

October 15, 2024

The Stillwater Township Board of Education met on October 15, 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. DeGroat, Mr. Franek, Mrs. Valeich, Mrs. Kraft, Mrs. Frey, and Mrs. Thibault.

Absent: Mrs. Voris.

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. Dr. Kochis provided the Board of Education Members with HIB Training. Presentation is attached to the minutes.

That the following Board Business resolutions be approved:

2. Motion to approve the Regular Board of Education meeting minutes & Executive Session minutes September 23, 2024. (attachment)
3. Motion to approve the following 2024-2025 District Goals:

DISTRICT GOAL 1: To successfully implement a new math program across all grade levels that promotes critical thinking, problem-solving, and aligns with state standards, ensuring the rigor of content is maintained and assessed consistently throughout the academic year. (Strategic Plan Goal #1: Teaching and Learning)

DISTRICT GOAL 2: Increase overall student attendance across the district within the academic year through targeted interventions, community engagement, and support systems that address barriers to regular attendance. (Strategic Plan Goal #4: The Whole Child).

DISTRICT GOAL 3: To enhance our culture of acceptance and awareness with staff, students, and the community through mental health and social emotional learning opportunities (Strategic Plan Goal #2: Global Citizenship and Strategic Plan Goal #4: The Whole Child)

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

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

4. 2024-2025 Board Goals Discussion:

2023-2024 Board Goals

1. Coordinate with regional partners through utilization of our board liaisons to seek alternate sources of revenue including grants.
2. Continue to maintain open communication with our community and to support the district's communication efforts in relation to school funding changes.
3. Continue to support the administration, staff, and students financially to the best of our ability.

2024-2025 Proposed Goals

1. Provide support to the Administration in the pursuit and achievement of the District Goals.
2. The Board commits to pursuing training opportunities both individually and as a full Board including completion of the board self-evaluation. Action plan to include training schedule and topics presented at board meetings.
3. Provide support for the next strategic plan process. Action plan to include schedule of board members at each input session.
4. Understand and support of NJQSAC governance portion components.

The board reviewed the prior year goals and the proposed goals and felt it was important to keep the communication related to school funding as a goal for the current year. They decided to remove the goal about QSAC and replace it with the school funding goal from last year. The goals will be on for approval at the next board meeting and then action plans will developed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Kochis reported on the following items:

- Bus Evacuation Drills
- 4th Grade Aquatic Safety- Thanked KRHS for continuing this program
- Week of Respect
- 1st Den Rally of the school year
- Fire Prevention Week- Thank you to the Stillwater Fire Department!
- QSAC Discussion

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

President Galante said she cannot believe we are already over a month into school! Thanked our teaching staff.

President Galante read the following statement prior to public participation: The Board is not permitted to discuss personnel and individuals in public; and discriminatory comments not only create legal concerns for the District, but may create personal liability for the public participant. We respectfully request that you refrain from these types of comments during public participation with these comments. Please contact the Superintendent's office if you have any questions.

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. ***

-JP Domiciano- Fairview Lake Road- Does HIB follow the student once they graduate?

Dr. Kochis responded that it does not follow the student to the next district.

ACTION ITEMS:

PERSONNEL

That the following Personnel resolutions 1-5 be approved as recommended by Superintendent:

1. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve attached professional days. (attachment)
2. Motion to rescind the following motion that was approved on September 26, 2024: *Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Kraft, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve Rebecca Pavlick as a bus aide on ST6 from September 30, 2024 to June 30, 2025 for an annual stipend of \$3,240, to be prorated to start date, to be paid as worked. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved.*

- Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following staff member to sub as a bus aide from October 16, 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:

- Rebecca Pavlick

- Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following substitute paraprofessional/main office secretary for the 2024-2025 school year:

-Anne Moore- Pending criminal history & background check

- Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve Colleen Hurley as the before school/after school nurse if needed for specific medical needs students involved in co-curricular activities, for the 2024-2025 school year to be paid an hourly rate of \$34/hour.

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-Aye; and Mrs. Voris-Absent. Motions carried.

That the following Personnel resolutions 6-12 be approved as recommended by Superintendent:

- Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the contract for the following part-time Para-Professional staff member for employment for the 2024-2025 school year from October 16, 2024-June 30, 2025 to be paid at an hourly rate, pending criminal history & background check:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Base Hourly Rate</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Total Hourly Rate</u>	<u>Contract Hours</u>
Colleen LaRocco	Special Education	\$15.13	N/A	\$15.13	27.5 hours/week

7. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to change funding sources for following clubs:

Club Name	Staff Member(s)	Amount	Original BOE Approved Date	Previously Approved Grant/Account Number	New Grant/Account Number
Garden Club (Session 1)	Corrine Robinson Erica Then	\$410/person	9/9/2024	Title IV 20-280-100-100	Climate Grant 20-471-100-100
TREPS\$	Corrine Robinson Janet Mahedy	\$597/person	9/9/2024	Title IV 20-280-100-100	Title I 20-231-100-101

8. 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 (Session 2)	Corrine Robinson	Erica Then	Multi	Climate Grant 20-471-100-100
E-Gaming Club- (Session 2)	Danielle Hoon	Spencer Both	5-6	Title IV 20-280-100-100
SEEK	Steve Tiberi	N/A	Grade 6	Title IV 20-280-100-100
Grade 5 Math Intervention Club	Lorraine Bickhardt	Kaitlin Phlegar	Grade 5	Title I 20-231-100-101

9. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following teachers for the Before School Learning Center for a total of 50 sessions at a rate of \$37.50/session for the 2024-2025 school year. Paid through Title I, Account# 20-231-100-101.

Kerri LoCicero
Substitute: Erica Then

10. Motion, 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 \$75.00/session for the 2024-2025 school year. Paid through Title I, Account# 20-231-100-101.

Alexandra Caccavale
Jocelyn Barmore
Substitutes: Erica Then & Kerri LoCicero

11. Motion to approve Membership dues to Sussex County Chamber of Commerce for William Kochis for the 2024-2025 school year at a total cost of \$285.00.

12. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve Meghan Earley and Steve Tiberi to receive a stipend of \$75.00 per person for attending the 6th Grade Activity night at Kittatinny Regional High School on March 28, 2025. Janessa Green to sub if needed.

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-Aye; and Mrs. Voris-Absent. Motions carried.

POLICY

None.

EDUCATION & CURRICULUM

1. Presentation of Spring 2023-2024 NJSLA Scores- Dr. Kochis presented the NJSLA Results including:
 - ELA, Math, & Science Scores
 - Comparison of scores from district to state

That the following Education & Curriculum resolutions be approved:

2. Motion to approve the School Nursing Services Plan for Stillwater Township School for the 2024-2025 school year. (attachment)
3. Be It Hereby Resolved, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board affirms the Superintendent's decision regarding 2024-2025 Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying Case #1-2425.
4. Be It Hereby Resolved, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board affirms the Superintendent's decision regarding 2024-2025 Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying Case #2-2425.
5. Motion to approve the Sussex County Prosecutor's Office to give a presentation on Bullying/Cyberbullying to Grades 5 and 6, at no cost to the district.
6. Motion upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the revised shared service contract agreement for the 2024-2025 school year with Kittatinny Regional High School, for a Spanish Teacher, Stella Goyo-Shields, for an annual cost of \$53,411.66. KRHS will be LEA.

7. Motion to approve the Chronic Absenteeism Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for Stillwater Township School as the district exceeded the 10% chronic student absenteeism threshold as determined by the New Jersey Department of Education. (attachment)

Moved By: Mrs. Kraft **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-Aye; and Mrs. Voris-Absent. Motions carried.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

That the following Building & Grounds resolutions be approved:

1. Motion to approve building and use calendar for November 2024. (attachment)

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

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

TRANSPORTATION

1. Emergency Bus Evacuation Drill Report- Presented by Dr. Kochis:

School Name: Stillwater Elementary School
Date: September 26 and 27, 2024
Time 8:30 am - 3:00 pm
Location: Front Parking Lot
Participants: All Prek-6 Students
Supervisor of Drill: Dr. William Kochis, Meghan Earley, Janessa Green

School Name: Stillwater Elementary School
Date: October 7, 2024
Time 8:25 am - 8:35 am
Location: Front Parking Lot
Participants: ST5, ST6, ST7, ST8, ST9, ST25
Supervisor of Drill: Dr. William Kochis

That the following Transportation resolutions be approved:

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

Location	Grade
Newton Animal Hospital, Hampton, NJ	PreK
Tranquility Farms - Green, NJ	PreK
KRHS Move Up Day - Kittatinny HS	6
All District Honors Band/Chorus - Kittatinny HS	5 & 6
KRHS Jr. High Play Preview - Kittatinny HS	5 & 6
Pinwheel Trip - KRHS	Select 5 & 6
Stillwater Community Center	Grade 6

3. Motion to approve the field trip to the Stillwater Historical Society on October 28, 2024 for second grade. No transportation required-walking trip.
4. Motion to approve transportation with Stocker Bus for the following field trip for the 2024-2025 school year:

Date	Location	Grade	Cost
October 17, 2024 Rain Date: October 24, 2024	Paulinskill Watershed Project Stokes State Forest- Sunrise Mountain Kittle Field Area (Sunrise Mountain) Swartswood State Park	5 th	\$565.00

Moved By: Mrs. Valeich **Seconded By:** Mrs. Kraft

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

BUDGET & FINANCE

That the following Budget & Finance resolutions be approved:

1. Motion to approve the following checks from September 24, 2024-October 15, 2024 as attached: (attachment)

Account	Check Numbers	Amount
Funds 10, 11, 12, 20	29756-29800, N0930, N1001, N1007, N1008, N1015	\$622,703.05
Capital Reserve	N/A	\$0
Student Activities	6687	\$36
Cafeteria	2726-2727	\$1,206.00
Grand Total		\$623,945.05

2. Motion to approve the attached list of purchase orders over \$1,000 for the 2024-2025 school year. (attachment)
3. Motion to approve monthly travel as attached. (attachment)
4. Motion to approve the Corrective Action Plan for the NJ Department of Agriculture, Division of Food & Nutrition for Excess Cash at year end for the 2022-2023 school year. (attachment)
5. Motion to authorize the submission of the ESEA Title I & Title IV amendments to the application for FY2025.
6. Motion to accept the School Health Insurance Fund Staff Wellness Grant in the amount of \$11,000 for the 2024-2025 school year.

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

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

LEGISLATION

None.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Board member required training- Due December 31, 2024
2. NJSBA Convention- October 21-24, 2024

NEW BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by Mr. Franek, second by Mr. DeGroat at 7:51 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 SEA Contract 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 left the meeting at 7:51 pm

Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Valeich at 8:03 p.m. to come out of executive session and return to public session. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

PERSONNEL-AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 13. Motion to approve the 4-year collective bargaining agreement with the Stillwater Education Association retroactive to July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2028.

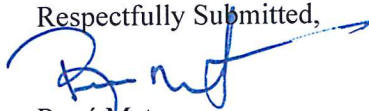
Moved By: Mr. DeGroat **Seconded By:** Mrs. Frey

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

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Frey 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