

Minutes
January 15, 2025
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
Natalie Baker, School Board Vice President	(Chair) Curriculum, (Chair) Negotiations
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Julie Dickson	(Chair) Operations Committee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erin Carroll	Operations 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	Curriculum Committee, Personnel/Finance Committee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kenneth Riley	Personnel/Finance Committees, Negotiations

Quorum: 7-2/6:00 pm

C. Flag Salute

D. Adoption of Agenda

Recommendation: Cecala-Read approve the Adoption of the agenda, **as presented.**

Board action needed: Yes

(All yes, motion to carry 7-0)

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- December 2024

1) Walter Hill School

Grade 6

- Starlynn Mecwan
- Tyler Schmidt

2) Charles G. Harker School

Grade 3

- Brad (Lee) Whitson
- Braelyn Fitzgerald

Grade 4

- Ella Langi
- Cody Banh

Grade 5

- Michael Watson
- Emma Whitworth

3) Gov. Charles Stratton School

Grade 1

- Adrian Tapia Hernandez
- Zachary Whitten

Grade 2

- Emily Burns
- Lily Fern

4) Margaret Clifford School

Preschool

- Benjamin Graf
- Camila Cardona

Kindergarten

- Coen Guo
- Mya Forman

B. Teacher of the Year Recognition

- Clifford School- Lori Taylor
- Stratton School- Dana Jones
- Harker School- Ellen Floyd
- Walter Hill School- Lori Titus

C. Educational Support Person of the Year

- Clifford School- Justine Leash
- Stratton School- Caroline Smith
- Harker School- Stephanie Sparks
- Walter Hill School- Lisa Komadina

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: _____
- ☐ 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

- ☐ 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: Riley/Beaver approve to enter into **Executive Session** for the purpose of discussing/reviewing items as noted above.
Board action needed: Yes Time: 6:18 pm
(All yes, motion to carry 7-0)

- 2) Recommendation: Dickson/Barbara approve to return to **Regular Session**.
Board action needed: Yes Time: 7:04 pm
(All yes, motion to carry 7-0)

Approval of Minutes

Recommendation: Carroll/Cecala-Read approve the regular and executive session minutes dated December 11, 2024 and regular session minutes dated **January 2, 2025, as submitted.**

Riley/Barbara motion to table the regular minutes for January 2, 2025.

(All yes, motion to carry 7-0)

Board action needed: Yes

(Motion to carry 6-0-1- Barbara abstained)

3. Communication

A. Superintendent Updates, as submitted.

B. **Shout Outs!**

- **Thank you to Kelley Stingle for training fellow staff in all things DIBELs!**
- **Thank you to Ed Bancroft and John Stowe for being here, there, and everywhere to make Stratton shine.**
- **Thank you to Patty Lynn and Cheri Kershner for their care and concern for every student that walks through the health office door.**

- **Shout out to Harker's FLL (First Lego League). They took home first place for the Innovation Project Award - Saving horseshoe crabs one at a time.**

1) Regulations

- [R 1530](#)
- [R 2200](#)
- [R 2260](#)
- [R 2423](#)
- [R 2431.4](#)
- [R 3160](#)
- [R 4160](#)
- [R 5200](#)
- [R 7610](#)
- [R 8467](#)

2) Superintendent Updates

Project Elf Shout Out!

A HUGE thank you to all the organizations and families that supported our 2024 Project Elf Drive. As a result of the tremendous generosity of these people, we were able to provide support (food, gifts, toys, clothes, books, bikes, furniture, gift cards, etc.) to approximately 400 children:

Captain Anthony Verrilli and the Swedesboro-Woolwich Police Department
Swedesboro-Woolwich Parent Teacher Organization
Rastelli's Food Group
Mr. Frank Glaviona
Joel Brown
Josh Stowe and the Maintenance Department
SWEA
Jamie Flick
Mr. William Kassner
Kylie Crompton Family
Eileen Mission Family/ Comet Care
Lori Grelli and Lisa Komadina Families
Pansini Family
Lisa Bitterman's Kindergarten Class
Dana Jones Family
Emily Myers Family
Lisa Lattanzi Family
Katarine Sayre and family
Debbie George

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Jo Ellis Family
Allie Bratton/Community of The Ridings at Woolwich
Cathie Goehringer Family
Kristine Rooney Family
Lauren Ibbotson Family
Kelly Pollitt and Brad Gilmore Families
Michele DiCicco Family
Jodi Shinn Family
Melissa Olsen Family
Kari Foote Family
Kelly Gillies and Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices, Fox & Roach Realtors
Kathleen Tull Family
Suzanne Healey Family
Marisa Vengenock Family
Katie Abbott Family
Alexis Cancilla, Haley Watson, Steph Conti Families
Morgan Baals Family
Candice Kennedy Family
Megan Perry Family
Swedesboro-Woolwich Related Services Team- Stephanie Sparks, Erika Slowicki,
Kelley Ginter, Alexis Sharapoff, Catherine Reichardt, Katie DiMenna, Justine
Leash, Gwen Waggoner, Amy Hay
Jennifer Boston Family
Millissa, Alexis, (and Mom) Mastella Family
Leigh and Ron Donato
Rosie Matich and Shari Nair Families
Board Office (Cristina Panebianco, Jaimie Zeidler, Debbie Gambino, Korey
Jeffries, Kristin Kellogg)
Caroline Floyd Family
Jocelyn Scott Family
Lisa Bitterman (Bitterman, Nieves, Parrish Families)
Jess Zappasodi Family
Kathleen Hart Family
Danielle Murphy and sisters
Harker Office Group- Sieu Nguyen, Paulette Gonzalez, and Lorraine Campbell
Lorraine Campbell Family
Caroline Schooley Family
Ruth Suarez Family
Amanda Desjardin Family
3rd grade team-Keri DeLorenzo, Alison Pitner, Keri De Lorenzo Michele Garcia,
Elenie Speis, Staci Collins, Heather Dougherty, Cassandra Shoulders
Erin Seibert Family
Kevin Jolly
Maria McGinley and Alli Horn Families

Jenna Schwoyer and Family
Stephanie Shainline Family
Diane Cogossi Family
Tara Carlton Family
Andrea Harmon Family
Alli Horn Family
Tara Roberto's 5th Grade Class
Crystal Herring Family
Ralph and Helen Stanzione Family
Sue O'Donnell Family
Diane Thomas Family

4 Seasons Holiday House Tour

Mary Ann Bompadre
Beverly Randell
Connie Dougherty
Elaine Volpe
Peggy Gratz
Maureen Gilch
Ralph and Helen Stanzione
Alice McKenna
Sherron Laurell
Karen Howarth
Lorraine Harp
Helen Stanzione
Elaine Rippman
Linda Lemmel
Linda Shubert
Rosella Musumeci
Judi Kennedy
Kathy Keane

Board member, Erin Carroll, mentioned what a joy it was to go the PreK classes and read to all of them.

3) District Enrollment

a) Report, **as submitted**

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

4) Correspondence

- [Thank you- Margaret Reynolds](#)

- [Thank you- Pezzicola Family](#)
- [Thank you- Carolynne Sandy](#)

5) NJSBA Review- Board Members

C. 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- Mrs. Eileen Healey- SWEA President

- Thank you for Dr. Kellogg and Administrative team for meeting with her and Megan Gentlemen
- Congratulations to all the Teacher and ESP's of the year
- What is an Abilities Solutions Mentor?
 - A company through the state that helps individuals with life skills and job duties

2- Reverend Sherry Hall- HELP Inc.

- HELP Inc. History
- Thank you for supporting us for our MLK Day Celebration
- Requested to have the custodial fee waved for their use of facility on MLK Day
 - This will be discussed and Dr. Kellogg will reach out to Sherry
- Would love to create a greater relationship with the district
- Coat Drive

4. Action Items

Personnel/Finance/Negotiations Committee

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

- *Board Goals*
- *Bus Savings*
- *Personnel*
- *Audit*
- *Sick Day Payout*
- *Possible Future expansion planning*
- *Long Range Facilities Plan*

Negotiations Committee Meeting Report, (Chairperson) Natalie Baker

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

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

Name	Position/ Cert	Salary	Budget Acct #	Action	Effective Date
1- Lori Taylor	Teacher	-	-	Retirement	July 1, 2025
2- Maria McGinley	Teacher	-	-	Retirement	July 1, 2025
3- Deana Stone	Teacher	-	-	Retirement	July 1, 2025
4- Noelle Siniscalchi	Teacher	-	-	Resignation	February 10, 2024
5- Julie Donahue	Teacher			Lane change to BA+15	January 16, 2025
6- Staff ID #4128	Teacher	-	-	Intermittent Family Leave	January 2, 2025
7- Staff ID #4912	Teacher	-	-	Medical Leave	On or about March 24, 2025-June 30, 2025
8- Staff ID #4952	Teacher	-	-	Medical Leave	January 2, 2025-June 30, 2025
9- Staff ID #5035	Teacher	-	-	Medical Leave	March 21, 2025-June 30, 2025-Staff member utilizing 2 personal days and 2 sick days prior to birth
10- Staff ID #4905	Admin Support	-	-	FMLA	January 7, 2025- on or around January 21, 2025
11- Giana Polisi	LPC	\$15.49/hour	60-910-310- 100-000-00	New Hire	January 16, 2025- pending completion of ALL state required paperwork
12- Christina Smith	LPC Substitute	\$15.49/hour	60-910-310- 100-000-00	New Hire	January 16, 2025- pending completion of ALL state required paperwork
13- Karen Opar	Health Benefits/Payroll	\$47,000	11-000-251- 100-000-01	New Hire	February 3, 2024- pending completion of ALL state required

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	Coordinator				paperwork
14- James Messina	Substitute Custodian	\$17/hour	11-000-261- 100-000-01	New Hire	January 16, 2025- pending completion of ALL state required paperwork

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

Name	Workshop	Date & Time	Cost	Estimated Travel Cost
1- Jamie Flick	TECHSPO	January 30, 2025	\$365- to be paid with Title ii-A Funds	\$0

D. **Recommendation:** Beaver/Barbara approve the Board Secretary's Report in accordance with 18A: 17-36 and 18A: 17-9 for the month of **August 2024**. The Board Secretary certifies that no line item account has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A: 23A – 16.10 (c) 3 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year, and

Approve the Treasurer Report in accordance with 18A:17-36 and 18A:17-9 for the month of **August 2024** and **September 2024**. The Treasurer Report and Board Secretary's Report are in agreement for the month of **August 2024**.

Whereas, the Board Secretary in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c) 2 certifies that there are no changes in revenue amounts or revenue sources, and

Whereas, the Board of Education certifies- pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 4 that after review of the secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, that 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 (b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

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

Recommendation: Beaver/Barbara approve for payment of **January 2025** regular and addendum bills in the amount of **\$1,394,085.90** and payment of **December 2024** payroll in the amount of **\$1,560,644.02, as submitted**.

F. **Recommendation:** Beaver/Barbara approve the **Line-Item Transfer** for **December 2024** in the amount of **\$2,2021.25, as submitted**.

G. **Recommendation:** Beaver/Barbara approve 52 sick day pay out for retiree Patrick Titus to be paid in January 2025.

H. **Recommendation:** Beaver/Barbara approve the New Jersey minimum wage increase to \$15.49 per hour.

- I. Recommendation: Beaver/Barbara approve Abilities Solutions as a Job Developer (Mentor) for Mattson Gray at no cost to the district.

Board president, Gina Azzari, thanked the retiree's and hope they enjoy their retirement.

Board action needed: Yes (Roll Call Required)
(All yes, motion to carry 7-0)

Natalie Baker

Julie Dickson-Y

Erin Carroll-Y

Laurie Cecala-Read-Y

Marie Barbara-Y

Tamara McGovern

Alfred Beaver-Y

Kenneth Riley-Y

Gina Azzari-Y

Baker arrived at 7:25 pm to make quorum 8-0

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

- *Board Goals*
- *Curriculum Committee Goals*
- *ELA Pilot- more data next month*
- *Possible future expansion planning*
- *Possible Shared Services*
- *Fundraiser*

A. HIB Reports

Recommendation: Beaver/Barbara approve **HIB, as submitted.**

B. Recommendation: Beaver/Barbara approve Joe Corbi Fundraiser to run from February 3, 2025-February 16, 2025 to help defray the cost of the 6th grade field trip.

C. Recommendation: Beaver/Barbara approve the service of Tutored by Teachers to be utilized in conjunction with the High Impact Tutoring Grant and ESEA Grant for the 2024-2025 school year. Amount not to exceed \$22,000.

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

Operations

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

- *Facility Usage*
- *Bathroom need at Harker*
- *Demographic Study*
- *Possible Shared Service*
- *Operation Goals*

A. Facility Usage Requests

Recommendation: Baker/Riley approve Facility Usage Requests, as listed.

(Subject to submission of Insurance Certificate, and 501 documentation, and no conflict with school district activities)

Organization	School/Location	Date & Time	Activity
1- H.E.L.P. Inc	Clifford School MPR	January 20, 2025/9am-4pm	Annual MLK Day Celebration
2- S/W Little Theater	Harker School Music Room	May 22, 2025-May 30, 2025/4pm-7pm	Rehearsal
3- The Goddard School	Walter Hill MPR Stage Side	June 19, 2025/2pm-6:30pm	Graduation
4- SummerFun Kids Camp	Harker School Cafeteria & Gym	June 23-, 2025-July 21, 2025/6:45am-6:00pm	Summer Camp
5- S/W Little Theater	Stratton School MPR Stage Side	July 7, 2025-July 31, 2025/8:00am-1:00pm	Rehearsal
6- SWSA	Harker Fields	Various Dates beginning July 28, 2025	Practices

B. Recommendation: Baker/Riley accept the bid for [Student Transportation Services](#) for the 2024-2025 school year with B.R Williams, Inc. at a per diem rate of \$242, for a total contract of \$21,780.

Board member, Laurie Cecala-Read, asked if the board can look at the policy and discuss the fee for the nonprofit companies?

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

Delegates:

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

6. Adjournment

Recommendation: Dickson/Beaver approve the adjournment of meeting.

Board action needed: Yes

Time: 7:33 pm

(All yes, motion to carry 8-0)

Respectfully submitted,



Mr. Korey Jeffries
Board Secretary/SBA

Next Meeting(s).

February 12, 2025

Board/Committee Meetings as scheduled