

Minutes
March 25, 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
	Natalie Baker, School Board Vice President	(Chair) Policy, (Chair) Negotiations, Curriculum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Julie Dickson	(Chair) Operations, Policy
	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: 7-2/6:01 pm

C. Flag Salute

D. Adoption of Agenda

Recommendation: Rodden/Dickson approve the Adoption of the agenda, **as presented.**

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

Public Comments/Visitors- None to Report

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.

Erin Carroll arrived to meeting at 6:04 pm making the quorum 8-1

Swedesboro-Woolwich Board of Education

"A Community dedicated to inspiring life-long learners"

Mr. Korey Jeffries to present to the board the Tentative 2026-2027 School Budget

E. Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Submission of the Tentative 2026-2027 Budget to the Gloucester County Office of Education

Tentative Budget

The Superintendent recommends approval to adopt the Tentative Budget for 2026-2027

BE IT RESOLVED, Rodden/Riley approved that the tentative budget be approved for the 2026-2027 School Year using the 2026-2027 state aid figures and the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

CATEGORY	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUE FUND	DEBT SERVICE FUND	TOTAL
2026-27 Total Expenditures	\$36,112,957	\$452,220	\$3,338,375	\$39,903,552
Less: Anticipated Revenues	\$14,648,609	\$452,220	\$514,999	\$15,615,828
Taxes to be Raised	\$21,464,348	\$0	\$2,823,376	\$24,287,724

And to advertise said tentative budget in the legal section of the South Jersey Times, and in the legal notices section on the school district's website, in accordance with the form required by the State Department of Education and according to law;
and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held at the Swedesboro-Woolwich Board of Education located in the gym of the Stratton School on April 29th at 6:00 PM. For the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2026-2027 School Year, and

WHEREAS that the Swedesboro-Woolwich Board of Education includes in the final budget the adjustment for increased costs of health benefits in the amount of \$1,006,184. The additional funds will be used to pay for the additional increases in health benefit premiums; and

WHEREAS, the Swedesboro-Woolwich School District recognizes the need to utilize banked cap in the amount of \$784,256 to increase the general fund tax levy above the (2%) cap. The district has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority and must exercise this increase for the purpose of staff retainment and delivery of services. The district intends to complete said purposes by June 2027; and

WHEREAS, the Swedesboro-Woolwich Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3 et seq. required Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting members of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting members of the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Swedesboro-Woolwich Board of Education established \$53,430 as the maximum travel amount for the current school year and has expended \$18,262.74 as of this date; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3, to a maximum expenditure of \$59,610 for the 2026-2027 school year.

Board action needed: Yes (Roll Call Required)

(All yes, motion to carry 8-0)

Natalie Baker	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

Riley/Rodden motion to open to public comments for the Tentative Budget
(All yes, motion to carry 8-0)

Eilleen Healy- SWEA President

- SWEA Appreciates no staff cuts
- Expressed concerns with Heath Insurance Increases
- Mentioned the RFP for Janitorial services and offered to help score the RFP's

Mr. Randy Dickson- Swedesboro

- The Budget process is a Heavy Lifting and thankless job
- Thank you to the BOE for their efforts

Public Comments/Visitors- None to Report

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.

(All yes, motion to carry 8-0)

Laurie Cecala-Read left meeting at 7:25 pm to make quorum 7-2

- 2) Recommendation: Rodden/Riley approve to return to **Regular Session**.
Board action needed: Yes Time: 7:34 pm
(All yes, motion to carry 7-0)

Delegates:

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

6. Adjournment

Recommendation: Rodden/McCarrie approve the adjournment of meeting.
Board action needed: Yes Time: 7:34 pm
(All yes, motion to carry 7-0)

Respectfully submitted,



Mr. Corey Jeffries
Board Secretary/SBA

Next Meeting(s)

April 29, 2026

Board/Committee Meetings as scheduled