

Minutes
July 29, 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
5:00 PM Board Retreat
6:00 pm Regular Meeting

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

☒ Gina Azzari, School Board President	All Committees
☒ Natalie Baker, School Board Vice President	(Chair) Policy, (Chair) Negotiations, Curriculum
☒ Julie Dickson	(Chair) Operations, Policy
☒ Erin Carroll	Personnel/Finance
☒ Laurie Cecala-Read	(Chair) Curriculum, Operations
Kenneth Riley	(Chair) Personnel/Finance, Negotiations (Chair) District Growth & Planning
☒ James McCarrie	Personnel/Finance, Negotiations, District Growth & Planning
Kevin Rodden	Operations, Policy, District Growth & Planning
☒ Raymond Anderson	Curriculum

Quorum: 7-2/5:05 pm

C. Board Retreat- NJ School Boards

D. Flag Salute

E. Adoption of Agenda

Recommendation: Baker/Cecala-Read approve the adoption of the agenda, **as presented.**

Board action needed: Yes

(All yes, motion to carry 7-0)

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 of attorney-client privilege
- ☒ 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: Cecala-Read/Anderson approve to enter into **Executive Session** for the purpose of discussing/reviewing items as noted above.
Board action needed: Yes Time: 6:08 pm
(All yes, motion to carry 7-0)

- 2) Recommendation: Return to **Regular Session**.
Board action needed: Yes Time: 6:31 pm
(All yes, motion to carry 7-0)

Approval of Minutes

Recommendation: Baker/Cecala-Read approve the regular and/or executive session minutes dated **June 3, 2026, as submitted.**

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

1. Communication

A. Superintendent

"A Community dedicated to inspiring life-long learners"

1) Superintendent Updates

Shout Outs!

- Shot out to Tara Bustard and Leah Hallowell for all their help with field day
- Shout out to Brad Gilmore the 6th grade activities coordinator on putting together a great field trip to the Spirit of Philadelphia.
- Shout out to Brad Gilmore and Nick Leypoldt for helping Mr. Kelly develop the plan b weather plan so quickly for the moving up ceremony
- Shout out to the EXCELLLENT staff at Walter Hill for an excellent 25-26 school year
- Shout out to Gina Azzari and Julie Dickson for attending the Hill Moving Up Ceremony
- Shout out to the amazing SWSD PTO and parent volunteers for their support with field day and end of the year celebrations at Harker
- Shout out to the SWSD custodial staff and Harker's (Keith & Jen) for their hard work this summer!
- Thank you to ALL of our Harker staff for creating and cultivating such a successful end of school year!
- Thank you to Josh and the entire Maintenance Crew for all of their hard work this summer ensuring the schools are ready for September opening.

Swedesboro-Woolwich Board of Education
"A Community dedicated to inspiring life-long learners"

- Huge shout out to Josh for facilitating the Stratton Library floor project- It looks incredible
- Shout out to the Hill staff & Matt for opening up the building for filming and being very accommodating.

2) Correspondence

- [Thank you- Silvia Cancila & Family](#)
- [Thank you- Jen Weinhardt & Family](#)
- [Thank you- Jacquelyn Traini & Family](#)

3) OPRA Log

Document (s) Requested	Who Requested	Date Received	Date Completed
Records relating to Copier, Printer, and Multifunctional Devices that are used by our schools and administrative offices.	Max Kraft	July 16, 2026	July 27, 2027
All currently effective negotiations/collective bargaining agreements between the Board of Education and any employee organization or bargaining unit.	Thomas Baldosaro	July 27, 2027	July 27, 2027

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.

Swedesboro-Woolwich Board of Education
"A Community dedicated to inspiring life-long learners"

2. Action Items

Personnel/Finance/Negotiations Committee

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

[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:** McCarrie/Cecala-Read approve the following personnel items, as listed:

Name	Position/ Cert	Salary	Budget Acct #	Action	Effective Date
1- Emily O'Rourke	School Psychologist	MA/ Step 1/\$64,634	11-000-219- 104-000-01- 080	New Hire	2026-2027 School year- pending completion of ALL state required paperwork
2- Emily Hanna	Special Ed Teacher	BA Step 1/\$58,305	11-120-100- 101-000-01- 080	New Hire	2026-2027 School year- pending completion of ALL state required paperwork
3- Theresa Sisca	Building Perm- Hill/District	\$135/day	11-120-100- 101-000-01- 060	Change from LP to Building Perm	2026-2027 School year
4- Leah Hallowell	Sub Building Perm- Hill/District	\$135/day	11-120-100- 101-000-01- 060	Sub Building Perm	2026-2027 School year
5- Stacie Streeters	Special Ed Teacher	BA+30/Step 3/ \$60.305	11-213-100- 101-000-01- 060	New Hire	2026-2027 School year- pending completion of ALL state required paperwork
6- Jeannie Billman	LTS	\$135/day for days 1-20/ \$200/day for 21+	11-120-100- 101-000-01- 080	New Hire	2026-2027 School year- pending completion of ALL state required paperwork
7- Devon Wilmer	Maintenance/ Custodial	\$35,500	11-000-261- 100-000-01	New Hire	2026-2027 School year- pending completion of ALL state required paperwork
8- Danielle O'Donnell	Teacher	MA+15/ Step 2/\$61,405	11-120-100- 101-000-01- 050	Lane change to MA+15	September 1, 2026
9- Mallory Baptiste	LP- Stratton/District	\$15.92/hour	11-000-262- 107-000-01	New Hire	2026-2027 School year- pending completion of ALL state required paperwork
10- Diane Cogossi	LP- Clifford/District	\$15.92/hour	11-000-262- 107-000-01	New Hire	2026-2027 School year- pending completion of ALL state required paperwork
11- Sherry Mashbitz	LP- Stratton/District	\$15.92/hour	11-000-262- 107-000-01	New Hire	2026-2027 School year- pending completion of ALL state required paperwork
12- Barry Mesmer, Rebecca Casperson, Betty Marrow, Donna Sarbello, Latanya Clarke, Diana Sanes, Shaniqua Hampton, Janelle Jackson	LP- Harker/District	\$15.92/hour	11-000-262- 107-000-01	New Hire/Renewal	2026-2027 School year- pending completion of ALL state required paperwork

Swedesboro-Woolwich Board of Education
"A Community dedicated to inspiring life-long learners"

13- Courtney Sluarski, Judy Mejia	LP Sub-Harker/District	\$15.92/hour	11-000-262-107-000-01	New Hire/Renewal	2026-2027 School year- pending completion of ALL state required paperwork
14- Karen Morrison	District Substitute Secretary	\$15.92/hour		New Hire	2026-2027 School year- pending completion of ALL state required paperwork.
15- Rylee Oswald, Leah Hallowell,	LP- Hill/District	\$15.92/hour	11-000-262-107-000-01	New Hire/Renewal	2026-2027 Pending Completion of ALL state required paperwork
16- Diedre Robinson, Michelle Wood	LP Sub-Hill/District	\$15.92/hour	11-000-262-107-000-01	New Hire/Renewal	2026-2027 Pending Completion of ALL state required paperwork
17- Staff ID# 5041	Teacher	-	-	Medical/ Maternity Leave	On or about October 11, 2026 returning on or about February 3, 2027
18- Staff ID# 4996	Teacher	-	-	Medical/ Maternity Leave	On or about November 1, 2026 utilizing 10 sick days prior to birth returning on or about March 18, 2027 utilizing 20 sick days after birth
19- Nina Minardi	School Nurse	-	-	Nursing Practicum under the direction of Karin Brown-Bolis	Fall 2026 (September 1, 2026- December 17, 2026)
20- Lori Savas	Teacher	-	-	Resignation	August 1, 2026
21- Taylor Kelly	Substitute School Nurse	\$225/day	11-000-262-107-000-01	New Hire- Substitute Nurse	2026-2027 School year- pending completion of ALL state required paperwork
22- Heather Worrell	Supervisor of Special Services	-	-	Retirement	January 29, 2027

B. Stipends- Recommendation: Approve the following stipends for the 2026-2027 school year, as listed:

Name	School	Stipend Position	Amount

C. Workshops- Recommendation: McCarrie/Cecala-Read approve the following workshops for the 2026-2027 school year, as listed:

Name	Workshop	Date & Time	Cost	Estimated Travel Cost
1- Jamie Bellows, Vanessa Paccione, Christina Hillen-Bauman	IMPACT Summit Workshop at Delsea Regional High School	August 4-6, 2026/Not to exceed 21 hours	\$0	\$0
2- Rachel Ryman	School Social Work Association of America	Virtual	\$310	\$0

D. Recommendation: McCarrie/Cecala-Read approve the **Board Secretary's Report** in accordance with 18A: 17-36 and 18A: 17-9 for the month of **May 2026**, and **June 2026**. The Board Secretary certifies that no line-item account has been over

Swedesboro-Woolwich Board of Education
"A Community dedicated to inspiring life-long learners"

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 [May 2026](#), and [June 2026](#). The Treasurer Report and Board Secretary's Report are in agreement for the month of **May 2026**, and **June 2027**.

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: McCarrie/Cecala-Read for payment of [June 2026](#) and [July 2026](#) regular and addendum bills in the amount of **\$3,082,826.02** and payment of **June 2026** payroll in the amount of **\$1,708,972.52, as submitted**.

F. Recommendation: McCarrie/Cecala-Read approve the [Line-Item Transfer](#) for **June 2026, as submitted**.

G. Recommendation: McCarrie/Cecala-Read approve the school lunch and breakfast costs for the 2026-2027 school year, as listed:

- Student \$ 3.50
- Reduced \$ 0.00
- Staff \$ 5.00
- Breakfast \$ 1.70

H. Recommendation: McCarrie/Cecala-Read approve the submission of the IDEA Grant Application for the 2026-2027 school year:

- Basic \$342,512
- PreK \$ 19,413

I. Recommendation: McCarrie/Cecala-Read approve the following Capital Reserve Resolution:

Swedesboro-Woolwich Board of Education
"A Community dedicated to inspiring life-long learners"

WHEREAS, the Swedesboro Woolwich Board of Education established a Capital Reserve Fund in accordance with 18A:21-2 and

WHEREAS, in accordance with 18A:21-4 and 6A:23A-14.1(L2) the Board of Education may transfer funds to fund facilities projects and equipment purchases as determined in accordance with N.J.A.C.6A:26-3., and

WHEREAS, the Swedesboro Woolwich Board of Education is in emergent need for the vehicle, and

WHEREAS, the Swedesboro Woolwich Board of Education received estimates of totaling approximately \$60,839.00

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education authorizes the transfer of \$60,839.00 from its Capital Reserve account to fund the purchase of the vehicle.

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

Natalie Baker-Y

Julie Dickson-Y

Erin Carroll-Y

Laurie Cecala-Read-Y

Kenneth Riley

James McCarrie-Y

Kevin Rodden

Raymond Anderson-Y

Gina Azzari-Y

Curriculum

[Committee Meeting Report](#), (Chairperson) Laurie Cecala-Read

A. HIB Reports

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

B. Recommendation: Baker/Cecala-Read approve the 6th Grade Trip to the Spirit of Philadelphia June 2027.

C. Recommendation: Baker/Cecala-Read approve the 6th Grade Moving Up Ceremony on Wednesday June 16, 2027

D. Recommendation: Baker/Cecala-Read approve the Annual Agreement for Professional services with Cooper Health Systems to conduct neurological Evaluations as needed and appropriate at \$400/evaluations, **as submitted.**

E. Recommendation: Baker/Cecala-Read approve Diamond Brown as an ESY Paraprofessional, at \$25/hour, as per contract.

F. Recommendation: Baker/Cecala-Read approve the following [staff](#) to be paid for summer curriculum revisions, **as submitted.**

G. Recommendation: Baker/Cecala-Read approve Kylie Crompton and Haley Watson to complete SIOP Virtual Training, at \$38/hour, as per contract, not to exceed 8 hours.

H. Recommendation: Baker/Cecala-Read approve [Beth Laube](#) for LDT/C Services for the 2026-2027 school year on an as needed basis, at the rate of \$428.09/day, **as submitted.**

I. Recommendation: Baker/Cecala-Read approve the Annual contract for Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired Services for the 2026-2027 school year.

J. Recommendation: Baker/Cecala-Read approve the [Wellness Program Year End Report](#) for the 2026-2027 school year, **as submitted.**

K. Recommendation: Baker/Cecala-Read approve the [Mentoring Plan](#) for the 2026-2027 school year, **as submitted.**

Swedesboro-Woolwich Board of Education
"A Community dedicated to inspiring life-long learners"

L. Recommendation: Baker/Cecala-Read approve the [Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan](#) for the 2026-2027 school year, **as submitted**.

M. Recommendation: Baker/Cecala-Read approve the following Code of Conduct for the 2026-2027 school year, as submitted.

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

N. Recommendation: Baker/Cecala-Read approve the following Handbooks for the 2026-2027 school year, **as submitted**.

- [RTI for Staff](#)
- [RTI for Families](#)
- [Gifted and Talented](#)

O. Recommendation: Baker/Cecala-Read approve the following Out of District Placements for the 2026-2027 school year, as listed:

- #3680552522- Logan DHH Program through GCSSSD
- #6091831510- Logan DHH Program through GCSSSD
- #8484560324- LARC
- #1259483185- Bancroft
- #3866962890- HollyDELL
- #3188017814- Archway Cooper's Point
- #8781449809- GCSSSD
- #9810440169- GCSSSD
- #7300464046- Pinelands
- #4527900127- Bancroft
- #5352339092- Archway

Board action needed: Yes (Roll Call Required)

(Motion carried, 7-0 A-F, 6-0-1 G (Azzari abstained), 7-0 H-L, 5-2 M-N, 7-0 O)

Natalie Baker-Y

Erin Carroll-Y

Laurie Cecala-Read-Y

Kenneth Riley

Kevin Rodden

Raymond Anderson-Y

Julie Dickson- No for M-N, yes for the rest

James McCarrie- No for M-N, yes for the rest

Gina Azzari- Abstain for G, yes for the rest

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

A. Recommendation: Baker/McCarrie approve the following policies for 1st Reading, as submitted:

- [6112](#) Reimbursement of Federal and Other Grant Expenditures
- [6115.02](#) Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls-Mandatory Disclosures
- [6311](#) Contracts for Goods or Services Funded by Federal Grants
- [8561](#) Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition Program

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

Natalie Baker-Y	Julie Dickson-Y	Erin Carroll-Y
Laurie Cecala-Read-Y	Kenneth Riley	James McCarrie-Y
Kevin Rodden	Raymond Anderson-Y	Gina Azzari-Y

District Growth and Planning Committee
Committee Meeting Report, (Chairperson) Ken Riley

- Erin thanked the committee members for volunteering their time. The group is trying to think outside the box
- Laurie thanked Ken for his recap of the meeting.

Board action needed: Yes (Roll Call Required)

Natalie Baker

Julie Dickson

Erin Carroll

Laurie Cecala-Read

Kenneth Riley

James McCarrie

Kevin Rodden

Raymond Anderson

Gina Azzari

Swedesboro-Woolwich Board of Education
"A Community dedicated to inspiring life-long learners"

Operations

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

A. Facility Usage Requests

Recommendation: Baker/McCarrie 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- Quaker City String Band	Hill Gym	Sundays from September 2026-February 2027 on an as needed basis	Practice
2- Kingsway Youth Football	Harker Fields	August 2026-November 2026	Practice

B. Recommendation: Baker/McCarrie approve Kingsway Regional School District to provide Aid-in-Lieu payments to parents/guardians of eligible non-public students for the 2026-2027 school year at an annual cost of \$30.00 per eligible nonpublic student, **as submitted**.

C. Recommendation: Baker/McCarrie approve the Joint Transportation Agreement with Logan Township School District to provide transportation for ESY 2026, **as submitted**

D. Recommendation: Baker/McCarrie approve the Joint Transportation Agreement with Logan Township for the Swedesboro-Woolwich School District to provide transportation for the ESY 2026, **as submitted**.

Board action needed: Yes (Roll Call Required)

(All yes, motion to carry 7-0)

Natalie Baker-Y

Julie Dickson-Y

Erin Carroll-Y

Laurie Cecala-Read-Y

Kenneth Riley

James McCarrie-Y

Kevin Rodden

Raymond Anderson-Y

Gina Azzari-Y

Swedesboro-Woolwich Board of Education
"A Community dedicated to inspiring life-long learners"

Public Comments- None to Report

Any person interested in making comments on any agenda item or other school district related topic 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 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.

2026 Board Retreat- NJ School Boards

Delegates:

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

6. Adjournment

Recommendation: Baker/McCarrie approve the adjournment of meeting.

Board action needed: Yes

Time: 9:20 pm

(All yes, motion to carry 7-0)

Respectfully submitted,



Mr. Korey Jeffries
Board Secretary/SBA

Next Meeting(s).

August 12, 2026

Board/Committee Meetings as scheduled