

March 2, 2026

The Stillwater Township Board of Education met on March 2, 2026 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 7:01 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 22, 2026. 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. Kraft, Mrs. Valeich, Mrs. Voris. and Mr. Franek.

Absent: Mr. DeGroat.

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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by Mrs. Thibault, second by Mrs. Frey at 7:03 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 architect interviews related to the 1988 Building Stabilization, Repairs and Renovations. 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.

Motion made by Mrs. Frey, second by Mrs. Thibault at 7:27 p.m. to come out of executive session and return to public session. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

BOARD BUSINESS

1. District Goals Update- Dr. Papa presented an update on the district goals. Presentation is attached to the minutes.
2. Board Goals Update- Mrs. Galante updated the board and public on the status of the board goals for the 2025-2026 school year.
3. Update on Sussex County School Boards Meeting- Topic: "From Our Districts to Yours: Effective Strategies for Communications and Community Engagement"- Mrs. Williver provided an update on this county meeting. She also shared the information that was provided to her with the board.

That the following Board Business resolution be approved:

4. Motion to approve the Regular Board of Education meeting minutes from February 2, 2026 and the Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes and executive session minutes from February 18, 2026. (attachment)

Moved By: Mrs. Williver **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-Abstain; and Mrs. Voris-Aye. Motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Papa reported on the following items:

Snow Day Play - Highlighted how Stillwater Twp. School was featured on NJ.com for our Snow Day Play at the beginning of February. Staff did an excellent job of planning and executing such a fun and memorable moment for our students. Looking at the larger picture, with so much negative information in the news media surrounding education, our article brought a great deal of optimism and smiles to many, further reinforcing that amazing things like this happen in schools all across the state everyday.

Preschool Lottery Update: The DOE will notify us as to whether or not we will receive funding for the fifth classroom when we receive our state aide numbers. If a lottery is needed it will take place in March or April at a BOE meeting.

1988 Building Update: The BOE completed interviews with three architectural firms on Wednesday, February 18th. Each firm presented their case to the BOE which included their proposals to remediate the structural issues with the addition.

6th Grade Research Project - Mrs. Hoon invited me into the research process for her 6th graders as they investigated various aspects of events surrounding the Holocaust. As a history teacher, I was thrilled to spend time listening to their research as well as provide the students with additional information to consider for their projects. Mrs. Hoon shared the research papers with me when they were submitted and I was blown away by what our 6th graders produced.

Stillwater Twp. School & Staff Highlighted by DOE: In February, Lennie Parham for the NJ Department of Education from the Division of Teaching & Learning gave a presentation titled, Exploring Emotional & Social Health Competencies, where he highlighted Stillwater Twp. School for the ways we are building social awareness skills through our water safety program and garden and greenhouse.

CORRESPONDENCE

-None.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Mrs. Galante thanked Dr. Papa and Mrs. Metzgar for reaching out to all the references for the architects. She also thanked all the staff for the school wide snow day, it was really great for all the kids.

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-Thanked the school, teachers, Mrs. Cramer, and Dr. Papa for the school wide snow day. Her daughter loved it! Mrs. Hammerle also commented on how she missed when the January board meeting was readvertised from the snow day, but she did get the February notice.

ACTION ITEMS:

PERSONNEL

That the following Personnel resolutions 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 contract with Michaela Snyder-Capel, as the Kindergarten maternity leave replacement teacher beginning March 3, 2026-June 30, 2026 at a rate of \$305.06 per day, no benefits, to be paid on the same schedule as all other substitute teachers, pending criminal history & background check. (attachment)
3. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve Meghan Earley and Steve Tiberi to receive a stipend of \$75.00 per person for attending the 6th Grade Activity night at Kittatinny Regional High School on March 20, 2026. Janessa Green to sub if needed.
4. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve contracts for the following part-time Para-Professional staff members for employment for the 2025-2026 school year from March 3, 2026 to June 30, 2026:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Base Hourly Rate</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Total Hourly Rate</u>	<u>Contract Hours</u>
Schwartz, Kimberly	Special Education	\$15.92	N/A	\$15.92	27.5 hours/week

5. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following substitute paraprofessionals/main office secretaries for the 2025-2026 school year:

- Melissa D'Agostino- pending criminal history & background check
- Erin Lovland- pending criminal history & background check

6. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following substitute teachers/paraprofessionals/main office secretaries for the 2025-2026 school year:

- Michaela Snyder Capel- pending criminal history & background check
- Sean Harris- pending criminal history & background check

7. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following after school program for the 2025-2026 school year. The stipend for each teacher is \$410:

Club Name	Staff Member #1	Staff member #2	Grade Level	Grant
Garden Club	Erica Then	Corrine Robinson	Grade 4	Climate Grant 20-471-100-100

8. Motion to approve the following employee to be charged to the IDEA Basic Grant from February 1, 2026-June 30, 2026:

Name	Position	Estimated Salary to be charged to grant	% Charged to grant	Expense Account number
Ponte, Isabel (Replaces Katherine Schneider)	Paraprofessional	\$6,478.93	84%	20-250-100-106

9. 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 24, 2026, Topic: Screen Free Fun:

- Sarah Pittenger
- Colleen Hurley
- Janessa Green
- Katie Bradley
- Christine Pagano
- Kayla Davies
- Chelsea Mobilio

10. Motion to approve René Metzgar to attend the NJ School Buildings & Grounds Conference in Atlantic City, NJ, March 22-25, 2026.

WHEREAS, The Stillwater Board of Education is required pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 18A:11-12 to adopt policy and approve travel expenditures by district employees and board members using local, State, or Federal funds to ensure that travel is educationally necessary and fiscally prudent; and

WHEREAS, The Board has determined that the training programs, seminars, conventions and conferences sponsored by New Jersey Association of Buildings & Grounds and set forth below are directly related to and within the scope of listed administrator's current responsibilities and/or applicable professional development plans; and

WHEREAS, The Board has determined that the participation in the NJ Association of Buildings & Grounds training programs, and seminars, conventions and conferences requires school district travel expenditures and that this travel is critical to the administrative and /or instructional needs of the district and/or furthers the efficient operation of the district, and /or will help improve administrator's skills and knowledge related to district operations: and

WHEREAS, The Board has determined that the school district travel expenditures to NJ Association of Buildings & Grounds training programs, seminars, conventions and conferences are in compliance with State travel guidelines as established by the Department of the Treasury and within the guidelines established by the federal Office of Management and Budget; except as superseded by conflicting provisions of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes; and

WHEREAS, The Board finds that a mileage reimbursement rate equal to that of the OMB mileage reimbursement rate of [\$.47] per mile is a reasonable rate, plus parking and tolls; and

WHEREAS, The Board has determined that participation in the NJ Association of Buildings & Grounds training programs, seminars, conventions and conferences is in compliance with the district policy on travel; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the board of education hereby approves the attendance of the listed district employees for NJ Association of Buildings & Grounds training programs, seminars, conventions and conferences and the costs of attendance including all registration fees, and statutorily authorized travel expenditures, provided that such expenditures are within the annual maximum travel expenditure amount; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Stillwater Board of Education authorizes in advance, as required by statute, attendance at the NJ Association of Buildings & Grounds training programs, seminars, conventions and conferences:

René Metzgar
Harrah's, Atlantic City, NJ, March 22-25, 2026 \$100/night
Plus any other additional fees/taxes
Registration \$350
Meals & Incidental Expenses/day
Breakfast \$16

Lunch	\$19
Dinner	\$28
<u>Incidentals</u>	<u>\$5</u>
TOTAL	\$68

1st and last day
M&IE Rate 75% \$51.00/day

Moved By: Mrs. Valeich **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-Aye. Motions carried.

POLICY

None.

EDUCATION & CURRICULUM

1. SSDS Report-Reporting Period 1 (September 1, 2025-December 31, 2025)- Dr. Papa reported there were 4 alleged HIB incidents and 1 incident leading to removal. The district continues to lead from a position of being proactive and preventative in regards to behavior by advancing inventions - such as check in and check out, mindfulness class, SEL lessons embedded into instruction, paraprofessional support, behavior intervention plans, lunch groups, conflict resolution, support from community partners - for example, center for prevention & counseling which begins in January. (teaching lessons to grades 3 to 5) The CORE team will continue to support a positive school climate through facilitating the week of respect and antibullying lessons. Finally, focusing on student leadership to be positive peer influencers (Summit participation, student council, and student advisory group).

That the following Education & Curriculum resolutions be approved:

2. Motion to approve Grace Sheridan from Sussex County Community College to complete 3 hours of observation with Mrs. Newman.
3. Motion to approve SEPAG/IDEA Parent presentation to be held on April 5, 2026 to be split with the Kittatinny Region. KRHS will be the LEA. Stillwater’s cost is \$110 to be funded through IDEA-B.
4. Motion to approve GM Consulting, to provide curriculum and professional development consulting services to cover a maternity leave for up to and not exceeding 10 hours per week at the rate of \$100 per hour from February through June 2026. Costs will be split between Fredon, Hampton, Kittatinny, Stillwater, and Sandyston. Fredon to be the LEA.

5. Motion to approve Brandy Wright from Liberty University to complete an additional 30 practicum hours in Mrs. Bickhardt’s class for the 2026 Spring Semester.
6. Motion to approve the 2026-2027 school calendar for the Stillwater Township Board of Education. (attachment)

Moved By: Mrs. Frey **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-Aye. Motions carried.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

1. Building & Grounds Update- Mrs. Metzgar provided an update on the following project:
-1941/1956 Boiler Project status- timelines of bid walkthrough and bid opening.

That the following Building & Grounds resolution be approved:

2. Motion to approve building and use calendar for March 2026. (attachment)
3. Motion to approve moving forward with our architect of record, Parette Somjen Architects, for the 1988 Building Stabilization, Repairs and Renovations. Professional services fees will be approved once the scope of the project is determined.

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-Aye. Motions 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 Community Center	Garden Club
Tranquility Farms	Preschool
Kittatinny Regional HS	Band/Choir

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

Date	Location	Grade	Cost
March 3, 6, & 9, 2026	Kittatinny High School	5/6 Select Choir and Band	\$305.63/bus 3 trips=\$916.89
April 29, 2026	Stillwater Community Center	Garden Club	1 Bus- \$295 (paid for by the Climate Change Education Resilience Grant)
May 27, 2026 (rain date: June 2, 2026)	Tranquility Farms	Preschool	2 Busses \$275/bus=\$550.

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

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-Aye. Motions carried.

BUDGET & FINANCE

1. Budget Committee Update-Mrs. Thibault provided an update on the budget committee meeting held on March 2nd. The committee has begun to review and discuss the 26-27 expense budgets line by line. We are waiting for state aid to be released by March 12th. We will also be meeting again next week.

That the following Budget & Finance resolutions be approved:

2. Motion to approve the following checks from January 27, 2026-February 23, 2026 as attached: (attachment)

Account	Check Numbers	Amount
Funds 10, 11, 12, 20	30652-30703, N0130, N0203, N0213	\$808,010.33
Capital Reserve	N/A	\$0
Student Activities	N/A	\$0
Cafeteria	2760-2761	\$28,870.97
Grand Total		\$836,881.30

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)

Moved By: Mrs. Thibault **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-Aye. Motions carried.

LEGISLATION

Mrs. Kraft reported on the following items:

Delay of Budget Message- extends the date by which the governor's fiscal year 2027 budget message is to be transmitted to the legislature to Tuesday, March 10, 2026.

Mercury Floor Removal- as amended, would prohibit the issuance of construction permits for flooring in schools unless the flooring materials are certified by the manufacturer as mercury-free.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Mrs. Voris reported on the following items:

- Registration for various sports now open-check out the newsletter for specifics.
- 5K Color Run for Stillwater student- April 18th
- Kittatinny Players-clothing drive March 2nd-March 20th.
- Stillwater Township Easter egg hunt- March 21st.
- Avenues in Motion present helmet safety program- April 12th
- PTA Skate Nights- March 5th & March 19th from 6:00-8:00 pm
- PTA Tricky Tray- March 28th

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Budget Calendar (attachment)
2. Board member required training- Due December 31, 2026
3. Board member Ethics/Financial Disclosure Forms-Due April 30, 2026

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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*for the record. ***Members of the public are requested to keep their comments to a maximum of 5 minutes. ***

Kaitlyn Hammerle- Millbrook Road, Stillwater-In other districts parents can come into the classroom to read to the students as a guest reader. Was wondering if that could be something our school can do.

Mrs. Cramer did note that we do have various guest readers that are parents, members of the community, high school students, and former teachers. Each grade level does something a little different.

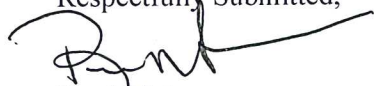
EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mrs. Williver and second by Mrs. Thibault, to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 pm. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



René Metzgar
Business Administrator/Board Secretary