

September 11, 2023

The Stillwater Township Board of Education met on September 11, 2023 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 7:00 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. Williver, Mr. DeGroat, Mrs. Kraft, Mrs. Frey, Mrs. Thibault, Mrs. Valeich, and Mrs. Voris.

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.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

President Krista Galante called for a moment of silence for all who perished on September 11th.

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. ***

Amanda Borkstrom- 903 Millbrook Road- Discussed her concerns with her daughter's bus stop this year. She feels it is unsafe.

Cornelia Borkstrom- 903 Millbrook Road- Also said the road is very unsafe and very dangerous. She would like for the stop to be addressed as soon as possible for her granddaughter.

Mrs. Galante said we will contact the police and look at alternate stops to see if something can be adjusted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by Mrs. Kraft, second by Mrs. Valeich at 7:13 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 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. Thibault and Mrs. Cramer were excused from the meeting at 7:13 pm.

Motion made by Mrs. Valeich, second by Mrs. Kraft at 8:02 p.m. to come out of executive session. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Mrs. Thibault and Mrs. Cramer were invited back into the meeting at 8:02 pm.

Motion to return to public session at 8:04 pm was made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mrs. Valeich. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

BOARD BUSINESS

1. Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Williver to approve the Regular Board of Education Meeting minutes and executive session meeting minutes from August 21, 2023. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

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. Kraft, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to retroactively extend summer custodian contract for Jennifer Siple from August 26, 2023-September 1, 2023 to be paid at a rate of \$14.53/hour. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
3. Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Kraft, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to retroactively approve Lindsay Amabile as a bus aide from September 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 for a stipend in the amount of \$3,240, to be paid as worked, funded through the IDEA-Grant. 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 retroactively approve Killian Leahy as a bus aide from September 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 for a stipend in the amount of \$3,240, to be paid as worked. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
5. Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Williver, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following sub bus aide from September 12, 2023 to June 30, 2024 to be paid a daily rate of \$18.00 (\$9.00/run), to be paid as per timesheets submitted:

Holly DeStefano

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

6. Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Williver, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to offer the following part-time contract to the new non-tenured instructional staff member for employment for the 2023-2024 school year from September 12, 2023 to June 30, 2024, pending criminal history & background check:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Both, Spencer	Part-Time Music Teacher (.8FTE)	BA, 0	\$46,881.60

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.

7. Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Williver, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following mentor for a stipend of \$550 for the 2023-2024 school year:

<u>Mentor</u>	<u>Mentee</u>
Melissa Piazza	Spencer Both

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

8. Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Frey, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following substitute teacher/paraprofessional/main office secretary for the 2023-2024 school year:

Alexandra Caccavale-pending criminal history & background check
A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

9. Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Kraft, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following substitute nurse for the 2023-2024 school year:

Kristina Eggleston-pending criminal history & background check
A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

10. Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Kraft, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the District Threat Assessment Team members:

- William Kochis
- Marissa Cramer
- Jeanne Smetana
- Cali Roberts
- Maureen Riva
- David Somma
- Thomas Leahy

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

- Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Williver, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following graduate classes at Centenary University for Maureen Riva:

<u>Title of Course</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Reimbursement</u>
Technology	8/30/23-12/12/23	\$2,187	No, as per SEA Contract
Special Education Administration Program and Planning	8/30/23-12/12/23	\$2,187	No, as per SEA Contract

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

POLICY

None.

EDUCATION & CURRICULUM

- Motion made by Mrs. Kraft, second by Mr. DeGroat, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the contract with Brian Thomas to facilitate a series of character education lessons/sessions for Grades 4, 5, & 6 on September 19, 20, 21, 2023 for a cost of \$5,000 to be funded through Title IV. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
- Motion made by Mrs. Kraft, second by Mr. DeGroat, to approve the cost of the lifeguard for the Grade 4 Aquatics program at Kittatinny Regional High School from September 25-29, 2023 for a total cost of \$250 to be paid to KRHS. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
- Motion made by Mrs. Kraft, second by Mrs. Williver, to approve professional development training on Readers/Writers Workshop at a total cost of \$21,600 to be split with Fredon, Hampton, Sandyston, and Stillwater. Stillwater's portion of \$5,400 will be paid out of the ESEA Title II Grant & ARP ESSER-Accelerated Learning Coaching Grant. Sandyston-Walpack will be the LEA. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
- Motion made by Mrs. Kraft, second by Mrs. Williver, to approve professional development training on Math Workshop at a total cost of \$8,000 to be split with Fredon, Hampton, Sandyston, and Stillwater. Stillwater's portion of \$2,000 will be paid out of ESEA Title II. Sandyston-Walpack will be the LEA. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
- Motion made by Mrs. Kraft, second by Mrs. Frey, to retroactively approve professional development keynote speaker David Edward Garcia at a total cost of \$5,900 to be split with KRHS, Fredon, Hampton, Sandyston, and Stillwater. Stillwater's portion of \$1,180 will be paid out of the ARP ESSER-Accelerated Learning Coaching Grant. Fredon will be the LEA. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

1. Mrs. Metzgar reported on the following Building & Grounds items:
 - Exhaust Fan Project
 - 1941 Drainage Project
 - PA System Update
 - Black Seal License

2. Integrated Pest Management Plan- Mrs. Metzgar
 The plan calls for the use of non-toxic means of addressing pest infestations. Mr. Maggio has been trained in these procedures and is the coordinator of the program. The extermination service that we use must conform to these practices. If there is a situation that requires the use of toxic chemicals, the public must be informed and signs displayed 72 hours before and after the application. Annually we send a letter to parents about the program with a copy of the policy. A copy of the policy is also available on our website.

3. Motion made by Mrs. Frey, second by Mrs. Williver, to approve revised building and use calendar for September 2023. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

TRANSPORTATION

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

Location	Grade
Kittatinny Regional High School	Aquatic Safety Program-Grade 4
Paulinskill Watershed Project, Stillwater, NJ Stokes State Forest-Sunrise Mountain Swartswood State Park	Grade 5
Turtleback Zoo	Grade 1
Franklin Mineral Museum	Grade 3
Crayola Factory, Easton, PA	Grade 2
Stillwater Historical Society (Walking Trip)	Grade 2

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

2. Motion made by Mrs. Valeich, second by Mr. DeGroat, to approve transportation with Stocker Bus for the following field trip for the 2023-2024 school year:

Date	Location	Grade	Cost
September 25-29, 2023	Kittatinny Regional High School	Aquatic Safety Program-Grade 4	\$195.22/trip=\$976.10 total

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

3. Motion made by Mrs. Valeich, second by Mrs. Kraft, to approve the following new bus stop for the 2023-2024 school year:

ST6- 919 Hampton Road

A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

BUDGET & FINANCE

1. Mrs. Metzgar provided an update on the following:
 - June 30, 2023 Audit
 - ROD Grant application
 - Stabilization Aid application
 - Local Food for Schools Grant
2. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Frey, to authorize the submission of the ESEA Title IV Grant amendment to the application for FY2024. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
3. Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Valeich, to donate the old election ballot boxes to the Stillwater Historical Society. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Mrs. Voris reported on the following items:

- Stillwater PTA-Mums Fundraiser ends 9/25.
- Family Fun Night- Ninja Obstacle course- 9/22.
- Fall Book Fair 9/25-9/29.
- Fall Vendor Fair- 9/30.
- Stillwater Rec- Soccer Signups are open, link is on the website
- Senior Citizen Ice Cream Social- 9/28
- Sussex County Seniors- Bird Watching at White Lake on 9/14.
- Dinner & Guest Speaker to honor and remember our prisoners of war and missing in action- 9/15.

-Mrs. Williver also added the KRHS Booster Club is holding the Psychic at Kittatinny on October 17th.

LEGISLATIVE

None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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*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 8:36 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 & Student Privacy 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.

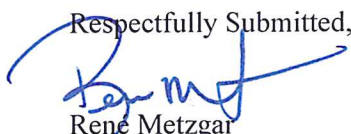
Mrs. Voris left the meeting at 8:36 pm.

Motion made by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Valeich at 8:49 p.m. to come out of executive session and return to public session. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. DeGroat second by Mrs. Frey to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rene Metzgar

Business Administrator/Board Secretary