision regarding 2023-2024 Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying Case #2-2324. Motion approved by roll call vote: Mrs. Galante- Aye; Mrs. Williver- Aye; Mrs. Kraft-Aye; Mrs. Valeich-Aye; Mrs. Frey-Aye; Mr. Franek-Aye, Mrs. Thibault-Aye; Mrs. Voris-Abstain.

3. BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by Mrs. Kraft, second by Mr. Franek, that the Board of Education hereby approves a settlement for student #23504028 and authorizes the Board President & Business Administrator to sign the Settlement Agreement. Motion approved by roll call vote: Mrs. Galante- Aye; Mrs. Williver- Aye; Mrs. Kraft-Aye; Mrs. Valeich-Aye; Mrs. Frey-Aye; Mr. Franek-Aye, Mrs. Thibault-Aye; Mrs. Voris-Abstain.

4. Motion by Mrs. Kraft, second by Mrs. Frey, to approve contract with Social Awakening for Speaker Max Stossel for a 5th and 6th Grade student presentation and parent presentation regarding the dangers of social media, on March 7, 2024 at Kittatinny Regional High School for a total cost of \$5,275 to be split between Stillwater, Hampton Township, and Fredon School. Paid through ARP ESSER-Beyond the School Day Grant. Stillwater will be the LEA. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

1. Mrs. Metzgar provided an update on the following Building & Grounds items:
 - 1988 cracks- Geotech Engineer
 - PA System
 - Phone System

2. Motion made by Mr. Franek second Mrs. Valeich, to approve building and use calendar for December 2023. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

TRANSPORTATION

1. Emergency Bus Evacuation Drill Report- Dr. Kochis reported on the following:

School Name: Stillwater Elementary School
 Date: Nov 2, 2023
 Time: 8:25 am - 1:30 pm
 Location: Front Parking Lot
 Participants: All Prek-6 Grade Students
 Supervisor of Drill: Dr. William Kochis

School Name: Stillwater Elementary School
 Date: Nov 6, 2023
 Time: 8:25 am - 8:40 am

Location: Front Parking Lot
 Participants: ST5, ST6, ST7, ST8, ST9, ST25
 Supervisor of Drill: Dr. William Kochis

BUDGET & FINANCE

1. Mr. Anthony Ardito from Ardito & Company presented the 2022-2023 audit. He stated we are in good financial shape however as the state aid continues to decrease it will be difficult to maintain. He also thanked the business office for continuing to do a wonderful job. The presentation is attached to the minutes.
2. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Valeich, to approve the following checks from October 17, 2023-November 20, 2023 as attached:

Account	Check Numbers	Amount
Funds 10, 11, 12, 20	29103-29158, N1031, N1106, N1115, void #29009	\$656,539.36
Student Activities	6670-6673, void #6671	\$3,988.00
Cafeteria	2706-2710, void #2705	\$16,447.04
Grand Total		\$676,974.40

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

3. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Frey, 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.
4. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mr. Franek, to approve monthly travel as attached. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
5. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Valeich, to approve transfers from September 1, 2023 to October 31, 2023 as attached. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
6. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Frey, to approve participation in the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Recertification Program and approve submission for the 2024 application cycle. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
7. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Frey, to accept the annual audit for the Stillwater Township Board of Education for the year ended June 30, 2023. There were no audit findings or recommendations. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.
8. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mr. Franek, to authorize the submission of the ARP-ESSER Grant amendments to the application for the following areas:
 - ARP ESSER
 - Accelerated Learning Coach and Educator Support
 - Evidenced Based Comprehensive Beyond the School Day
 - NJTSS Mental Health Staffing
 A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

LEGISLATION

None.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Mrs. Voris reported on the following items:

- Stillwater PTA Meeting on 12/4
- PTA Family Fun Night- 12/8
- PTA Holiday Shop December 11th-15th
- Stillwater Rec Tree Lighting- 12/1
- Stillwater Rec Bus Trip to NYC- 12/17
- Senior Citizen Christmas Tea 12/22
- Boy Scouts hosting Movie Night on 11/24 at the Community Center
- 6th Grade Recognition Committee- Enjoy a day of hot chocolate, cookies, and Santa at Timber Valley Tree Farm on 12/16.
- Stillwater Fire Department Breakfast with Santa-12/10
- Stillwater Historical Society- Yuletide down Main Street- 12/17
- Kittatinny Players- Treats with Santa on 12/16

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Board member required training- Due December 31, 2023.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Sussex County School Boards Meeting- NJSBA's 3R's (Roles, Responsibilities, and Resources) Training for Newly Elected Board Members – December 4, 2023 at Green Hills School at 5:30 pm, dinner is a 6 pm. Must preregister for in person or hybrid.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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Ella F.- A student- Asked if the school could get a tire swing on the playground.

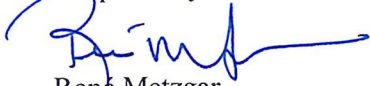
EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Valeich to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.
A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



René Metzgar
Business Administrator/Board Secretary