

June 29, 2026

The Stillwater Township Board of Education met on June 29, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Stillwater School Gymnasium for a Special Board of Education Meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Krista Galante, President, at 6:03 p.m. In accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law, the time, date and location of this meeting was advertised in accordance to law on June 17, 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. Valeich Mr. DeGroat, Mrs. Voris, and Mr. Franek.

Absent: Mrs. Kraft.

Also present were Dr. Danny Papa, Superintendent and René Metzgar, Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

1. Presentation regarding the 1988 Building Wing, stabilization, repairs, and renovations. Presenters included Parette Somjen Architects, Persimmon Engineering, French & Parello Associates, and Wilentz Attorneys at Law. They reviewed the history of the cracks, the investigation results, the proposed solution, and referendum information.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

-Greg Varley- Old School House Road, Stillwater- Thanked the presenters for all their information. What guarantee do we have for the \$0.34 on the dollar to last the entirety of the loan?

-Cody Castner- Fairview Lake Road, Stillwater- Thanked everyone for coming out tonight. How do we know the building is moving? When were the crack meters installed? How do we know these cracks are not thermal related? Asked if we know if the cracks are in a progressive state? How has it been determined that the building is not stable? If the building settled, how much did it settle? He also asked if the architects can guarantee that the cracks will stop after the repair? If all the professionals are saying the gym is currently safe and there is no imminent danger, then why do we need the repair? Asked again if we can find out how much the building has sunk.

-Dawn Delany- Township Committee- Asked if we do the 100 stabilization borings, is there any risk that could cause more movement to the structure or disruption to the soil?

-Vera Rumsey- Township Committee- Asked if we pursued any grants for this these items in the second question? Spoke about JCP&L's LED program. Also asked if we could solicit companies for the new scoreboard.

-Nolan Voris- Stillwater Road, Stillwater- Is there a chance we will not have the funds for this if we cannot exceed the borrowed amount due to change orders?

-Richard Kelsky- Cedar Ridge Road, Stillwater- Expressed his opinion on why this meeting was so special. Also expressed that he felt this project is more renovations but the district is labeling it stabilization. Felt this referendum should have 3 questions. He urged residents to reject this project.

-Lou Sylvester- School House Road, Stillwater- Thanked everyone for a very an informative presentation. Asked if we had an election date yet. Also, asked if this was confirmed to go to vote yet?

-Cody Castner- Fairview Lake Road, Stillwater- Asked how far the Geotech engineers would have to go down to stabilize this building? Also asked if we had a chance to hit ground water that would affect the neighbors?

-Karen Thibault- Board Member- Asked what happens if we do nothing? Asked about the broken pipe in the wall from this. Also, asked why the helical piles are no longer suggested?

-Dawn Delany- Township Committee- Asked how much more it has to move before we have to vacate the building? What determines how long it could take?

-Richard Kelsky- Cedar Ridge Road, Stillwater-Ask why did we not monitor the cracks again? Feels like he has no confidence that the building has settled or not settled. Asked if we could breakdown the costs of the stabilization and renovations. Asked if we are still monitoring the cracks? Asked when we put up the crack meters? Asked if the cracks are increasing?

-Karen Thibault- Board Member- Asked about the identified larger pocket of loose fill.

-Nolan Voris- Stillwater Road, Stillwater- Doesn't understand how there is no actual measurement. Common trend here of monitoring cracks for 4 years and no one can give an actual measurement?

-Dean Voris- Millbrook Road, Stillwater- Can you check the crack meters to see what movement from 2020 to 2026? If there is no movement maybe the pockets of loose soil is not the problem. If we had cracks maybe it is because we are on the swamp. Maybe in the last 6 years it hasn't moved?

-Nolan Voris- Stillwater Road, Stillwater- If that is the loose spot, why are we putting the stabilization borings 100 feet away?

-Richard Kelsky- Cedar Ridge Road, Stillwater-Asked where the loose soil is. Asked where were the borings taken? He wants the crack meters read. Asked how much the building shifted?

-Darrick Franek- Board member- Spoke about the cracks and the soil and that we have to do something to make this better.

-Richard Kelsky- Cedar Ridge Road, Stillwater- Wants the facts, and thinks the crack meters need to be read.

-Cody Castner- Fairview Lake Road, Stillwater- Pointed out the blocks are not tied in to the walls. Feels there is no movement to the exterior wall.

-Greg Varley- Old School House Road, Stillwater- Asked what is going to happen with the trees?

- Kaitlyn Hammerle- Millbrook Road, Stillwater- The stabilization seems pointed out, but asked what was included with the referendum? Felt the December election was a terrible idea and that the election should be moved to November. Also asked about the displacement of classrooms.

-Richard Kelsky- Cedar Ridge Road, Stillwater-Asked who the general contractor is on the job. Also mentioned that he was looking forward to what the crack meters have to say.

All questions raised by the public were answered and addressed by Parette Somjen Architects and French & Parrello Engineers.

ADJOURNMENT

After the meeting is adjourned, there will be a tour of the gymnasium to review the areas in need of repairs and renovations.

Motion made by Mr. DeGroat and second by Mrs. Valeich, to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



René Metzgar
Business Administrator/Board Secretary