

Minutes
May 13, 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
Kevin Rodden	Operations, Policy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Raymond Anderson	Curriculum

Quorum: 8-1/6:01 pm

C. Flag Salute

D. Adoption of Agenda

Recommendation: Riley/Cecala-read approve the adoption of the agenda, as amended.

(Removing A7 under personnel)

Board action needed: Yes

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- April 2026

1) Walter Hill School

Grade 6

- Alyssa McSorley
- Blakely Fleming

2) Charles G. Harker School

Grade 3

- Cory Noonan
- Jameson Forrest

Grade 4

- Luke Slocum
- Alexis Montague

Grade 5

- Benjamin Parkin
- Madison White

3) Gov. Charles Stratton School

Grade 1

- Arianna Hernandez
- Camila Garciduenas-Fung

Grade 2

- John Meehan
- Joel Moreno Lozada

4) Margaret Clifford School

Preschool

- Chase Barber
- Damien Augustine

Kindergarten

- Camille Cartella
- Jackson Lesser

B. PTO Presentation- Fundraising Funds

Swedesboro-Woolwich Board of Education

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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: HIB
- 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: 6:33 pm

(All yes, motion to carry 8-0)

- 2) Recommendation: Riley/Dickson approve to return to **Regular Session**.

Board action needed: Yes

Time: 7:15 pm

(All yes, motion to carry 8-0)

Approval of Minutes

Recommendation: Baker/Cecala-Read approve the regular and/or executive session minutes dated **April 29, 2026, as submitted**.

Board action needed: Yes

(All yes, motion to carry 8-0)

3. Communication

A. Superintendent

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1) Superintendent Updates

- Moment of Silence for the Gibbstown Community during this difficult time and the family who lost their little angel
- Thank you to the Counselors who provided support to the Gibbstown School District during this difficult time

Shout Outs!

- Principal Appreciation Day was on May 1, 2026. Thank you to all of our amazing principals. Thank you for everything you do each and every day for the students and staff.
- A huge thank you to Alli Horn for organizing Stratton's Local Hero Day on May 1. Ms. Horn began planning this event one year ago. Guests included the fire department, local law enforcement, the Swedesboro library, Inspira nurses, and Furever as friends. The entire Stratton community is grateful to Ms. Horn for her leadership and initiative on this project. It was a wonderful experience for our students."
- Shout out to Leah Hallowell and the PTO for an wonderful and delicious Teacher Appreciation Lunch
- Shout out to Tara Bustard for all her help with the Kingsway Regional Dance
- Shout out to Mike Forlano for all his time and coordination with the Regional Field Day

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- Shout out to SWSD PTO for a beautiful "Philly Theme" luncheon! Our teachers were on cloud 9!
- Shout out to the amazing PTO and our fantastic Sunshine Committee for making our teachers feel so appreciated last week! The wonderful food and fun goodies were very much appreciated!
- Thank you to our Preschool Team for a successful field trip to the Cohanzick Zoo! Our children and families really enjoyed the visit with the animals!

Board President Update

- Battle of Counties
- Field Services
- Teacher Appreciation Week

2) District Enrollment

- a) Report, **as submitted**

[Clifford
Stratton
Harker
Hill](#)

3) Correspondence.

[Thank you](#)- The Garcia Family

B. District Administration

- 1) Administrator's Monthly Board Reports, **as submitted**

[Clifford
Stratton
Harker
Hill
Technology
Special Services
Curriculum & Instruction
Maintenance](#)

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. 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.

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4. Action Items

Personnel/Finance/Negotiations Committee

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

- *Personnel*
- *Stipends*
- *Health Benefit Resolution*
- *Ad- Hock Committee*

Negotiations Committee Meeting Report, (Chairperson) Natalie Baker

- *Superintendent Contract*

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

A. Personnel- Recommendation: Baker/Cecala-Read approve the following personnel items, as listed:

Name	Position/ Cert	Salary	Budget Acct #	Action	Effective Date
1- Kenneth Menasion	Custodian/ Maintenance	\$18/hour	11-000-261-100-000-01	New Hire- Parttime Summer Help	TBD- Pending completion of ALL state required paperwork
2- Linda Swaine	Substitute Lunch Aide	\$15.92/hour	60-910-310-100-000-00	New Hire	May 14, 2026- pending completion of ALL state required paperwork
3- Alexandra Maravellas	Long Term Substitute- School Counselor	\$135/day for first 20 days \$200/day 21+	11-190-100-320-000-080	New Hire	TBD- Pending completion of ALL state required paperwork
4- Nicholas Dales	New Hire	BA+30/Step 1 \$59,705	11-230-100-101-000-01-050	New Hire	September 1, 2026- pending completion of ALL state required paperwork
5- Staff ID# 4985	Teacher	-	-	Medical/ Maternity Leave	On or around September 1, 2026- On or around December 2, 2026
6- Staff ID# 4441	Paraprofessional	-	-	Medical Leave	May 8, 2026-May 22, 2026
7- Kelsey Wintheim	Student	-	-	Cooperative Counseling under the direction of Linsley Robinson	Fall 2026 and Spring 2027
8- Korey Jeffries	Business Administrator	\$123,165.00	11-000-251-100-000-01	2026-2027 Contract	July 1, 2026
9- Josh Stow	Maintenance Supervisor	\$98, 209.00	11-000-261-100-000-01	2026-2027 Contract	July 1, 2026
10- Jamie Flick	Chief Academic Officer	\$154, 322.34	11-000-221-102-000-01-OXO	2026-2027 Contract	July 1, 2026
11- Joel Brown	Chief Information Officer	\$128, 281.32	11-000-252-100-000-01	2026-2027 Contract	July 1, 2026

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12- All Staff	District	Staff List	-	Appointments for the 2026-2027 school year	July 1, 2026
13- Sarah Perez	Teacher	-	-	Resignation	June 18, 2026
14- Megan Kinney	Teacher	BA/Step 2/\$58,605	11-130-100-101-000-01-060	New Hire	September 1, 2026
15- Kayley Spaeth	Teacher	BA/Step 2/\$58,605	11-120-100-101-000-01-050	New Hire	September 1, 2026
16- Staff ID# 4315	Teacher	-	-	Unpaid Medical Leave of Absence	May 19, 2026 through August 31, 2026
17- Dr. Diana Kaithern	School Vice Principal	\$95,000	11-000-240-103-000-01-080	New Hire	TBD- pending completion of ALL state required paperwork
18- Lauren Trojan	Teacher	BA+15/Step 6 \$61, 805	11-130-100-101-000-01-060	New Hire	September 1, 2026- pending completion of ALL state required paperwork
19- Debbie Rivera	Teacher	-	-	Resignation	June 30, 2026

B. Stipends- Recommendation: Baker/Cecala-Read approve the following stipends for the 2025-2026 school year, as listed:

Name	School	Stipend Position	Amount
1- TBD	Clifford	Ready, Set, Grow Kindergarten Camp from 9-11:30 Session 1 July 6-9, 2026 Session 2 July 13-16, 2026 Session 3 July 20-23, 2026 Session 4 July 27-30	\$38/hour Teacher \$25/hour Paraprofessional
2- Tara Roberto	Harker	Monarch Monday Summer Club July 6, 20, 27, August 3 from -11:30	\$38/hour
3- Jamie Flick	Clifford	Interim Principal	\$5000.00

C. Workshops- Recommendation: Approve the following workshops for the 2025-2026 school year, as listed: (None to report)

Name	Workshop	Date & Time	Cost	Estimated Travel Cost

D. Regular, Payroll, Cafeteria & Addendum Bills

Recommendation: Baker/Cecala-Read approve for payment of [May 2026](#) regular and addendum bills in the amount of **\$485,380.82** and payment of **April 2026** payroll in the amount of **\$1,582,607.48, as submitted.**

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

- F. Recommendation: Baker/Cecala-Read approve the retiree sick day payout request for Mrs. Maria Sohn to be paid on July 15, 2026, not to exceed \$8000, as per contract.
- G. Recommendation: Baker/Cecala-Read approve the retiree sick day payout request for Mr. Gene Gould to be paid on July 15, 2026 in the amount of \$3,925.
- H. Recommendation: Baker/Cecala-Read approve the [Swedesboro](#) and [Woolwich](#) Tax Levy Payment Schedules for the year ended June 30, 2026, **as submitted**.

- I. Recommendation: Baker/Cecala-Read approve the following Resolution

WHEREAS, At a time of continued fiscal uncertainty and mounting challenges, local boards of education from across the state of New Jersey continue to suffer under the growing crisis posed by the rising cost of health benefits and are desperate for relief; and

WHEREAS, Despite record levels of state investments in public education, these school districts are facing fiscal pressures similar to those confronting the state budget, including the unsustainable growth in health-care premiums and the mounting insolvency of the state's public employees health benefits programs; and

WHEREAS, Both within the School Employees' Health Benefits Program (SEHBP) and the private market, year-over-year double-digit increases are placing tremendous strain on district budgets and local taxpayers alike; and

WHEREAS, Governor Sherrill and legislative leadership have publicly acknowledged the urgent need to address rising health-care costs and the challenges facing the state's health benefits plans, including both the state and local portions of the State Health Benefits Program and the SEHBP; and

WHEREAS, The seriousness of this issue is underscored by the mid-year SEHBP analysis released by the Treasury Department in March 2026, which concluded that "based on these projected losses and building in future trends, active premium rate increases for 2027 are likely to be in the double digits;" and

WHEREAS, These projected increases would follow the 31.9 percent premium increase that took effect in January 2026, further exacerbating an overall premium increase of nearly 74 percent in the preceding five years; and

WHEREAS, This growth in health-care costs far exceeds inflation, state aid increases and the fiscal capacity of local communities; and

WHEREAS, Rising health-care premiums are consuming an ever-larger portion of already constrained school district budgets, forcing difficult decisions that directly affect students, staff and educational quality; and

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WHEREAS, These cost pressures also have significant consequences for taxpayers, as districts are often compelled to utilize the full extent of their available tax levy, even after which many districts remain unable to fully offset these increases due to the constraints of the property tax levy cap, despite the limited health-care exception; and

WHEREAS, For the families and students these districts serve, the downstream consequences — including district deficits, program cuts and school closures — mean the loss of community stability, continuity of services, and in many cases, access to the specialized supports that our most vulnerable students depend on; and

WHEREAS, These are also precisely the conditions that erode student achievement and weaken the family engagement that is central to strengthening New Jersey's public schools; and

WHEREAS, Implementing real, sustainable solutions to the rising cost of health benefits and reforming how benefits are delivered through the SEHBP would demonstrate the Governor's and Legislature's leadership and continued commitment to New Jersey's students, educators and families, which directly advances our shared goal of affordability and effective, efficient government for all New Jerseyans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Swedesboro-Woolwich Board of Education in the county of Gloucester calls upon the Governor and State Legislature to provide immediate, short-term relief from the unsustainable increased health-care costs experienced by school districts in recent years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Swedesboro-Woolwich Board of Education in the county of Gloucester urges the Governor to engage in meaningful engagement with all affected stakeholders to develop and implement practical long-term reforms to the state's system of delivering health care to its public employees in order to generate meaningful, long-term savings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Mikie Sherrill, State Treasurer Aaron Binder, Senate President Nicholas Scutari, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, Latham Tiver, Herb Conaway, Heather Simmons, and the New Jersey School Boards Association.

Board action needed: Yes (Roll Call Required)

(Motion carried: 8-0 for A-H & 7-0-1 for I (McCarrie abstained))

Natalie Baker-Y

Julie Dickson-Y

Erin Carroll-Y

Laurie Cecala-Read-Y

Kenneth Riley-Y

Kevin Rodden

Raymond Anderson-Y

Gina Azzari-Y

James McCarrie- Y for A-H; abstain for I

Curriculum

Committee Meeting Report, (Chairperson) Laurie Cecala-Read

- *HIB*
- *HIB Self-Assessment*
- *Personnel*
- *Ad Hock Committee*
- *Curriculum Alignment*

A. HIB Reports

Recommendation: Baker/Cecala-Read approve **HIB, as submitted.**

B. Recommendation: Baker/Cecala-Read approve the **HIB Self-Assessment** and **HIB Report Card** for the 2024-2025 school year, **as submitted.**

C. Recommendation: Baker/Cecala-Read approve the following staff members for **ESY 2026, as submitted.**

Board action needed: Yes (Roll Call Required)

(All yes, motion to carry 8-0)

Natalie Baker-Y

Julie Dickson-Y

Erin Carroll-Y

Laurie Cecala-Read-Y

Kenneth Riley-Y

James McCarrie-Y

Kevin Rodden

Raymond Anderson-Y

Gina Azzari-Y

Policy Committee and Community Relations

Committee Meeting Report, (Chairperson) Natalie Baker

- *Ad-Hock Committee*
- *Policies Spreadsheet*

- A. Recommendation: Baker/riley approve the creation of an Ad-Hoc Committee for the purpose of Growth and Expansion discussions and items.
(District Growth and Planning Committee)

Board action needed: Yes (Roll Call Required)

(All yes, motion to carry 8-0)

Natalie Baker-Y

Julie Dickson-Y

Erin Carroll-Y

Laurie Cecala-Read-Y

Kenneth Riley-Y

James McCarrie-Y

Kevin Rodden

Raymond Anderson-Y

Gina Azzari-Y

Operations

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

- *Discussions were the same as other committees*

- A. Facility Usage Requests- None to Report
Recommendation: Approve Facility Usage Requests, as listed.
(Subject to submission of Insurance Certificate, and 501 documentation, and no conflict with school district activities)
- B. Recommendation: Baker/McCarrie approve the [Gloucester County Special Services Transportation Cooperative Contract](#) for the 2026-2027 school year, **as submitted**.
- C. Recommendation: Baker/McCarrie approve the [AIL Agreement](#) for the 2025-2026 school year between Kingsway Regional School District and the Swedesboro-Woolwich School District, **as submitted**.
- D. Recommendation: Baker/McCarrie approve Gloucester County Special Services School District to provide [MVC](#) abstracts for eligible District staff obtained through the NJMVC On-line Customer Abstract Information Retrieval System, and the SWSD agrees to participate in the Gloucester County Special Services School District MVC On-line Abstract Request Program for the school year 2026-2027 at an annual cost of \$55.00, as submitted, **as submitted**.
- E. Recommendation: Baker/McCarrie approve Pritchard Industries as the Custodial Service provider for the District in response to RFP 26-004 for the 2026-2027 (Start date of 09/15/26) and 2027-2028 school years, with an option to renew for three years. 2026-2027 base cost of \$411,621.11, and 2027-2028 base cost of \$423,491.06.

Bid Proposals
Scoring

Board action needed: Yes (Roll Call Required)
(Motion carries, 8-0 A-D, 7-1 E)

Natalie Baker-Y	Erin Carroll-Y	
Laurie Cecala-Read-Y	Kenneth Riley-Y	James McCarrie-Y
Kevin Rodden	Raymond Anderson-Y	Gina Azzari-Y
Julie Dickson-Y for A-D, N for E		

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- Eileen Healey- SWEA President

- SWEA Stipends- Schedule a Meeting
- SEPAC- was the meeting held
- Health Insurance Costs
- Harker Gym- Heating and air conditioning plan

2- Janeen Buirch- SWEA Committee Member

- Thank you to Jackie Traini on her support for Gibbstown
- Thank you to Korey- Cleaning Services
- District Growth and Planning Committee- who will create this committee
 - At this time, it will be board members only

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION – If Needed

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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:

Superintendent Evaluation
- 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 2 hours. The Board † will return to open session to conduct business at the conclusion of the executive session.

Recommendation: Riley/Cecala-Read approve to enter into **Executive Session** for the purpose of discussing/reviewing items as noted above.

Board action needed: Yes
(All yes, motion to carry 8-0)

Time: 8:00 pm

Recommendation: Riley/McCarrie approve to return to **Regular Session.**
Board action needed: Yes
(All yes, motion to carry 8-0)

Time: 10:09 pm

Delegates:

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

6. Adjournment

Recommendation: Carroll/Baker approve the adjournment of meeting.

Board action needed: Yes
(All yes, motion to carry 8-0)

Time: 10:09 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Mr. Corey Jeffries
Board Secretary/SBA

Next Meeting(s).

June 3, 2026

Board/Committee Meetings as scheduled