

March 30, 2026

The Stillwater Township Board of Education met on March 30, 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 7:00 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, 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. Frey, Mr. DeGroat, Mrs. Kraft, Mrs. Valeich, and Mrs. Voris.

Absent: Mr. Franek & Mrs. Thibault.

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. Resolution of the Stillwater Township Board of Education
HONORING Griffin Madeira as a 2026 SUSSEX COUNTY UNSUNG HERO

WHEREAS, the Sussex County School Boards Association, in collaboration with the New Jersey School Boards Association, recognizes Unsung Heroes from each school district in Sussex County to celebrate those whose character and impact define the heart of our schools; and

WHEREAS, the Unsung Hero Award honors students who make outstanding contributions to their schools and communities but are often overlooked by traditional recognition programs—students who have modeled good citizenship, a spirit of quiet strength, and a commitment to “Elevating Character: Strength Beyond the Spotlight” that inspires others; and

WHEREAS, these Unsung Heroes may have organized community programs, selflessly supported their peers, or achieved significant academic success while overcoming difficult personal challenges, disabilities, or language barriers; and

WHEREAS, these Unsung Heroes may have overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles to reach their full potential, serving both the school community and the community at large as a beacon of resilience and integrity; and

WHEREAS, on Monday, March 23, 2026, Griffin Madeira was formally recognized for these achievements at the 2026 Sussex County Unsung Hero Awards Ceremony held at Sparta High School;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Stillwater Township Board of Education officially recognizes Griffin Madeira as an Unsung Hero of Sussex County and the Stillwater Township School District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution is presented to Griffin Madeira

as a sincere token of the Stillwater Township Board of Education's congratulations and best wishes for continued success as they continue to lead by example.

2. Motion to approve the Regular Board of Education meeting minutes and executive session minutes from March 18, 2026. (attachment)
3. Motion to approve the February 28, 2026 Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports which balanced in the amount of \$3,933,020.04 pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-16.10(c)3, we certify that as of February 28, 2026 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)

Dr. Papa and Mrs. Cramer congratulated Griffin on this achievement.

Moved By: Mr. DeGroat **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-Absent; Mrs. Valeich-Aye; and Mrs. Voris-Aye. Motions carried.

4. School Board Ethics Training – Kelly Mitchell from NJSBA provided the Board Members with School Board Ethics training. Presentation slides are attached to the minutes.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Papa reported on the following items:

- 1988 Building Project update- spoke about items on agenda tonight for approval.
 - District Band and Chorus Performance- Complemented our students & Mr. Both
 - Kids Heart Challenge- Led by Mrs. Earley & Mr. Tiberi, raised over \$10,000 for the American Heart Association. We will also receive a grant for \$850 for gym equipment.
 - Sustainable NJ- We were selected to receive the 2025 Sustainable NJ grant for \$2,000.
- Thanked Mrs. Ciccolella, Mrs. Cramer, and Mrs. Metzgar.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

None.

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- Expressed concern regarding the timing of agenda postings. He also raised concerns about the addendum, noting that it was made available only at the meeting. He wanted the board to be aware of his view this these items.

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 the following substitute teacher/paraprofessional/main office secretary for the 2025-2026 school year:

Julia Lora- Pending Criminal history & background check
3. Motion to approve René Metzgar to attend the NJASBO Convention in Atlantic City, NJ, June 2-5, 2026, as per contract.

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 School Business Administrators 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 NJASBO 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 NJASBO 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 NJASBO 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 NJASBO 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 NJASBO training programs, seminars, conventions and conferences:

René Metzgar	
Ocean Resort, Atlantic City, NJ, June 2-5, 2026	\$99/night
	Plus any other additional fees/taxes
Registration	\$500
<u>Meals & Incidental Expenses/day</u>	
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: Mr. DeGroat **Seconded By:** Mrs. Frey

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

POLICY

That the following Policy resolution be approved:

1. Motion to approve the first reading of the following policy:

-Policy#5141.21 Administering Medication Policy (attachment)

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

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

EDUCATION & CURRICULUM

That the following Education & Curriculum resolutions be approved:

1. Be It Hereby Resolved, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board affirms the Superintendent's decision regarding 2025-2026 Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying Case #5-2526.
2. Motion to approve contract with Aces-Assessments, Counseling and Educational Services to conduct Hearing Impaired Educational Evaluations for a total cost of \$900.00/evaluation.
3. Motion to approve the extended school year summer program from July 6, 2026 - July 30, 2026 (4 days per week) and advertise for the following anticipated positions:
 - 4 Special Education Teachers
 - 6 Paraprofessionals
 - 1 RTI Instructor
 - 1 Bus Aide
 - 1 Nurse
 - 1 Speech Therapist
 - 1 School Social Worker (10 days)

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-Absent; Mrs. Valeich-Aye; and Mrs. Voris-Aye. Motions carried.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

1. Building & Grounds Update- Mrs. Metzgar provided an update on the following item:
 -1941/1956 Boiler Project- Spoke about the motion on the agenda this evening to award the contractor.

That the following Building & Grounds resolutions be approved:

2. Motion to approve the revised building and use calendar for March 2026. (attachment)
3. Motion to approve building and use calendar for April 2026. (attachment)
4. Motion to award the 1941/1956 Boiler Replacement Project at Stillwater Township School to DeSesa Engineering Company for a total bid price of \$499,400.

Bids :

Bidders	Base Bid	Contingency Allowance	Floor Drain Repair Allowance	Chimney Liner Replacement Allowance	Total Bid w/Contingency
DeSesa Engineering Company	\$414,400	\$46,000	\$30,000	\$9,000	\$499,400
Pennetta	\$515,700	\$46,000	\$30,000	\$9,000	\$600,700
Iron Mountain Mechanical	\$455,555	\$46,000	\$30,000	\$9,000	\$540,555

5. WHEREAS, The Stillwater Township Board of Education in the County of Sussex, New Jersey (the "Board" when referring to the governing body and the "School District" when referring to the territorial boundaries governed thereby), seeks to submit to the voters a school facilities project directed at the 1988 Building Stabilization, Repairs and Renovations Project (the "Project") consisting generally of facilities and instructional renovations.

WHEREAS, the School District will seek Debt Service Aid with respect to the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Board now seeks to take the initial steps in order to proceed with the planning and authorization of (i) the Project and (ii) a School District election at which a bond referendum authorizing the Project shall be presented to the voters.

WHEREAS, there exists a need for Architectural and Engineering Services to complete and submit project applications to the DOE for review and approval in connection with a proposed bond referendum election for capital facilities improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Public School Contracts Law defines architectural and engineering services as professional services not subject to competitive bidding;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Stillwater Township Board of Education approves a contract for Architectural Services in connection with the aforementioned project, to Parette Somjen Architects of Rockaway, New Jersey, and Engineering Services in connection with aforementioned project, to French and Parello Associates of Hackettstown, New Jersey.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Stillwater Township Board

of Education in accordance with the requirements of Section 6A:26-5.1 through 6A:26-5.3 of the New Jersey Administrative Code, the Board hereby approves the preparation of Schematic Plans and Educational Specifications, if required, by Parette Somjen Architects ("PSA") in connection with the Project and the Board further authorizes and directs PSA to submit same to the New Jersey Department of Education and to the Sussex County Superintendent of Schools for review and approval.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Stillwater Township Board of Education in accordance with the requirements of Section 6A:26-3.2 of the New Jersey Administrative Code, the Board hereby approves the Project Application, and PSA is hereby directed to submit such application to the New Jersey Department of Education seeking debt service aid for the Project.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Stillwater Township Board of Education in accordance with the requirements of Section 6A:26-2.3 of the New Jersey Administrative Code, the Board hereby approves an amendment to the Long Range Facilities Plan, as necessary, to reflect the Project and approves the submission of such amendment to the New Jersey Department of Education.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Stillwater Township Board of Education with respect to the Project, the Board hereby authorizes and directs the Board President, the Superintendent and the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, as applicable, to execute the schematic plans and educational specifications, the amendment to the Long Range Facilities Plan, the Project cost estimate sheets and all related project documents allowing submission of same to the New Jersey Department of Education.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School Business Administrator is authorized to execute the Professional Services Agreements on behalf of the Board.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board hereby authorizes and directs the Board President, the Superintendent, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, PSA and Bond Counsel, as applicable, to take all action required to preserve the opportunity to present the Project to the voters via a bond referendum at a School District election.

6. Motion to approve Parette Somjen Architects to begin professional services for the 1988 Building Stabilization, Repairs and Renovations project at a cost of \$90,300.00 (Phase 1).
7. Motion to approve contract with French & Parrello for additional Geotech engineering services for the 1988 wing for a total cost of \$21,150.

Moved By: Mrs. Williver **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-Absent; Mrs. Valeich-Aye; and Mrs. Voris-Aye. Motions carried.

TRANSPORTATION

None.

BUDGET & FINANCE

That the following Budget & Finance resolutions be approved:

1. Motion to approve the following checks from February 24, 2026-March 30, 2026 as attached: (attachment)

Account	Check Numbers	Amount
Funds 10, 11, 12, 20	30704 – 30764, N0227 & N0313	\$777,572.40
Capital Reserve	N/A	\$0
Student Activities	6715 -6716	\$54.00
Cafeteria	2762	\$14,986.33
Grand Total		\$792,612.73

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 approve transfers from February 1, 2026 to February 28, 2026 as attached. (attachment)
5. Motion to approve the bond counsel service agreement with Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer P.A. for the 1988 Building Stabilization, Repairs and Renovations project.
6. Motion to approve the proposal for a Financial Advisor & Continuing Disclosure Agent with Phoenix Advisors for the 1988 Building Stabilization, Repairs and Renovations project.

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

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

LEGISLATION

None.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Mrs. Voris reported on the following items:
-SCUMA electronics recycling day- April 18th

- Do it for Dean- Color Run- April 18th
- Avenues in Motion, helmet safety program- April 12th
- Stillwater Community Seed Exchange- April 4th
- Stillwater PTA Meeting- April 20th
- PTA Tricky Tray raised over \$25,000!
- PTA Annual Daughter event- April 24th
- Stillwater PTA Book Fair- April 20-24, 2026

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Board member required training- Due December 31, 2026
2. Board member Ethics/Financial Disclosure Forms-Due April 30, 2026

NEW BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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Cody Castner- Fairview Lake Road, Stillwater- Asked about an architect presentation that was presented at a previous board meeting regarding the cracks. He stated he requested it a few months ago, but the request was denied due to the timing of our architect RFQ. Mrs. Metzgar asked him to fill out another request now that the RFQ process is over.

Mr. Caster also asked that board of education meetings be recorded and/or made available through zoom to help more members of our community stay informed and engaged. Mr. Caster said that many parents, guardians, and community members are unable to attend meetings in person due to work schedules, childcare responsibilities, or other commitments. Offering a virtual option or recorded sessions would help people stay connected not only as a matter of convenience, but also one of accessibility and engagement with the community. He thanked the board for its consideration.

Kaitlyn Hammerle- Millbrook Road, Stillwater- Asked if the board was still planning to do a tour of the building for the 1988 project. Administration responded that we will be holding meetings in the gymnasium and conducting walkthroughs.

Cody Castner- Fairview Lake Road, Stillwater- Asked about the costs of the recording equipment and said he may be able to get a donation. Dr. Papa also noted that is it not just equipment needed it also involves additional personnel.

-Richard Kelsky-Cedar Ridge Road, Stillwater-Felt recording equipment is a minor expense compared to the budget. Noted we just approved bond counsel without a question.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mrs. Williver and second by Mrs. Thibault, to adjourn the meeting at 7:44pm pm. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



René Metzgar
Business Administrator/Board Secretary