

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

**MINUTES**

**January 8, 2024**

**REORGANIZATION / REGULAR MEETING**

**1. REORGANIZATION MEETING**

Procedural: 1.1 Call to Order (Board Secretary)

**Meeting called to order at 6:04 PM**

Procedural: 1.2 Flag Salute

Procedural: 1.3 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, 2023.

Information: 1.4 Report of Election Results - Board Members

The Business Administrator reported the Election Results

Three (3) Full Year Terms Reported from the Election held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023.

Three-Year Terms:

<u>Virginia A. Larrea</u>	<u>4,137</u>
<u>Sherri Parmenter</u>	<u>4,075</u>
<u>Ethel Hermenau</u>	<u>3,844</u>
<u>Ebenezer O-A Bilewu</u>	<u>3,364</u>

Procedural: 1.5 Oath of Office Administered to Ethel Hermenau, Virginia A. Larrea and Sherri Parmenter by the Board Solicitor

Procedural: 1.6 Roll Call

**Members present**

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

Action: 1.7 Appointment of Board President

Mrs. Nixon requested nominations for Board President.

Mr. Gentile nominated Mrs. Carmen for Board President

Mrs. Ethel Hermenau nominated Mr. Dase for Board President

Approve Reorganization Item #1.7 Appointment of Board President

Roll Call:

For Mrs. Carmen: Mrs. Madeline Avery, Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth, Mrs. Belinda Chester, Mr. James Gentile, Dr. Sherri Parmenter

Abstain: Mrs. Suzette Carmen and Mr. Richard Dase

For Mr. Dase: Mrs. Ethel Hermenau, Ms. Virginia Larrea

Abstain: Mrs. Suzette Carmen and Mr. Richard Dase

Action: 1.9 Appointment of Board Vice-President

Mrs. Carmen requested nomination for Vice-President

Mr. Gentile nominated Dr. Beshara-Blauth for Vice-President

Mrs. Hermenau nominated Mr. Dase for Vice-President

For Dr. Beshara-Blauth: Mrs. Madeline Avery, Mrs. Belinda Chester, Mr. James Gentile, Dr. Sherri Parmenter, Mrs. Suzette M Carmen

Abstain: Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth, Mr. Richard Dase

For Mr. Dase: Mrs. Ethel Hermenau, Ms. Virginia Larrea

Abstain: Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth, Mr. Richard Dase

Approve Reorganization Item #1.9 Appointment of Board Vice-President

Action: 1.11 Establish Annual Board Meeting Calendar

Action: 1.12 Parliamentary Procedures

Action: 1.13 Fees to receive notice as per Board policy

Action: 1.14 Adoption of Bylaws and Policies

Action: 1.15 Adoption of assets, obligations, and contractual agreements

Action: 1.16 Ratification of contracts and agreements

Action: 1.17 Adoption of Code of Ethics for School Board Members

Approve Reorganization Items #1.11 through #1.17

**Motion by Mr. James Gentile, second by Dr. Sherri Parmenter.**

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Mrs. Madeline Avery, Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth, Mrs. Belinda Chester, Mr. James Gentile, Mrs. Ethel Hermenau, Ms. Virginia Larrea, Dr. Sherri Parmenter, Mr. Richard Dase, Mrs. Suzette M Carmen

Information: 1.19 At the completion of the Reorganization agenda the board will continue with the Regular agenda.

## **2. MINUTES**

Action, Minutes: 2.1 December 11, 2023 - Regular Meeting Minutes

Approve Minutes Items #2.1

**Motion by Mr. James Gentile, second by Dr. Sherri Parmenter.**

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Mrs. Madeline Avery, Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth, Mrs. Belinda Chester, Mr. James Gentile, Dr. Sherri Parmenter, Mrs. Suzette M Carmen

Abstain: Mrs. Ethel Hermenau, Ms. Virginia Larrea, Mr. Richard Dase

### **3. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

Information: 3.1 Guidelines for Public Comment at the Board of Education Meeting  
None

### **4. READING OF COMMUNICATIONS**

Information: 4.1 Holiday cards and New Year wishes

### **5. PRESENTATIONS**

Presentations: 5.1 New Jersey School Boards Recognition Month

### **6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Presentations, Reports: 6.1 Attorney's Report

Reports: 6.2 Student Enrollment Report

Reports: 6.3 Out-of-District Suspension Report

Reports: 6.4 Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Report

Information: 6.5 NO VOTE NEEDED - Informational Items Only

### **7. CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION**

Action: 7.1 Fieldwork

Action: 7.2 Field Trips

Action: 7.3 Spring 2024 Southern New Jersey Consortium Program Dates

Action: 7.4 GTMS Winter 2024 Sports Schedules

Approve Curriculum & Instruction Items #7.1 through #7.4

**Motion by Mr. James Gentile, second by Dr. Sherri Parmenter.**

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Mrs. Madeline Avery, Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth, Mrs. Belinda Chester, Mr. James Gentile, Dr. Sherri Parmenter, Mr. Richard Dase, Mrs. Suzette M Carmen

Abstain: Mrs. Ethel Hermenau, Ms. Virginia Larrea

### **8. FINANCE & FACILITIES**

Action, Information, Reports: 8.1 Food Service Reports

Action: 8.2 Investment Report(s) for November 30, 2023

Action: 8.3 Board Secretary's Monthly Certification

Action: 8.4 Financial Report of the Board Secretary

Action: 8.5 Board Report of Receipts & Expenditures

Action: 8.6 Transfers for Ratification

Action: 8.7 Bills for Payment

Action: 8.8 Professional Services Contract(s)

Action: 8.9 Accept Gifts, Grants & Donations

Action: 8.10 Home Instruction

Action: 8.11 Out of District Professional Development

Action: 8.12 In-District Professional Development

Action: 8.13 Tuition Payable for McKinney Vento Students  
Action: 8.14 Tuition Receivable for McKinney Vento Students  
Action: 8.15 Tuition Receivable for DCP&P Students  
Action: 8.16 Tuition Payable for Special Education Students  
Action: 8.17 Authorizing Disposal of Surplus Property  
Action, Information: 8.18 Community Use of School Facilities

Approve Finance & Facilities Items #8.1 through #8.18

**Motion by Mr. James Gentile, second by Mrs. Madeline Avery.**

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Mrs. Madeline Avery, Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth, Mrs. Belinda Chester, Mr. James Gentile, Dr. Sherri Parmenter, Mr. Richard Dase, Mrs. Suzette M Carmen

Abstain: Mrs. Ethel Hermenau, Ms. Virginia Larrea

**9. PERSONNEL**

Action: 9.1 Retirement(s)

Approve Agenda Item #9.1

**Motion by Mr. James Gentile, second by Mrs. Madeline Avery.**

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Mrs. Madeline Avery, Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth, Mrs. Belinda Chester, Mr. James Gentile, Mrs. Ethel Hermenau, Ms. Virginia Larrea, Dr. Sherri Parmenter, Mr. Richard Dase, Mrs. Suzette M Carmen

Action: 9.3 Resignation(s)

Action: 9.4 Transfer(s)

Action: 9.5 Appointment(s)

Action: 9.6 Leave(s) of Absence

Action: 9.7 Adjustment(s)

Approve Personnel Items #9.3 through #9.7

**Motion by Mr. James Gentile, second by Dr. Sherri Parmenter.**

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Mrs. Madeline Avery, Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth, Mrs. Belinda Chester, Mr. James Gentile, Dr. Sherri Parmenter, Mr. Richard Dase, Mrs. Suzette M Carmen

Abstain: Mrs. Ethel Hermenau, Ms. Virginia Larrea

Information: 9.9 Introduce and Welcome New Hires

**10. POLICY**

Information, Reports: 10.1 Committee Report

Dr. Parmenter gave an update on policy committee report.

Action: 10.2 Policy 9120 Public Relations Program

Action: 10.3 Policy 9140 Citizens Advisory Committees

Action: 10.4 Policy 9270 Homeschooling and Equivalent Education Outside the Schools

Action: 10.5 Policy 9320 Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies

Action: 10.6 Policy 9560 Administration of School Surveys

Action: 10.7 Policy 9713 Recruitment by Special Interest Groups

Approve Policy Items #10.2 through #10.7

Mrs. Hermenau would like to motion 10.8 to be tabled. Ms. Larrea second.

Vote on motion to table Policies #10.2 through #10.7.

Mr. Gentile stated that the policies are all mandated without changes. Mr. Santilli confirmed that is correct, this is to move the policies to Strauss Esmay format from NJSBA format.

Mrs. Chester, it's fair to table since they weren't here even though we are not changing anything.

Mrs. Hermenau, there are policies that stand out like homeschooling and military that I might want to change. There may be things that other people may not agree with and they need time to review it and would appreciate it if they would table it tonight.

Dr. Parmenter, I understand that you are two new board members, but business continues. None of the policies are anything that we can change, they are all statutory and have to be voted on by law.

Mr. Dase, new board members should have a chance to look and read the policies.

Mr. Gentile, in my reading of the policies of concern, there is a number that seem to be statutorily mandated for funding. We have a policy committee for these policies are always subject to review by board members. If a board member has a particular issue with or in regard to a particular policy that can brought to the committee chair or the committee it can be discussed and brought to the entire board. He is glad if the board members want to engage in the policy and he encourages that. These were already approved in the session before and we need to move forward with business and to look at these policies and everyone wants the policies to be fair, everyone wants to have the kids best interest at heart, policy by policy everything can't be tabled.

Mrs. Hermenau, are these mandated? Are these time sensitive? Mr. Santilli answered yes they are mandated. She then stated, this is their first meeting and if we just codify then we don't change anything. Asking if they can please table it.

Mrs. Chester, does the old policy remain in effect if tabled? Mr. Santilli answered yes.

Ms. Larrea, we need a chance to review. We don't know what's going on with the policies, that's why we are asking to table it.

Mrs. Avery, I'm happy I'm not on the policy committee, it is a lot of work. I give a lot of credit to Mrs. Chester and Dr. Parmenter for doing the work. It's an extension on what already exists, I have no problem approving it tonight.

Dr. Beshara-Blauth, these were made available to public at first reading for all engaged members of our community to view and if there is this much interest in policy they could have read it when it was available during the first reading.

Mrs. Carmen, agreed with Dr. Beshara-Blauth.

Mr. Dase, asked are these all new because of service provider? Mr. Santilli answered yes.

### **Motion to table Item 10.8 approval of Policy Items #10.2 through #10.7**

#### **Motion by Mrs. Ethel Hermenau, second by Ms. Virginia Larrea.**

Motion Fails

Yes: Mrs. Belinda Chester, Mr. James Gentile, Mrs. Ethel Hermenau, Ms. Virginia Larrea

No: Mrs. Madeline Avery, Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth, Dr. Sherri Parmenter, Mr. Richard Dase, Mrs. Suzette M Carmen

### **Motion to approve item 10.8 approval of Policy items #10.2 through #10.7**

#### **Motion by Mr. James Gentile, second by Dr. Sherri Parmenter.**

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Mrs. Madeline Avery, Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth, Mrs. Belinda Chester, Mr. James Gentile, Dr. Sherri Parmenter, Mr. Richard Dase, Mrs. Suzette M Carmen

No: Mrs. Ethel Hermenau, Ms. Virginia Larrea

Action: 10.9 Policy 2361 Acceptable Use of Computer Networks/Computers and Resources

Action: 10.10 Policy 2415 Every Student Succeeds Act

Action: 10.11 Policy 2415.02 Title I - Fiscal Responsibilities

Action: 10.12 Policy 2415.04 Title I - District-Wide Parent and Family Engagement

Action: 10.13 Policy 2415.05 Student Surveys, Analysis, Evaluations, Examinations, Testing or Treatment

Action: 10.14 Policy 2415.20 Every Student Succeeds Act Complaints

Action: 10.15 Policy 2415.30 Title I - Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care  
Action: 10.16 Policy 2415.50 Title I - School Parent and Family Engagement  
Action: 10.17 Policy 2520 Instructional Supplies  
Action: 10.18 Policy 2610 Educational Program Evaluation  
Action: 10.19 Policy 2622 Student Assessment

Approve Policy Items #10.9 through #10.19

**Motion by Mr. James Gentile, second by Mrs. Belinda Chester.**

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Mrs. Madeline Avery, Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth, Mrs. Belinda Chester, Mr. James Gentile, Dr. Sherri Parmenter, Mr. Richard Dase, Mrs. Suzette M Carmen

Abstain: Mrs. Ethel Hermenau, Ms. Virginia Larrea

**11. BOARD INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

Information: 11.1 Board Calendar - Pending approval of Item #1.11

Information: 11.2 Special Events

**12. OLD BUSINESS**

Action: 12.1 Affirm HIB Determination Reports

Action: 12.2 American Rescue Plan (ARP) Safe Return Plan Update

Approve Old Business Items #12.1 through #12.2

Mr. Dase abstained from Item 12.1 #13 255467GTM (report 11/7/23-12/7/23)

**Motion by Mr. James Gentile, second by Mrs. Madeline Avery.**

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Mrs. Madeline Avery, Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth, Mrs. Belinda Chester, Mr. James Gentile, Dr. Sherri Parmenter, Mr. Richard Dase, Mrs. Suzette M Carmen

Abstain: Mrs. Ethel Hermenau, Ms. Virginia Larrea

**13. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Information: 13.1 Guidelines for Public Comment at the Board of Education Meeting

6:48pm: Shawn Hyland – Department of Advocacy in Warren County. He heard on the news that Galloway Township Public Schools passed Policy 5756 – was in Trenton today, 1/8/2024 Department of Education. Judge Minkowitz, Superior Court of Morris County on 9/26/2023 stating that the policy 5756 is not a mandatory policy and school boards is. He was alarmed to hear Strauss Esmay is our provider as they said it was mandated, on their own. That Strauss Esmay dropped the ball on policy 5756 and mistakenly labeled it as mandatory. The companies model policies are not binding and that districts can make changes or not to adopt the policies all together.

6:52pm: Gary Hermenau, Galloway, NJ – when people think of elections they don't think of school board elections. Which is important as they have a huge impact on our children and community. You shape their minds and it effects their election choices in the future. Our local values are different than all of NJ. The board can choose how they implement all policies including mandated ones. Board members in his opinion should read the policies and he would like to think and hope that our board does that.

6:55pm: Kelly Grace, Galloway, NJ – Thank you for what you do. On our website shows Core values and mission statement unifying educators and communities. Part of policy 5756 concerns her that talks of separation where the parent cannot have the ability to know how their child is

identifying in school. This goes against the mission, statement and core, because talk about trust and unifying and it separates the family. Those words penetrate so much to the parent and the student. She understands the protection of the student, but the parent is the parent, the taxpayer. Her daughter went through the schools and she would have been upset to be kept out.

#### Discussion: 13.2 Board Members Comments:

Dr. Parmenter – The winter concerts were great, students did a great job & welcome new hires

Mr. Dase – The winter concerts were great. Welcome back Dr. Parmenter and Welcome Mrs. Hermenau and Ms. Larrea. May need more meetings over the year. Public needs to see every policy and agenda items.

Mr. Gentile – None

Mrs. Hermenau – Thanks to all the hard work everyone does and welcome to the new hires.

Someone told her the Arthur Rann Christmas concert had Happy Diwali, Happy Hanukkah & Happy Kwanza songs, but no Christmas songs.

Mrs. Chester – can we look into adding flexible date to monthly calendar. Happy New Year.

Ms. Larrea – Thanks to everyone who voted for me, happy to be here proud to be on the board. I know it's a public school but agree with Mrs. Hermenau on the Christmas concert.

Mrs. Avery – the 12 days of Christmas song at GTMS concert, with audience participation was the highlight of the night. Everyone participated. She was happy to be there.

Dr. Beshara-Blauth - Welcome new staff & Happy New Year. Polar Express Day at Smithville School was great. Appreciated that the district does a lot of events to make everyone feel included.

Mrs. Carmen – Welcome new board members & Dr. Parmenter.

## 14. ADJOURNMENT

### Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:04pm

#### Motion by Mr. James Gentile, second by Dr. Sherri Parmenter.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Mrs. Madeline Avery, Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth, Mrs. Belinda Chester, Mr. James Gentile, Mrs. Ethel Hermenau, Ms. Virginia Larrea, Dr. Sherri Parmenter, Mr. Richard Dase, Mrs. Suzette M Carmen

Respectfully Submitted,

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