

April 27, 2026

The Stillwater Township Board of Education met on April 27, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Stillwater School All Purpose Room 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. The 2026-2027 advertised budget was posted on April 21, 2026 in accordance with law. 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. Frey, Mr. Franek, Mrs. Voris, and Mrs. Thibault.

Absent: Mrs. Kraft & Mrs. Valeich.

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. Student Roundtable Winner 2025-2026 Presentation- Dr. Papa presented Ryland Speirs with the Superintendent Roundtable Award.
2. Motion to approve the Regular Board of Education meeting minutes from March 30, 2026. (attachment)

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

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

3. Motion to approve the March 31, 2026 Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports which balanced in the amount of \$3,848,839.67 pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-16.10(c)3, we certify that as of March 31, 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)

Moved By: Mr. DeGroat **Seconded By:** Mr. Franek

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Papa reported on the following items:

- 1988 Wing Building Update
- Regional Study Update
- Teacher Appreciation Week- beginning May 4th
- Do it for Dean- 5K run update- thanked the staff members who worked diligently to organize the 5K color run.
- Earth Day Update- Thanked Mrs. Ciccolella for obtaining a grant for the assembly for Earth Day. Also thanked Mrs. Then, Mrs. Robinson, and Mrs. Caccavale for all their hard work to set up the events.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Mrs. Galante commented on the Earth Day events. Thanked the staff for writing the grant and setting up the event. She also thanked Mrs. Metzgar, Dr. Papa, and Mrs. Cramer for their hard work on the budget development. She also thanked the budget committee for their hard work and additional hours to work on the budget development.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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Dean Voris- Millbrook Road, Stillwater, NJ- Asked if the public session regarding the 1988 wing will be before or after the vote to the public.

Cody Castner- Fairview Lake Road, Stillwater, NJ- Read a letter expressing his concerns about the cost of the boiler project. He also expressed concerns about the stabilization project and feels it includes extensive upgrades. He is just asking for transparency and the scope clearly defined.

Richard Kelsky- Cedar Ridge Road, Stillwater, NJ- Agreed with Mr. Castner. Felt the letter sent out regarding the 1988 wing was meant to scare people. He also expressed concern that the board is trying to hide a massive renovation.

Nolan Voris- Swartswood Road, Stillwater, NJ- Continued reading Mr. Castner's letter. Expressing concerns about no further spending on projects and also feels there is nothing wrong with the structure.

Ed Szabo- County Road 521, Stillwater, NJ- Agreed with principles expressed. He commented on the pledge to the flag and recognizing what it means. He passed out a poem that represented things you have not heard today.

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:

-Dante Cornella-pending criminal history & background check

3. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following staff to attend summer 2026 IEP meetings as needed at a rate of \$34.00/hour, paid through IDEA Basic Funds Account number 20-250-200-104-011-000.

Michele Bird
Danielle Hoon

4. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following personnel for the summer program from July 6, 2026 - July 30, 2026 (16 days), funding source as listed:

IDEA B Teacher Account Number: 20-250-100-101-011-000
IDEA B Para Account Number: 20-250-100-106-011-000
IDEA B Bus Aide Account Number: 20-250-200-104-011-000
IDEA B Nurse Account Number: 20-250-200-104-011-000
IDEA PS Teacher Account Number: 20-251-100-101-011-000
IDEA PS Para Account Number: 20-251-100-106-011-000

Sarah Pittenger: Preschool- \$3,380 (IDEA-PS)
Michele Bird: Teacher- \$3,380 (IDEA-B)
Briana Deflippis: Teacher- \$3,380 (IDEA-B)
Gabriella Ayers: Teacher- \$3,380 (IDEA-B)
Colleen Hurley: Nurse- \$3,380 (IDEA-B)
Emily Perez: Bus Aide- \$280 (IDEA-B)
Emily Perez: Paraprofessional- \$1,150 (IDEA-PS)
Nicole Kerkhoven: Paraprofessional- \$1,150 (IDEA-PS)

Rebecca Casserta: Paraprofessional- \$1,150 (IDEA-B)
Nicole DiRienzo: Paraprofessional- \$1,150 (IDEA-B)
Sarah Corbisiero: Paraprofessional- \$1,150 (IDEA-B)

5. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following personnel for the summer CST work from July 1, 2026-August 31, 2026, funding source as listed:
IDEA B Account Number: 20-250-200-104-011-000
Jeanne Smetana: Social Worker- \$57.00/hour not to exceed \$3,440.
Brianne Dennis: School Psychologist- \$57.00/hour not to exceed 21 hours.

Moved By: Mr. DeGroat **Seconded By:** Mr. Franek

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

POLICY

That the following Policy resolution be approved:

1. Motion to approve the second & final reading of the following policy:
-Policy#5141.21 Administering Medication Policy (attachment)

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

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

EDUCATION & CURRICULUM

That the following Education & Curriculum resolutions be approved:

1. Motion to approve the ASE/SEEK Program, running May 4, 6, 11, 13, 2026 for a cost to Fairview Lake YMCA in the amount of \$155/trip to be paid through the Title IV Grant Account #20-280-200-400.
2. Motion to approve the official HIB Grade for the 2024-2025 School Year. (attachment)
3. Motion to approve contract with Kristin Will, LCSW to provide on-site counseling services at no cost to the district as needed for the 2025-2026 school year.

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

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

BUILDING & GROUNDS

1. Building & Grounds Update- Mrs. Metzgar reported on the following item:
-41/56 Boiler Project Update

That the following Building & Grounds resolution be approved:

2. Motion to approve building and use calendar for May 2026. (attachment)

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

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

TRANSPORTATION

That the following transportation resolution be approved:

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

Date	Location	Grade	Cost
May 4, 6, 11, 13 2026	Fairview Lake YMCA	Grade 6 SEEK	\$91.68/trip=\$366.72 Paid through Title IV 20-280-200-500

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

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

BUDGET & FINANCE

PUBLIC HEARING 2026-2027 BUDGET PRESENTATION

2026-2027 Budget Presented by Dr. Papa & Mrs. Metzgar
Presented by Dr. Papa & Mrs. Metzgar- Reviewed 2025-2026 school highlights, introduced proposed 2026-2027 budget with detailed revenues and expenditures. Focused on program

changes, building projects, state aid, and tax impact. The presentation is attached to the minutes.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON THE 2026-2027 BUDGET

*This public session is designed for members of the public to speak on items regarding the 2026-2027 Budget. 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. ***

Cody Castner- Fairview Lake Road, Stillwater, NJ- Asked if the enrollment adjustment was because of the additional preschool students. Mrs. Metzgar responded that regular ed preschoolers are not calculated in.

Richard Kelsky- Cedar Ridge Road, Stillwater, NJ- Asked about the capital and maintenance reserve accounts from estimated to audited and why the differences. Mrs. Metzgar responded that in June the board approves a motion to replenish capital and maintenance reserve accounts if there are funds available. The audit is not completed until September/October so numbers are finalized at that time.

Kaitlyn Hammerle- Millbrook Road, Stillwater, NJ- Asked for the reason we did not need the special education transportation cost for next year. Mrs. Metzgar responded that the child no longer needs the transportation services.

Bob Lippencott- Old School House Road, Stillwater, NJ- Agreed with Richard about the concerns about the estimating on reserves.

Sandy Tenning- Middleville Road, Stillwater, NJ- Asked when will we find out if we have the preschool grant and is it guaranteed every year? Mrs. Metzgar responded back that the funding is provided through state aid payments. She said it is up to the State if they will continue to fund the preschool program each year.

Bob Lippencott- Old School House Road, Stillwater, NJ- Commented that he really liked the statement from Dr. Papa about the vision for the school of students smiling and wanting to always come back.

That the following Budget & Finance resolution be approved:

1. WHEREAS, the Stillwater Township Board of Education adopted a tentative budget on March 18, 2026, and submitted it to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval, and changes are required for the adoption of the final 2026-2027 budget;
WHEREAS, preschool expenditures in the amount of \$45,000 for a shared educational consultant (PIC/PIRS) have been appropriated to different special revenue fund expense accounts in the amount of \$45,000;
WHEREAS, the tentative budget was approved by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools on March 20, 2026, and
WHEREAS, the tentative budget was advertised on the Stillwater School Website Legal Notices section in accordance with law on April 21, 2026 and,
WHEREAS, the final budget was presented to the public during a hearing held in

the Stillwater School All Purpose Room on April 27, 2026.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED to adopt the 2026-2027 school district budget as follows:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Tax Levy</u>
General Fund	\$7,240,895	\$6,156,870
Special Revenue	\$1,508,924	\$0
Debt Service	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Total Base Budget	\$8,749,819	\$6,156,870

Be it resolved, as per NJAC 6A:23A-7.3, the proposed budget provides for a maximum expenditure amount that may be allotted for travel and expense reimbursement. The maximum amount of travel and expense reimbursement for the 2025-2026 budget was \$11,546. As of March 1, 2026 the amount spent to date is \$6,008.39. The 2026-2027 tentative budget includes a maximum travel appropriation of \$11,572. The School Business Administrator shall track and record these costs to insure that the maximum amount is not exceeded. Included in the 2026-2027 proposed budget is a maximum regular business travel amount of \$1,500 per employee.

Further be it resolved, the Stillwater Township Board of Education approves the use of \$111,353 in Enrollment Adjustment, which will support instructional costs in the 2026-2027 fiscal year budget.

Further be it resolved, that included in line 630, Budgeted Withdrawal from Maintenance Reserve is \$40,000 for general maintenance costs.

This proposed budget includes sufficient funds to provide curriculum and instruction which will enable all students to achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, and is in compliance with N.J.S.A. 18A and N.J.A.C. Title 6 and 6A.

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

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

That the following Budget & Finance resolutions 2-7 be approved:

- Motion to approve the following checks from March 31, 2026-April 27, 2026 as attached: (attachment)

Account	Check Numbers	Amount
Funds 10, 11, 12, 20	30765-30820, N0331 & N0415 Void ck #30717 & 30806	\$587,734.53
Capital Reserve	N/A	\$0
Student Activities	N/A	\$0

Cafeteria	2763-2765, void ck#2749	\$17,708.85
Grand Total		\$605,443.38

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 March 1, 2026 to March 31, 2026 as attached. (attachment)
6. Motion to approve the transfer from capital reserve to general fund in the amount of \$111,450 for architect & engineering fees for the 1988 wing project.
7. Motion to approve the transfer from capital reserve to general fund in the amount of \$500,400 for construction costs and legal fees for the 1941/56 boiler project.

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

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

That the following Budget & Finance resolutions 8-15 be approved:

8. Motion to approve the following resolution approving health benefit consultants:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(a)(10) authorizes the Board to award a contract for insurance health benefit broker services, in accordance with the procedures established for an extraordinary unspecifiable service (hereinafter referred to as "EUS"), pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(a)(2); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Treadstone Risk Management, LLC shall be appointed to provide Health Benefit Broker services and that a contract for such services shall be awarded for the following reasons:

1. The fee structures proposed are most advantageous to the Board, price and other factors considered.
 2. Experience and resources necessary to perform the contract have been demonstrated.
 3. Reputation and responsibility of the Health Benefit Broker are satisfactory.
9. Motion to approve the following resolution approving Property Liability/Casualty, Dental, & Student Accident Insurance Broker & Risk Management Consultant:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(a)(10) authorizes the Board to award a contract for

Property Liability/Casualty, Dental, & Student Accident Insurance Broker & Risk Management Consultant, in accordance with the procedures established for an extraordinary unspecifiable service (hereinafter referred to as "EUS"), pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(a)(2); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Treadstone Risk Management, LLC, shall be appointed to provide Property Liability/Casualty, Dental, & Student Accident Insurance Broker & Risk Management Consultant services and that a contract for such services shall be awarded for the following reasons:

1. The fee structures proposed are most advantageous to the Board, price and other factors considered.
 2. Experience and resources necessary to perform the contract have been demonstrated.
 3. Reputation and responsibility of the Risk Management Broker are satisfactory.
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10. Motion to authorize the submission of the SRSA REAP Grant application for FY2026, and accept the grant award of these funds upon subsequent approval of the FY2026 application in the estimated amount of \$38,202.
 11. Motion to accept the grant award of \$2,000 from the NJ Farm to School Procurement Initiative (NJF2SPI) for the cafeteria to be used in the 2025-2026 school year.
 12. Motion to accept the grant award of \$2,000 from Sustainable New Jersey for Schools grant.
 13. Motion to approve submission of the FOCUS Continuation grant for the 2026-2027 school year in the amount not to exceed \$1,176.
 14. Motion to approve the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to submit the 2026-2027 Extraordinary Aid application and accept funds if awarded.
 15. Motion to approve 4th year cost reimbursable contract renewal with Maschio's Food Service Inc. as the cafeteria food service vendor for the 2026-2027 school year. The management fee will be \$10,260.84 and the Guaranteed Return of \$1,000 from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, at a total cost of the contract at \$148,602.56 as stated on Form 23.

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

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

LEGISLATION

No Report.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Mrs. Voris reported on the following items:

- PTA Daughter event update
- PTA Son celebration- May 29th
- Stillwater Garage Sale weekend- May 16th & May 17th
- 2026 Miss Stillwater Contest- May 31st
- Kittatinny Players- Pippin- April 30th- May 2nd

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

1. Upcoming Sussex County School Boards Meeting:
May 7, 2026- Hybrid Meeting, Newton Country Club at 6:00 pm, Topic: County Teacher of the Year and Celebrations.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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Cody Castner- Fairview Lake Road, Stillwater, NJ- Spoke again about the 1988 project and funds being transferred from capital reserve. He also spoke about the capital reserve transfer for the boiler project. He also was questioning the reason for the replacement of the boilers.

Kaitlyn Hammerle- Millbrook Road, Stillwater, NJ- Asked what the NJ Farm to School Procurement Initiative was.

Richard Kelsky- Cedar Ridge Road, Stillwater, NJ- Asked if there was a report on the boilers.

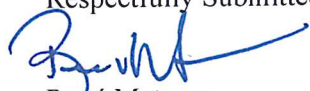
EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mrs. Williver and second by Mr. DeGroat, to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 pm. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



René Metzgar
Business Administrator/Board Secretary