

September 9, 2024

The Stillwater Township Board of Education met on September 9, 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 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 3, 2024. 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. Franek, Mrs. Frey, Mr. DeGroat, Mrs. Voris, Mrs. Kraft and Mrs. Thibault.

Absent: Mrs. Valeich.

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**

**That the following Board Business resolutions 1-2 be approved:**

1. Motion to approve the Regular Board of Education Meeting minutes from August 19, 2024. (attachment)
2. Motion to approve the July 31, 2024 Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports which balanced in the amount of \$3,487,674.75 pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-16.10(c)3, we certify that as of July 31, 2024 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. (attachment)

**Moved By:** Mr. DeGroat      **Seconded By:** Mr. Franek

**Voice Vote:** Mrs. Galante-Aye; Mrs. Williver-Aye; Mr. DeGroat-Aye; Mr. Franek-Aye; Mrs. Frey- Abstain to #1, Aye to #2; Mrs. Kraft-Aye; Mrs. Thibault- Abstain to #1, Aye to #2; Mrs. Valeich-Absent; and Mrs. Voris-Aye. Motions carried.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### PERSONNEL

**That the following Personnel resolutions 1-6 be approved as recommended by Superintendent:**

1. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve attached professional days. (attachment)
2. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to retroactively approve unpaid leave of absence for employee #933 from September 3, 2024 to on or about September 30, 2024.
3. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to retroactively approve Tracey Coombs (ST25-IDEA B Grant) and Killian Leahy as a bus aides from September 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 for a stipend in the amount of \$3,240 each, to be paid as worked.
4. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following staff member to sub as a bus aide from September 10, 2024 to June 30, 2025 to be paid a daily rate of \$18.00 (\$9.00/run), not to exceed a total of \$3,240 to be paid as per timesheets submitted:

-Emily Perez

5. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following substitute paraprofessionals/main office secretaries for the 2024-2025 school year:

-Jessica Martinez (pending criminal history & background check)

6. Motion to accept with regret, the resignation of Robert Schalk, Part-Time Custodian, effective September 3, 2024.

**Moved By:** Mr. DeGroat    **Seconded By:** Mrs. Frey

**Roll Call Vote:** Mrs. Galante-Aye; Mrs. Williver-Aye; Mr. DeGroat-Aye; Mr. Franek-Aye; Mrs. Frey-Aye; Mrs. Kraft-Aye; Mrs. Thibault- Aye; Mrs. Valeich-Absent; and Mrs. Voris-Aye.  
Motions carried.

**That the following Personnel resolutions 7-9 be approved as recommended by Superintendent:**

7. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following before & after school programs for the 2024-2025 school year. The stipend for each teacher is \$410:

Club Name	Staff Member #1	Staff member #2	Grade Level	Grant/Account
Garden Club	Corrine Robinson	Erica Then	Multi	Title IV 20-280-100-100
Let's Be Social (Fall)	Maureen Riva	Meghan Earley	K-2	Title IV 20-280-100-100
Let's Be More Social (Spring)	Maureen Riva	Meghan Earley	K-2	Title IV 20-280-100-100
Lego Club	Beth Johnson	Ramona Knapp	Grade 3	Title IV 20-280-100-100
Fall Morning Fitness Club	Meghan Earley	Janessa Green	3-6	Title IV 20-280-100-100
Spring Morning Fitness Club	Meghan Earley	Janessa Green	K-2	Title IV 20-280-100-100

8. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following after school program for the 2024-2025 school year. The stipend for each teacher is \$597.

Club Name	Staff Member #1	Staff Member #2	Grade Level	Grant/Account
TREPS	Corrine Robinson	Janet Mahedy	Grade 6	Title IV 20-280-100-100

9. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following evening family programs for the 2024-2025 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 20-231-100-101
Family Math	Ramona Knapp	Beth Johnson	Grade 3	Title I 20-231-100-101

Moved By: Mr. DeGroat      Seconded By: Mrs. Thibault

**Roll Call Vote:** Mrs. Galante-Aye; Mrs. Williver-Aye; Mr. DeGroat-Aye; Mr. Franek-Aye; Mrs. Frey-Aye; Mrs. Kraft-Aye; Mrs. Thibault- Aye; Mrs. Valeich-Absent; and Mrs. Voris-Aye.  
Motions carried.

**POLICY**

None.

## EDUCATION & CURRICULUM

None.

## BUILDING & GROUNDS

1. Building and Grounds Update- Mrs. Metzgar provided an update on the following items:
  - New Website
  - Know Box Install
  - 1966 Drain Pipe Install
  - Septic Update
  
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.

### **That the following Building & Grounds resolution be approved:**

3. Motion to approve Article 12 maintenance agreement annual addendum of the uniform state memorandum of agreement between education and law enforcement officials and to re-adopt the Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement between Education and Law Enforcement Officials and authorize the submission of same to the County Superintendent, County Prosecutor and Law Enforcement Officials. (Copy is available in the Superintendent's Office for review).

**Moved By:** Mrs. Williver      **Seconded By:** Mrs. Thibault

**Roll Call Vote:** Mrs. Galante-Aye; Mrs. Williver-Aye; Mr. DeGroat-Aye; Mr. Franek-Aye; Mrs. Frey-Aye; Mrs. Kraft-Aye; Mrs. Thibault- Aye; Mrs. Valeich-Absent; and Mrs. Voris-Aye.  
Motion carried.

**TRANSPORTATION**

**That the following Transportation resolutions 1-2 be approved:**

- Motion to approve the following field trips for the 2024-2025 school year:

<b>Location</b>	<b>Grade</b>
Turtleback Zoo	Grade 1
Crayola Factory, Easton, PA	Grade 2
Stillwater Historical Society (Walking Trip)	Grade 2
Kittatinny Regional High School	Aquatic Safety Program-Grade 4
Paulinskill Watershed Project, Stillwater, NJ Stokes State Forest-Sunrise Mountain Swartswood State Park	Grade 5
Sussex County Technical School (stop at Fredon School)	Grade 6-Summit Students
Fairview Lake YMCA	6
Camp Neveda	6

- Motion to approve transportation with Stocker Bus for the following field trip for the 2024-2025 school year:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Cost</b>
September 30, 2024- October 4, 2024	Kittatinny Regional High School	Aquatic Safety Program-Grade 4	\$206.56/trip=\$1,032.80 total

**Moved By:**  Mrs. Kraft       **Seconded By:**  Mr. DeGroat

**Vote:** A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

**BUDGET & FINANCE**

- Finance Update- Mrs. Metzgar provided an update on the 23-24 audit as well as the additional charter school enrollment.

**That the following Budget & Finance 2-3 resolutions be approved:**

- Motion to approve transfers from July 1, 2024 to July 31, 2024 as attached. (attachment)
- WHEREAS**, the School Funding Reform Act of 2008 (“SFRA”), *N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-43, et seq.*, was intended by the New Jersey Legislature (“Legislature”) “to develop an equitable and predictable way to distribute State aid that addresses deficiencies found in past formulas as identified by the Supreme Court,” *N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-44h*; and

**WHEREAS**, in enacting the SFRA, the Legislature declared that “[t]he development and implementation of an equitable and adequate school funding formula will not only ensure that the State’s students have access to a constitutional education as defined by the core curriculum content standards, but also may help to reduce property taxes and assist communities in planning to meet their education expenses” and that “[t]he development of a predictable, transparent school funding formula is essential for school districts to plan effectively and deliver the quality education that our citizens expect and our Constitution requires,” *N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-44q*; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 24, 2024, *nj.com* reported that during the period from 2007-08 (*i.e.*, the last year before New Jersey overhauled its school funding formula) and 2024-25 (*i.e.*, the first year the formula will be fully implemented), widespread disparities that have developed between school funding changes and enrollment changes among various school districts, including the Stillwater Township School District; and

**WHEREAS**, among Sussex County school districts, the following illustrative disparities have developed between school funding changes and enrollment changes:

<u>District</u>	<u>Funding Change %</u>	<u>Enrollment Change %</u>
Frankford Township	-60.3%	-26.6%
Hamburg Borough	-35.2%	-15.8%
Hampton Township	-51.0%	-23.8%
Hardyston Township	-42.4%	-21.5%
Hopatcong Township	-77.4%	-41.4%
Kittatinny Regional	-70.4%	-34.6%
Stillwater Township	-73.0%	-30.7%

**WHEREAS**, among Passaic County school districts, the following illustrative disparities have developed between school funding changes and enrollment changes:

<u>District</u>	<u>Funding Change %</u>	<u>Enrollment Change %</u>
Bloomingtondale Borough	-43.0%	- 2.4%
Lakeland Regional	-66.8%	-26.5%
Ringwood Borough	-47.7%	-24.7%
Wanaque Borough	-45.4%	- 9.0%
West Milford Township	-63.2%	-30.5%

**WHEREAS**, among Morris County school districts, the following illustrative disparities have developed between school funding changes and enrollment changes:

<u>District</u>	<u>Funding Change %</u>	<u>Enrollment Change %</u>
Jefferson Township	-65.3%	-31.7%
Randolph Township	-34.2%	-24.4%
Roxbury Township	-49.2%	-23.2%
Washington Township	-53.7%	-31.1%

**WHEREAS**, the direct and immediate effect of these disparities between school funding changes and enrollment changes has been to defeat the legislative intent behind the SFRA by exacerbating the local property tax burden in these communities and by depriving these school districts of an equitable, predictable, and transparent school funding formula that will enable them to plan effectively and deliver the quality education that our students deserve; and

**WHEREAS**, the Superintendent of Schools recommends the adoption of this Resolution;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Stillwater Township School District (“Board”) hereby endorses legislative reform of the school funding formula enacted under the SFRA that will remediate the disparities have developed between school funding changes and enrollment changes during its implementation and commends that such reform include, but not be limited to, the avoidance of catastrophic aid losses between school years and the limitation of state aid reductions for relatively small fluctuations in enrollment between school years; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board requests that the Board Secretary transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to Governor Philip Murphy; State Senate President Nicholas Scutari; Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin; State Senator Parker Space; Assembly Persons Michael Inganamort and Dawn Fantasia; and the Boards of Education of the aforementioned school districts.

**Moved By:**     Mrs. Thibault     **Seconded By:**     Mr. DeGroat    

**Roll call Vote:** Mrs. Galante-Aye; Mrs. Williver-Aye; Mr. DeGroat-Aye; Mr. Franek-Aye; Mrs. Frey-Aye; Mrs. Kraft-Aye; Mrs. Thibault- Aye; Mrs. Valeich-Absent; and Mrs. Voris-Aye.  
Motions carried.

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Mrs. Voris reported on the following items:

- Stillwater Rec:
  - Senior Citizens Safety series presented by the Sheriff's office monthly from 1-2:00:
  - Halloween Decorating Contest. Deadline is Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>
  - Stillwater garage sale weekend Oct 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>
- Historical Society fall festival -October 12<sup>th</sup>
- Sussex County kids' day this Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> at the Sussex County fairgrounds
- PTA Events:
  - PTA meeting -September 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm
  - Fall mum flower fundraiser until September 20<sup>th</sup>
  - September family fun night September 27<sup>th</sup> 6-8,
  - Fall craft and vendor fair will be Saturday Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> from 10:30-3:00

## LEGISLATIVE

None.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

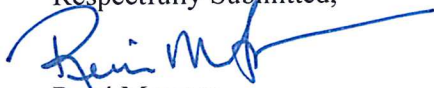
## EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

## ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. DeGroat and second by Mrs. Frey, to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



René Metzgar  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary