

January 27, 2025

The Stillwater Township Board of Education met on January 27, 2025 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 7, 2025. 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. Valeich, Mr. Franek, Mrs. Frey, and Mrs. Voris.

Absent: Mrs. Kraft & 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

1. January is Board Appreciation Month! Grades K-6 presented a display of various notes of appreciation. Third grade also created decorated pencil holders for the board. It was a great thank you to our board members for all they do. We are so grateful to have a wonderful board. Their hard work and dedication does not go unnoticed!
2. District Goals Update- Dr. Kochis provided an update to the Board of Education, highlighting the significant progress made on all three district goals.

That the following Board Business resolutions be approved:

3. Motion to approve the Reorganization meeting minutes, Committee of the Whole Board of Education meeting minutes & Executive Session Minutes from January 6, 2025. (attachment)
4. Motion to approve the December 31, 2024 Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports which balanced in the amount of \$3,679,881.26 pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-16.10(c)3, we certify that as of December 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 ad hoc committees for budget, negotiations, and regional shared service, as attached. (attachment)

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

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

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Kochis reported on the following items:

- Congratulated the Superintendent Roundtable award winner- Kaylee Moss
- Thanked the Sussex County Prosecutor’s office for coming in this month to speak with our 5th and 6th Graders regarding cyber bullying.
- Summary of county-wide reunification meeting with law enforcement and Sussex County School leaders.
- QSAC Update regarding curriculum. Thanked Mrs. Roberts.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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-Dave Manser-Township Liaison- Spoke about our 6th grade trip from last week to the community center. It is great that the township and school can work together on this project.

ACTION ITEMS:

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.

2. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve a preschool parent night to be held on March 4, 2025 and the following staff members to be paid through PEA funds at an hourly rate of \$34 for 3 hours:

Christine Pagano
 Jocelyn Barmore
 Katie Bradley
 Kayla Davies

3. Motion upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the advancement on guide for the following employees for the 2025-2026 school year, pending completion of credits and verification of official transcripts:

Christine Pagano BA to BA+15
 Maureen Riva MA+15 to MA+30

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

-Christine Locascio (previously approved as sub paraprofessional)

5. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to retroactively approve the following substitute teacher/paraprofessional/main office secretary effective January 22, 2025:

-Kim Schwarz (previously approved as sub paraprofessional)

6. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following substitute nurse for the 2024-2025 school year:

-Holly Sharlow, pending certification, criminal history & background check

7. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following graduate classes, as per SEA contract:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title of Course</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Reimbursement</u>
Maureen Riva	Ethics	1/20/25- 5/1/25	\$1,322	Centenary University	No, As per SEA Contract
Maureen Riva	Data Driven Decision Making	1/20/25- 5/1/25	\$1,322	Centenary University	No, As per SEA Contract
Maureen Riva	Communication & Public Relations	1/20/25- 5/1/25	\$1,322	Centenary University	No, As per SEA Contract

8. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve Sean Harris and Joseph McAuliffe to complete their ESU field experience with Meghan Earley and Steve Tiberi beginning February 14, 2025 for the Spring semester.

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

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

POLICY

That the following policy resolution be approved:

1. Motion to suspend policy#3542.1 from February 3-7, 2025 for the limited purpose of the PTA Valentine Candy Sale. (In the event of a snow day during this time, dates may be extended accordingly.)

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

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

EDUCATION & CURRICULUM

That the following Education & Curriculum resolutions be approved:

1. Motion to approve the 2025-2026 school calendar for the Stillwater Township Board of Education. (attachment)
2. Motion to approve Project Self Sufficiency to present 'Bedtime Routines' at the preschool parent night on March 4, 2025 at no cost to the district.
3. Motion to adopt all revised written curriculums for the 2024-2025 school year:
 - ELA
 - Math
 - Science
 - Social Studies
 - World Language
 - Health/Physical Education
 - Visual & Performing Arts

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

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

BUILDING & GROUNDS

That the following Building & Grounds resolution be approved:

- 1. Motion to approve building and use calendar for February 2025. (attachment)

Moved By: Mr. Franek **Seconded By:** Mrs. Williver

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

TRANSPORTATION

That the following Transportation resolutions be approved:

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

Date	Location	Grade	Cost
January 24, 2025 (Previously approved as Jan. 17 th)	Stillwater Community Center	6	\$300 (Funded by the Climate Grant)

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

Date	Location	Grade	Cost
March 4, 7, & 10, 2025	KRHS	Grade 5/6 Select Choir & Band	\$295.10/day=\$885.30
April 3, 2025	Crayola Experience, Easton, PA	Grade 2	\$483.99
May 16, 2025 Rain date: May 22, 2025	Tranquility Farms	Preschool	\$320/bus:2 busses=\$640.00
May 20, 2025	KRHS	Grade 6-Move Up Day	\$295.10

- Motion to approve the following new bus stop for the 2024-2025 school year:

ST7- 974 Old Foundry Road

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

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

BUDGET & FINANCE

That the following Budget & Finance resolutions be approved:

- Motion to approve the following checks from December 17, 2024-January 27, 2025 as attached: (attachment)

Account	Check Numbers	Amount
Funds 10, 11, 12, 20	29916-29970, N1220, N0102, N0115, N0127	\$714,903.32
Capital Reserve	N/A	\$0
Student Activities	N/A	\$0
Cafeteria	2733-2734	\$14,120.17
Grand Total		\$729,023.49

- Motion to approve the attached list of purchase orders over \$1,000 for the 2024-2025 school year. (attachment)
- Motion to approve monthly travel as attached. (attachment)
- Motion to approve transfers from December 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 as attached. (attachment)
- Motion to approve Kroll, LLC to conduct a full onsite accounting appraisal for fixed assets, including all insurable items for year ended June 30, 2025 for a total amount of \$6,800.
- Motion to approve submission of the continuation grant for Expanding Access to Climate Change Education and the New Jersey Student Learning Standards through Interdisciplinary Learning and Community Resilience Projects Grant application in EWEG and furthermore, continue to partner with the Township of Stillwater in support of executing this grant application.

7. Whereas, the Stillwater Township Board of Education desires to apply for and obtain a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for approximately \$100,000.00 to carry out a project to design and construct a safe, accessible, and environmentally-friendly walking path at Stillwater Elementary aimed at promoting physical activity, enhancing student well-being, and fostering a healthier school environment for both students, staff, and the community.

Be it therefore RESOLVED, that the Stillwater Township Board of Education does hereby authorize the application for such a grant; and,

recognizes and accepts that the Department may offer a lesser or greater amount and therefore, upon receipt of the grant agreement from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, does further authorize the execution of any such grant agreement; and also, upon receipt of the fully executed agreement from the Department, does further authorize the expenditure of funds pursuant to the terms of the agreement between Stillwater Township Board of Education and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

Be it further RESOLVED, that the persons whose names, titles, and signatures appear below are authorized to sign the application, and that they or their successors in said titles are authorized to sign the agreement, and any other documents necessary in connection therewith:

René Metzgar
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary

Krista Galante
Board President

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

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

LEGISLATION

None.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Mrs. Voris reported on the following items:
-PTA Valentines Shop-February 3-7, 2025
-PTA Snowball Dance- February 14th
-PTA Meeting- February 24th at 6:00 pm

- Kittatinny Players- "Newsies" performance- February 27-March 1.
- Registration is open for Kittatinny Softball PK-8th grade
- 6th Grade Recognition Fundraiser- February 17th at Chipotle

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Board member required training- Due December 31, 2025
2. Upcoming Sussex County School Boards Meetings:
 - February 3, 2025- Virtual- Topic: The Role of a School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
 - May 6, 2025- Hybrid Meeting, Newton Country Club, Topic: County Teacher of the Year and Celebrations.

NEW BUSINESS

-NJSBA has live mandated board training. Dates are on the website. Sign up through Mrs. Metzgar.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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Cody Castner- 929 Fairview Lake Road- Expressed concerns about the importance of mental health screenings for bus drivers, referencing two significant incidents: the delayed response to 9/11 and a May 17, 2018, bus accident involving a driver with 14 prior license violations. While acknowledging the current requirements of physical health screenings and driver tests, he emphasized the equal value of mental health evaluations.

Mr. Castner posed a theoretical question to the board, mentioning this is unrelated to any specific individual or contracted service, asking if the board recognizes potential concerns about the lack of mental health testing. He found the board's reluctance to address this question concerning. To illustrate urgency, he likened the situation to standing on a train track and urged the board to consider the advice they would give under such circumstances.

President Galante reminded Mr. Castner that his concerns have been addressed and we will not speak on personnel matters.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Frey to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



René Metzgar
Business Administrator/Board Secretary