

September 14, 2026

The Stillwater Township Board of Education met on September 14, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Stillwater School Library for a Committee of the Whole 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. Franek, Mrs. Thibault, Mr. DeGroat, Mrs. Kraft, and Mrs. Valeich.

Absent: None.

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 of Education Meeting minutes and Executive Session meeting minutes from August 17, 2026. (attachment)
2. Motion to accept with regret, the resignation of Board Member, Christine Voris, effective August 26, 2026.
3. Motion to approve the following resolution:
WHEREAS, your personal commitment to quality education, your valued participation in establishing effective policies and your readiness to render services in seeking educational excellence have contributed immeasurable to the progress of our school system;

BE IT RESOLVED, that on behalf of your colleagues, teachers and students, we thank you for your dedicated services and wish you good health and happiness in your years to come.

STILLWATER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER:

Christine Voris

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

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

4. Board/District Goal Setting- Mrs. Galante & Dr. Papa lead the goal setting for board and district goals due to conflicts with NJSBA representatives. The following goals were discussed:

BOE Goals – 2026-2027

1. Provide support to the Stillwater School Administration in the pursuit and achievement of the District Goals.
2. The Board commits to pursuing training opportunities both individually and as a full Board, including completion of the board self-evaluation.
3. Provide support for the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan.
4. Continue to maintain open communication with our community and to support the district's pursuit of a bond referendum for the stabilization, repairs, and renovations of the 1988 Wing.

District Goals – 2026-2027

1. Stillwater Twp. School will implement the CharacterStrong program and integrate the character, social-emotional, and life-skill practices into daily school routines, interactions, and learning experiences.
 2. Stillwater Twp. School will implement a MTSS program and use the DIBELS universal screener data to support effective literacy instruction, identify student needs, monitor progress, and inform intervention strategies.
 3. Stillwater Twp. School will successfully implement the new science curriculum and related programs across applicable grade levels, establishing consistent instructional practices and providing students with meaningful opportunities to engage in scientific inquiry, hands-on learning, and application of science concepts.
5. BOE HIB Training- Dr. Papa provided the Board of Education Members with HIB Training. Presentation is attached to the minutes. (attachment)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERSONNEL

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

1. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve attached professional days. (attachment)
2. Motion to retroactively approve The Sensory Behavior Institute, Audra Rutnik, to provide professional development on August 31, 2026 for the staff in-service day, for a total of \$1,350 to be split with Fredon, Hampton, Sandyston, and Stillwater. Stillwater's portion will be \$337.50. Fredon will be the LEA. Funded through IDEA B account #20-250-200-500.
3. Motion to approve Marissa Cramer to attend NJPSA/FEA Fall Convention in Atlantic City, NJ October 14-16, 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 the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association and set forth below are directly related to and within the scope of listed administrators current responsibilities and/or applicable professional development plans; and

WHEREAS, The Board has determined that the participation in the NJPSA 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 administrators skills and knowledge related to district operations: and

WHEREAS, The Board has determined that the school district travel expenditures to NJPSA 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 NJPSA 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 the listed NJPSA 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 NJPSA training programs, seminars, conventions and conferences:

Marissa Cramer
Registration & Hotel \$955
Max. First & last day meals & incidentals \$51.00
Max. daily meals & incidentals \$68.00
Mileage- \$.47/mile plus tolls
October 14-16, 2026

4. Motion to approve the district/school wide professional development plan for the 2026-2027 school year. (attachment)

5. Motion to appoint Dr. Daniel Papa as the School Safety Specialist for the 2026-2027 school year.
6. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following before & after school programs for the 2026-2027 school year. The stipend for each teacher is \$410:

Club Name	Staff Member #1	Staff member #2	Grade Level	Grant/Account Number
Morning Fitness Club	Meghan Earley	Lorraine Bickhardt	Grades 3-6	Title IV 20-280-100-100
Morning Fitness Club	Meghan Earley	Janessa Green	Grades K-2	Title IV 20-280-100-100
Lego Club (Session 1)	Beth Johnson	Kerri LoCicero	Grade 2	Title IV 20-280-100-100
Lego Club (Session 2)	Beth Johnson	Kerri LoCicero	Grade 2	Title IV 20-280-100-100
Lego Club (Session 1)	Beth Johnson	Kerri LoCicero	Grade 3	Title IV 20-280-100-100
Lego Club (Session 2)	Beth Johnson	Kerri LoCicero	Grade 3	Title IV 20-280-100-100

7. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following after school program for the 2026-2027 school year. The stipend for each teacher is \$597.

Club Name	Staff Member #1	Staff Member #2	Grade Level	Grant/Account
Trep\$	Corrine Robinson	Danielle Hoon	Grade 6	Title 1 20-231-200-100

8. Motion to approve maternity leave for employee #933 beginning on or about November 9, 2026 with the intent to return March 10, 2027. This leave includes up to 12 weeks covered by FMLA & NJFLA.
9. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to appoint Meghan Earley as the Staff Wellness Champion to be paid a stipend of \$1,000, pending grant approval, for the 2026-2027 school year. Paid through the SHIF Wellness Grant.
10. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following stipend positions for the 2026-2027 school year:

Student Council (Co)	Beth Johnson	\$425
Student Council (Co)	Lynda Collier	\$425
Public Relations	Jessica Garrigan	\$850
Yearbook	Meghan Earley	\$850

11. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following substitute teacher/paraprofessional/main office secretary for the 2026-2027 school year:

Lauren Wunder-pending criminal history & background check

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

Taylor Ujvary-pending criminal history & background check
Carol Zervas-pending criminal history & background check

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

Rebecca Meskowitz-pending criminal history & background check
Kristina Eggelston
Maureen Beckman
Erica Verstraete-pending criminal history & background check

14. Motion to approve the following employee to be charged to the IDEA Basic Grant for the 2026-2027 school year beginning September 16, 2026-June 30, 2027:

Name	Position	Estimated Salary to be charged to grant	% Charged to grant	Expense Account number
BobbieJean Raff	Paraprofessional	\$13,000	84%	20-250-100-106

15. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve additional attached professional days. (attachment)

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

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

POLICY

That the following Policy resolution be approved:

1. Motion to approve the second and final 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- Aye; and Mrs. Valeich-Aye. Motion carried.

EDUCATION & CURRICULUM

That the following Education & Curriculum resolutions be approved:

1. Motion to approve the Title I District School Parental Involvement & Family Engagement Requirements for the 2026-2027 school year as attached. (attachment)
2. Motion to approve the Title I School- Parent Compact for the 2026-2027 school year as attached. (attachment)

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

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

BUILDING & GROUNDS

1. Building and Grounds Update- Mrs. Metzgar provided and update on the following items:
 - Playground spinner & sign install
 - Cafeteria Freezer
 - 1941/56 Boiler Project Update
 - 1988 Wing Project
 - Gym Update
 - Water System Update
2. Integrated Pest Management Plan- Mrs. Metzgar
The plan calls for the use of non-toxic means of addressing pest infestations. Mr. Maggio has been trained in these procedures and is the coordinator of the program. The extermination service that we use must conform to these practices. If there is a situation that requires the use of toxic chemicals, the public must be informed and signs displayed 72 hours before and after the application. Annually we send a letter to parents about the program with a copy of the policy. A copy of the policy is also available on our website.

That the following Building & Grounds resolution be approved:

3. Motion to approve the revised building and use calendar for September 2026. (attachment)
4. Motion to approve the Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAG) to be covered under the districts insurance policy to hold parent meetings at the Stillwater Elementary School for the 2026-2027 school year. All meetings must have a building use form completed and will be noted on the building use calendar each month.

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- Aye; and Mrs. Valeich-Aye. Motion carried.

TRANSPORTATION

That the following Transportation resolutions be approved:

1. Motion to approve the following field trips for the 2026-2027 school year:

Location	Grade
Aquatic Safety - Kittatinny RHS	4
Stillwater Historical Society - Walking Trip	2
Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm	5
Fairview Lake YMCA - Stillwater, NJ	6
Tranquility Farms - Green, NJ	K
Swartswood State Park, Newton, NJ	PreK
NJ School of Conservation (SOC), Sandyston, NJ	6
Paulinskill Watershed Project	5
Stillwater Community Center, Stillwater NJ	6
All District Honors Band/Chorus - Kittatinny RHS	5 & 6
Crayola Experience - Easton PA	2
Sussex County Technical School-Summit	6
Turtleback Zoo, West Orange, NJ	1
KRHS Jr. High Play Preview - Kittatinny RHS	5 & 6
Tranquility Farms - Green, NJ	PreK
KRHS Move Up Day - Kittatinny RHS	6
Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingman's Ferry PA	4
Camp Nejeda	6
Waterloo Village	3
Skylands Stadium	6

2. Motion to approve the following new bus stop for the 2026-2027 school year:

ST7- 987 Old Foundry Road

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

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

BUDGET & FINANCE

1. Finance Update- Mrs. Metzgar provided an update on the status of the 2025-2026 audit.

That the following Budget & Finance resolutions be approved:

2. Motion to accept the SRSA REAP Grant award for FY2026 in the amount of \$38,840.
3. Motion to accept the SHIF Staff Wellness grant award in the amount of \$7,600 for the 2026-2027 school year.
4. Motion to rescind the following motion approved at the August 17, 2026 Regular Board of Education Meeting:
Motion made by Mrs. Frey, second by Mrs. Kraft 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
A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.
5. Motion to approve the refusal of the ESEA Title III funds for FY2027 in the amount of \$358.
6. Motion to retroactively accept the following tuition students from the Newton Township Board of Education for the 2026-2027 school year:
Student# 11082016- Special Education Grade 4, \$25,579
Student# 08152014- Regular Education Grade 6, \$22,000

Moved By: Mrs. Thibault **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- Aye; and Mrs. Valeich-Aye. Motion carried.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Mrs. Williver reported on the following items:

- Back to School Night-September 17th
- Picture Day September 21st
- Fall Vendor Fair- September 26th
- PTA Book Fair- September 28th-October 2nd
- Youth Wrestling Registration
- Girl Scouts Meetings
- KRHS Band Trick Tray- September 19th

Mrs. Thibault also reported on the following items:

- Week of lights at KRHS- Begins September 21st
- Community Night at KRHS- September 26th
- 6th Grade Car Wash- September 26th

LEGISLATIVE

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. ***

None.

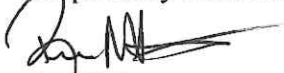
EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. DeGroat and second by Mrs. Valeich, to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



René Metzgar
Business Administrator/Board Secretary