

September 25, 2023

The Stillwater Township Board of Education met on September 25, 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, Swartwood Post Office and the Stillwater School Website.

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

Absent: None.

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. 2023-2024 Board/District Goal Setting-Gwen Thornton, NJ School Boards Association: the Board developed board goals and district goals for the 2023-2024 school year. These will be approved at the next meeting, and then action plans will be developed.
2. Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mrs. Thibault, to approve the Committee of the Whole Board of Education meeting minutes from September 11, 2023. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
3. Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Valeich, to approve the Executive Session Meeting #1 minutes from September 11, 2023. Motion approved by voice vote: Mrs. Galante-Aye; Mrs. Williver-Aye; Mrs. Kraft-Aye; Mrs. Valeich-Aye; Mr. DeGroat-Aye; Mr. Franek-Aye, Mrs. Thibault-Abstain; Mrs. Frey-Aye; and Mrs. Voris-Aye.
4. Motion made by Mrs. Frey, second by Mrs. Kraft, to approve the Executive Session Meeting #2 minutes from September 11, 2023. Motion approved by voice vote: Mrs. Galante- Aye; Mrs. Williver-Aye; Mrs. Kraft-Aye; Mrs. Valeich-Aye; Mr. DeGroat-Aye; Mr. Franek-Aye, Mrs. Thibault-Aye; Mrs. Frey-Aye; and Mrs. Voris-Abstain.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Kochis reported on the following items:

-Back to School Night

- KRHS Community Day
- Aquatic Safety for grade 4
- Part Time Custodial/Staffing update
- Den Rally
- Stillwater Fire Department- October 13th for Fire Prevention Day

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS

Mrs. Galante thanked the public for coming out tonight. She also thanked Dr. Kochis and Mrs. Cramer for attending the security meeting from the Sussex County Sheriff’s Office that was held in August.

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 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. Williver, to approve Annual Membership dues to the ASCD for Cali Roberts for the 2023-2024 school year at a total cost of \$239 to be split by the region. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
3. Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Frey, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to retroactively approve Maria Amella as the full-time grade 4 special education long term substitute to begin September 12, 2023-September 29, 2023 at a rate of \$293.01 per day, no benefits, to be paid on the same schedule as all other substitute teachers. A roll call 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 & after school programs for the 2023-2024 school year. The stipend for each teacher is \$410:

Club Name	Staff Member #1	Staff member #2	Grade Level	Grant
Let's Be Social Club	Maureen Riva	Meghan Radimer	K-2	ARP - BSD
Let's Be More Social Club	Maureen Riva	Meghan Radimer	K-2	ARP - BSD
Art/Mindfulness Club Group 1	Melissa Piazza	N/A	Grade 6	ARP - BSD
Art/Mindfulness Club Group 2	Melissa Piazza	N/A	Grade 6	ARP - BSD
LU Projector Club	Steve Tiberi	Meghan Radimer	5-6	ARP - BSD
ASE/SEEK	Steve Tiberi	N/A	Grade 6	Title IV
Chess Club	Janet Mahedy	N/A	4-6	ARP - BSD
Lego Club	Beth Johnson	Ramona Knapp	Grade 2	\$314.00 -Title IV and the remaining from BSD
Lego Club	Beth Johnson	Ramona Knapp	Grade 3	ARP - BSD
Fall Morning Fitness Club	Steve Tiberi	Meghan Radimer	3-6	Title IV

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 after school program for the 2023-2024 school year. The stipend for each teacher is \$597.

Club Name	Staff Member #1	Staff member #2	Grade Level	Grant
TREP\$	Corrine Robinson	Janet Mahedy	Grade 6	ARP - BSD

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

6. Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Thibault, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following evening family programs for the 2023-2024 school year. The stipend for each teacher is \$820:

Club	Staff Member #1	Staff Member #2	Grade Level	Grant
Literacy Connections	Ramona Knapp	Beth Johnson	Grade 1	Title I
Family Math	Ramona Knapp	Beth Johnson	Grade 3	Title I

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

7. Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Kraft, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following teachers for the After School Learning Center for a total of 50 sessions at a rate of \$75/session for the 2023-2024 school year. Paid through Title I.

Maureen Riva
Kerri LoCicero
Michele Bird
Helen Sallitt- Substitute
Beth Johnson- Substitute

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

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

Public Relations	Jessica Garrigan	\$850
Student Council (Co)	Beth Johnson	\$425
Student Council (Co)	Lynda Collier	\$425
Yearbook	Meghan Earley	\$850
Yearbook	Maureen Riva	\$850
Night Foreman	Robert Kay	\$850

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

9. Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Thibault, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following facilitators for the check in/check out program for the 2023-2024 school year, pro-rated stipend for each mentor of \$150 per month, not to exceed \$1,500 per year, as worked, to be paid through ARP-Mental Health Funds:

Kerri LoCicero
Meghan Earley
Danielle Hoon
Steve Tiberi
Jessica Garrigan

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

10. Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Thibault r, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following Check in/Check out Program Coordinator for the 2023-2024 school year, for a stipend of \$3,000 to be paid through ARP- Mental Health funds:

Jeanne Smetana

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

11. Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Thibault, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following teachers and administrators as chaperones for the Fairview Lake YMCA Camp trip October 19 & 20, 2023 to be paid \$175 for the 1 extended day to be paid through ARP-Beyond the School Day Grant.

William Kochis/Marissa Cramer-No pay
Janet Mahedy
Jessica Steffens
Mary DiRienzo
Maureen Riva
Colleen Hurley-Nurse

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

12. Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Valeich, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve Holly DeStefano, substitute teacher/paraprofessional as a chaperone for the Fairview Lake YMCA Camp trip October 19 & 20, 2023 during regular school hours, to be paid at the previously approved substitute rate. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

POLICY

None.

EDUCATION & CURRICULUM

1. SSDS Reporting Period 2: January 1, 2023- June 30, 2023- Dr. Kochis reported on the following: SSDS Reporting Period 2-There were 9 incidents total- 1 confirmed HIB, 4 alleged HIB, and 5 other incidents leading to removal. Various programs were held during this time period such as the Counseling Lessons by Mrs. Smetana, Mix it up lunches, Den Rally, Student Council service project, and buddy days.
2. 2022-2023 HIB Grades Self-Assessment- Dr. Kochis completed the assessment. We scored 75 out of 78 points.
3. Motion made by Mrs. Kraft, second by Mrs. Williver, to approve Renaissance Learning to provide training to staff on benchmark analysis on 10/23/23, 1/22/24, and 3/25/24 for \$900.00. Paid for through Title IV funds. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
4. Motion made by Mrs. Kraft, second by Mrs. Valeich, to approve the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History to give professional development on Teaching Literacy through History. Total cost be split with the region and paid for through ARP Acc. Learning Grant. Stillwater's portion is \$1,300. KRHS will be the LEA. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

5. Motion made by Mrs. Kraft, second by Mrs. Frey, to approve the memorandum of agreement between Stillwater Township School and Mental Health Association/NJ4S from September 26, 2023-June 30, 2024 to implement a scheduled calendar of prevention and brief clinical services in response to family, faculty, and staff concerns. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
6. Motion made by Mrs. Kraft, second by Mr. DeGroat, to approve Emily Nause from Grand Canyon University as a student teacher to be placed in Beth Johnson's first grade class for 8 weeks from October 2023-December 2023. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
7. Motion made by Mrs. Kraft, second by Mr. DeGroat, to approve the following resolution:
Resolution declaring October 2-6, 2023 Week of Respect

WHEREAS, The Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights, Assembly Bill 3466, was approved by the New Jersey Legislature in November 2010 and signed into law as P.L. 2010, c. 122, by Governor Chris Christie on January 5, 2011; and

WHEREAS, The statute is intended to protect students from harassment and intimidation that would substantially interfere with their education; and

WHEREAS, In a 2009 survey by the National Centers for Disease Control, one in five New Jersey students indicated they had been the subject of bullying on school grounds during the previous year; and

WHEREAS, The Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights places expanded responsibilities on teachers, school administrators and boards of education to protect students from incidents of bullying, harassment and intimidation; and

WHEREAS, The Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights designates the week beginning with the first Monday in October as "Week of Respect" throughout New Jersey"; and

WHEREAS, The law directs school districts to observe the "Week of Respect" through age-appropriate instruction in accordance with New Jersey's core curriculum content standards; and

WHEREAS, The Stillwater Board of Education recognizes the harmful impact of harassment and bullying on children and is committed to providing all of its students with a safe and secure learning environment free from intimidation; and

WHEREAS, The Stillwater Board of Education supports the intent of the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights to protect our children, as well as the goal of previous law to enhance training and instruction to prevent harassment, intimidation and bullying. Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Stillwater Board of Education declares October 2 through 6, 2022 as a "Week of Respect" in all district schools, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Week of Respect will be a part of the Stillwater Public Schools' ongoing efforts to foster respect among students and staff for the diverse cultures and personalities represented in our school community, and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Phil Murphy, State Senator Oroho, Assembly Representatives Space and Wirths, the New Jersey School Boards Association and the Sussex County School Boards Association.
A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.

8. Motion made by Mrs. Kraft, second by Mrs. Frey, to declare October 16-20, 2023 School Violence Awareness Week:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:36-5.1. declares the week beginning with the third Monday in October of each year is designated as "School Violence Awareness Week" in the State of New Jersey. School districts shall observe this week by organizing activities to prevent school violence including, but not limited to, age-appropriate opportunities for student discussion on conflict resolution, issues of student diversity, and tolerance. Law enforcement personnel shall be invited to join members of the teaching staff in the discussions. Programs shall also be provided for school board employees that are designed to help them recognize warning signs of school violence and to instruct them on recommended conduct during an incident of school violence. The Department of Education shall provide guidelines and information to boards of education for use in planning the activities in observance of the week and such funds as are necessary to pay the costs of the required activities and programs.

RESOLVED, That the School Violence Awareness Week will be a part of the Stillwater Township Schools' ongoing efforts to help students and staff to recognize the importance of tolerance and to understand and apply conflict resolution techniques.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

1. Mrs. Metzgar provided an update on the following Building & Grounds items:
 - Gym Wall Cracks
 - PA System
2. Motion made by Mr. Franek, second by Mrs. Kraft, to approve building and use calendar for October 2023. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

TRANSPORTATION

1. Motion made by Mrs. Valeich, second by Mr. DeGroat, to approve Kittatinny Regional High School for Joint Transportation coordination services for aid in lieu students for the 2023-2024 school year as listed:
 - Administrative fee of 4%, equal to \$531.44

Aid in lieu: 13 students- \$13,286
 Costs may change if enrollment at nonpublic or charter changes-AIL for 2023-2024 is \$1,022/student.
 A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.

2. Motion made by Mrs. Valeich, second by Mrs. Frey, to approve the following field trips for the 2023-2024 school year:

Location	Grade
Sussex County Technical School (stop at Fredon School)	Grade 6-Summit Students
Tranquility Farms	Preschool
Fairview Lake YMCA	6
KRHS Play - Diary of Anne Frank	5 & 6
Lakota Wolf Preserve	4
KRHS Move Up Day, KRHS	6
All District Honors Band/Chorus, KRHS	5 & 6
New Jersey State Bar Foundation, New Jersey Law Center, New Brunswick NJ	Pinwheel/Makerspace
Thor Labs - Newton, NJ 07860	Pinwheel/Makerspace
NJ Symphony Orchestra, MAYO Arts Center, Morristown NJ	4
Sussex County Fairgrounds & Lodestar Park, Fredon NJ	Kindergarten
PetSmart/Villa Capri, Newton NJ	Preschool
Land of Make-Believe Hope, NJ	Preschool
KRHS Jr. High Play Preview, KRHS	5 & 6
Camp Neveda	6

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

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

Date	Location	Grade	Cost
September 29, 2023 Rain Date: October 12th	Tranquility Farms	Preschool	\$305/bus 2 Busses=\$610
October 5, 2023 Rain Date: October 6, 2023	Paulinskill Watershed Project, Stillwater, NJ Stokes State Forest-Sunrise Mountain Swartswood State Park	Grade 5	\$485
October 19, 2023	Turtle Back Zoo	Grade 1	\$446.27

October 19 & 20, 2023	Fairview Lake YMCA	Grade 6	\$395/day=\$790
October 25, 2023	Franklin Mineral Museum	Grade 3	\$375.00

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

BUDGET & FINANCE

1. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Valeich, to approve the following checks from August 22, 2023-September 25, 2023 as attached:

Account	Check Numbers	Amount
Funds 10, 11, 12, 20	28995-29053, N0831, N0908, N0909	\$696,245.28
Student Activities	N/A	N/A
Cafeteria	2699-2670	\$ 1,485
Grand Total		\$697,730.28

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

2. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, 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.
3. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mr. Franek, to approve monthly travel as attached. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
4. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mr. DeGroat, to accept the donation of school supplies from Susan Snover, estimated value of \$75.00. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
5. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mr. DeGroat, to accept the donation of \$5/student for 60 students for a total of \$300 from the PTA for Grades 5 & 6 to attend the Diary of Anne Frank at Kittatinny Regional High School on October 26, 2023. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
6. Resolution for Stabilization Aid Application was made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Frey:

WHEREAS, the Stillwater Township School District lost \$147,194 in New Jersey State Aid for fiscal year 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Stillwater Township School District lost \$293,701 in New Jersey State Aid for fiscal year 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Stillwater Township School District lost \$315,416 in New Jersey State Aid for fiscal year 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Stillwater Township School District lost \$273,829 in New Jersey State Aid for fiscal year 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Stillwater Township School District lost \$177,779 in New Jersey State Aid for fiscal year 2020; and

WHEREAS, The Stillwater Township School District has lost a total of \$1,207,919 in New Jersey State Aid over the past five school years; and

WHEREAS, The Stillwater Township School District anticipates additional New Jersey State funding cuts through fiscal year 2025; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Stillwater Township School District is requesting \$1,990,000 in Stabilization Aid from the State of New Jersey for the 2023-2024 school year in order to offset the significant losses in revenue over the past several years; and

THEREFORE, BE IT ALSO RESOLVED these losses continue to have a significant impact on the school district, our students, our staff, and our community. This Stabilization Aid is necessary for the continued operation of our school district as we navigate our way through a challenging fiscal environment while ensuring the safe and appropriate education of the children in our community. The Stabilization Aid would be utilized for construction projects to maintain a safe and secure space for our students and staff.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.

LEGISLATION

None.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Mrs. Voris reported on the following items:

- PTA Mum Fundraiser-Pick up this Friday
- PTA Family Fun Night- Ninja Obstacle course
- Fall Book Fest- Open until this Friday
- Fall Vendor Fair- 9/30
- Halloween Family fun night- October 20th
- Stillwater Rec- Senior Ice Cream Social-9/28
- Stillwater Park- Hocus Pocus Showing on 10/13
- Trunk or Treat at the community center on 10/22
- Kittatinny Players- hosting "Messages from Heaven" at KRHS on 10/17.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Board member required training- Due December 31, 2023.
2. NJSBA Conference Registration October 23-26, 2023. Please notify Mrs. Metzgar by October 1st if you are unable to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Sussex County School Boards Meeting-School Safety & Security- October 11, 2023 at Newton Country Club at 6:00 pm. Must preregister for in person or hybrid.

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.

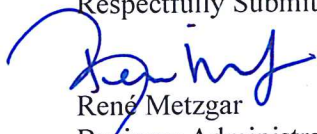
EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Valeich to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



René Metzgar
Business Administrator/Board Secretary