

September 28, 2026

The Stillwater Township Board of Education met on September 28, 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. Kraft, Mr. DeGroat, Mrs. Frey, Mrs. Thibault, and Mrs. Valeich.

Absent: Mr. Franek.

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

## **BOARD BUSINESS**

### **That the following Board Business resolutions be approved:**

1. Motion to approve the Committee of the Whole Board Education meeting minutes from September 14, 2026. (attachment)
2. Motion to approve the August 31, 2026 Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports which balanced in the amount of \$4,146,569.63 pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-16.10(c)3, we certify that as of August 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. Motion to approve the following 2026-2027 Board Goals:

#### **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.

4. Motion to approve the following 2026-2027 District Goals:

**District Goals – 2026-2027**

1. Stillwater Twp. School will implement the Character Strong 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. Establish Board Goals Committee/Action plan process:

Motion to form an ad-hoc committee to develop board goals action plans with the following members (4 max):

1. Mrs. Williver
2. Mrs. Valeich
3. Mrs. Thibault

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

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Kraft at 7:03 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 Board Vacancy Interviews 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.

Motion made by Mr. DeGroat, second by Mrs. Frey at 8:31 pm. to come out of executive session. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Motion made by Mrs. Frey, second by Mrs. Kraft at 8:32 pm. To return to public session. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

## **MOTION WHEN RETURNED TO PUBLIC**

6. Motion to appoint a new board member to fill the term from October 13, 2026 to December 31, 2027, pending criminal history and background check\*.

\*Member will be officially sworn in at the next board of education meeting, pending criminal history & background check.

Congratulations Mrs. Kaitlyn Hammerle

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

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

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Papa reported on the following items:

- Preschool Visit
- Week of Respect
- NJSLA Scores
- Referendum Update

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

## **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

Welcomed Mrs. Hammerle to the Board.

## **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- Questioned the wording of the bond referendum motion, stating that it was disingenuous because the motion did not break out the costs associated with each item and did not state that the debt service is not guaranteed each year.

## **ACTION ITEMS:**

### **PERSONNEL**

**That the following Personnel resolutions 1-7 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 retroactively correct the following contracts effective September 1, 2026-June 30, 2027:

| Name              | Position                    | Hours           | Previous Rate | Corrected Rate |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Raff, Bobbie Jean | Part-Time Para Professional | 27.5 hours/week | \$15.49       | \$15.92        |
| Sheridan, Grace   | Part-Time Para Professional | 27.5 hours/week | \$15.49       | \$15.92        |

3. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following stipend positions for the 2026-2027 school year:

|               |               |       |
|---------------|---------------|-------|
| Night Foreman | Robert Kay    | \$850 |
| Yearbook      | Janessa Green | \$850 |

4. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following facilitators for the check in/check out program for the 2026-2027 school year, beginning October 1, 2026, at a pro-rated stipend for each mentor of \$150 per month, not to exceed \$1,350 per year, as worked, to be paid through Title I Funds, Account #20-231-200-100:

Meghan Earley  
Danielle Hoon  
Steve Tiberi

5. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following Check in/Check out Program Coordinator for the 2026-2027 school year, for a stipend of \$3,000 to be paid through Title I Funds, Account #20-231-200-100:

Jeanne Smetana

6. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following teachers and administrators as chaperones for the Fairview Lake YMCA Camp trip October 8 & 9, 2026 to be paid \$175 for the 1 extended day:

Danny Papa-No pay  
Marissa Cramer  
Janet Mahedy  
Jessica Steffens  
Mary DiRienzo

Colleen Hurley-Nurse

7. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve Colleen Hurley as the before school/after school nurse if needed for specific medical needs students involved in co-curricular activities, for the 2026-2027 school year to be paid an hourly rate of \$34/hour.

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

**Roll Call Vote:** Mrs. Galante- Aye; Mrs. Williver-Aye; Mr. DeGroat-Aye; Mr. Franek- Absent; Mrs. Frey-Aye; Mrs. Kraft-Aye; Mrs. Thibault-Aye; and Mrs. Valeich-Aye. 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 approve the following teacher for the After School Learning Center for a total of 40 sessions at a rate of \$50.00/session for the 2026-2027 school year. Paid through Title I, Account# 20-231-100-101.

Alexandra Caccavale

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

Nicole Vassollo-pending criminal history & background check  
Dora Salinas- pending NJ Certification and criminal history

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

Tugce Soja-pending criminal history & background check

11. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve Christina Locascio as the Preschool Maternity leave replacement teacher beginning on or about October 5, 2026-February 26, 2027 at a rate of \$311.88 per day, no benefits, to be paid on the same schedule as all other substitute teachers.

12. 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       |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| E-Gaming Club-Fall   | Danielle Hoon   | Spencer Both    | Grades 5-6  | Title IV<br>20-280-100-100 |
| E-Gaming Club-Spring | Danielle Hoon   | Spencer Both    | Grades 5-6  | Title IV<br>20-280-100-100 |

13. Motion to approve the leave of absence covered under FMLA for employee #908 from September 18, 2026 to October 1, 2026.

14. Motion to approve the use of the following listed Highly Effective Options for teacher observations to serve as an option for tenured teachers who were highly effective in the previous school year. At teacher discretion one of the activities listed below would take the place of an announced observation:

Activity 1 - Leading In-District Professional Development/Professional Learning

Activity 2 -- Data Protocol

Activity 3 - Peer-to-Peer Protocol

Activity 6 - Reflective Practice Through Student Perspective

**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-Aye; and Mrs. Valeich-Aye. Motions carried.

### **POLICY**

None.

### **EDUCATION & CURRICULUM**

**That the following Education & Curriculum resolutions be approved:**

1. Motion to approve the following resolution:  
Resolution declaring October 5-9, 2026 Week of Respect  
WHEREAS, The Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights, Assembly Bill 3466, was approved by the New Jersey Legislature in November 2010 and signed into law as P.L. 2010, c. 122, by Governor Chris Christie on January 5, 2011; and
- WHEREAS, The statute is intended to protect students from harassment and intimidation that would substantially interfere with their education; and
- WHEREAS, In a 2009 survey by the National Centers for Disease Control, one in five New Jersey students indicated they had been the subject of bullying on school grounds during the previous year; and
- WHEREAS, The Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights places expanded responsibilities on teachers, school administrators and boards of education to protect students from incidents of bullying, harassment and intimidation; and
- WHEREAS, The Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights designates the week beginning with the first Monday in October as “Week of Respect” throughout New Jersey”; and
- WHEREAS, The law directs school districts to observe the “Week of Respect” through age-appropriate instruction in accordance with New Jersey’s core curriculum content standards; and

WHEREAS, The Stillwater Board of Education recognizes the harmful impact of harassment and bullying on children and is committed to providing all of its students with a safe and secure learning environment free from intimidation; and

WHEREAS, The Stillwater Board of Education supports the intent of the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights to protect our children, as well as the goal of previous law to enhance training and instruction to prevent harassment, intimidation and bullying. Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Stillwater Board of Education declares October 5-9, 2026 as a "Week of Respect" in all district schools, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Week of Respect will be a part of the Stillwater Public Schools' ongoing efforts to foster respect among students and staff for the diverse cultures and personalities represented in our school community, and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Mikie Sherrill, State Senator Space, Assembly Representatives Fantasia and Ingagamort, the New Jersey School Boards Association and the Sussex County School Boards Association.

2. Motion to declare October 19-23, 2026 School Violence Awareness Week:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:36-5.1. declares the week beginning with the third Monday in October of each year is designated as "School Violence Awareness Week" in the State of New Jersey. School districts shall observe this week by organizing activities to prevent school violence including, but not limited to, age-appropriate opportunities for student discussion on conflict resolution, issues of student diversity, and tolerance. Law enforcement personnel shall be invited to join members of the teaching staff in the discussions. Programs shall also be provided for school board employees that are designed to help them recognize warning signs of school violence and to instruct them on recommended conduct during an incident of school violence. The Department of Education shall provide guidelines and information to boards of education for use in planning the activities in observance of the week and such funds as are necessary to pay the costs of the required activities and programs.

RESOLVED, That the School Violence Awareness Week will be a part of the Stillwater Township Schools' ongoing efforts to help students and staff to recognize the importance of tolerance and to understand and apply conflict resolution techniques.

3. Motion to approve Mosa Mack Science, to provide professional development on October 12, 2026 for the staff in-service day, for a total of \$499.00 to be split with Fredon, Hampton, Sandyston, and Stillwater. Stillwater's portion will be \$124.75. Hampton will be the LEA.
4. Motion to approve Teaching Strategies, to provide professional development for Enhancing Interrater Reliability for GOLD on October 12, 2026 for the staff in-service day, for a total of \$2,092.50 to be split with Fredon, Hampton, Sandyston, and Stillwater. Stillwater's portion will be \$523.13, paid through PEA. Hampton will be the LEA.
5. Motion to retroactively approve Sussex County Educational Services Commission to provide Physical Therapy for 2 hours per week from September 1, 2026-June 30, 2027 at a rate of \$99.00/hour plus 3% commission fees, for an annual cost not to exceed \$8,157.60.

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

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

### **BUILDING & GROUNDS**

1. Building & Grounds Update- Mrs. Metzgar reported on the following items:
  - 1941/56 Boiler Project Update
  - Gym air quality testing

**That the following Building & Grounds resolutions be approved:**

2. Motion to approve building and use calendar for October 2026. (attachment)
3. Motion to approve the Emergency Evacuation Agreement between the Stillwater Township Board of Education and the emergency evacuation site as per the agreement, as recommended by the New Jersey State Police and the Superintendent.
4. Motion to approve Article 12 maintenance agreement annual addendum of the uniform state memorandum of agreement between education and law enforcement officials and to re-adopt the Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement between Education and Law Enforcement Officials and authorize the submission of same to the County Superintendent, County Prosecutor and Law Enforcement Officials. (Copy is available in the Superintendent's Office for review).

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

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

### **TRANSPORTATION**

**That the following Transportation resolutions be approved:**

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

| Location                   | Grade     |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Anderson Farms, Sparta, NJ | Preschool |

2. Motion to approve transportation with Stocker Bus for the following field trips for the 2026-

2027 school year:

| Date                           | Location                                 | Grade              | Cost                                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| October 8 & 9, 2026            | Fairview Lake YMCA                       | Grade 6            | 1 Bus: \$395/day=<br>\$790.00 total   |
| October 16, 2026               | Anderson Farms, Sparta, NJ               | Preschool          | 2 Buses: \$295/bus=<br>\$590.00 total |
| October 21, 2026               | Waterloo Village                         | Grade 3            | 1 bus: \$490.00                       |
| October 21, 2026               | Sussex Tech                              | Summit-<br>Grade 6 | 1 bus: \$424.21                       |
| October 23, 2026<br>Rain date: |                                          |                    |                                       |
| October 27, 2026               | Tranquility Farms                        | Kindergarten       | 1 bus: \$295.00                       |
| October 23, 2026               | Turtle Back Zoo                          | Grade 1            | 1 bus: \$506.54                       |
| October 27, 2026               | Quiet Valley, Stroudsburg, PA            | Grade 5            | 1 bus: \$519.20                       |
| May 28, 2027                   | Pocono Environmental<br>Education Center | Grade 4            | 1 bus: \$550.00                       |

- Motion to approve the field trip to the Stillwater Historical Society on October 15, 2026 for second grade. No transportation required-walking trip.
- Motion to approve the following new bus stop for the 2026-2027 school year:

ST8- 923 Old Foundry Road

**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-Aye; and Mrs. Valeich-Aye. Motions carried.

## **BUDGET & FINANCE**

**That the following Budget & Finance resolutions 1-6 be approved:**

- Motion to approve the following checks from August 18, 2026-September 28, 2026 as attached: (attachment)

| Account              | Check Numbers                           | Amount              |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Funds 10, 11, 12, 20 | 31078-31156, N0831, N0903,<br>and N0911 | \$978,975.28        |
| Capital Reserve      | N/A                                     | \$0                 |
| Student Activities   | N/A                                     | \$0                 |
| Cafeteria            | 2776-2778                               | \$4,965.48          |
| <b>Grand Total</b>   |                                         | <b>\$983,940.76</b> |

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 August 1, 2026 to August 31, 2026 as attached. (attachment)
5. Motion to approve membership dues for René Metzgar with the NJ Buildings and Grounds Association/NW Chapter for Stillwater School, for the 2026-2027 school year in the amount of \$400.
6. Motion to accept the donation of 1 LifeVAC from Phelan Livingston, for the preschool classroom, estimated value TBD.

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

**That the following Budget & Finance Resolution be approved:**

7. **RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF STILLWATER IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF TWO BOND PROPOSAL QUESTIONS TOGETHER WITH AN EXPLANATORY STATEMENT TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT VOTERS AT A SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION TO BE HELD ON DECEMBER 8, 2026**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY** The Board of Education of the Township of Stillwater in the County of Sussex, New Jersey (the "Board") (not less than a majority of the full membership of the Board concurring) as follows:

1. The following two bond proposal questions (the "Proposals"), together with the explanatory statement (the "Explanatory Statement"), shall be submitted to the legal voters of the School District at a special School District election (the "Election") to be held on Tuesday, December 8, 2026 commencing at 6:00 a.m. for the purposes hereinafter provided. The polls shall remain open until 8:00 p.m. and as much longer as may be necessary to permit all the legal voters then present to vote and cast their ballot. The form of the Proposals, together with the Explanatory Statement, will read substantially as follows except as otherwise may be set forth herein:

**BOND PROPOSAL QUESTION NO. 1**

The Board of Education of the Township of Stillwater in the County of Sussex, New Jersey (the "Board") is authorized to (a) undertake various upgrades, renovations, and improvements to the gymnasium at Stillwater Township School, including but not limited to soil stabilization, masonry repairs, renovations

to restrooms, paint refinishing, and the replacement of flooring, heating and ventilation systems, bleachers, interior doors, and windows, including acquisition and installation of fixtures, equipment, and any site work; (b) appropriate \$3,151,644 for such improvements; and (c) issue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$3,151,644.

The final eligible costs for the projects approved by the New Jersey Commissioner of Education are \$3,151,644. The projects include \$0 for school facility construction elements in addition to the facilities efficiency standards developed by the Commissioner of Education or not otherwise eligible for State support pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-5(g). The State debt service aid percentage is 40% of the annual debt service due with respect to the final eligible costs of the projects. The Board of Education is authorized to transfer funds among the projects approved at this election.

**Do you approve this Bond Proposal Question No. 1?**

### **BOND PROPOSAL QUESTION NO. 2**

**(Bond Proposal Question No. 2 will only go into effect if Bond Proposal Question No. 1 is also approved by the voters at this election.)**

The Board of Education of the Township of Stillwater in the County of Sussex, New Jersey (the "Board") is authorized to (a) undertake various upgrades, renovations, and improvements to the gymnasium at Stillwater Township School, including but not limited to the replacement of the ceiling, lighting upgrades, air conditioning condenser and ductwork upgrades, and the purchase and installation, as applicable, of various gym equipment, including acquisition and installation of fixtures, equipment, and any site work; (b) appropriate \$1,084,599 for such improvements; and (c) issue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$1,084,599.

The final eligible costs for the projects approved by the New Jersey Commissioner of Education are \$913,482. The projects include \$171,117 for school facility construction elements in addition to the facilities efficiency standards developed by the Commissioner of Education or not otherwise eligible for State support pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-5(g). The State debt service aid percentage is 40% of the annual debt service due with respect to the final eligible costs of the projects. The Board of Education is authorized to transfer funds among the projects approved at this election.

**Do you approve this Bond Proposal Question No. 2?**

### **EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

**At this election, the voters of the school district are being asked to consider Bond Proposal Questions No. 1 and No. 2. As set forth above, Bond Proposal Question No. 2 can only go into effect if Bond Proposal Question No. 1 is also approved by the voters at this election.**

If Bond Proposal Questions No. 1 and No. 2 are approved by the voters at this election, the Board of Education will be authorized to undertake various upgrades, renovations, and improvements to the gymnasium at Stillwater Township School, including but not limited to soil stabilization, masonry repairs, renovations to restrooms, paint refinishing, the replacement of flooring, heating and ventilation

systems, bleachers, interior doors, and windows, the replacement of the ceiling, lighting upgrades, air conditioning condenser and ductwork upgrades, and the purchase and installation, as applicable, of various gym equipment. The foregoing improvements shall include acquisition and installation of fixtures, furniture, equipment, and any site work.

The total cost for the projects will be \$4,236,243, and the Board of Education will be authorized to issue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$4,236,243. The final eligible costs for the projects approved by the New Jersey Commissioner of Education are \$4,065,126. The projects include \$171,117 for school facility construction elements in addition to the facilities efficiency standards developed by the Commissioner of Education or not otherwise eligible for State support pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-5(g). The State debt service aid percentage is 40% of the annual debt service due with respect to the final eligible costs of the projects. The Board of Education is authorized to transfer funds among the projects approved at this election.

2. The Board hereby approves and adopts the Proposals and Explanatory Statement set forth above and, subject to the approval of the legal voters of the School District, hereby determines to carry out the same as described therein (the "Project"). The Board authorizes the Business Administrator/Board Secretary (the "Business Administrator/Board Secretary"), consistent with any advice received from bond counsel, to revise the Proposals and/or Explanatory Statement, if necessary, prior to the Election.

3. The Board hereby acknowledges and confirms that, in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:24-16 and N.J.S.A. 18A:24-17, a Supplemental Debt Statement has been prepared as of the date of this resolution by the Chief Financial Officer of the Township of Stillwater, giving effect to the proposed total authorization of School Bonds of the School District in the maximum amount provided for in the Proposals, and that the Supplemental Debt Statement has been filed in the office of the Township Clerk, in the office of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary prior to the adoption of this resolution, and will be filed in the office of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, State of New Jersey, Department of Community Affairs prior to the date of the Election.

4. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary is hereby authorized and directed, in conjunction with Bond Counsel, to deliver a certified copy of this resolution and such other information as shall be necessary to the County Clerk as required by N.J.S.A. 19:60-2, to request the County Clerk to submit the Proposals, together with the Explanatory Statement, to the voters at the Election and to seek the assistance of the county officials and the municipal clerk in conducting the Election.

5. The Board hereby: (i) accepts the determination of Preliminary Eligible Costs as set forth in the letter from the New Jersey Department of Education and not to appeal such determinations made therein; (ii) determines to construct the Project itself; (iii) agrees to locally fund any excess costs, if any; and (iv) delegates the supervision of the Project to the Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

6. Parette Somjen Architects, the School District's appointed architect for the

Project (the "Project Architect"), has heretofore been authorized and delegated the responsibility to prepare the plans and specifications for the Project in consultation with and under the supervision of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, who has been delegated the responsibility to work with the Project Architect for this purposes on behalf of the Board, in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-16, and such authorizations and delegations are hereof reconfirmed.

7. The School Administration and such other officers, professionals and agents of the Board as are necessary, including Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A., Bond Counsel, and the Project Architect, are each hereby authorized and directed to perform such acts, execute such documents and do such things as are necessary and proper for the submission of the Proposals together with the Explanatory Statement, to the voters of the School District at the Election.

8. This Board hereby makes the following covenants and declarations with respect to obligations determined to be issued by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary through a public offering of private placement or through a conduit borrower on a tax exempt basis. The Board hereby covenants that it will comply with any conditions subsequent imposed by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), in order to preserve the exemption from taxation of interest on its bonds or notes if issued as tax exempt, including, if necessary, the requirement to rebate all net investment earnings on the gross proceeds above the yield on its bonds or notes. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary is hereby authorized to act on behalf of the Board to deem the obligations authorized herein as bank qualified for the purposes of Section 265 of the Code, when appropriate. The Board hereby declares its intent to issue bonds or notes in the amount set forth in the Proposal approved by the voters as set forth in Section 1 and to use the proceeds to pay or to reimburse expenditures for the costs of the Projects authorized herein. This resolution is a declaration of intent within the meaning and for the purposes of Treasury Regulations 1.150-2 or any successor provisions of federal income tax law.

9. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

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

Discussion was had regarding election times. The board felt keeping the same hours as all other elections would be the best for the community. Mrs. Thibault also questioned who drafted the resolution for this. Mrs. Metzgar responded that the bond attorney drafted the resolution in accordance with state regulations.

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

## **LEGISLATION**

Mrs. Kraft reported on the following legislation items:

-The State School Employees Health Benefits Commission approved rate increases for public health plans serving school workers to increase premiums by as much as 34%.

-Gov. Sherrill signed legislation creating an \$8 million pilot program to connect students with behavioral health services through their schools.

-The School-Based Partnerships for Access and Resilience for Kids, or SPARK, program will begin providing services in early 2027 in as many as ten school districts. The Department of Children and Families will administer the pilot in consultation with the Department of Education.

Mrs. Frey left the meeting at 8:52 pm.

### **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

Mrs. Williver reported on the following community events:

- The Week of Respect 10/5-10/9
- Fire Prevention Day is 10/9.
- School will be Closed on 10/12/26
- The PTA Book Fair September 28th - October 2nd
- Girl Scout Virtual Meetings are scheduled for Wednesdays in September. Membership Year is October 1st – September 30th
- Kittatinny Youth Wrestling Sign-Ups are still happening now through October 16th .
- The Stillwater Area Volunteer Fire Company is hosting a Car Cruise Night and Trunk or Treat at the firehouse on Friday, October 23rd from 6-9pm.
- The Sussex County YMCA Swordfish Swim Team are looking for motivated members to join their competitive swim team!
- Fairview Lake YMCA Camps are having a Pig Roast
- Community Harvest Day on Sunday, October 4th
- The Healing Hearts Through the Arts, Children's Art Bereavement Program is hosting a Carnival on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-8pm on October 20th , 22nd , 27th and 29th
- Learn Girls Field Hockey at KRHS! Wednesdays and Fridays from 5:30-7pm starting this week
- Quick Flick Cougar Clinic — Grades 3-8, All levels welcome. Wednesdays & Fridays 5:15–7:15 at Kittatinny HS Field Hockey Field. Dates: 9/30, 10/2, 10/7, 10/9, 10/14, 10/16, 10/21, 10/23.
- Ski Club will meet on Sundays at Shawnee Mountain from 3-9pm, and the dates are listed on the flyer.
- The Growing Stage Theater in Netcong is showing Roald Dahl's Matilda, The Musical in October.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Board member required training- Due December 31, 2026
2. NJSBA Conference Registration October 19-22, 2026: Please let Mrs. Metzgar know if you need to cancel no later than September 30, 2026.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Sussex County School Board Association Meeting- October 6<sup>th</sup> at Vernon H.S. or zoom.

### **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.

### **ADJOURN**

Motion made by Mr. DeGroat and second by Mrs. Williver to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



René Metzgar

Business Administrator/Board Secretary