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

MINUTES

August 10, 2026

REGULAR MEETING

1. OPENING OF MEETING

Procedural: 1.1 Call to Order
Meeting called to order at 5:16 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 July 9, 2026.

Procedural: 1.3 Roll Call

Members present, Ms. Belinda Chester, Ed.M., Dr. Sherri Parmenter, Mrs. Ethel Hermenau, Mrs. Kathleen Huenke, and Mr. Richard Dase
Absent: Mrs. Madeline Avery and Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth
Ms. Virginia A. Larrea - arrived at 5:20pm
Mr. James Gentile - arrived at 5:22pm

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

2. RESOLUTION - EXECUTIVE SESSION – AUGUST 10, 2026

Action, Procedural: 2.1 Recess to Executive Session at 5:20pm

RESOLVED, that the Galloway Township board of Education shall meet in executive session on August 10, 2026 immediately, for the purpose of discussing Attorney Client by Communication.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the discussion of each subject matter in executive session will be disclosed to the public when the matter has been settled, unless such is otherwise prohibited by law.

Motion by Mrs. Kathleen Huenke, second by Mr. Richard Dase
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Ms. Belinda Chester, ED.M., Dr. Sherri Parmenter, Mrs. Ethel Hermenau, Mrs. Kathleen Huenke, and Mr. Richard Dase
Not Present at Vote: Ms. Virginia A. Larrea and Mr. James Gentile
Absent: Mrs. Madeline Avery and Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth

Action: 2.2 Reconvene Open Public Meeting at 6:00pm

RESOLVED, that the Galloway Township Board of Education shall reconvene the Open Public Session.

Motion by Mrs. Kathleen Huenke, second by Mr. Richard Dase
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Ms. Belinda Chester, Ed.M., Dr. Sherri Parmenter, Ms. Virginia A. Larrea, Mrs. Ethel Hermenau, Mrs. Kathleen Huenke, Mr. Richard Dase and Mr. James Gentile
Absent: Mrs. Madeline Avery and Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth

3. 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 July 9, 2026.

Procedural: 1.3 Roll Call

Members present, Ms. Belinda Chester, Ed.M., Dr. Sherri Parmenter, Ms. Virginia A. Larrea, Mrs. Ethel Hermenau, Mrs. Kathleen Huenke, Mr. Richard Dase and Mr. James Gentile
Absent: Mrs. Madeline Avery and Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth

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 led by Dr. Sherri Parmenter

4. MINUTES

Action, Minutes: 4.1 July 13, 2026 - Regular Meeting Minutes
Action: 4.2 July 13, 2026 - Executive Meeting Minutes

Approve Minutes Items #4.1 through #4.2

Motion by Dr. Sherri Parmenter, second by Mrs. Kathleen Huenke
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Ms. Belinda Chester, Ed.M., Dr. Sherri Parmenter, Ms. Virginia A. Larrea, Mrs. Ethel Hermenau, Mrs. Kathleen Huenke and Mr. James Gentile
Abstain: Mr. Richard Dase
Absent: Mrs. Madeline Avery and Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth

5. READING OF COMMUNICATION

Information, Reports: 5.1 Atlantic Community Charter School, Galloway, NJ Annual Report Updated July 2026
Information: 5.2 Letter of Appreciation from Galloway Township Fire Companies

6. PRESENTATIONS

Presentations: 6.1 Superintendent's Update: Arthur Rann Elementary School

Mr. Gentile – On behalf of the board, I want to thank Mr. Santilli, Mrs. Nixon, all Facilities staff and everyone in the district for their hard work.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Information: 7.1 Guidelines for Public Comment at the Board of Education Meeting

1. Theresa Capito, Galloway Township resident, expressed concern regarding Agenda Item #12.3 (Policy 2200), urging the Board to thoroughly evaluate policies and family impacts rather than following Strauss Esmay recommendations. She requested clarification on conflicting statements regarding whether Policy 2200 is voluntary or mandated under QSAC, and cautioned that its adoption could force acceptance of new sex education curricula without parental consent.
2. Lauren Dombchewsky, Arthur Rann parent, expressed appreciation for the hard work of the Board and Arthur Rann staff over the past year.
3. Brian Lopez, Galloway resident, urged the school board to clarify what Policy 2200 and 2260 actually change, asking them to distinguish between mandatory state requirements and discretionary local decisions so the district retains authority over curriculum and sensitive topics like gender identity and student privacy. Expressing concern over Policy 5756, and requested greater district transparency, requesting that administrators proactively inform parents in clear, accessible language before policies affecting their children are approved.
4. Kelly Grace, Galloway resident, commended the board for its clear communication regarding the recent fire at Arthur Rann Elementary School, urging them to apply that same level of transparency and thoroughness to Policy 2260. Stating that parents lack clarity on the policy, she also requested upgraded audio-visual technology for public meetings to accommodate community members with hearing or visual impairments and suggested having secondary backup systems to prevent missing footage or lost audio.
5. Gary Hermenau, Galloway resident, questioned whether Policies 2200 and 2260 are necessary, voicing concern that the school board is approving out of fear of losing funding. He appreciates the board's good intentions and the financial pressure the district faces; he does not agree with the state government for using funds to enforce compliance. He urged the board to take a stand, carefully re-evaluate non-mandatory policies, and protect local children from state overreach.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Reports: 8.1 Student Enrollment Report

Information: 8.2 NO VOTE NEEDED - Informational Items Only

9. CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Action: 9.1 2026-2027 District Curriculum Program
Action: 9.2 Field Trips
Action: 9.3 Approve GTMS Fall 2026 Sports Schedules
Action: 9.4 Fall 2026 Southern New Jersey Consortium Program Dates

Approve Curriculum & Instruction Items #9.1 through #9.4

Motion by Ms. Belinda Chester, Ed.M., second by Mr. Richard Dase
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Ms. Belinda Chester, Ed.M., Dr. Sherri Parmenter, Mrs. Kathleen Huenke, Mr. Richard Dase and Mr. James Gentile

No: Ms. Virginia A. Larrea
Abstain: Mrs. Ethel Hermenau
Absent: Mrs. Madeline Avery and Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth

10. FINANCE/FACILITIES

Information, Reports: 10.1 Finance and Facilities Committee Update
Chairperson Mr. Dase provided an update on the meeting.

Action, Information, Reports: 10.2 Food Service Reports
Action: 10.3 Investment Report(s) for June 30, 2026
Action: 10.4 Board Secretary's Monthly Certification
Action: 10.5 Financial Report of the Board Secretary
Action: 10.6 Board Report of Receipts & Expenditures
Action: 10.7 Transfers for Ratification
Action: 10.8 Bills for Payment - June 2026
Action: 10.9 Bills for Payment - August 2026
Action: 10.10 Professional Services Contract(s)
Action: 10.11 Accept Gifts, Grants & Donations
Action: 10.12 Submission of the FY 2026-2027 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Grant Revised Funding Amounts
Action: 10.13 Out of District Professional Development
Action: 10.14 Tuition Payable for McKinney Vento Students
Action: 10.15 Tuition Payable for Special Education Students
Action: 10.16 Tuition Receivable for Special Education Students
Action: 10.17 Additional Annual Facility Approval Forms
Action: 10.18 Shared Services Agreement Greater Egg Harbor Regional School District for Use of Pomona School
Action: 10.19 Independent Educational Evaluations Maximum Fees
Action: 10.20 Withdrawal from Maintenance Reserve Account
Action: 10.21 Direct Install Program Participation and Camden County Educational Services Purchase
Action: 10.22 Purchase of Services through ESCNJ Cooperative
Action: 10.23 Authorizing Disposal of Technology Equipment
Action: 10.24 Authorizing Disposal of Technology Equipment from the Result of the Arthur Rann Fire
Action: 10.25 Purchase of Arthur Rann Replacement Library Materials Exempt from bid per N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(a)(5)
Action: 10.26 Community Use of School Facilities

Approve Finance & Facilities Items #10.2 through #10.26

Motion by Mr. Richard Dase, seconded by Mrs. Kathleen Huenke
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Ms. Belinda Chester, Ed.M., Dr. Sherri Parmenter, Ms. Virginia A. Larrea, Mrs. Ethel Hermenau, Mrs. Kathleen Huenke, Mr. Richard Dase and Mr. James Gentile
Absent: Mrs. Madeline Avery and Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth

11. PERSONNEL

Action: 11.1 Deactivation/Creation of Position(s)
Action: 11.2 Resignation(s)
Action: 11.3 Substitute Rate(s)
Action: 11.4 Transfer(s)
Action: 11.5 Appointment(s)
Action: 11.6 Mentor(s)

Action: 11.7 Leave(s) of Absence
Action: 11.8 Adjustment(s)

Approve Personnel Items #11.1 through #11.8

Motion by Ms. Belinda Chester, Ed.M., second by Dr. Sherri Parmenter
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Ms. Belinda Chester, Ed.M., Dr. Sherri Parmenter, Ms. Virginia A. Larrea, Mrs. Ethel Hermenau, Mrs. Kathleen Huenke, Mr. Richard Dase and Mr. James Gentile
Absent: Mrs. Madeline Avery and Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth

Dr. Parmenter – sorry to see Ms. Cibotti leaving, I wish her well.

Information: 11.10 Introduce and Welcome New Hires

12. POLICY

Information, Reports: 12.1 Policy Committee Report
Chairperson Ms. Chester provided an update on the meeting.

Mrs. Hermenau thanked the board for answering her questions and requested time to address a few remaining points, including matters raised at the previous meeting, before the vote on Policy 2200. Mr. Gentile clarified parliamentary procedures under Robert's Rules.

Action: 12.2 Bylaw 0162.01 Legal Notices
Action: 12.3 Policy 2200 Curriculum

Mrs. Hermenau requested clarification on Policy 2200 connection to QSAC scoring, pointing out conflicting information on whether the policy is non-mandated or required to avoid losing 40 QSAC points. Questioning whether those points depend on adopting this exact policy or simply meeting underlying state curriculum standards, she urged board leadership to clearly document and explain these state requirements before taking a vote to maintain transparency for the board, parents, and taxpayers.
Dr. Parmenter again noted Robert's Rules of Order.

Mrs. Hermenau then made a new Motion to table Item #12.3, approve Policy Items for Second Reading and Adoption #12.2 through #12.3

Motion by Mrs. Ethel Hermenau, second by Ms. Virginia A Larrea.
Motion Fails
Yes: Ms. Virginia A Larrea, Mrs. Ethel Hermenau
No: Ms. Belinda Chester, Ed.M., Dr. Sherri Parmenter, Mrs. Kathleen Huenke, Mr. Richard Dase and Mr. James Gentile
Absent: Mrs. Madeline Avery and Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth

Approve Policy Items for Second Reading and Adoption #12.2 through #12.3

Mr. Dase - Can Policy 2200 be reviewed?
Mrs. Chester - responded that it has been reviewed twice by the committee and on the agenda twice.
Mrs. Hermenau explained her vote against the policy, stating that while it is required by the New Jersey Department of Education, she does not believe it is state law.
Dr. Parmenter affirmed that Policy 2200 is a mandated policy, explaining that state statutes and administrative code require local boards of education to provide a thorough and efficient public education, with curriculum content designated accordingly by boards and policy organizations like Strauss Esmay.

Mr. Gentile disagreed with the comments about the policy and that Mrs. Hermenau's information is coming from the Family Policy Center of New Jersey, not individual board members and that it is a paid Trenton lobbying group that has no place influencing local school governance. Emphasizing that board members, committee members, and residents are unpaid volunteers who devote countless hours to developing policies tailored to Galloway Township.
Ms. Larrea asked if Policy 2200 mandated or not?
Mr. Gentile stated that board members have had ample time to review, research, and debate the policy, and that each member can now make their own independent decision based on their preparation.
Mrs. Hermenau criticized claims regarding lobbyists, calling it hypocritical to dismiss groups advocating for parents while the NJEA union exerts significant financial and political influence over schools.
Mr. Gentile requested that discussion remain strictly focused on the policy currently before the board. Noting that a previous motion added to table the Policy had failed.

Motion by Mrs. Kathleen Huenke, second by Dr. Sherri Parmenter
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Ms. Belinda Chester, Ed.M., Dr. Sherri Parmenter, Mrs. Kathleen Huenke, Mr. Richard Dase and Mr. James Gentile
No: Ms. Virginia A. Larrea, Mrs. Ethel Hermenau
Absent: Mrs. Madeline Avery and Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth

Action: 12.5 Policy 2411 Career Education and Academic Counseling
Action: 12.6 Policy 2468 Independent Educational Evaluations
Action: 12.7 Policy 2631 New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC)
Action: 12.8 Policy 5516 Student Use of Internet-Enabled Devices
Action: 12.9 Policy 7446 School Security Program

Approve Policy Items for First Reading #12.5 through #12.9

Mr. Dase –asked about Item #12.8 Policy 5516 – How will we require phones to be put away?
Mr. Santilli – answered

Motion by Mrs. Kathleen Huenke, second by Ms. Belinda Chester, Ed.M.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Ms. Belinda Chester, Ed.M., Dr. Sherri Parmenter, Mrs. Kathleen Huenke, Mr. Richard Dase and Mr. James Gentile
Abstain: Ms. Virginia A. Larrea and Mrs. Ethel Hermenau
Absent: Mrs. Madeline Avery and Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth

Action: 12.11 Policy 2260 Equity on School and Classroom Practices
Action: 12.12 Policy 5561 Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion Techniques for Students with Disabilities
Action: 12.13 Policy 6112 Reimbursement of Federal and Other Grant Expenditures
Action: 12.14 Policy 6115.02 Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls - Mandatory Disclosures
Action: 12.15 Policy 6311 Contracts for Goods or Services Funded by Federal Grants
Action: 12.16 Policy 8561 Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition Programs

APPROVE POLICY ITEMS #12.10 THROUGH #12.16 FOR SINGLE READING AND ADOPTION

Mrs. Hermenau raised concerns regarding Policy 2260, noting that it is currently under review by the U.S. Department of Education.

Motion by Dr. Sherri Parmenter, second by Mrs. Kathleen Huenke
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Ms. Belinda Chester, Ed.M., Dr. Sherri Parmenter, Mrs. Kathleen Huenke, Mr. Richard Dase and Mr. James Gentile

No: Mrs. Ethel Hermenau
Abstain: Ms. Virginia A. Larrea
Absent: Mrs. Madeline Avery and Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth

13. OLD BUSINESS

Action: 13.1 Affirm HIB Determination Reports

Approve Old Business Item #13.1

Motion by Mr. Richard Dase, second by Dr. Sherri Parmenter
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Ms. Belinda Chester, Ed.M., Dr. Sherri Parmenter, Ms. Virginia A. Larrea, Mrs. Ethel Hermenau, Mrs. Kathleen Huenke, Mr. Richard Dase and Mr. James Gentile
Absent: Mrs. Madeline Avery and Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth

14. NEW BUSINESS

Action: 14.1 2026-2027 Mentoring Plan
Action: 14.2 2026-2027 District Professional Development Plan

Approve New Business Items #14.1 through #14.2

Motion by Mr. Richard Dase, second by Ms. Belinda Chester, Ed.M.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Ms. Belinda Chester, Ed.M., Dr. Sherri Parmenter, Ms. Virginia A. Larrea, Mrs. Ethel Hermenau, Mrs. Kathleen Huenke, Mr. Richard Dase and Mr. James Gentile
Absent: Mrs. Madeline Avery and Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth

15. BOARD INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Information: 15.1 Board Calendar
Information: 15.2 Special Events

Information: 15.3 NO VOTE NEEDED - Information Items Only

16. PUBLIC COMMENT

Information: 16.1 Guidelines for Public Comment at the Board of Education Meeting

1. Lauren Dombchewsky – Galloway resident and parent, praised district leadership and Arthur Rann Elementary staff for their handling of the recent school fire, but expressed frustration over a lack of communication regarding contingency plans for the upcoming school year. With three children affected, including an incoming sixth grader being temporarily relocated to the middle school, the parent raised concerns about timing of notification. Urging the board to keep parents fully informed before the first day of school, the speaker asked for clear timelines on when students might return to Arthur Rann to ensure a meaningful final elementary year for sixth graders.
2. Nicole Leidemer - a 24-year staff member at Arthur Rann Elementary whose classroom was affected by the fire, spoke on behalf of herself and colleagues regarding their anxiety over preparations for the upcoming school year. Stating that teachers cannot effectively create a welcoming learning environment without adequate planning, she requested the board to provide a clear timeline and secondary plan with just three weeks left before school starts.

She requested prompt updates so staff know how to prepare, handle classroom materials, and manage any upcoming shifts or room changes.

3. Kelly Grace – Galloway resident, expressed disappointment over the lack of clarity around Policies 2200 and 2260, asking Superintendent Santilli to clarify if they are legally mandated and whether passing them carries financial incentives. She urged members not to feel pressured into voting without fully digesting the materials.
4. Gary Hermenau – Galloway resident, challenged the idea that politics is absent from local education, pointing out political spending by the NJEA and arguing that non-religious, political ideas frequently come into district decisions.
5. Theresa Capito – Galloway resident, raised concerns about the lack of a clearly defined procedure in the student handbook for challenging or removing inappropriate library materials following the passage of the Freedom to Read Act. Urging the district to proactively inform parents of their rights rather than forcing them to search through handbooks or websites, Capito asked that this process be sent directly home and made easily accessible. She also urged the board to investigate whether policies coming from Trenton are legally mandatory or permit local discretion.
6. Sherri Patrick – Galloway resident and parent, thanked the board members for their time, dedication, and serious consideration of district matters, acknowledging the extensive unseen effort required for their roles. Calling for greater professionalism and respect during meetings, she criticized unnecessary drama among board members and urged them to maintain professionalism between each other while ensuring everyone is heard.

17. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Information, Procedural: 17.1 For the Good of the Order

Ms. Chester, I attended the 4H county fair this past weekend and saw a lot of Galloway students. Congratulated the Galloway students who participated in the fair and talent shows, praising their hard work and dedication.
Mrs. Huenke commended staff and students for exceptional performances in the recent summer play and pops concert. She also defended board operations, stating that she has sufficient time to complete her due diligence and receive thorough answers to all her questions.
Mrs. Hermenau expressed her gratitude to all community members who attended and shared comments, while also thanking her fellow board members for their hard work and dedication.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Action, Procedural: 18.1 Recess to Executive Session
None

Action: 18.2 Reconvene Open Public Meeting
None

19. EXECUTIVE SESSION ACTION (IF NEEDED)

Action: 19.1 Possible Action from Executive Session
None

20. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting 7:37 PM

Motion by Dr. Sherri Parmenter, second by Mrs. Ethel Hermenau
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: Ms. Belinda Chester, Ed.M., Dr. Sherri Parmenter, Ms. Virginia A. Larrea, Mrs. Ethel Hermenau, Mrs. Kathleen Huenke, Mr. Richard Dase and Mr. James Gentile
Absent: Mrs. Madeline Avery and Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth

Respectfully Submitted,

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