

November 4, 2024

The Stillwater Township Board of Education met on November 4, 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. Valeich, Mrs. Frey, Mr. DeGroat, Mrs. Voris, Mrs. Kraft and Mrs. Thibault.

Absent: Mr. Franek and Mrs. Williver.

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 1-6 be approved:

1. Motion to approve the Regular Board of Education Meeting minutes from October 15, 2024.
2. Motion to approve the Executive Session Board of Education Meeting minutes from October 15, 2024.
3. Motion to approve the revised (after audit) 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)
4. Motion to approve the revised (after audit) August 31, 2024 Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports which balanced in the amount of \$3,651,537.20 pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-16.10(c)3, we certify that as of August 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)
5. Motion to approve the September 30, 2024 Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports which balanced in the amount of \$3,659,032.12 pursuant to N.J.A.C.

6A:23-16.10(c)3, we certify that as of September 30, 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)

6. Motion to approve the submission of the Statement of Assurance and QSAC DPR's to the county office and Department of Education. (attachment)

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

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Galante-Aye; Mrs. Williver-Absent; Mr. DeGroat-Aye; Mr. Franek-Absent; Mrs. Frey- Aye; Mrs. Kraft-Aye; Mrs. Thibault- Aye; Mrs. Valeich-Aye; and Mrs. Voris-Abstain to #1 & #2, Aye to motions 3-6. Motions carried.

7. New Jersey School Boards Convention Update- Mr. DeGroat, Mrs. Kraft, Mrs. Metzgar, and Dr. Kochis provided an update on the conference. Many great sessions were attended, great to network with other schools and great to see the vendors and the new items that are available. We were also able to accept the Sustainable NJ for Schools award!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERSONNEL

That the following Personnel resolutions 1-2 be approved as recommended by Superintendent:

1. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to retroactively approve the following substitute teacher/paraprofessional/main office secretaries for the 2024-2025 school year beginning August 28, 2024. These staff members were previously approved as paraprofessional/main office secretary subs only.

Jake Kramer
Anne Moore

2. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to retroactively approve the following substitute teacher/paraprofessional/main office secretary for the 2024-2025 school year, beginning August 28, 2024.

Emmalee Hayes

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

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

POLICY

None.

EDUCATION & CURRICULUM

That the following Education & Curriculum resolutions 1-2 be approved:

1. Motion to authorize the Business Administrator to submit the FY25 projected
Preschool Enrollment as follows:
In District
3 Year Olds- 24
4 Year Olds-33
IEP In General Ed Classrooms: 3
Total Students: 60
Total Classrooms: 4

2. BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Stillwater Township Board of Education approves the submission of the 2025-2026 PEA (Preschool Education Aid) Annual Operational Plan to the NJ Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood Education (Grant application and execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Education for four full-day Pre-K classrooms).
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the school administrators are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application & operational plan to the New Jersey Department of Education on behalf of the Stillwater Township Board of Education.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Superintendent and Business Administrator are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Stillwater Township Board of Education and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

3. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following new books for grade 4:
-The Chicken Squad: The First Misadventure, by Doreen Cronin
-The Case of the Weird Blue Chicken, by Doreen Cronin

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

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

BUILDING & GROUNDS

1. Building and Grounds Update- Mrs. Metzgar informed the board that we are currently working to update our Long Range Facilities Plan (LRFP). This is required to be updated every 5 years.

That the following Building & Grounds resolution be approved:

2. *Motion to approve submission of Comprehensive Maintenance Plan & M-1 Annual Maintenance Budget Worksheet:*

Whereas, the Department of Education requires New Jersey School Districts to submit three-year maintenance plans documenting “required” maintenance activities for each of its public school facilities, and

Whereas, the required maintenance activities as listed in the attached document for the various school facilities of the Stillwater Township Board of Education are consistent with these requirements, and

Whereas, all past and planned activities are reasonable to keep school facilities open and safe for use or in their original condition and to keep their system warranties valid,

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Stillwater Township Board of Education hereby authorizes the School Business Administrator to submit the attached Comprehensive Maintenance Plan & M-1 Annual Maintenance Budget Worksheet for the Stillwater Township Board of Education in compliance with Department of Education requirements. (attachment)

Moved By: Mrs. Frey Seconded By: Mrs. Kraft

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

TRANSPORTATION

None.

BUDGET & FINANCE

That the following Budget & Finance resolutions 1-6 be approved:

1. Motion to approve transfers from September 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024 as attached.
2. Motion to accept the donation from Dean Voris for 100 trees for the preschool students. Value TBD.
3. Motion to accept the donation from The Civil Air Patrol for “30 Days Lost in Space”-5 kits, valued at a total of \$500.
4. Motion to accept the donation by the Franek Family of a giant bag of used legos. Value TBD.
5. Motion to accept the NJSIG safety grant award in the amount of \$2,000 for the 2024-2025 school year.
6. Motion to accept the additional Local Food for Schools (LFS) grant funds in the amount of \$669.79.

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

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Galante-Aye; Mrs. Williver-Absent; Mr. DeGroat-Aye; Mr. Franek-Absent; Mrs. Frey- Aye; Mrs. Kraft-Aye; Mrs. Thibault- Aye; Mrs. Valeich-Aye; and Mrs. Voris-Abstain on #2, Aye to the remaining. Motions carried.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Mrs. Voris reported on the following items:

- Stillwater Rec:
 - Senior Citizens Safety series presented by the Sheriff's Office-Safe Firearm Storage on November 14, 2024
 - Vendor/Craft Fair at the Community Center on November 23, 2024.
 - Veteran’s Breakfast-November 9th at the Community Center.
- Kittatinny Players- Hosting a night with the psychic medium, Catherin McCall- November 13, 2024 at Kittatinny HS.

LEGISLATIVE

Mrs. Kraft reported on the following items:

The Senate held a voting session on Monday, Oct. 28, and gave final legislative approval to advance the following bills.

Freedom to Read (A-3446/S-2421)-also known as the “Freedom to Read Act,” establishes various requirements for material in public school libraries and public libraries. It also aims to protect school library staff from harassment. Under the bill, all boards of education will need to adopt policies on the curation of school library material and requests for the removal of any such material from the school library. These policies will be subject to various minimum requirements, but the board of education will maintain control over such policies.

Latino and Hispanic American History Instruction (S-2335/S-3096)- would require the State Board of Education to adopt New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Social Studies on Latino and Hispanic American history at its next scheduled update of those content area standards. A board of education must include this instruction – which is to be historically accurate, culturally relevant, community-based, contemporary and developmentally appropriate – in an appropriate place in the curriculum of students in grades K-12. The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the Commission on Latino and Hispanic Heritage, would be required to provide school districts with sample learning activities and resources to support the implementation of these standards.

Common Applications and Web Portals for Educators (S-2498/S-2505)- would require the NJDOE to establish – or contract with a private vendor to establish – a web portal for educators, including substitute teachers, to submit common applications for employment at a New Jersey public school. The portal would be designed to maintain high standards for data privacy and security while increasing information sharing about employment opportunities. The bill would not prevent a school district or public school employer from using its own application process or web portal, or from requiring additional materials from applicants who apply using the NJDOE’s common application and web portal.

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. ***

Kaitlyn Hammerle-952 Millbrook Road- Mrs. Hammerle asked about the corrective action plan for the food service funds that was discussed at last meeting.

Mrs. Metzgar reviewed how the funds were spent down through the installation of the new serving line and using more of the SCA funds. She also explained what the funds could or could not be used for.

Cody Castner- 929 Fairview Lake Road- Mr. Castner said there is a statewide oversight on safety on school bus drivers. He feels some drivers may not meet the requirements. He will send Dr. Kochis his findings to share amongst the board members to be able to create a corrective action plan.

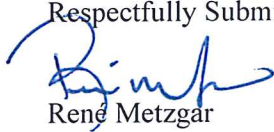
EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. DeGroat and second by Mrs. Frey, to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



René Metzgar
Business Administrator/Board Secretary