

October 14, 2025

The Stillwater Township Board of Education met on October 14, 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. Thibault, Mrs. Frey, Mrs. Valeich, Mrs. Voris (arrived 7:02 pm), Mrs. Kraft and Mr. Franek.

Absent: None.

Also present were Dr. Danny Papa, 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 September 22, 2025. (attachment)
2. Motion to approve the revised (after audit) June 30, 2025 Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports which balanced in the amount of \$3,370,954.13 pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-16.10(c)3, we certify that as of June 30, 2025 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)
3. Motion to approve the revised (after audit) July 31, 2025 Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports which balanced in the amount of \$3,750,656.77 pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-16.10(c)3, we certify that as of July 31, 2025 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 August 31, 2025 Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports which balanced in the amount of \$3,662,490.39 pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-16.10(c)3, we certify that as of August 31, 2025 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 following 2025-2026 District Goals:

1. The Superintendent will actively lead the district's instructional efforts, through the implementation of a universal screener and the creation of specific pilot programs to enhance instructional practice in the years to come. (*Strategic Plan Goal #1: Academic Achievement/Curriculum*)
2. Successfully establish a student advisory council that will influence the creation of a portrait of a cougar cub. (*Strategic Plan Goal #1: Academic Achievement/Curriculum*)
3. In order to enhance social emotional learning opportunities for staff and students, a pilot team will be established to assess a character education program for the 26-27 SY. (*Strategic Plan Goal #3: Safe Facilities*)

6. Motion to approve the following 2025-2026 Board Goals:

1. Provide support to the new Administration in the pursuit and achievement of the District Goals.
2. The Board commits to pursuing training opportunities both individually and as a full Board, including completion of the board self-evaluation.
3. Provide support for the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan.
4. Continue to maintain open communication with our community and to support the district's communication efforts in relation to school funding changes.

Mrs. Voris arrived at 7:02 pm.

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

Voice Vote: Mrs. Galante-Aye; Mrs. Williver-Aye; Mr. DeGroat-Aye; Mr. Franek- Aye; Mrs. Frey-Aye; Mrs. Kraft-Abstain from #1, Aye to remaining; Mrs. Thibault-Aye; Mrs. Valeich-Aye; and Mrs. Voris-Abstain. Motion carried.

7. Establish Board Goals Committee/Action plan process:

Motion to form an ad-hoc committee to develop board goals action plans with the following members (4 max):

1. Cheryl Williver
2. Jen Kraft
3. Margaret Frey
4. Christine Voris

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

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Papa reported on the following items:

- October 2nd- Custodian Day-Thanked our custodial team for the outstanding job they do.
- Week of Respect update- Thanked the Core Team, Mrs. Smetana, Mrs. Green, Mrs. Earley and Mr. Tiberi for all the coordination this week. Also thanked our entire staff for going above and beyond for the students.
- Fire Prevention Week- Stillwater fire department visit on Friday
- Teacher and Professional of the Year nominations are now open
- Regional Study Update
- October is National Principal's Month-Thanked Mrs. Cramer for all she does.

CORRESPONDENCE

-Acknowledgment of the letter from the SEA to the board of education regarding reopening of the current contract.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Mrs. Galante thanked the staff involved in the Week of Respect. She really appreciates it as a board member as well as a parent. She also wished Mrs. Cramer a Happy Principal's month!

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. ***

-Richard Kelsky-Cedar Ridge Road, Stillwater- Knows an individual in Sussex County who is now retired but assists in restructuring of buildings who would be willing to take a look at the 1988 section of the building. He offered to set up a meeting.
Mrs. Metzgar asked for the contact information so she can reach out.

ACTION ITEMS:

PERSONNEL

That the following Personnel resolutions 1-10 be approved as recommended by the 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 the following substitute teachers/paraprofessionals/main office secretaries for the 2025-2026 school year:

-Rachel Beyer (pending criminal history & background check)
-Klaudia Duplaga (pending criminal history & background check)

3. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following teacher as a chaperone for the Fairview Lake YMCA Camp trip October 16 & 17, 2025 to be paid \$175 for the 1 extended day:

Gabriella Ayers (Replaces Mary DiRienzo)

4. Motion to retroactively approve Brandy Wright from Liberty University to complete 30 practicum hours in Mrs. Hoon's class for the 2025 Fall Semester (previously approved as Mrs. Bickhardt's class).

5. Motion to approve Jessica Thompson from Seton Hall University to complete her 50 hours of observation with our Occupational Therapist from J&B Therapy, Jessica Thomson.

6. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to retroactively approve the following staff member to sub as a bus aide from September 29, 2025 to June 30, 2026 to be paid a daily rate of \$18.00, not to exceed a total of \$3,240 to be paid as per timesheets submitted:

-Isabel Ponte

7. Motion to approve the New Superintendent's Academy mentoring program for Danny Papa for a total cost of \$4,250 to be paid by the district, as per contract. Breakdown is listed below:

\$1,750 Academy Fees
\$2,500 Mentoring fee paid upon completion of program

8. Motion to approve Membership dues to Sussex County Chamber of Commerce for Danny Papa for the 2025-2026 school year at a total cost of \$291.00.
9. Motion to approve leave of absence for employee #971 from October 27, 2025 until December 1, 2025. This leave is covered under FMLA. (5 Weeks).
10. Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Daniel O'Leary, effective October 24, 2025.

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

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

POLICY

That the following Policy resolution be approved:

1. Motion to approve the final reading of the following policy:
-Policy#5111.1 Preschool Admissions Policy (attachment)

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

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

EDUCATION & CURRICULUM

1. Presentation of Spring 2024-2025 NJSLA Scores- Dr. Papa presented the NJSLA Results including:
-ELA, Math, & Science Scores
-Comparison of scores from district to state

That the following Education & Curriculum resolutions be approved:

1. Motion to approve the School Nursing Services Plan for Stillwater Township School for the 2025-2026 school year. (attachment)
2. Motion to award the following professional services contracts beginning November 1, 2025 and concluding June 30, 2026; and, in accordance with 18A:18A-2 governing Professional Services, these services are authorized by law, regulated by law requires knowledge of an advanced type in a field of learning acquired by a prolonged formal course of specialized instruction and study:

Service	Vendor	Cost
Behavioral/Educational Consultant	Brett DiNovi & Associates, LLC	Behaviorist: \$140/hour, 5 hours per week Clinical Associates: \$60/hr, 2.5 hours per week Functional Behavior Assessments: 15 hours @ \$140/hour. Total cost of contract not to exceed \$25,000

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

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

BUILDING & GROUNDS

1. Building & Grounds Update- Mrs. Metzgar spoke about the 1988 building section and the steps to move forward.

That the following Building & Grounds resolutions be approved:

2. Motion to form an ad-hoc committee for the 1988 wing & gymnasium project with the following members (4 max):
 1. Mr. Franek
 2. Mrs. Thibault
 3. Mr. DeGroat
 4. Mrs. Galante/Mrs. Williver (alternate)
3. Motion to approve René Metzgar to send a Request for Proposal for Architecture services as it relates to the 1988 wing and gymnasium project.
4. Motion to retroactively approve revised building and use calendar for October 2025. (attachment)
5. Motion to approve building and use calendar for November 2025. (attachment)
6. Motion to approve garbage disposal 12 month contract with Sanico in the amount of \$782.00 per month beginning November 1, 2025. With an additional option to renew for an additional 2 years with an annual increase capped at 3%.

Other quotes: Blue Diamond	No Response
Waste Management	\$1,143.34/month
7. Motion to approve the Emergency Evacuation Agreement between the Stillwater Township Board of Education and the emergency evacuation site as per the agreement, as recommended by the New Jersey State Police and the Superintendent.
8. 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: 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-Aye; Mrs. Valeich-Aye; and Mrs. Voris-Aye. Motion carried.

TRANSPORTATION

That the following Transportation resolutions be approved:

1. Motion to approve the following field trips for the 2025-2026 school year:

Location	Grade
Stillwater Historical Society-Walking Trip	Grade 2
NJ School of Conservation	Grades 5 & 6
Crayola Experience	Grade 2
Pocono Environmental Education Center	Grade 4

2. Motion to approve transportation with Stocker Bus for the following field trips for the 2025-2026 school year:

Date	Location	Grade	Cost
December 1, 2025	The New Jersey School of Conservation	Grades 5 & 6	2 Buses: \$270/bus= \$540 total
March 26, 2026	Crayola Experience, Easton, PA	Grade 2	1 Bus: \$501.26
May 22, 2025	Pocono Environmental Education Center	Grade 4	1 Bus: \$510.00
October 24, 2025 (Rain Date: October 28, 2025)	Swartswood State Park	Preschool	2 Buses: \$315/bus= \$630 total

3. Motion to approve the field trip to the Stillwater Historical Society on October 17, 2025 for second grade. No transportation required-walking trip.

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

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

BUDGET & FINANCE

1. 2024-2025 Audit Update- Mrs. Metzgar noted the 2024-2025 audit is now complete and we are just waiting for the final report. The presentation will take place at our November meeting.

That the following Budget & Finance resolutions be approved:

2. Motion to approve the following checks from September 23, 2025-October 14, 2025 as attached: (attachment)

Account	Check Numbers	Amount
Funds 10, 11, 12, 20	30443-30491, N00930, N1002	\$331,475.36
Student Activities	6707	\$1,390.00
Cafeteria	2750	17.51
Grand Total		\$332,882.87

3. Motion to approve the attached list of purchase orders over \$1,000 for the 2025-2026 school year. (attachment)
4. Motion to approve monthly travel as attached. (attachment)
5. Motion to approve transfers from August 1, 2025 to August 31, 2025 as attached. (attachment)
6. Motion to accept the NJSIG safety grant award in the amount of \$2,000 for the 2025-2026 school year.

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

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

LEGISLATION

1. Sussex County School Boards Meeting Update-Meeting held on October 6th, KRHS & Green Township Schools were recognized for receiving NJSBA certification

Legislative update from John Burns:

-On Sept. 29, 2025, Governor Murphy signed legislation requiring the State Board of Education to adopt New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) in Social Studies, ensuring that the rich contributions, history, and heritage of Latino and Hispanic people are taught in K-12 schools. Under the bill, a board of education is required to include instruction on the history and contributions of Latinos and Hispanics in the curriculum of students in grades kindergarten through 12 as part of the school district's implementation of the NJSLS in Social Studies. The instruction is to be historically accurate, culturally relevant, community-based, and developmentally appropriate.

-Sparta's Assistant Superintendent, Tara Rossi, gave a presentation on how their school district adapted their cell phone policy.

-Stanhope's Superintendent, Steven Hagemann, facilitated a discussion forum on AI.
Next Sussex County SBA meeting is December 4th- location is TBA. 3R's training for newly elected board members. Meeting topic: A School Board's Guide to HIB, Student Conduct, and Emerging Policy Challenges

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Mrs. Voris reported on the following items:

- PTA Halloween Boo Bash- October 24th
- Stillwater Rec's Trunk or Treat- Veterans Park October 26th
- Stillwater Township's Halloween Decorating Contest- Due by October 24th

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Board member required training- Due December 31, 2025

NEW BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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-Courtney Delaney- Old School House Road- Happy to be here for the presentation on the NJSLA Scores. Was wondering why we had zero percent exceeding proficiency in math in grade 4. ELA scores were a lot more even. What is going on in math? Also, wanted to mention to hope the board will look more into the CST staffing for the district during this next budget year. We need more staff instead of consultants.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Williver at 7:51 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 the SEA Contract Negotiations, Security and 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.

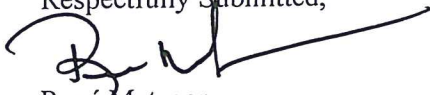
Mrs. Thibault & Mrs. Cramer were excused from the meeting at 8:23 pm

Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Mr. Franek at 8:44 p.m. to come out of executive session and return to public session. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mr. DeGroat and second by Mrs. Valeich, to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'René Metzgar', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

René Metzgar

Business Administrator/Board Secretary