

SHREWSBURY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
January 7, 2026 - Re-Organization Meeting, 6:30 PM
Media Center, 20 Obre Place, Shrewsbury, NJ 07702

MINUTES

1.0 Opening Procedures

1.1 Call to Order - Ms. Case called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm

1.2 Flag Salute

1.3 Opening Statement

"In compliance with Pl 1975, Chapter 231, Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting was advertised in the Asbury Park Press on May 21, 2025. A copy of this notice is posted at the entrance to the Shrewsbury Borough School and is posted on the district's website. A copy of this notice is also on file in the office of the Borough Clerk.

2.0 Certification of Election Results

The Board Secretary will read the official results of the Annual School Election held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025.

Official Results of the Shrewsbury Borough School District Board of Education Members

Election of Board Members	Votes Cast
Ms. Kelly Fiorentini	1,297
Ms. Kristin Gaul-Spitale	1,338
Ms. Jennifer Jafolla	1,261
Write-in	51

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board have the Statement of Results of the 2025 School Election made part of the annual organization meeting minutes.

3.0 Oath of Office

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

Name	Length of Term
Ms. Kelly Fiorentini	3 Year Term
Ms. Kristin Gaul-Spitale	3 Year Term
Ms. Jennifer Jafolla	3 Year Term

4.0 Roll Call

Name	Term Expires
Ms. Sarah Choi	December 2026
Ms. Kelly Fiorentini	December 2028
Mr. Michael Galvin	December 2027
Ms. Kristin Gaul-Spitale	December 2028
Ms. Heather Gourley-Thompson	December 2026
Ms. Jennifer Jafolla	December 2028
Ms. Danae McCullough	December 2027
Ms. Catharine Moore	December 2026
Mr. David Ngo	December 2027

5.0 Board President Nominations

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

Nominating Motion: Mr. Ngo

Nominated by: Mr. Galvin, Ms. McCullough

Voice vote to close nomination Mr. Galvin, seconded by Ms. McCullough

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	COMMENTS
Ms. Choi	X				
Ms. Fiorentini	X				
Mr. Galvin	X				
Ms. Gaul-Spitale	X				
Ms. Gourley-Thompson	X				
Ms. Jafolla	X				
Ms. McCullough	X				
Ms. Moore	X				
Mr. Ngo	X				

On a roll call vote, 9 members voted yes, zero (0) members voted no and zero (0) members were absent

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

5.2 Board Vice President Nominations

5.3 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.

Nomination Motion: Ms. Gourley-Thompson

Nominated by: Ms. Choi, Mr. Galvin

Nomination Motion: Mr. Galvin

Nominated by: Ms. McCullough, Ms. Moore

Voice vote to close nominations Ms. Gourley-Thompson, seconded by Mr. Galvin

Roll call vote for **Ms. Gourley-Thompson**

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	COMMENTS
Ms. Choi	X				
Ms. Fiorentini			X		
Mr. Galvin	X				
Ms. Gaul-Spitale			X		
Ms. Gourley-Thompson	X				
Ms. Jafolla	X				
Ms. McCullough		X			
Ms. Moore	X				
Mr. Ngo	X				

On a roll call vote, six (6) members voted yes, one (1) member voted no, two (2) members abstained and zero (0) members were absent

Roll call vote for Mr. Galvin

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	COMMENTS
Ms. Choi			X		
Ms. Fiorentini			X		
Mr. Galvin			X		
Ms. Gaul-Spitale			X		
Ms. Gourley-Thompson		X			
Ms. Jafolla			X		
Ms. McCullough	X				
Ms. Moore	X				
Mr. Ngo	X				

On a roll call vote, three (3) members voted yes, one (1) member voted no, five (5) members abstained and zero (0) members were absent

7.0 Action Items

It was motioned by Mr. Galvin and seconded by Ms. Gourley-Thompson to approve items 7.1 through 7.7 as listed:

7.1 Adoption of Official Newspapers

WHEREAS the Shrewsbury Borough 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

7.2 Parliamentary Procedures

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Shrewsbury Borough 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.

7.3 Board Policies/Regulations

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Shrewsbury Borough 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.

7.4 Authorized Signatures

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Shrewsbury Borough School District Board of Education authorize the following signatures.

Accounts	Authorized Signature
General (2)	Treasurer of School Monies (Facsimile) and Board President (Facsimile) or Board Secretary (Facsimile)
Agency (2)	Treasurer of School Monies (Facsimile) and Board President (Facsimile) or Board Secretary (Facsimile)
Payroll (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)
Student Activities (2)	Superintendent/Board President and Board Secretary
Food Services (2)	Superintendent/Board President and Board Secretary
Petty Cash (2)	Superintendent/Board President and Board Secretary
Referendum (1)	Board Secretary

7.5 Approval of Depositories for the 2025-2026 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:

TD Bank
 New Jersey Asset & Rebate Management Program (NJ/ARM)

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 instructions required by the depositories in connection with any of the foregoing resolutions and affix thereto the seal of the Board of Education.

7.6 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.

7.7 School Board Recognition Month in New Jersey January 2026

WHEREAS, The New Jersey School Boards Association has declared January 2026 to be School Board Recognition Month, a time when all residents can acknowledge the contributions made by our local school board members; and

WHEREAS, The Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education is one of 580 local school boards in New Jersey, which sets policies and oversees operations for public school districts; and

WHEREAS, The Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education embraces the goal of high-quality education for all New Jersey public school students; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey’s local school boards help determine the educational goals for approximately 1.4 million children in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey’s approximately 5,000 local school board members, who receive no remuneration for their services, act as advocates for public school students as they work with administrators, teachers and parents for the betterment of public education; and

WHEREAS, School boards strive to provide the resources necessary to meet the needs of all students, including those with special needs; and

WHEREAS, Boards of education provide accountability to the public; they communicate the needs of the school district to the public; and they convey to school administrators the public’s expectations for the schools; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey can take pride in its schools, which rank among the nation’s best in key achievement indicators such as the National Assessment of Educational Progress scores, and the preparation for college through advanced placement offerings and SAT assessments;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education, does hereby recognize the services of local school board members throughout New Jersey as we join communities statewide in observing January 2026 as School Board Recognition month; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education urges all New Jersey citizens to work with their local boards of education and public school staff toward the advancement of our children’s education.

Vote/Roll Call on Agenda Items

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	COMMENTS
Ms. Choi	X				
Ms. Fiorentini	X				
Mr. Galvin	X				
Ms. Gaul-Spitale	X				
Ms. Gourley-Thompson	X				
Ms. Jafolla	X				
Ms. McCullough	X				
Ms. Moore	X				
Mr. Ngo	X				

On a roll call vote, 9 members voted yes, zero (0) members voted no and zero (0) members were absent

8.0 Public Participation - None

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 municipality of residence. 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.

9.0 Adjournment

It was motioned by Mr. Galvin, seconded by Ms. Gourley-Thompson, to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 pm.

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	COMMENTS
Ms. Choi	X				
Ms. Fiorentini	X				
Mr. Galvin	X				
Ms. Gaul-Spitale	X				
Ms. Gourley-Thompson	X				
Ms. Jafolla	X				
Ms. McCullough	X				
Ms. Moore	X				
Mr. Ngo	X				

On a roll call vote, 9 members voted yes, zero (0) members voted no and zero (0) members were absent