

Minutes
November 20, 2024
Swedesboro-Woolwich Board of Education
"A Community dedicated to inspiring life-long learners"
Gov. Charles Stratton School
15 Fredrick Boulevard
Woolwich Township, NJ 08085
6:00 P.M. Meeting Opening

1. Opening

A. Call to Order

Open Public Meeting Act. *Adequate notice of this meeting of the board of education of the Swedesboro-Woolwich School District has been provided in accordance with the certification of notice by the secretary of the board, which shall become part of the minutes of this meeting.*

B. Roll Call

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gina Azzari, School Board President	All Committees
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natalie Baker, School Board Vice President	(Chair) Curriculum, (Chair) Negotiations, Personnel/Finance Committees
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Julie Dickson	(Chair) Operations Committee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erin Carroll	Curriculum Committee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laurie Cecala-Read	Operations Committee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marie Barbara	(Chair) Personnel/Finance Committee, Negotiations
Tamara McGovern	Curriculum Committee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alfred Beaver	Operations Committee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kenneth Riley	Personnel/Finance Committees, Negotiations

Quorum: 8-1/6:00 pm

C. Flag Salute

D. Adoption of Agenda

Recommendation: Baker/Riley approve the adoption of the agenda, **as presented.**

Board action needed: Yes

(All yes, motion to carry 8-0)

2. Presentations

Stellar Comet Award is each month, the principal of each building selects students as Stellar Comets. Each building has developmentally appropriate criteria for selecting these students. For example, the student demonstrates respect for self and others, shows acts of kindness, demonstrates a positive attitude, exhibits positive conduct and follows school rules, puts forth full effort in all areas, and comes to school on time prepared for the day. Congratulations to all of our Stellar Comets!

A. Stellar Comet of the Month- October 2024

1) Walter Hill School

Grade 6

- Kirat Kaur
- Aubrey Donzuso

2) Charles G. Harker School

Grade 3

- Layla Miller
- Dillon McCalla

Grade 4

- Mackenzie Beebe
- Edward Pratt

Grade 5

- Mia Zitkevitz
- Lucas Liszewski

3) Gov. Charles Stratton School

Grade 1

- Mark Abramson
- Taytum Nowak

Grade 2

- Natalie Rivas
- Cara Yatsko

4) Margaret Clifford School

Kindergarten

- Luciana Wilson
- John “Jack” Bradley
- Anthony Schreyer
- Victoria Cardona

EXECUTIVE SESSION

RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION – If Needed

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act authorizes boards of education to meet in closed executive session under certain circumstances, and

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act requires the Swedesboro-Woolwich School District Board of Education (the “Board”) to adopt a resolution at a public meeting to go into closed executive session; now therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board that it is necessary to meet in closed executive session to discuss certain items, including the following:

- Matters of personal confidentiality rights, including but not limited to, staff and/or student discipline matters, and specifically: HIB
- Matters in which the release of information would impair the right to receive government funds, and specifically: _____
- Matters which, if publicly disclosed, would constitute an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy, and specifically: _____
- Matters concerning negotiations, and specifically: _____
- Matters involving the purchase of real property and/or the investment of public funds, and specifically: _____
- Matters involving the real tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public, and specifically: _____
- Matters involving anticipated or pending litigation, including matters of attorney-client privilege, and specifically: _____
- Matters involving personnel issues, including but not limited to, the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of performance, promotion or discipline of any public officer or employee, and specifically: Personnel, Grievance
- Matters involving quasi-judicial deliberations, and specifically: _____

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any discussion held by the Board which need not remain confidential will be made public as soon as feasible. The minutes of the executive session will not be disclosed until the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board anticipates the executive session to last approximately 30 minutes. The Board will return to open session to conduct business at the conclusion of the executive session.

- 1) Recommendation: Baker/Beaver approve to enter into **Executive Session** for the purpose of discussing/reviewing items as noted above.
Board action needed: Yes Time: 6:16 pm
(All yes, motion to carry 8-0)

- 2) Recommendation: Baker/Barbara approve to return to **Regular Session.**
Board action needed: Yes Time: 7:44 pm
(All yes, motion to carry 8-0)

Approval of Minutes

Recommendation: Baker/Beaver approve the regular and executive session minutes dated **October 9, 2024, as submitted.**

Board action needed: Yes
(All yes, motion to carry 8-0)

Baker/Beaver Motion to amend Executive Session Minutes

Board action needed: Yes (Roll Call Required)
(Motion to carry 7-0-1 Barbara abstained)

Natalie Baker-Y

Julie Dickson-Y

Erin Carroll-Y

Laurie Cecala-Read-Y

Marie Barbara- Abstained

Tamara McGovern-

Alfred Beaver-Y

Kenneth Riley-Y

Gina Azzari-Y

3. Communication

A. Superintendent

“A Community dedicated to inspiring life-long learners”

1) Superintendent Updates- Since it is the month of November and it's a time for everyone to reflect on what they are grateful for, Dr. Kellogg wanted to mention how grateful she is working in such a phenomenal staff throughout the district and such a supportive Board of Education.

a) Shout Outs-

- Shout out to Brian Lockman for picking up Harker's spirit wear order!
- Shout out to the PTO and room parents for making Harker's fall parties a success!
- Shout out to the PTO for all their support with our Trunk or Treat Event at Hill

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- Shout out to Alaine Zizzamia for organizing a successful Trunk or Treat Event At Hill
- Shout out to Joel Brown for helping support our Clifford Parade
- Shout out to the PTO room parents for making the Clifford Fall Parties a Spooktacular Success!!!
- Shout out to Administrators, staff and students for the outstanding job with Bus evacuation drills that were completed in October.
- Shout out to the Harker students and families that joined Mrs. Campbell and Ms. Cancila on Saturday to clean-up Locke Ave Park.
- Shout out to Tara Bustard, Elaine Luoma, and Alicia Midure from our SWSD PTO on all their help and support for the Hill's Thon

2) District Enrollment

a) Report, **as submitted**

[Clifford](#)
[Stratton](#)
[Harker](#)
[Hill](#)

3) OPRA Log

Document (s) Requested	Who Requested	Date Received	Date Completed
<p>The New Jersey Public Education Coalition is initiating an OPRA request for the following:</p> <p>Copy of the curriculum implemented in your district to comply with the “Laura Wooten’s Law,” N.J.S.A. 18A:35-2.1) passed with the intent of enhancing civics education in public schools by: 1) Requiring civics instruction in middle school; 2) ensuring that the course of study includes a minimum of two quarters of instruction, or the equivalent; and the course shall include but not be limited to:</p> <p>the values and principles underlying the American system of constitutional</p>	<p>Michael Gottesman, Founder, New Jersey Public Education Coalition</p>	<p>11/8/2024</p>	<p>11/12/2024</p>

democracy; the function and limitations of government; and the role of a citizen in a democratic society			
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B. District Administration

1) Administrator’s Monthly Board Reports, **as submitted**

- [Clifford](#)
- [Stratton](#)
- [Harker](#)
- [Hill](#)
- Technology**
- [Special Services](#)
- [Curriculum & Instruction](#)
- [Maintenance](#)

Public Comments/Visitors

Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, this meeting will now be open to members of the public who wish to speak or make comment on agenda items or a school district issue that may be of concern to the residents of the district. Any person who wishes to speak must wait to speak until they have been recognized by the presiding Board Officer.

Any person who wishes to speak is requested to give their name, municipality of residence, and group affiliation, if any, at the beginning of their comments. Comments shall be limited to five minutes in total length. It is the intention of the board to listen to public comments, and to respond if possible. If questions cannot be immediately answered the Board asks that you pose the question to the Board Secretary via email.

If questions or comments pertain to litigation, student or personnel matters, the Board asks that you email the Superintendent after the meeting since the Board does not, pursuant to Open Public Meetings Act, discuss or respond to these items in public.

1- Eileen Healey- SWEA President

- Eileen wanted to make the board aware that they are concerned about the moral. We are losing exceptional personnel.
- Eileen asked what staff will be replaced
- Eileen asked if the Innovative Schools Summit Training is mandatory and if there is a virtual option.
- Extending an invitation to our board members to be more present in our schools.

Board President, Gina Azzari, mentioned she received an email from a teacher inviting the board into the schools.

2- Chris Zingo- SWEA Vice President

- Chris addressed the board to say her goodbye's and gave a background of her career in the Swedesboro-Woolwich School District.
- Chris explained that her leaving the district will offer her more of a chance for growth and is leaving partly because of the changes in the district.
- Chris addressed the board with her concerns about Dr. Jennifer Garcia-Griffin leaving the district.

4. Action Items

Personnel/Finance/Negotiations Committee

Personnel & Finance Committee Meeting Report, (Chairperson) Marie Barbara

Negotiations Committee Meeting Report, (Chairperson) Natalie Baker

- **Resignations**
- **New Administrator- School Principal**
- **Job Description**
- **Budget Calendar**
- **Title III**

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent the following Personnel Matters are presented for Board Approval:

A. Personnel- Recommendation: Baker/Barbara approve the following personnel items, as listed:

Name	Position/ Cert	Salary	Budget Acct #	Action	Effective Date
1- Jeanette Marr	Paraprofessional	-	-	Resignation	January 1, 2025
2- Lori Anne Belluscio	LP	-	-	Resignation	November 11, 2024
3- Christine Zingo	Teacher	-	-	Resignation	January 1, 2025
4- Sonia Hamaty	Payroll Clerk/ Bookkeeper	-	-	Resignation	January 2, 2025
5- Dr. Jennifer Garcia-Griffin	Instructional Facilitator	-	-	Resignation	January 14, 2025
6- Sue Hunt	Paraprofessional	-	-	Retirement	January 31, 2025
7- Christie McNevin	Paraprofessional	\$27,146	11-212-100-106- 000-01-080	Lane Change to AS	October 30, 2024
8- Amy Pinterich	Receptionist	\$26,625.50	11-000-240-105- 000-01-060	New Hire	November 21, 2024- pending completion of ALL state required paperwork
9- Kim Cheesman	Administrator	\$109,900	11-000-240-103- 000-01-080	New Hire- School Principal	January 21, 2025- pending completion of ALL state required paperwork
10- Gracie Mills	LTS	\$135/day for day 1-20/\$200 per day 21+	11-213-100-101- 000-01-060	New Hire- LTS for Staff ID #4839	November 21, 2024- Pending completion of ALL state required paperwork
11- Tammy Romansky	LTS	\$135/day for day 1-20/\$200 per day 21+	11-213-100-101- 000-01-060	New Hire- LTS Staff ID # 4125	December 16, 2024- on or around January 27, 2025- pending completion of ALL state required paperwork

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12- Michael Rambone	Maintenance	-	-	Rescinded offer for employment	-
13- Paige Alestock	Social Worker	-	-	Social Work Field Placement through cooperative agreement with University of Kentucky- under the direction of Rachel Ryman	3 days week from January 13, 2025-May 9, 2025
14- Natalie Ivans	Occupational Therapy	-	-	Occupational Therapy Field Placement through cooperative agreement with Misericordia University under the direction of Katie Dimenna	January 2025-April 2025
15- Kennedy Celinski	Speech/Language	-	-	Speech/Language Field Placement through cooperative agreement with Misericordia University under the direction of Kelley Ginter	January 2025-April 2025
16- Emily Kupsey	Counselor Internship	-	-	Counselor Internship under the direction of Linsley Robinson	Spring 2025
17- Staff ID #4096	Teacher	-	-	FMLA Extension	Extending FMLA to January 22, 2025
18- Staff ID #4835	Teacher	-	-	Medical Leave	On or around January 20, 2025- May 26, 2025/Staff member utilizing 5 sick days
19- Staff ID #4610	Teacher	-	-	Extension of Medical Leave	Original expected return date January 2, 2025 New return date June 2, 2025
20- Staff ID #4912	Teacher	-	-	Medical Leave	On or around March 24, 2025-July 1, 2025
21- Staff ID #4125	Teacher	-	-	Medical Leave	December 16, 2024- on or around January 27, 2025
22- Silvia Cancila	Teacher	-	-	Requesting days without pay	March 6, 7, 10, 11, 2025
23- Kayla Rabenold	Teacher	Step 2/\$55,224	11-120-100-101-000-01-050	New Hire	January 21, 2025 pending completion of ALL state requirement paperwork

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C. **Workshops- Recommendation:** Baker/Barbara approve the following workshops for the 2024-2025 school year, as listed:

Name	Workshop	Date & Time	Cost	Estimated Travel Cost
1- Christine Desrochers, Kylie Crompton, Haley Watson & Ada Kreutzer	NJTESOL Spring Conference- New Brunswick, NJ	May 20-22, 2025	\$2,375 total cost/to be paid with Title III Funds	\$2,073.32 total cost/to be paid with Title III Funds
2- Dr. Kristin Kellogg	Innovative Schools Summit- Orlando Florida	March 20-23, 2025	\$795	\$1400

D. **Regular, Payroll, Cafeteria & Addendum Bills**

Recommendation: Baker/Barbara approve for payment of **November 2024** regular and addendum bills in the amount of **\$3,386,183.96** and payment of **October 2024** payroll in the amount of **\$1,529,014.43, as submitted.**

E. Recommendation: Baker/Barbara approve the **Line-Item Transfer** for **October 2024** in the amount of **\$0, as submitted.**

F. Recommendation: Baker/Barbara approve the **2024-2025 ESEA Grant Allocations** to include the 2023-2024 carry over funds as they are distributed for the Swedesboro-Woolwich School District, **as submitted.**

G. Recommendation: Baker/Barbara approve the **Tentative 2025-2026 Budget Calendar**, **as submitted.**

H. Recommendation: Baker/Barbara approve the Gloucester County **Title III Consortium Agreement**, **as submitted.**

I. Recommendation: Baker/Barbara approve the Benefits **Coordinator/Bookkeeper Job Description**, **as submitted.**

*Board President, Gina Azzari, asked if there is a virtual option for the workshop?
 Dr. Kellogg explained that for these particular workshops there is no virtual option.*

Board action needed: Yes (Roll Call Required)
 (All yes, motion to carry 8-0)

Natalie Baker-Y
 Laurie Cecala-Read-Y
 Alfred Beaver-Y

Julie Dickson-Y
 Marie Barbara-Y
 Kenneth Riley-Y

Erin Carroll-Y
 Tamara McGovern
 Gina Azzari-Y

Curriculum, Policy, Community Relations Committee
Committee Meeting Report, (Chairperson) Natalie Baker

- **Board Goals vs. District Goals**
- **OPRA Request**

A. Recommendation: Riley/Barbara approve the 6th grade Renaissance field trip to Wood Lanes in May 2025.

B. Recommendation: Riley/Barbara Approve the following policies for 2nd reading, **as submitted**:

- [0141](#) Board Member Number and Term
 - [0164.6](#) Remote Public Board Meetings During a Declared Emergency (Abolished)
 - [1140](#) Educational Equity Policies/Affirmative Action
 - [1523](#) Comprehensive Equity Plan
 - [1530](#) Equal Employment Opportunities
 - [1550](#) Equal Employment Opportunities/Anti-Discrimination Practices
 - [2200](#) Curriculum Content
 - [2260](#) Equity In School and Classroom Practices
 - [2411](#) Guidance Counseling
 - [2423](#) Bilingual Education
 - [2431.4](#) Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries
 - [3160](#) Physical Examination
 - [3211](#) Code of Ethics
 - [4160](#) Physical Examination
 - [5337](#) Service Animals
 - [5350](#) Student Suicide Prevention
 - [5570](#) Sportsmanship
 - [5750](#) Equitable Educational Opportunity
 - [5841](#) Secret Societies
 - [5842](#) Equal Access of Student Organizations
 - [7231](#) Gifts from Vendors (Tabled)
- Beaver/Cecala-Read approve to table policy 7231s
(All yes, motion to carry 8-0)

Natalie Baker-Y
Laurie Cecala-Read-Y
Alfred Beaver-Y

Julie Dickson-Y
Marie Barbara-Y
Kenneth Riley-Y

Erin Carroll-Y
Tamara McGovern
Gina Azzari-Y

- [7610](#) Vandalism
- [8420](#) Emergency and Crisis Situations
- [8467](#) Firearms and Weapons
- [9181](#) Volunteer Athletic Coaches and Co-Curricular Activities
- [9323](#) Notification of Juvenile Offender Case Disposition

Board member, Laurie Cecala-Read mentioned how pleased she is to see the Renaissance Program growing.

Board action needed: Yes (Roll Call Required)

(All yes, motion to carry 8-0)

Natalie Baker-Y

Julie Dickson-Y

Erin Carroll-Y

Laurie Cecala-Read-Y

Marie Barbara-Y

Tamara McGovern

Alfred Beaver-Y

Kenneth Riley-Y

Gina Azzari-Y

Operations

**Buildings and Grounds, Long Range Plans, Technology, Transportation
Committee Meeting Report, (Chairperson) Julie Dickson**

- **Comprehensive Maintenance Plan**
 - **Annual Maintenance Budget Amount Worksheet (M-1)**
 - **Summit to pave walkway connecting the Harker School and development behind Harker**
- A. Recommendation: Beaver/Baker approve the submission of the [2024-2025 Comprehensive Maintenance Plan](#), as submitted.
- B. Recommendation: Beaver/ Baker approve the [Annual Maintenance Budget Amount Worksheet \(M-1\)](#) for the 2024-2025 school year, as submitted.
- C. Recommendation: Beaver/Baker approve Summit to create a [paved walkway connection](#) the development and the Harker pathway, as submitted.
- D. Recommendation: Beaver/Baker approve the following [Transportation Route \(GCH10\)](#) to go out for bid (#00102), as submitted.
- E. Recommendation: Beaver/Baker approve the [District Report of Transported Resident Students \(DRTRS\)](#), as submitted.
- F. Recommendation: Beaver/Baker approve the following Bus Evacuation Drills held in October 2024:
- [Clifford](#)
 - [Stratton](#)
 - [Harker](#)
 - [Hill](#)

Board member, Al Beaver, asked if the developer is really paying for the walkway. Dr. Kellogg explained that she spoke with the mayor about short-term/long term ideas to help move the district forward. The mayor reached out to the developer and agreed to make the paved walkway. Al mentioned that he as been approached from community members about the ability to walk to Harker.

Board action needed: Yes (Roll Call Required)

(All yes, motion to carry 8-0)

Natalie Baker-Y

Julie Dickson-Y

Erin Carroll-Y

Laurie Cecala-Read-Y

Marie Barbara-Y

Tamara McGovern

Alfred Beaver-Y

Kenneth Riley-Y

Gina Azzari-Y

Board action needed: Yes
(All yes, motion to carry 8-0)

Time: 8:17 pm

Recommendation: Baker/Barbara approve to return to **Regular Session.**
Board action needed: Yes
(All yes, motion to carry 8-0)

Time: 9:08 pm

Delegates:

- a. NJSBA – Mrs. Gina Azzari
- b. GCSBA – Mrs. Natalie Baker

6. Adjournment

Recommendation: Carroll/Beaver approve the adjournment of meeting.

Board action needed: Yes
(All yes, motion to carry 8-0)

Time: 9:09 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Mr. Corey Jeffries
Board Secretary/SBA

Next Meeting(s)

December 11, 2024

Board/Committee Meetings as scheduled