

February 10, 2025

The Stillwater Township Board of Education met on February 10, 2025 at 7:00 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, 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, Mrs. Valeich, Mrs. Frey, Mr. DeGroat, Mrs. Voris, Mrs. Kraft and Mrs. Thibault.

Absent: Mr. Franek.

Also present were William Kochis, Superintendent, René Metzgar, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and members of the public.

BOARD BUSINESS

1. February 3, 2025 Sussex County School Boards Meeting Update- Mrs. Kraft reported on the virtual meeting. The meeting was well attended. The topic was the “Role of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.” A presentation was given by John Ferraro, Essex County Business Administrator covering Sussex County. He was assisted with Business Administrators, René Metzgar & Rich Rennie.

Reminder: Unsung Hero award ceremony next month.

That the following Board Business resolution be approved:

2. Motion to approve the Regular Board of Education Meeting minutes from January 27, 2025. (attachment)

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

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve extension of medical leave of absence for employee #586 from February 19, 2025 with the intent to return on or about March 4, 2025. This additional leave includes time covered by FMLA (2 additional weeks, 8 weeks total).
3. 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 January 9, 2025:

Eileen Lockburner

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

Sarah Pittenger
Colleen Hurley
Janessa Green

5. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following 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
Math Lego Club (Session 1)	Beth Johnson	Ramona Knapp	Grade 2	Title I 20-231-200-100
Math Lego Club (Session 2)	Beth Johnson	Ramona Knapp	Grade 2	Title I 20-231-200-100

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

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Galante-Aye; Mrs. Williver-Aye; 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

That the following Policy resolution be approved:

1. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the application for Non-Resident Staff Child Enrollment as per Policy #5118-Non Residents. (attachment)

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

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

EDUCATION & CURRICULUM

1. SSDS Report-Reporting Period 1 (September 1, 2024-December 31, 2024)- Dr. Kochis reported there were 2 incidents during this period, 1 alleged HIB and 1 confirmed. HIB training was provided this period to all school staff, BOE members, contracted service providers, volunteers, and substitute teachers. Various programs were held during this time period such HIB lessons in the classroom, Week of Respect activities, the School Pep Rally, and NJ4S HIB student presentation.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

1. Building and Grounds Update- Mrs. Metzgar reported on the following:
 - JCP&L Electrical Repairs
 - 1988 Wall Crack Update
2. Gypsy Moth Spray-Township of Stillwater-Dr. Kochis reported that between May 15, 2025 and June 15, 2025 the township will be spraying for gypsy moths. They will be able to pause the spraying from 7:45 AM to 8:45 AM for students waiting for the bus. The spray will not be applied at the school, so we do not need to be concerned about students being outside for recess. Dr. Kochis asked the township to share the verbiage on the spraying notification they will be sending to residents so we can also distribute the information through the school and post it on our school's social media.

That the following Building & Grounds resolution be approved:

3. Motion, as recommended by the Superintendent, to declare items as surplus and dispose/recycle them:
 - Microscope & associated materials (due to the age and condition)

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

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

TRANSPORTATION

None.

BUDGET & FINANCE

1. Budget Update- Mrs. Metzgar noted the budget calendar reflected a budget committee this evening, however, we did not hold one tonight. We are still working on compiling all the information. We are waiting on some more information for insurances, professional development, and some special education items. The full budget system is not open yet either from the state. Our next meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2025.

That the following Budget & Finance resolution be approved:

1. Motion to approve the following resolution, Waiver of Requirements in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program:

Whereas, N.J.A.C 6A:23A-5.3 provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district's participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2025-2026 school year, and

Whereas, the Stillwater Township Board of Education desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that it projects having fewer than 40 Medicaid eligible classified students,

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Stillwater Township Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent to submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in the County of Sussex an appropriate waiver of the requirements of N.J.A.C 6A:23A-5.3 for the 2025-2026 school year.

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

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

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Mrs. Voris reported on items:

- PTA Snowball Dance- February 14, 2025 from 6:00pm-8:00pm.
- PTA Meeting- February 24, 2025
- KRHS Players- Newsies! February 27, 2025-March 1, 2025.
- Registration is now open for KRHS Softball
- 6th Grade Recognition Committee Fundraiser at Chipotle on February 17, 2025 from 4-8:00pm.

LEGISLATIVE

Mrs. Kraft reported on the following items:

Governor Murphy signed the following bill into law on February 3, 2025:

- School Board Election Petitions- increases the number of signatures required for candidates to be eligible to be placed on primary, general, nonpartisan municipal and school election ballots. With respect to boards of education, the new law requires candidates to collect 25 signatures on their direct nominating petitions – an increase from 10. The law's effective date is retroactive to Jan. 1, 2025.

The Senate Education Committee approved the following bills relevant to boards of education:

- Epi-Pen Administration by Bus Drivers
- Instruction on Cursive Handwriting
- No-Fee Option for School Lunch Payments

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. ***

Cody Castner- 929 Fairview Lake Road- Asked if there was certain criteria that contractors need to work on the future 1988 gym project. It would be a great project for a local business.

Mrs. Metzgar responded that contractors do need certain certifications. At minimum contractors need a NJ State Business registration certificate, public works certificate, pay prevailing wage and be registered with DPMC. It would be great if we can get a local contractor, however, it will have to go through the bidding process.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by Mrs. Williver, second by Mr. DeGroat at 7:26pm 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.

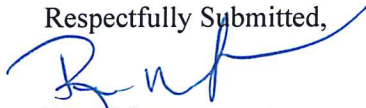
Mrs. Thibault was excused from the meeting at 7:34 pm.

Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Williver at 7:40 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 and second by Mrs. Williver, to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



René Metzgar

Business Administrator/Board Secretary