

Minutes
January 14, 2026
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) Policy, (Chair) Negotiations, Curriculum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Julie Dickson	(Chair) Operations, Policy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erin Carroll	Personnel/Finance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laurie Cecala-Read	(Chair) Curriculum, Operations
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kenneth Riley	(Chair) Personnel/Finance, Negotiations
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James McCarrie	Personnel/Finance, Negotiations
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevin Rodden	Operations, Policy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Raymond Anderson	Curriculum

Quorum:9-0/6:01 pm

C. Flag Salute

D. Adoption of Agenda

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

Board action needed: Yes

(All yes, motion to carry 9-0)

2. Presentations

This evening, we are proud to recognize our Swedesboro-Woolwich Stellar Comets. Each month, students from across our schools are selected for exemplifying outstanding character, leadership, and a commitment to our district’s core values. These students consistently go above and beyond in their classrooms and school communities, serving as role models for their peers. We are honored to celebrate their accomplishments and share their success with the Board of Education and the Swedesboro-Woolwich Community. At this time, I’d like to welcome Mr. Matt Kelly, Principal of the Walter Hill School, who will begin our Stellar Comets Presentation.

A. Stellar Comet of the Month- December 2025

1) Walter Hill School

Grade 6

- Iker Reyes
- Rocco Sportiello

2) Charles G. Harker School

Grade 3

- Matthew McConathey
- Josephine Fordyce

Grade 4

- Jack Enwright
- Olivia Strohecker

Grade 5

- Sharon DeLaCruz Rivas
- Gabriel Gechter

3) Gov. Charles Stratton School

Grade 1

- Hazel Horton
- George Althouse

Grade 2

- Noelle Tompkins
- Macie McGee

4) Margaret Clifford School

Kindergarten

- Dylan Slusarski
- Charlie Sanders

- B. Teacher of the Year Recognition
 - Clifford School- Lisa Masciangelo
 - Stratton School- Jessica Zappasodi
 - Harker School- Megan Tatam
 - Walter Hill School- Katie Richer
- C. Educational Support Person of the Year
 - Clifford School- Paula Luciani
 - Stratton School- Alexis Sharapoff
 - Harker School- Brielle Scott
 - Walter Hill School- Gayle Johnson
- D. Recognition of Retired Board Member
 - Tamara McGovern
 - Alfred Beaver
- E. [Fiscal Year 2025 Audit Analysis](#)- Korey Jeffries

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: Baker/Dickson approve to enter into **Executive Session** for the purpose of discussing/reviewing items as noted above.
Board action needed: Yes Time: 6:48 pm

(All yes, motion to carry 9-0)

- 2) Recommendation: Baker/Riley approve to return to **Regular Session**.
Board action needed: Yes Time: 7:11 pm
(All yes, motion to carry 9-0)

Approval of Minutes

Recommendation: Baker/Cecala-Read approve the regular and/or executive session minutes dated December 10, 2025 and January 6, 2026, as submitted.
Board action needed: Yes

3. Communication

A. Superintendent

"A Community dedicated to inspiring life-long learners"

1) Superintendent Updates

Project Elf Shout Out!

A HUGE thank you to all the organizations and families that supported our 2025 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:

[Project Elf 2025 List of Participants Link](#)

Shout Outs!

- Thank you to the SWSD PTO for a great holiday shop- the kids loved every moment of shopping for their loved ones!
- Thank you to our awesome maintenance and custodial crew for making sure Harker's sidewalks and parking lot were cleared and safe!
- Ms. Dougherty's first grade class for being superstar readers and earning Stratton School a visit from a PHANTASTIC guest!
- Mrs. LaVoie's second grade class for organizing a collection for a local animal shelter and making cozy blankets for the dogs and cats there.
- Dana Jones and Amanda Seal for being awesome leaders for their grade levels.

- A Special Shout Out to our Board of Education. Congratulations! January is School Board Appreciation Month. Thank you for all you time, dedication and devotion and support of our school district.

2) District Enrollment

- a) Report, **as submitted**

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

3) OPRA Log

Document (s) Requested	Who Requested	Date Received	Date Completed
1- Invoice and Purchase Orders for the 2025-2026 Student Information System, and IEP Management System	Anonymous	11/14/2025	12/2/2025

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. 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

Fiscal Year Audit Question- With the excess of \$700,000 has the board considered bringing back additional Paraprofessionals?

Mr. Jeffries explained that the excess of \$749,000 is used to balance the budget. It is a one-time amount. This money will not be available every year.

4. Action Items

Personnel/Finance/Negotiations Committee

Personnel & Finance Committee Meeting Report, (Chairperson) Ken Riley

- ***Personnel Items***
- ***Annual Comprehensive Financial Report***

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: Baker/Riley approve the following personnel items, as listed:

Name	Position/ Cert	Salary	Budget Acct #	Action	Effective Date
1-Haley Dawson	School Psychology Practicum as per cooperative agreement with Rowan University	-	-	Practicum- under the direction of Jocelyn Scott	January 2026-June 2026
2- Kylie Crompton	Teacher	Step 6/\$62,116	11-240-100-101-000-01-050	Lane Change MA+15	January 15, 2026
3- Lucy Ann Casella	Teacher	-	-	Retirement	July 2, 2026
4- Eugene Gould	Maintenance	-	-	Retirement	April 1, 2026
5- Tara O'Neill	School Receptionist	-	-	Resignation	February 19, 2026

B. Stipends- Recommendation: Approve the following stipends for the 2025-2026 school year, as listed:

Name	School	Stipend Position	Amount

C. Workshops- Recommendation: Baker/Riley approve the following workshops for the 2025-2026 school year, as listed:

Name	Workshop	Date & Time	Cost	Estimated Travel Cost
1- Kimberly Cheesman, Lorraine Campbell, Jacquelyn Traini, Jamie Flick and Jeni Boston	Model Schools	June 27-July 1, 2026/Orlando Florida	\$895/per person	Not to exceed \$2100/person

D. Regular, Payroll, Cafeteria & Addendum Bills

Recommendation: Baker/Riley approve for payment of **January 2026 regular and addendum bills** in the amount of **\$1,931,561.83** and payment of **December 2025 payroll** in the amount of **\$1,571,396.69, as submitted.**

- E. Recommendation: Baker/Riley approve the [Line-Item Transfer](#) for **December 2025, as submitted**.

- F. Recommendation: After review and discussion, Baker/Riley approve to accept the [Annual Comprehensive Financial Report](#) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, **as submitted**.

- G. Recommendation: Approve the amended resolution to appropriate Capital Reserve Funds, as submitted:

Resolution Appropriate Capital Reserve Funds

Whereas, the Swedesboro-Woolwich Board of Education, County of Gloucester, desires to advance the following capital project: Upgrade by replacing the cooling tower at the Walter Hill School. construction and related professional fees in the amount not to exceed of \$292,468.00 for the 2025-2026 school year; and

Whereas, capital reserve funds may be appropriated by board resolution to support eligible or otherwise eligible capital projects, and

Whereas, the Swedesboro-Woolwich Board of Education acknowledges that State support for capital projects is not currently available, and

Whereas, the Department of Facilities must approve all capital projects and will only move forward with approval of a properly submitted capital project if a local board of education declares an eligible capital project as “otherwise” eligible, and

Whereas, by declaring a capital project as “otherwise” eligible, the Swedesboro-Woolwich Board of Education hereby declares that the above-mentioned project will be supported with local capital reserve funds.

Whereas, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.1(b), the Swedesboro-Woolwich Board of Education is requesting an emergent withdrawal from its capital reserve fund to replace a Cooling Tower that is badly damaged and leaking.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Swedesboro-Woolwich Board of Education hereby declares the above referenced project as “otherwise” eligible and directs the School Business Administrator to request Department of Facilities approval, and

Be it Further Resolved, that the Swedesboro-Woolwich Board of Education hereby appropriates a not to exceed amount of \$292,468 from its capital reserve fund to support the cost of this project.

Board action needed: Yes (Roll Call Required)

(All yes, motion to carry 9-0)

Natalie Baker-Y

Julie Dickson-Y

Erin Carroll-Y

Laurie Cecala-Read-Y

Kenneth Riley-Y

James McCarrie-Y

Kevin Rodden-Y

Raymond Anderson-Y

Gina Azzari-Y

Curriculum, Community Relations Committee
Committee Meeting Report, (Chairperson) Laurie Cecala-Read

- ***Title I Stakeholder Meeting***
- ***Harker Afterschool Clubs***
- ***Internet Safety Parent Presentation***
- ***Gifted & Talented Fundraiser***
- ***Sidebar Agreement between the SWEA and the SWSD***
- ***Committee Policy***

A. HIB Reports

Recommendation: Baker/Rodden approve **HIB, as submitted.**

B. Recommendation: Baker/Rodden approve Title I Stakeholder Collaboration Meetings for February 26, 2026 from 5-6pm at the Stratton School and March 18, 2026 9-10am (Virtual)

C. Recommendation: Baker/Rodden approve the following Harker After School programs

- Mad Science Program- Winter 2026- Outside Company
- Safe Sitters Club- Winter 2026- Chris Lewis, to be paid at \$38/hour, as per contract
- First Aid Club- Winter 2026- Chris Lewis, to be paid at \$38/hour, as per contract
- Conservation Club- Winter/Spring 2026- Anne Dorety, to be paid at \$38/hour, as per contract

D. Recommendation: Baker/Rodden approve the Gloucester County Prosecutor's Office and the NJ Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force to discuss with the Walter Hill School parents about internet safety, cyberbullying, threats, gaming, online privacy, grooming, self-harm and A.I. on February 12, 2026.

E. Recommendation: Baker/Rodden approve the G&T Program at Walter Hill School to run a Quarter Mile Fundraiser. All proceeds will be donated to the family of a student in need.

F. Recommendation: Baker/Rodden approve the [Sidebar Agreement](#) between the Swedesboro-Woolwich Board of Education and the Swedesboro-Woolwich Education Association, as submitted.

Erin Carroll asked if there was could be virtual/zoom option for the Internet Safety Parent Presentation to open up to parents in all grade levels.

Julie Dickson commented that she is excited to see clubs on the agenda for approval.

Board action needed: Yes (Roll Call Required)

(All yes, motion to carry 9-0)

Natalie Baker-Y

Julie Dickson-Y

Erin Carroll-Y

Laurie Cecala-Read-Y

Kenneth Riley-Y

James McCarrie-Y

Kevin Rodden-Y

Raymond Anderson-Y

Gina Azzari-Y

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

- ***Policy Communication Procedures***

A. Recommendation: Baker/Riley approve the following policies for 2nd Reading, **as submitted**. (To follow)

- [2530](#) Resource Material
- [2535](#) Library Material
- [9130](#) Public Complaints

Board action needed: Yes (Roll Call Required)

(All yes, motion to carry 9-0)

Natalie Baker-Y

Julie Dickson-Y

Erin Carroll-Y

Laurie Cecala-Read-Y

Kenneth Riley-Y

James McCarrie-Y

Kevin Rodden-Y

Raymond Anderson-Y

Gina Azzari-Y

Operations

- ***Discussed thoughts and ideas for future meetings
Buildings and Grounds, Long Range Plans, Technology, Transportation
Committee Meeting Report, (Chairperson) Julie Dickson***

NO ACTION ITEMS

Public Comments

Any person interested in making comments on any agenda item or other school district related topic is requested to give their name and address. 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 e-mail. If your questions or comments pertain to litigation, student or personnel matters, the Board asks that you see the Superintendent after the Meeting since the Board does not, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, discuss or respond to these items in public. This portion will end at the conclusion of the public comments.

1- Mrs. Eileen Healey- SWEA President

Congratulations to our Teacher of the Year and Educational Support Person of the Year

Thank you to Al Beaver for his support to our students, families and staff

Stipend Committee Meeting being held on 1/21/2026

EXECUTIVE SESSION

RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION – If Needed

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- 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:
Superintendent Search

- 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 60 minutes. The Board † will return to open session to conduct business at the conclusion of the executive session.

Recommendation: Baker/Dickson approve to enter into **Executive Session** for the purpose of discussing/reviewing items as noted above.

Board action needed: Yes Time: 7:38 pm
(All yes, motion to carry 9-0)

Recommendation: Baker/Riley approve to return to **Regular Session**.

Board action needed: Yes Time: 9:47 pm
(All yes, motion to carry 9-0)

Delegates:

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

6. Adjournment

Recommendation: McCarrie/Baker approve the adjournment of meeting.

Board action needed: Yes Time: 9:48 pm
(All yes. motion to carry 9-0)

Respectfully submitted,



Mr. Corey Jeffries
Board Secretary/SBA

Next Meeting(s).

February 11, 2026

Board/Committee Meetings as scheduled