

March 19, 2025

The Stillwater Township Board of Education met on March 19, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Stillwater School All Purpose Room for a Special Board of Education Meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Krista Galante, President, at 6:31 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 February 26, 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, Mrs. Voris (arrived 6:35 pm), and Mrs. Thibault.

Absent: Mrs. Kraft.

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.

## **STRATEGIC PLANNING/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Strategic Planning-Meeting 1-Kathleen Helewa, Kathleen Helewa Educational Consultants

Dr. William Kochis presented the State of the District.

Kathleen Helewa led the first planning meeting. Community members, Board of Education members, staff, and administration broke out to smaller groups to begin our SWOT analysis. All participants reconvened and reviewed each group's findings.

Next Strategic Planning Meeting will be April 1, 2025 at 6:30 pm in the All Purpose Room.

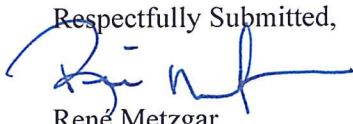
## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Ed Szabo- 978 County Route 521- Mr. Szabo expressed that he has been involved in education for many years. He has testified in Trenton to help advocate for the school districts. He is concerned that the State of NJ has a completely different administration than what is in Washington. With the federal government breaking up the Federal Department of Education, that will now be controlled by the states. If the state controls the funds, he is concerned about how much funding we will actually get. Mr. Szabo also read a years' worth of minutes from our meetings and noticed hardly any public comments. When he was involved in the taxpayer association for Stillwater, he would invite guest speakers to the meetings. Mr. DeGroat was even the first guest speaker for the association. Mr. Szabo also passed out copies of the National Education Newspaper, titled "Eagle Forum Report."

## ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Valeich to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m.  
A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "René Metzgar", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

René Metzgar  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary