

November 17, 2025

The Stillwater Township Board of Education met on November 17, 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, Mrs. Thibault, Mrs. Frey, Mrs. Valeich, Mrs. Kraft and Mr. Franek.

Absent: Mr. DeGroat and Mrs. Voris.

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

1. 2024-2025 Audit Presentation- Anthony Ardito from Ardito & Company- Mr. Anthony presented the 2024-2025 audit. He stated we are in good financial shape. He also thanked the business office for continuing to do a wonderful job. The presentation is attached to the minutes.

That the following Board Business resolution be approved:

2. Motion to approve the Committee of the Whole Board of Education Meeting minutes and Executive Session Meeting minutes from November 3, 2025. (attachment)

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

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Papa reported on the following items:

- Thanked Mrs. Metzgar on a meticulous audit.
- Provided an update on the 1988 Wing project including next steps and various funding options.
- Veterans Day Assembly- Thanked Mrs. Riva, Mrs. Earley, and Mrs. Pagano as well as the students for a wonderful celebration.
- Regional Study Update- Anticipation of surveys for staff, board and community.
- US News & World Report Ranking- Stillwater Elementary has ranked 511 out of 2,239 elementary schools in the State on NJ, which is the top 22% of the state and highest ranking in Sussex County.

CORRESPONDENCE

-Letter from Robert Greene, KRHS Board Member- regarding the Liaison Committee

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

President Galante thanked the staff and students for the amazing Veterans Day celebration. She also thanked Dr. Papa and Mrs. Metzgar for assisting in the organization of the law enforcement training held at the school over the break. She also noted that it is amazing that our school is in the top 22% of best elementary schools in the state.

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. ***

Kaitlyn Hammerle- Millbrook Road, Stillwater- Asked who was in charge of keeping track of the time for public participation and who would be responsible to cut us off? Mrs. Hammerle also thanks Miss Johnson and Mrs. LoCicero for doing amazing things with the students for American Education week.

-Richard Kelsky-Cedar Ridge Road, Stillwater- Stated that he appreciated Dr. Papa's transparency and thanked him for meeting with him last week. However, he expressed that the community needs greater transparency regarding the project and the budget. Mr. Kelsey also feels we are not economically stable, despite the auditors saying we are in good financial shape; an increase in the tax levy especially for this project is not good. He is concerned about the accelerated process of the RFQ, he offered to setup a building walkthrough with his friend. He requested a copy of the engineering report and noted that his request was denied. He believes a public person is owed an apology. He doesn't understand why board meetings aren't conducted online. He questioned why board meetings are not available online and commented that, given the district's \$8 million in expenditures, the meeting space should provide additional seating and a podium. He also asked why the audit is not posted on the district website and stated that he was directed to the state website instead. He stated there are much larger districts going through a lot more pain than us. He gave examples of Tom's River and Montclair School District. He concluded by asking the board whether pursuing a multi-million-dollar bond is this really the direction forward?

ACTION ITEMS:

PERSONNEL

That the following Personnel resolutions be approved as recommended by the Superintendent:

Mileage- \$0.47/mile plus tolls
M&IE- \$68 per full day, First & Last: \$51/day

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

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

POLICY

None.

EDUCATION & CURRICULUM

That the following Education & Curriculum resolution be approved:

1. Motion to approve contract with Creative Speech Solutions, LLC to provide speech and occupational therapy services for student#27504027 at a rate of \$97.00/session for a total of \$291.00 per month from November 2025 to June 30, 2026.

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

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

BUILDING & GROUNDS

1. Building & Grounds Update- Mrs. Metzgar provided an update on the following items:
 - 1941/56 Boiler Replacement Project
 - Stillwater School Letterboard/Digital Sign

That the following Building & Grounds resolution be approved:

2. Motion to approve building and use calendar for December 2025. (attachment)

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

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

TRANSPORTATION

None.

BUDGET & FINANCE

That the following Budget & Finance resolutions be approved:

- 1. Motion to approve the following checks from October 15, 2025-November 17, 2025 as attached: (attachment)

Account	Check Numbers	Amount
Funds 10, 11, 12, 20	30492-30543, N1014, N1015, N1031, N1114, void ck#30389	\$866,892.98
Student Activities	6708-6713, void CK#6711	\$5,739.00
Cafeteria	2751-2755	\$17,062.61
Grand Total		\$889,694.59

- 2. Motion to approve the attached list of purchase orders over \$1,000 for the 2025-2026 school year. (attachment)
- 3. Motion to approve monthly travel as attached. (attachment)
- 4. Motion to accept the annual audit for the Stillwater Township Board of Education for the year ended June 30, 2025. There were no audit findings or recommendations. (attachment)

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

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

LEGISLATION

Mrs. Kraft reported on the following item:

Water Safety Month- would designate May of each year as “Water Safety Month” in New Jersey. The bill would also encourage the New Jersey Department of Education, in consultation with the state Department of Health, to provide resources to school districts to hold presentations and educational activities during the month for students in grades K-5.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Mrs. Williver reported on the following:

- KRHS Players performing Clue this Friday & Saturday. Tickets are available online.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

Sussex County School Boards Meetings- December 3, 2025 at KRHS- “3Rs: Roles, Responsibilities, and Resources begins at 5:30pm and SCSBA Meeting to follow.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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-Cody Castner- Fairview Lake Road, Stillwater -He expressed that he has been receiving conflicting information regarding the 1988 addition. He spoke about thermal expansion and typical building movement, and requested clarification on these issues, which he acknowledged the district is working toward. He stated that after reviewing the RFQ for architectural services, it appears the district is not asking whether the work needs to be done, but rather instructing architects on the full scope of work for the wing. He noted that the RFQ outlines not only stabilization efforts but also renovations to the gym, including new HVAC, LED lighting, and bleachers. He stated that this seems premeditated and not just structural issues.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mr. Franek and second by Mrs. Valeich, to adjourn the meeting at 7:41p.m.
A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,


Rene Metzgar
Business Administrator/Board Secretary