

January 6, 2025

The Stillwater Township Board of Education met on January 6, 2025, at 7:21 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 at 7:21 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 November 19, 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, Mr. DeGroat, Mr. Franek, Mrs. Kraft, Mrs. Williver, Mrs. Valeich, Mrs. Frey, and Mrs. Voris.

Absent: Mrs. Thibault.

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 be approved:

1. Motion to approve the Regular Board of Education Meeting minutes from December 16, 2024. (attachment)
2. Motion to approve the 2024-2025 Board Goals action plans. (attachment)
3. Motion to approve professional services contract with Kathleen Helewa Educational Services for Strategic Planning services in the amount \$3,000.

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

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERSONNEL

That the following Personnel resolutions 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 approve medical leave of absence for employee #586 from January 7, 2025 with the intent to return on or about February 18, 2025. This leave includes time covered by FMLA (6 weeks total).
3. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following substitute paraprofessionals/main office secretaries for the 2024-2025 school year:

Alexa Shotwell- pending criminal history & background check
Christina Locascio- pending criminal history & background check

Moved By: Mr. Franek **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- Absent; Mrs. Valeich-Aye; and Mrs. Voris-Aye. Motions carried.

POLICY

None.

EDUCATION & CURRICULUM

None.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

1. Mrs. Metzgar provided an update on the following Building and Grounds items:
 - Univent issues over winter break
 - LRFP approval

TRANSPORTATION

None.

BUDGET & FINANCE

1. Handout: Updated Budget Calendar (attachment)

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Mrs. Voris reported the following:
-PTA Skate Nights- January 9th & 10th

-Mr. DeGroat mentioned that it is Stillwater Township's bicentennial. They will be holding a large celebration and it would be great for the school to participate. Mr. Manser from the Township Committee was in attendance at the meeting and will report back to the Township to see what we can do to participate.

LEGISLATIVE

None

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. ***

President Galante read the following: The School District has received two inquiries about the bus driver employed by the District's bus company vendor. While we are not permitted to discuss personnel – including a contractor, please note that the bus driver is qualified, trained, and cleared a criminal background screening in order to be a school bus driver. The driver possesses a valid NJ school bus operator's license. District officials are also in regular contact with the bus company about continuing to adhere to our stringent policies and State regulations, and the company and its employees continue to perform in full compliance with all such policies and regulations.

Please note that N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.4, Responsibilities of the district board of education, requires that (a) Each district board of education shall adopt and implement written equity policies that: 1. Recognize and value the diversity of persons and groups within society and promote the acceptance of persons of diverse backgrounds regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender, religion, disability, or socioeconomic status; and 2. Promote equal opportunity and foster through the policies, programs, and practices of the district board of education through an environment that is free from all forms of prejudice, discrimination, and harassment based upon race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender, religion, disability, or socioeconomic status. This is the law and we all must abide by this.

No further public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by Mrs. Williver, second by Mrs. Frey, at 7:33 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 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.

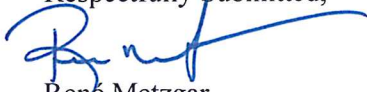
Mrs. Cramer was excused from the meeting at 7:33 pm.

Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mr. Franek at 7:51 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. Valeich to adjourn at 7:51 pm. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



René Metzgar

Business Administrator/Board Secretary