

**Galloway Township Board of Education Agenda
Office of the Board Secretary
101 South Reeds Road
Galloway, NJ 08205**

MINUTES

September 9, 2024

REGULAR MEETING

1. MEETING OPENING

Procedural: 1.1 Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM

Procedural: 1.2 Open Public Meeting Statement

In accordance with Public Law 231, both adequate and electronic notice of this meeting was provided to: The Press, the Galloway Township Municipal Building and the District Website on January 13, 2024.

Procedural: 1.3 Roll Call

Members present

Mrs. Belinda Chester, Ms. Virginia A. Larrea, Mrs. Madeline Avery, Mr. Richard Dase, Mr. James Gentile, Mrs. Ethel Hermenau, and Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth

Absent: Dr. Sherri Parmenter and Mrs. Suzette M. Carmen

Also Present: Mr. Stephen P. Santilli/Superintendent, Mrs. Joy N. Nixon/School Board Administrator/Board Secretary, and Mrs. Amy Houck-Elco/Board Solicitor

Procedural: 1.4 Flag Salute

The flag salute will be by Mr. Richard Dase

2. MINUTES

Action, Minutes: 2.1 August 12, 2024 - Regular Meeting Minutes

Approve Minutes Items #2.1

Motion by Mr. James Gentile, second by Mr. Richard Dase

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Mrs. Belinda Chester, Ms. Virginia A. Larrea, Mrs. Madeline Avery, Mr. Richard Dase, Mr. James Gentile, Mrs. Ethel Hermenau, and Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth

Absent: Dr. Sherri Parmenter and Mrs. Suzette M. Carmen

3. READING OF COMMUNICATIONS

Information: 3.1 Letter from GTPD Chief of Police in appreciation of National Night Out participation

4. PRESENTATIONS

Presentations, Information: 4.1 NJ Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA), Access for ELLs and NJ Dynamic Learning Maps (NJDLM) District Test Reports

Mrs. Avery – asked about Kindergarten ELL student testing and it's validity for testing data. Is there pullout for ELL student? Mrs. Napoli answered

Mrs. Chester – asked to have a copy of the presentation?

Mr. Santilli responded pointed out that the presentation will be emailed to the board.

Mrs. Chester – students who were the youngest during COVID seem to have the lowest scores as they move up.

Dr. Guidry and Dr. Pauls responded

Mrs. Chester – asked if there is any data on special education self-contained growth specifically?

Dr. Pauls responded

Mr. Santilli reminded everyone that data in regards to the District Factor Group comparisons is not yet available.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Information: 5.1 Guidelines for Public Comment at the Board of Education Meeting
None

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Presentations, Reports: 6.1 Attorney's Report

Reports: 6.2 Student Enrollment Report

Information: 6.4 NO VOTE NEEDED - Informational Items Only

7. CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Action: 7.1 Field Trips

Action: 7.2 Fieldwork

Action: 7.3 Observation Hours for Preservice Speech Pathologists

Approve Curriculum & Instruction Items #7.1 through #7.3

Motion by Mr. James Gentile, second by Mr. Richard Dase

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Mrs. Belinda Chester, Ms. Virginia A. Larrea, Mrs. Madeline Avery, Mr. Richard Dase, Mr. James Gentile, Mrs. Ethel Hermenau, and Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth

Absent: Dr. Sherri Parmenter and Mrs. Suzette M. Carmen

8. FINANCE

Information, Reports: 8.1 Finance Committee Update
Dr. Beshara-Blauth provided an update.

Action, Information, Reports: 8.2 Food Service Reports - July 2024

Action, Information, Reports: 8.3 Food Service Reports - June 2024

Action: 8.4 Investment Report(s) for July 31, 2024

Action: 8.5 Board Secretary's Monthly Certification
Action: 8.6 Financial Report of the Board Secretary
Action: 8.7 Board Report of Receipts & Expenditures
Action: 8.8 Transfers for Ratification - July 2024
Action: 8.9 Transfers for Ratification - June 2024
Action: 8.10 Bills for Payment - September 2024
Action: 8.11 Professional Services Contract(s)
Action: 8.12 Accept Gifts, Grants & Donations
Action: 8.13 Staff paid through Grant Funding
Action: 8.14 2024-2029 Canon Solutions Lease Agreement
Action: 8.15 Shared Services Agreement Greater Egg Harbor Regional School District - Addendum
Action: 8.16 Transportation Agreement(s)
Action: 8.17 Out of District Professional Development
Action: 8.18 Tuition Receivable for McKinney Vento Students
Action: 8.19 Tuition Receivable for DCP&P Students
Action: 8.20 Tuition Payable for Special Education Students

Approve Finance Items #8.2 through #8.20

Motion by Mr. James Gentile, second by Mr. Richard Dase

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Mrs. Belinda Chester, Ms. Virginia A. Larrea, Mrs. Madeline Avery, Mr. Richard Dase, Mr. James Gentile, Mrs. Ethel Hermenau, and Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth

Absent: Dr. Sherri Parmenter and Mrs. Suzette M. Carmen

9. FACILITIES

Information, Reports: 9.1 Facilities Committee Update
Mr. Dase provided an update.

Action: 9.2 Authorizing Disposal of Surplus Property
Action, Information: 9.3 Community Use of School Facilities

Approve Facilities Items #9.2 through #9.3

Motion by Mr. James Gentile, second by Mr. Richard Dase

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Mrs. Belinda Chester, Ms. Virginia A. Larrea, Mrs. Madeline Avery, Mr. Richard Dase, Mr. James Gentile, Mrs. Ethel Hermenau, and Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth

Absent: Dr. Sherri Parmenter and Mrs. Suzette M. Carmen

10. PERSONNEL

Action: 10.1 Resignation(s)
Action: 10.2 Transfer(s)
Action: 10.3 Appointment(s)
Action: 10.4 Mentor(s)
Action: 10.5 Leave(s) of Absence
Action: 10.6 Adjustment(s)
Action: 10.7 Lateral Adjustment(s)
Action: 10.8 Job Description(s)

Approve Personnel Items #10.1 through #10.8

Motion by Mr. James Gentile, second by Mr. Richard Dase

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Mrs. Belinda Chester, Ms. Virginia A. Larrea, Mrs. Madeline Avery, Mr. Richard Dase, Mr. James Gentile, Mrs. Ethel Hermenau, and Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth

Absent: Dr. Sherri Parmenter and Mrs. Suzette M. Carmen

Information: 10.9 Introduce and Welcome New Hires

Mr. Santilli introduced new hires

11. POLICY

Information, Reports: 11.1 Policy Committee Report

Mr. Santilli provided an update.

Action: 11.2 Policy 8467 Firearms and Weapons

Action: 11.3 Policy 2425 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program

Action: 11.4 Policy 2467 Surrogate Parents and Resource Instruction Program

Action: 11.5 Policy 2481 Home or Out-of-School Instruction for a General Education Student for Reasons Other than a Temporary or Chronic Health Condition

Action: 11.6 Policy 2700 Services to Non-Public School Students

Action: 11.7 Policy 8441 Care of Injured and Ill Persons

Action: 11.8 Policy 8451 Control of Communicable Disease

Action: 11.9 Policy 8461 Reporting Violence, Vandalism, Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying, Alcohol, and Other Drug Offenses

Action: 11.10 Policy 8462 Reporting Potentially Missing or Abused Children

Action: 11.11 Policy 8465 Bias Crimes and Bias-Related Acts

APPROVE Policy Items for Second Reading #11.2 THROUGH #11.11

Mrs. Hermenau – I will vote no on the policies up for a vote tonight, I have two concerns I would like to address.

First, when a new policy is on the agenda board members that are not on the policy committee do not get a copy of the new policy until late in the day on Friday before the meeting this is not enough time to adequately review the policy and prepare. I have asked the administration and our board president to provide all board members with a copy of any policy we will vote on as soon as they are received so that we can have sufficient time to prepare, but the board president denied that request. Second, I would like more clarification on when policies are mandated and what the terms mean specifically when we are told a policy is mandated. I think the board should be told by whom is it mandated by Statute. If so, what statute, if Straus Esmay mandates what is their basis for this? We need to make sure the public knows about what we are voting on and why. I appreciate your consideration thank you.

Dr. Beshara-Blauth – these are second readings that were available to the board at the last meeting, to show mandates.

Mr. Gentile – the bottom of the policy shows the administrative code and statute references and is readily available to the Board of Education members and public.

Motion by Mr. James Gentile, second by Mr. Richard Dase

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Mrs. Belinda Chester, Mrs. Madeline Avery, Mr. Richard Dase, Mr. James Gentile, and Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth

No: Ms. Virginia A. Larrea and Mrs. Ethel Hermenau

Absent: Dr. Sherri Parmenter and Mrs. Suzette M. Carmen

Action: 11.13 Policy 8500 Food Services

Action: 11.14 Policy 8505 Local Wellness Policy/Nutrient Standards for Meals and Other Foods

Action: 11.15 Policy 8506 School Lunch Program Biosecurity Plan
Action: 11.16 Policy 8507 Breakfast Offer Versus Serve (OVS)
Action: 11.17 Policy 8508 Lunch Offer Versus Serve (OVS)
Action: 11.18 Policy 8561 Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition Programs
Action: 11.19 Policy 8600 Student Transportation
Action: 11.20 Policy 8630 Bus Driver/Bus Aide Responsibility
Action: 11.21 Policy 8670 Transportation of Special Needs Students
Action: 11.22 Policy 3126 District Mentoring Program

APPROVE POLICY ITEMS FOR FIRST READING #11.13 THROUGH #11.22

Motion by Mr. James Gentile, second by Mr. Richard Dase

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Mrs. Belinda Chester, Mrs. Madeline Avery, Mr. Richard Dase, Mr. James Gentile, and Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth

No: Ms. Virginia A. Larrea and Mrs. Ethel Hermenau

Absent: Dr. Sherri Parmenter and Mrs. Suzette M. Carmen

12. OLD BUSINESS

Action: 12.1 Affirm HIB Determination Reports

Action: 12.2 Revised Board Calendar

Approve Old Business Items #12.1 through #12.2

Motion by Mr. James Gentile, second by Mr. Richard Dase

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Mrs. Belinda Chester, Ms. Virginia A. Larrea, Mrs. Madeline Avery, Mr. Richard Dase, Mr. James Gentile, Mrs. Ethel Hermenau, and Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth

Absent: Dr. Sherri Parmenter and Mrs. Suzette M. Carmen

13. NEW BUSINESS

Action: 13.1 2024-2025 Mentoring Plan

Approve New Business Item #13.1

Motion by Mr. James Gentile, second by Mr. Richard Dase

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Mrs. Belinda Chester, Ms. Virginia A. Larrea, Mrs. Madeline Avery, Mr. Richard Dase, Mr. James Gentile, Mrs. Ethel Hermenau, and Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth

Absent: Dr. Sherri Parmenter and Mrs. Suzette M. Carmen

14. BOARD INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Information: 14.1 Board Calendar

Information: 14.2 Special Events

Information: 14.3 NO VOTE NEEDED - Information Items Only

15. PUBLIC COMMENT

Information: 15.1 Guidelines for Public Comment at the Board of Education Meeting

Kelly Grace – Galloway resident. First thank you to the board, thank you to those who presented. Thanks to Mr. Santilli for previously meeting with me. At what time was it decided that Pre-K would be at Absegami? Parents were not notified until August 21, 2024. This is a time where we need time to know where kids are going and when policies are being approved. Now parents have to scramble for a private placement if they didn't want Absegami. We were told these are "free classes" but our taxes pay for school, so it's not free.

Dr. Beshara-Blauth – Thank you for your comments. Mr. Santilli will reach out.

Discussion: 15.2 Board Members Comments

Mrs. Chester – attended back to school night at Absegami and was very impressed with the set-up, security and great staff. Welcome everyone back to school.

Ms. Larrea – Welcome back and proud of those concerned about our children.

Mrs. Avery – As Ed Foundation chair, please support Ed Foundation events such as golf outing and bingo. Teacher grant announcements will be awarded this fall.

Mr. Dase – welcome back to all the administrators and the teachers and our young men and ladies who are in our schools. I'm not an academic or education person but the five things that the teachers should teach to our children or boys and girls are reading, writing, arithmetic, respect and discipline in whatever order you want and God Bless.

Mr. Gentile – welcome to the new hires, I hope you find working here to be rewarding we're very pleased to have you coming on board to be part of our district. I also want to welcome back all of the staff both those who are present and those who are not present. Wish the best for the kids in the coming year; I think it would be remiss if I didn't note four names today for our public portion of comment. Two of them were 14 years old, they went to school last week and they were killed by a fellow student. Two of them were teachers who went to school last week and were killed by a student. Why we cannot as a culture protect our children, why we cannot as a culture protect those who commit themselves to education is beyond me. What we see in this country every year through these shootings is a veritable slaughter of our innocence, our innocent children and why our politicians why our governors why our so called community and religious leaders cannot take this issue by the horn and protect our children boggles my mind. The student's name was Mason Schermerhorn, he was 14. The other student was Christian Angula, who was 14. One of the math teachers was Christina Irimie, 53 years old and the other was Richard "Ricky" Aspinwall, 39 years old. I would like to ask for a moment of silence before we return. Thank you.

Mrs. Hermenau – welcome everyone. I attended back to school night at Absegami. I was impressed with Mrs. Guidry, you did a fantastic job. As an outside observer, there is no natural light, it's not your fault you are doing your best with what you have, but then again you can change that I guess going forward. The bathrooms and hallways of course that's a little concerning but you have a great system set up with only the staff four keys you said that only four people have. So I think it is a little scary for parents because it's in a high school, yet yes we know the bigger kids love the little kids and the little kids probably think it's really cool. However, like Mr. Gentile just said it is scary today in the schools with the shootings and things like that bomb threats and all that. Yes I think we need to do more and I hope it works out in the high school, however I do have my doubts as well but I do think it's great what you're doing. Thank you.

Dr. Beshara-Blauth – Welcome back new hires and welcome back to a new school year. I did drop my two children off last week, and just the sense of excitement for the first week of school. The smile on everyone's faces from the teacher to the staff to all of the students it is just so heartwarming and I have to say that my youngest one this was the first time she did not cry going into school, her first time in a public school and just seeing her go in happy as can be was absolutely all I could ask for as a parent so thank you for making it such an easy transition into this school district for her and just thank you everyone for everything that you do for our children. I do just want to remind everyone I know it was already brought up, but we do have our Board Retreat on Monday. I know everyone was asked to RSVP to Mrs. Carmen, and I really hope that everyone is able to make this. Thank you.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Action, Procedural: 16.1 Possible Recess to Executive Session
None

Action: 16.2 Reconvene Open Public Meeting
None

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION ACTION (IF NEEDED)

Action: 17.1 Possible Action from Executive Session
None

18. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting 7:17 PM

Motion by Mr. James Gentile, second by Mr. Richard Dase

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Mrs. Belinda Chester, Ms. Virginia A. Larrea, Mrs. Madeline Avery, Mr. Richard Dase, Mr. James Gentile, Mrs. Ethel Hermenau, and Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth

Absent: Dr. Sherri Parmenter and Mrs. Suzette M. Carmen

Respectfully Submitted,

Joy N. Nixon, CPA, MBA
School Board Administrator/Board Secretary