

**MATAWAN-ABERDEEN REGIONAL  
SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**



**Re-Organization Meeting  
January 2, 2025  
6:00 PM**

**Cambridge Park Elementary School  
1 Crest Way, Aberdeen, NJ**

**MATAWAN-ABERDEEN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**January 2, 2025 Re-Organization Meeting**  
**Cambridge Park Elementary School, 1 Crest Way, Aberdeen, NJ**

**6:00 PM**



**AGENDA**

- I. CALL TO ORDER (Board Secretary)
- II. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG (Board Secretary)
- III. OPENING STATEMENT (Board Secretary)
- IV. CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS (Board Secretary)
- V. OATH OF OFFICE (Board Secretary)
- VI. ROLL CALL (Board Secretary)
- VII. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF PRESIDENT (Board Secretary)
- VIII. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT (Board President)
- IX. ACTION ITEMS (Board President)
- X. PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS & ADDITIONAL MATTERS (Board Pres)
- XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
  - Privacy Matters
  - Personnel Matters
  - Legal Services
- XIII. ADJOURNMENT (Board President)

## **Members of the Board**

Annette Ascoli  
Tara Martinez  
John Montone  
Laurie Skop  
Sheetal Werneke

Katie Feiles  
Christopher McGovern  
Dianna M. Pell  
Danielle Spruell

### **Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District**

#### **Welcome**

Welcome to a meeting of the Matawan-Aberdeen Board of Education. We are always pleased when members of the community attend our meeting. The Board welcomes the participation of interested organizations and individuals, and schedules time for public comment, discussion and input. Persons who have questions about specific school practices, incidents or events are encouraged to directly contact the school administration.

The Board regularly holds two meetings per month. The 2nd Monday of each month is the Committee of the Whole and the 4th Monday of each month is the Regular Action Meeting, unless otherwise scheduled or announced.

#### **Board of Education Meetings**

These meetings are reserved for Board deliberation and for review of items contained within the agenda. The Board reserves the right to vote on Action items. Public comment shall be permitted early for thoughts and reactions on items of concern regarding the agenda. Each participant is asked to give his or her name and address prior to making a statement or asking a question. In addition, time will be allotted at the end of the meeting for public comment on any item. Speakers shall limit their comments to three minutes.

#### **Statement of Adequate Notice**

“The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or agreed upon. In accordance with the provision of this act, the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education advertised this meeting on December 18, 2024 in the Asbury Park Press and the Star Ledger. This notice was sent to the Municipal Clerks of the Borough of Matawan and the Township of Aberdeen, and the Matawan-Aberdeen Public Library. The notice was also placed on the district’s web site.”

#### **Public Participation at Board Meetings**

The Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on matters of interest to the school community. Individuals wishing to speak must state their name and address. Comments are limited to three minutes’ duration, but an individual may speak a second time after all others who wish to speak on the topic have been heard. All statements should be directed to the Board President and no participant may address or question Board members individually. All speakers are requested to express themselves in a civil manner, with due respect for the dignity and privacy of others whose legal rights may be affected. Please note: While it is not the Board’s intention to stifle comment on matters of legitimate concern, the public should be aware that if their statements violate the rights of others under the law of defamation or invasion of privacy, they may face personal liability to the injured party. If speakers are uncertain of the legal ramifications of their comments, the Board urges them to seek guidance beforehand from their own legal advisor.

## Executive Sessions

Be It Resolved, that a closed session be convened for the purpose of discussing Privacy, Personnel and Legal Matters. The subject matter of these discussions will be disclosed to the public when the reason for confidentiality subsides. Although the Board cannot guarantee it, the length of the Executive Session is estimated to be \_\_\_\_\_ minutes after which the public meeting of the Board shall reconvene and proceed with business. Action \_\_\_\_\_ take place.

**Mission Statement:** We are committed to or exceeding the NJ Student Learning Standards at all grade levels in all areas, and providing a safe and supportive environment where all students are inspired, empowered, and encouraged to maximize their unique potential.

**Vision Statement:** Students will become life-long learners, critical thinkers, and creative problem solvers who achieve success as valuable and contributing members of society.

### 2024-2025 Matawan-Aberdeen Regional Board of Education Goals

- Goal 1:** Increase Community Trust & Buy-in
- Goal 2:** Increase Individual Participation Opportunities on the Board
- Goal 3:** Update and Modernize Policies
- Goal 4:** Increase Understanding and Effectively Perform Board Role in Fiscal Oversight

### 2023-2024 Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Strategic Plan Goals

(2024-2025 District Strategic Plan Goals will be approved at a later BOE meeting)

- Goal 1:** Increase student achievement by utilizing up-to-date technology and other instructional resources.
- Goal 2:** Improve and upgrade district facilities, transportation policies and procedures.
- Goal 3:** Increase and enhance community involvement and information sharing.
- Goal 4:** Promote a positive and safe school environment that embraces kindness, diversity, individuality and respect for all with a focus on Social-Emotional Learning (SEL).
- Goal 5:** Promote safety and security for all students, staff, and our school community.

**Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District  
Re-Organization Meeting January 2, 2025 – 6:00 PM  
Cambridge Park Elementary School, 1 Crest Way, Aberdeen, NJ**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting will be called to order by Ms. Lindsey Case, Board Secretary.

**II. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

The Board Secretary will lead all in the Pledge to the Flag.

**III. OPENING STATEMENT**

“The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or agreed upon. In accordance with the provision of this act, the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education advertised this meeting on December 18, 2024 in the Asbury Park Press and the Star Ledger. This notice was sent to the Municipal Clerks of the Borough of Matawan and the Township of Aberdeen, and the Matawan-Aberdeen Public Library. The notice was also placed on the district’s web site.”

**IV. CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS**

The Board Secretary will read the official results of the Annual School District Election held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024:

Official Results of Matawan-Aberdeen Regional Board of Education Members

<b>Election of Board Members</b>	<b>Votes Cast</b>
Ms. Dianna Pell (Aberdeen)	4,166
Ms. Dusty Dyer (Aberdeen)	3,284
Mr. John Montone (Aberdeen)	3,975
Ms. Shelley Gershner (Aberdeen)	2,491
Write In	87
 Ms. Katie Feiles (Matawan)	 2,609
Write In	117

Combined Statement of Results for 2024

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board have the Combined Statement of Results of the 2024 School Election made part of the annual organization meeting minutes.

**V. OATH OF OFFICE**

The Board Secretary will confer the Oath of Office upon the following newly elected Board Members:

Ms. Dianna Pell	3 Year Term
Mr. John Montone	3 Year Term
Ms. Katie Feiles	3 Year Term

**VI. ROLL CALL**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
Ms. Annette Ascoli	December 2025
Ms. Katie Feiles	December 2027
Ms. Tara Martinez	December 2025
Mr. Christopher McGovern	December 2026
Mr. John Montone	December 2027
Ms. Dianna M. Pell	December 2027
Ms. Laurie Skop	December 2026
Ms. Danielle Spruell	December 2026
Ms. Sheetal Werneke	December 2025

**VII. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF PRESIDENT**

The Board Secretary will call for nominations for the office of Board President. When all nominations have been made, a member will move to close the nominations and the Board President will be elected by roll call vote.

Call for Nominations:

\_\_\_\_\_ Nominated by: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Nominated by: \_\_\_\_\_

Close Nominations

**MOTION:** \_\_\_\_\_ **SECONDED:** \_\_\_\_\_

Voice vote to close nominations

NOTE: The newly elected Board President will chair the meeting from this point.

**VIII. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT**

The Board President will call for nominations for the office of the Board Vice-President. When all nominations have been made, a member will move to close the nominations and the Board Vice-President will be elected by roll call vote.

Call for Nominations:

\_\_\_\_\_ Nominated by: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Nominated by: \_\_\_\_\_

Close Nominations

**MOTION:** \_\_\_\_\_ **SECONDED:** \_\_\_\_\_

Voice vote to close Nominations

**IX. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF THE NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS DELEGATE**

The Board President will call for nominations for the New Jersey School Boards Delegate. When all nominations have been made, a member will move to close the nominations and the New Jersey School Boards Delegate will be elected by roll call vote.

Call for Nominations:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by: \_\_\_\_\_

Close Nominations

**MOTION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED:** \_\_\_\_\_

Voice vote to close Nominations

**X. ACTION ITEMS**

**MOTION:** \_\_\_\_\_ **SECONDED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Adoption of Official Newspapers**

WHEREAS the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education deems it advisable to designate official newspapers for the advertisement of all legal notices and all other necessary public notifications,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Asbury Park Press is designated the official newspaper for all legal notices and the Star Ledger be designated should it be impossible to advertise in the Asbury Park Press for reasons of timely notice, emergency or other

**2. Parliamentary Procedures**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education adopt Robert’s Rules of Order as the official parliamentary procedure manual to be used to conduct meetings and appoint the board secretary and the board attorney to act as the parliamentarians.

**3. Board Policies/Regulations**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education approve the adoption of all existing Board Policies and Regulations. The Board of Education regularly reviews and updates Board Policies and Regulations as needed.

#### 4. Authorized Signatures

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education authorize the following signatures for money market, checking and savings accounts:

Accounts	Authorized Signature
Custodian/General Account (Any 2)	Treasurer of School Monies (Facsimile) and Board President (Facsimile) or Board Secretary (Facsimile)
Payroll Agency Account (2)	Treasurer of School Monies (Facsimile) and Board President (Facsimile) or Board Secretary (Facsimile)
Payroll Account (2)	Treasurer of School Monies (Facsimile) and Board President (Facsimile) or Board Secretary (Facsimile)
Unemployment Compensation Trust (2)	Treasurer of School Monies (Facsimile) and Board President (Facsimile) or Board Secretary (Facsimile)
NJ Cash Management Fund (2)	Treasurer of School Monies (Facsimile) and Board President (Facsimile) or Board Secretary (Facsimile)
Matawan Regional High School (MRHS) Athletic Activities Account (2)	MRHS Principal or Athletic Director and Board Secretary or Assistant Board Secretary
Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Student Activities Accounts (2)	Building Principals and Board Secretary or Assistant Board Secretary
Scholarship Account (1)	Board Secretary or Board President
Food Services Account (1)	Board Secretary or Board President

#### 5. Approval of Depositories for the 2024-2025 School Year

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education designate the below listed Financial Institutions, Fund and Corporation as depositories for the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education funds and that the Financial Institutions be required to be insured by either the SLIC or the FDIC and/or as required by both Federal and State statutes:

Santander  
 Citizens Bank  
 New Jersey Asset & Rebate Management Program (NJ/ARM)  
 Bank of America  
 US Bank

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Secretary be authorized to wire transfer Board of Education funds between Board of Education accounts only; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Secretary be authorized to enter into agreements with the State to allow the State to initiate credit entries to Board of Education accounts in its depositories by automatic deposits when appropriate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any and all endorsements on behalf of the Board of Education upon checks, drafts, notes or instruments for depositor or collection made may be written or stamped endorsements of the Board of Education without any designation of the person making such endorsements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Secretary be authorized on behalf of the Board of Education to change existing account types and establish new Statement Savings, NOW, Special Checking and/or Money Market Investment Accounts, in any one or all of the above depositories when in the best interest of the Board of Education; and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any funds on deposit in Board of Education accounts be subject to withdrawal at any time upon presentation of warrants, checks, notes, bonds, bond coupons or other instruments or orders for the payment of money when signed, live or facsimile; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Secretary is hereby authorized to deliver, upon demand, specimen facsimile signatures of required authorities to the above approved depositories; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Secretary is hereby authorized on behalf of the Board of Education to:

- a. Withdraw from depositories and give receipt for, or authorize depositories to deliver to bearer or to any person designated by the Board Secretary, all or any documents and securities or other property held by the depositories for any purpose
- b. Authorize the depositories to purchase or sell CDs, Repurchase Agreements and other securities, and
- c. Execute and deliver all instructs required by the depositories in connection with any of the foregoing resolutions and affix thereto the seal of the Board of Education.

## **6. Approval of Doctrine of Necessity**

WHEREAS, the School Ethics Act, N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21 et seq. was enacted by the New Jersey State Legislature to ensure and preserve public confidence in school board members and school administrators and to prove specific ethical standards to guide their conduct; and

WHEREAS, questions have arisen regarding how a Board should invoke the Doctrine of Necessity when a quorum of a board of education has conflicts of interest on a matter required to be voted upon; and

WHEREAS, the School Ethics Commission has provided some guidance in Public Advisory Opinion A03-98 (April 1, 1998) but finds that there is a need to repeat and clarify its opinion; and

WHEREAS, the opinion set forth that, when it is necessary for a Board to invoke the Doctrine of Necessity, the Board should state publicly that it is doing so, the reason that such action is necessary and the specific nature of the conflicts of interest; and

WHEREAS, the opinion further provided that if the Board must invoke the Doctrine of Necessity not just to vote, but also to form a negotiations committee because it is without even three members to serve as a committee, then the Board must determine whether to act as a committee of the whole or to choose a smaller negotiations committee from among its members after stating publicly its reason for doing so as set forth above; and,

WHEREAS, in keeping with the Legislative purpose as set forth in N.J.S.A. 18A:12-22(a) the School Ethics Commission views public disclosure of conflicts of interest to be paramount when it is necessary to invoke the Doctrine of Necessity.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the School Ethics Commission hereby requires Boards of Education and Charter School Boards of Trustees that must invoke the Doctrine of Necessity to adopt a resolution setting forth that they are invoking the Doctrine, the reason for doing so and the specific nature of the conflicts of interest; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Board of Education and Charter School Boards of Trustees that invoke the Doctrine are directed to read the resolution at a regularly scheduled public meeting, post it where it posts public notices for thirty (30) days and provide the Commission with a copy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission shall distribute this Resolution to the county superintendents for distribution to the school districts and charter schools, the New Jersey School Boards Association, the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association, the New Jersey Association of School Administrators, the New Jersey Association of School; Business Officials and the New Jersey Education Association.

**XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS & ADDITIONAL MATTERS**

**XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**