

August 17, 2026

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

Absent: Mrs. Thibault 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

That the following Board Business resolutions be approved:

1. Motion to approve the Regular Board Education meeting minutes from July 20, 2026. (attachment)
2. Motion to approve the July 31, 2026 Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports which balanced in the amount of \$3,978,233.02 pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-16.10(c)3, we certify that as of July 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)
3. Resolution for the following board members and administration to attend the NJSBA Workshop on October 19-22, 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 of education has determined that the workshop, training and informational programs sponsored by New Jersey School Boards Association and set forth below are directly related to and within the scope of board members' and employees' duties; and

WHEREAS, The board of education has determined that the workshop, training and informational programs sponsored by New Jersey School Boards Association and set forth

below are directly related to and within the scope of the traveler's current responsibilities and the board's professional development plan; and

WHEREAS, The board of education has determined that participation in the New Jersey School Boards Association workshop, training and informational programs requires school district travel expenditures and that this travel is critical to the instructional needs of the district and/or furthers the efficient operation of the district; and

WHEREAS, The board of education has determined that the school district travel expenditures to New Jersey School Boards Association programs 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 of education finds that a mileage reimbursement rate equal to that of the OMB mileage reimbursement rate of [\$.47] per mile is a reasonable rate; and

WHEREAS, The board of education has determined that participation in the New Jersey School Boards Association workshop training and informational programs is in compliance with the district policy on travel; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Stillwater board of education hereby approves the attendance of the listed number of school board members and district employees at the listed New Jersey School Boards Association workshop, training and informational programs, 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 following New Jersey School Boards Association workshop, training programs and informational events:

Dennis DeGroat
Jennifer Kraft
Cheryl Williver
Darrick Franek
René Metzgar
Danny Papa

Pursuant to OMB Circulars & A-5 travel regulations:

As per GSA rates, subject to change for October 2026 travel:

Max. First & last day meals & incidentals \$51.00

Max. daily meals & incidentals \$68.00

Lodging Max: \$115/night + fees per person/night

Group Registration: \$2,300

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

Voice Vote: Mrs. Galante-Abstain #1, Aye to 2 & 3; Mrs. Williver-Aye; Mr. DeGroat-Aye; Mr. Franek- Aye; Mrs. Frey-Aye; Mrs. Kraft-Abstain #1, Aye to 2 & 3; Mrs. Thibault-Absent; Mrs. Valeich-Aye; and Mrs. Voris-Absent. Motions carried.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Papa reported on the following items:

- Staff Recognitions- Thanked the custodial department and administrative assistants for all their hard work this summer.
- School Safety Specialist training was completed
- 1988 Wing update- Still waiting on official DOE approval. More meetings to be scheduled September-November
- Letter to the community- Regarding new school initiatives for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Discussion on a possible public relations firm to assist with the referendum.
- Reminder: Regionalization Study Meeting at KRHS on September 16th at 6:00pm.

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. ***

Cody Castner- Fairview Lake Road- Thanked Mr. DeGroat for speaking out about the public relations company for the referendum. He also referenced the April 27 Board meeting, during which Dr. Papa discussed reducing expenditures for school supplies. Mr. Castner expressed concern regarding the letters sent to families requesting that parents purchase school supplies for their child, noting that this was something parents had not experienced previously. Mr. Castner also discussed the tax levy increase, the purchase of school supplies, and the future bond referendum. He questioned the Board's approval of more than \$665,000 for the boiler project at the March 30 Board meeting. He then asked about the information night regarding the 1988 Wing. He inquired whether the Board had taken any action regarding the crack monitoring meters, whether any movement of the building had been documented, and what the results of the ground-penetrating radar investigation had shown from the engineers.

ACTION ITEMS:

PERSONNEL

That the following Personnel resolutions 1-7 be approved as recommended by the Superintendent:

1. Motion to approve maternity leave for employee #937 beginning on or about November 16, 2026 with the intent to return April 5, 2027. This leave includes up to 12 weeks covered by FMLA & NJFLA.
2. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to retroactively approve the following summer bus aide substitute from July 1, 2026-July 31, 2026:
-Nicole Kerkhoven
3. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to retroactively approve an additional 10 hours 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
4. Motion to accept the resignation of Jennifer Russ, Part-Time Special Education Teacher, effective September 19, 2026 or earlier if possible.
5. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve contract with Madison Paseler, as the Preschool Disability maternity leave replacement teacher beginning on or about September 11, 2026-June 30, 2027 to be paid at BA, Step 0 for an annual salary of \$62,377 to be prorated to start date, pending criminal history & background check.
(attachment)
6. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve Maureen Riva to mentor Madison Paseler for a stipend of \$550 for the 2026-2027 school year.
7. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve BobbieJean Raff to attend the Assistive Tech training on August 31, 2026 not to exceed 1.5 hours to be paid at a rate of \$15.49/hour as per timesheet submitted.

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

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

That the following Personnel resolutions 8-14 be approved as recommended by the Superintendent:

8. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to offer the following contract to the new non-tenured instructional staff member for employment for the 2026-2027 school year from August 31, 2026 to June 30, 2027, pending receipt of official transcripts, and criminal history & background check: (attachment)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Nelan-Rodgers, Jacqueline	Special Education Teacher (.75 FTE)	BA, 0	\$46,782.75

9. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve contract for the following part-time Para-Professional staff member for employment for the 2026-2027 school year from September 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027, pending criminal history & background check:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Base Hourly Rate</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Total Hourly Rate</u>	<u>Contract Hours</u>
Sheridan, Grace	Special Education	\$ 15.49	\$ -	\$ 15.49	27.5 hours/week

10. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following staff members as bus aides from September 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 for a stipend in the amount of \$3,600, to be paid as worked:

Tracey Coombs
Emily Perez
Nicole Kerkhoven
Katie Schneider
Ana Cristina Walaszczyk
Gina Richardson (pending criminal history & background check)

11. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following staff members to sub as a bus aide from September 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 to be paid a daily rate of \$20.00, not to exceed a total of \$3,600 to be paid as per timesheets submitted:

Sarah Corbisiero
Isabel Ponte
Jennifer Siple

12. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following substitute teachers/paraprofessionals/main office secretaries for the 2026-2027 school year:

Madison Paseler-pending criminal history & background check
Lauren Sylvester-pending criminal history & background check

13. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following substitute paraprofessionals/main office secretaries for the 2026-2027 school year:

Danielle Wunder
Kylah Meo-pending criminal history & background check

14. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following substitute Nurse for the 2026-2027 school year:

Callie Gerber-pending criminal history & background check

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

POLICY

That the following Policy resolutions be approved:

1. Motion to approve the first reading of the following policies:
 - Policy#3510 Operation and Maintenance of Plant (attachment)
 - Policy#5111 Admission (attachment)
 - Policy#5131 Conduct Discipline (attachment)
 - Policy#6173 Home Instruction (attachment)
 - Bylaw#9321 Time, Place, Notification of Meetings (attachment)
 - Bylaw#9323/9324 Agenda Preparation, Advance Delivery of Meeting Materials (attachment)

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

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

EDUCATION & CURRICULUM

That the following Education & Curriculum resolutions be approved:

1. Motion upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the shared service contract agreement for the 2026-2027 school year with Hampton, Fredon, Sandyston Walpack, and Stillwater, for a Preschool Instructional Coach/Preschool Intervention and Referral Specialist, Megan Fazzio, for an annual cost to Stillwater of \$52,498.77. Hampton will be LEA.

2. Motion to approve contract with Brett DiNovi and Associates to provide behavior professional development for teachers and paraprofessionals on September 1, 2026 at a rate of \$140/hour for 4.5 hours at a total of \$630. To be paid for by IDEA-B Account# 20-250-200-500-000.
3. Motion to approve the revised New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science (NJSLS-S) that will be incorporated into our curricula by the start of the 2026-2027 school year.
4. Motion to approve Staff Development Workshops, Inc. to provide 12 days of Reader's and Writer's Workshop professional development to Stillwater Township School District, Fredon Township School District, Hampton Township School District, and Sandyston-Walpack Consolidated School District, at a combined cost of \$24,000 (\$2,000.00 per session) for the 2026-2027 school year. Sandyston-Walpack is the LEA. Stillwater Township School's share is \$6,000. To be partially paid for by Title II- 66.7% (\$4,003) Account# 20-275-200-530-000.
5. Motion to approve Living YES, LLC, Alicia DeLorenzo, to provide professional development on August 31, 2026 for the staff in-service day, for a total of \$5,000 to be split with Kittatinny, Fredon, Hampton, Sandyston, and Stillwater. Stillwater's portion will be \$1,000. Fredon will be the LEA.

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

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

BUILDING & GROUNDS

1. Building & Grounds Update- Mrs. Metzgar provided an update on the following items:
 - Freezer Repair Update
 - 41/56 Boiler Project
 - Playground Equipment Install

That the following Building & Grounds resolutions be approved:

2. Motion to approve building and use calendar for September 2026. (attachment)
3. Motion to approve the purchase of 84 new window screens from D&E Window & Door in the amount of \$12,625.88. To be paid through maintenance reserve funds. Coop Contract: ESCNJ 25/26-52.
Other quote: Sasse Glass- \$16,585.00
4. Motion to approve Change Order #A01 for the 1941/1956 Boiler Project at Stillwater Township Elementary School in the amount of \$4,859.00 to be paid to DeSesa Engineering Group for a conduit routing change to code.

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

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

TRANSPORTATION

That the following Transportation resolutions be approved:

1. Motion to approve the attached bus routes and stops for the 2026-2027 school year. (attachment)
2. Motion to approve renewal of school activities transportation contract with Stocker Bus Company for the 2026-2027 school year in the following amounts as listed:

<u>Route</u>	<u>Prev. Yrs Cost</u>	<u>Aide</u>	<u># of Days</u>	<u>CPI 3.58%</u>	<u>Inc/Dec</u>	<u>Total renewal Cost</u>
FT19-20	\$7,353.55	0	180	\$ 263.26	0	\$7,616.81

TOTAL ANNUAL COST \$7,616.81

*Stillwater will only be charged for attended trips.

ID Number	Destination	Departure/Return	Basis of Bus	Renewal Cost	NJSA 18A:39-3	Total
FT19-20-1	Ideal Farms, Lafayette, NJ	9:00 am/ 2:00 pm	54 Passenger school bus	360.67	\$12.91	\$373.58
FT19-20-2	Sussex Fairgrounds, Augusta, NJ	9:00 am/ 12:30 pm	54 Passenger school bus	262.83	\$9.40	\$272.23
FT19-20-3	Turtle Back Zoo, West Orange, NJ	8:45 am/ 2:30 pm	54 Passenger school bus	489.04	\$17.50	\$506.54
FT19-20-4	Crayola Factory, Easton, PA	8:45 am/ 2:30 pm	54 Passenger school bus	501.26	\$17.94	\$519.20
FT19-20-5	Rizzo's Wildlife World, Flanders, NJ	9:00 am/ 1:45 pm	54 Passenger school bus	409.55	\$14.66	\$424.21
FT19-20-6	Jockey Hollow, Morristown, NJ	8:40 am/ 2:30 pm	54 Passenger school bus	489.04	\$17.50	\$506.54
FT19-20-7	Quiet Valley, Stroudsburg, PA	8:40 am/ 2:30 pm	54 Passenger school bus	501.26	\$17.94	\$519.20
FT19-20-8	Kittatinny Regional HS, Newton, NJ	12:30 pm/ 2:15 pm	54 Passenger school bus	177.26	\$6.34	\$183.60
FT19-20-9	Kittatinny Regional HS, Newton, NJ	11:20 am/ 2:10 pm	54 Passenger school bus	275.07	\$9.84	\$284.91
FT19-20-10	KRHS, Newton, NJ (includes stop at Dairy Queen, Newton, NJ)	8:45 am/ 1:30 pm	54 Passenger school bus, additional stop at Dairy Queen	342.32	\$12.25	\$354.57
FT19-20-11	High Point Regional High	8:45 am/ 2:30 pm	54 Passenger school bus	409.55	\$14.66	\$424.21

	School, Sussex, NJ					
FT19-20-12	Lafayette Township School, Lafayette, NJ	8:30 am/ 2:00 pm	54 Passenger school bus	397.33	\$14.22	\$411.55
FT19-20-13	Fredon School, Newton, NJ	8:30 am/ 11:00 am	54 Passenger school bus	201.70	\$7.22	\$208.92
FT19-20-14	Sandyston-Walpack School, Layton, NJ	8:30 am/ 11:00 am	54 Passenger school bus	201.70	\$7.22	\$208.92
FT19-20-15	McKeown School, Newton, NJ	12:00 pm/ 2:00 pm	54 Passenger school bus	201.70	\$7.22	\$208.92
FT19-20-16	Kittatinny Regional HS, Newton, NJ	8:45 am/ 1:00 pm	54 Passenger school bus destination	305.63	\$10.94	\$316.57
FT19-20-17	Fairview Lake YMCA, Stillwater, NJ	2:35 pm/ N/A - parent pick up	54 Passenger school bus, one way only	91.68	\$3.28	\$94.96
FT19-20-18	Sussex Tech, Sparta, NJ	8:25 am/ 2:30 pm	54 Passenger school bus	409.55	\$14.66	\$424.21
FT19-20-19	Sparta HS, Sparta, NJ	8:25 am/ 2:30 pm	54 Passenger school bus	409.55	\$14.66	\$424.21
FT19-20-20	Sparta HS, Sparta, NJ	8:45 am/ 11:00 am	54 Passenger school bus	201.70	\$7.22	\$208.92
FT19-20-21	Sussex Tech, Sparta, NJ	8:45 am/ 11:00 am	54 Passenger school bus	201.70	\$7.22	\$208.92
FT19-20-22	Kittatinny Regional HS, Newton, NJ	9:25 am/ 11:50 am	54 Passenger school bus	213.93	\$7.65	\$221.58
FT19-20-23	Hills House, Hackettstown, NJ	8:45 am/ 12:45 pm	54 Passenger school bus	299.53	\$10.72	\$310.25

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

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

BUDGET & FINANCE

That the following Budget & Finance resolutions be approved:

1. Motion to approve the following checks from July 21, 2026-August 17, 2026 as attached: (attachment)

Account	Check Numbers	Amount
Funds 10, 11, 12, 20	31025-31077, N0721, N0722, N0731, N0804, & N0814, void 31001	\$477,537.44

Capital Reserve	N/A	\$0
Student Activities	N/A	\$0
Cafeteria	2775	\$480.00
Grand Total		\$478,017.44

2. Motion to approve the attached list of purchase orders over \$1,000 for the 2026-2027 school year. (attachment)
3. Motion to approve monthly travel as attached. (attachment)
4. Motion to approve transfers from July 1, 2026 to July 31, 2026 as attached. (attachment)
5. Motion to approve the transfer from capital reserve to general fund in the amount of \$25,000 for estimated financial advisor & bond counsel fees for the 1988 wing project.
6. Motion to approve the transfer from maintenance reserve to general fund in the amount of \$12,625.88 for building wide window screens.
7. Motion to authorize the submission of the ESEA Grant application for FY2027, and accepts the grant award of these funds upon subsequent approval of the FY2027 application as listed:

Title III-\$358
8. Motion to approve the withdrawal from capital reserve in the amount of \$4,859 for change order #A01 for the 41/56 boiler project.

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

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

LEGISLATION

Mrs. Kraft reported on the following items:

- NJSBA Introduces “Good News” Program
- School-based Partnerships for Access and Resilience for Kids (SPARK)
- Seniority Service Credit for ESPs

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Board member required training- Due December 31, 2026

2. NJSBA Conference Registration October 19-22, 2026: Please let Mrs. Metzgar if you would you need to cancel no later than September 30, 2026.

NEW BUSINESS

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. ***

Cody Castner- Fairview Lake Road- Felt the architects should have investigated the boiler project more if we are paying that much in fees.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Kraft at 7:40 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 personnel 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.

Mrs. Cramer left the meeting at 7:40 pm.

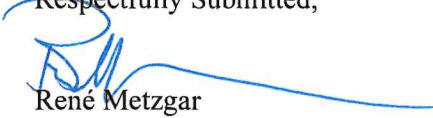
Motion made by Mrs. Williver, second by Mr. DeGroat at 7:57 pm. to come out of executive session. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Motion made by Mrs. Valeich, second by Mrs. Frey at 7:57 pm. To return to public session. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mr. DeGroat and second by Mrs. Frey, to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



René Metzgar

Business Administrator/Board Secretary