STILLWATER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting- 7:00 P.M.-Library
Agenda-November 16, 2026

A. **CALL TO ORDER** — **Mrs. Galante**

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.

B. **FLAG SALUTE** — **Mrs. Galante**

C. **ROLL CALL** — **Mrs. Metzgar**

BOARD MEMBERS	PRESENT	ABSENT
Dennis DeGroat		
Darrick Franek		
Margaret Frey		
Krista Galante		
Kaitlyn Hammerle		
Jennifer Kraft		
Karen Thibault		
Amy Valeich		
Cheryl Williver		

D. **BOARD BUSINESS** — **Mrs. Galante**

That the following Board Business resolutions be approved:

1. Motion to approve the Regular Board of Education meeting minutes from October 13, 2026. (attachment)

2. Motion to approve the September 30, 2026 Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports which balanced in the amount of $3,806,532.35 pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-16.10(c)3, we certify that as of September 30, 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 October 31, 2026 Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports which balanced in the amount of $3,951,576.07 pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-16.10(c)3, we certify that as of October 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)

4. Motion to accept the board goals action plans for the 2026-2027 school year. (attachment)

5. Motion to approve the 2027 Board Reorganization Meeting & Committee of the Whole Meeting to be held on Monday, January 4, 2027 with a snow date of Tuesday, January 5, 2027 beginning at 7:00 pm.

Moved By: _____ **Seconded By:** _____

Vote:

E. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** **Dr. Papa**

F. **CORRESPONDENCE** **Mrs. Galante**

G. **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS** **Mrs. Galante**

H. **PUBLIC COMMENT** **Mrs. Galante**

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. *****

I. ACTION ITEMS:

PERSONNEL — Mr. DeGroat

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 retroactively approve the following substitute teacher/paraprofessional/main office secretary from September 1, 2026-June 30, 2027:

   Julia Lora

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

   -Suzanne Ely-pending criminal history & background check

4. Motion to approve membership for Laura Ciccolella to the Civil Air Patrol for the 2026-2027 school year at no cost to the district for the Makerspace.

5. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to retroactively revise the following before & after school programs for the 2026-2027 school year. The stipend for each teacher was originally approved as $410/teacher. The correct stipend amount is $205/teacher.

Club Name	Staff Member #1	Staff member #2	Grade Level	Grant/Account Number
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

6. Motion, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to retroactively approve the following teacher for the Before School Learning Center for a total of up to 40 sessions at a rate of $50.00/session beginning October 12, 2026 until June 30, 2027. (Session count is for Before & After School sessions). Paid through Title I, Account# 20-231-100-101.

   Alexandra Caccavale

7. Motion to approve maternity leave for employee #906 beginning on or about January 4, 2027 with the intent to return for the 2027-2028 school year. This leave includes up to 12 weeks covered by FMLA & NJFLA.

Moved By: _____ **Seconded By:** _____

Roll Call Vote:

POLICY

Mrs. Valeich

EDUCATION & CURRICULUM

Mrs. Frey

1. NJSLA Results Presentation- Dr. Papa

That the following Education & Curriculum resolutions be approved:

2. Motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Delta Therapy and the Stillwater Township Board of Education to provide on-site psychotherapy services at no cost to the district as needed for the 2026-2027 school year.

3. Motion to approve the School Nursing Services Plan for Stillwater Township School for the 2026-2027 school year. (attachment)

Moved By: _____ **Seconded By:** _____

Roll Call Vote:

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Mr. Franek

1. Building & Grounds Update- Mrs. Metzgar

That the following Building & Grounds resolutions be approved:

2. Motion to approve the revised building and use calendar for November 2026. (attachment)

3. Motion to approve building and use calendar for December 2026. (attachment)

Moved By: _____ **Seconded By:** _____

Vote:

TRANSPORTATION

Mrs. Hammerle

BUDGET & FINANCE

Mrs. Thibault

1. Finance Update- Mrs. Metzgar

That the following Budget & Finance resolutions be approved:

2. Motion to approve the following checks from October 14, 2026-November 16, 2026 as attached: (attachment)

Account	Check Numbers	Amount
Funds 10, 11, 12, 20	31200-31251, N1015, N1016, N1030, N1113	$1,048,416.15
Capital Reserve	N/A	$0
Student Activities	6725-6729	$4,182.60
Cafeteria	2780-2781	$19,866.73
Grand Total		**$1,072,465.48**

3. Motion to approve the attached list of purchase orders over $1,000 for the 2026-2027 school year. (attachment)

4. Motion to approve monthly travel as attached. (attachment)

5. Motion to approve transfers from September 1, 2026 to September 30, 2026 as attached. (attachment)

6. Motion to approve transfers from October 1, 2026 to October 31, 2026 as attached. (attachment)

7. Motion to accept the annual audit for the Stillwater Township Board of Education for the year ended June 30, 2026. There were no audit findings or recommendations. (attachment)

8. Motion to accept the donation of legos from Paula Domiciano, value TBD.

9. Motion to accept the donation from The Civil Air Patrol for up to two robotics kits, valued TBD.

10. Motion to authorize the submission of the IDEA-PS amendment to the application for 2026-2027 to include the revised allocation amount.

Moved By: _____ **Seconded By:** _____

Roll Call Vote:

J. LEGISLATION — Mrs. Kraft

K. COMMUNITY RELATIONS — OPEN

L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS — Mrs. Galante

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

2. NJ School Boards Conference Update

M. NEW BUSINESS — Mrs. Galante

1. Upcoming Sussex County School Boards Meeting:
December 1, 2026- Hybrid Meeting, Valley Road School-Stanhope at 6:00 pm, Topic: Questions Every Board Member Should Ask: Understanding School Budgets, Financial Risks, and Health Care Costs."

N. **PUBLIC COMMENT** **Mrs. Galante**

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O. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** **Mrs. Galante**

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by 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 Student Privacy, Personnel Matters and Legal Matters it is expected that the minutes taken of this closed session will be made public when the reason for confidentiality no longer exists.

P. **MOTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RETENTION OF SPECIAL LITIGATION COUNSEL TO INVESTIGATE AND PURSUE CLAIMS AGAINST SOCIAL MEDIA COMPANIES

WHEREAS, the Board of Education (the "Board") is a body corporate organized and existing under Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes, vested with authority to govern the affairs of the School District (the "District"), including the power under N.J.S.A. 18A:11-2 to sue and be sued in its corporate name and to employ legal counsel to protect the interests of the Board, the District, and its students; and

WHEREAS, social media platforms owned and operated by Meta Platforms, Inc., Instagram LLC, ByteDance Ltd. and TikTok Inc., Snap Inc., and Google LLC/YouTube LLC (collectively, the "Platforms") have been designed, marketed, and operated in a manner alleged to be addictive and harmful to minors, and are the subject of coordinated litigation nationwide, including In re: Social Media Adolescent Addiction/Personal Injury Products Liability Litigation, MDL No. 3047 (N.D. Cal.), in which school districts and boards of education across the country — including in New Jersey — have asserted claims against the Platforms; and

WHEREAS, the School District has incurred, and continues to incur, substantial costs and burdens attributable to student use of the Platforms, including increased demand for counseling, psychological, and mental health services; additional administrative, disciplinary, and safety responses to cyberbullying, harassment, and related incidents; and diversion of staff time and District resources to address these harms; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that it is in the best interest of the District and its students to investigate, and if warranted to pursue, legal claims against the Platforms to recover the costs the District has borne as a result of the Platforms' conduct; and

WHEREAS, the Law Office of Robert King, PLLC ("King Law") and Motley Rice LLC ("Motley Rice,"and together with King Law, "Counsel") have substantial experience representing school districts and public entities nationwide in litigation against the Platforms, including court-appointed leadership roles in the MDL, and have proposed to undertake this representation on a contingency-fee basis, at no upfront cost or financial risk to the District; and

WHEREAS, legal services, including contingency-fee litigation representation, constitute "professional services" as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2, and may be procured without public advertising for bids pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(a)(1) of the Public School Contracts Law, provided that the Board states its supporting reasons for such action in this Resolution — as set forth in the foregoing recitals — and causes notice of the award to be published as required by law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education, as follows:

1. Retention of Counsel. The Board hereby retains and engages King Law and Motley Rice as special litigation counsel to investigate, evaluate, and, if warranted, prosecute all viable claims against the Platforms arising from harm to the District caused by the design, marketing, and operation of the Platforms, including but not limited to claims for public nuisance, negligence, and products liability.

2. Authorization to Execute Contract. The Superintendent and/or President of the Board is authorized to execute, on the Board's behalf, a Contract of Investigation and Representation with King Law and Motley Rice, substantially in the form presented to the Board, providing for representation on a contingency-fee basis with attorneys' fees not to exceed one-third (33.33%) of any gross recovery, with Counsel to advance all litigation costs and expenses, reimbursable only from any recovery obtained.

3. Scope of Authority. Counsel is authorized to associate co-counsel, retain experts and investigators, participate in coordinated or multidistrict litigation proceedings, and take all other steps reasonably necessary to investigate and prosecute the claims described herein, consistent with the terms of the executed Contract.

4. No Obligation Absent Recovery. Nothing in this Resolution obligates the expenditure of any District funds, and the District shall owe no fee or expense to Counsel except as expressly provided in the executed Contract, and then only in the event of a recovery.

5. Publication of Notice. The Board Secretary is directed to cause a brief notice of the award of this contract — stating the nature, duration, service, and amount of the contract — to be printed once in an official newspaper of the District, as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(a)(1).

6. Further Action. The Superintendent and/or President of the Board and District counsel are authorized to execute any further documents and take any further action reasonably necessary or convenient to carry out the intent of this Resolution.

7. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Moved By: _____ **Seconded By:** _____

Roll Call Vote:

Q. **ADJOURN**