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The Hammonton Gazette

Winslow Twp. BOE swears in board members

by Geneva Gerwitz
FOR THE GAZETTE

WINSLOW TWP., N.J.—The Winslow Twp. Board of Education met on Jan. 3 at the Winslow Township Middle School. This meeting was a reorganization of the Board of Education, where several members were sworn in.

The board members that were sworn in were John Shaw, Rita Martin and Lorraine Dredden. Martin and Dredden were up for reelection in November 2023 while Shaw had previously been a board member with his term ending December 2022. Dredden was unable to be sworn in during the meeting due to illness and was present for the meeting on the phone. Solicitor Howard Long, Jr. Esq., was able to swear Dredden in earlier in the day at her home with safety precautions in place.

“I actually had a lot of parents and community members asked me to not go away and to run again because they like my work ethic and my drive for the students and parents in the school district. I felt like it was my civic duty to advocate for them and to continue to do that for my community,” Shaw said.

Shaw previously served on the Board of Education for two terms, from January 2017 through December 2022. At that time, he had made the decision not to run again for a position on the board. At the April 5 meeting, Shaw was awarded a plaque for his six years of service on the Board of Education.

“I’m hoping to bring determination and drive that let the community to believe in me and continue to do that but even stronger and more driven this time around,” Shaw said.

After swearing Martin and Shaw into office, the board then elected Board President and Vice President. Board Member Joe Thomas nominated Cheryl Pitts for president while Board Member Rebecca Nieves nominated Shaw for the position. In a 6 – 2 vote, Pitts was voted as Board President.

Former Board Vice President Julie Peterson nominated Thomas for board vice president while Nieves nominated Shaw for the position. In a 6 – 2 vote by the board, Joe Thomas became the new board vice president.

The board also voted to appoint Tyra McCoy-Boyle as board secretary and as the Public Agency Compliance Officer (P.A.C.O.).

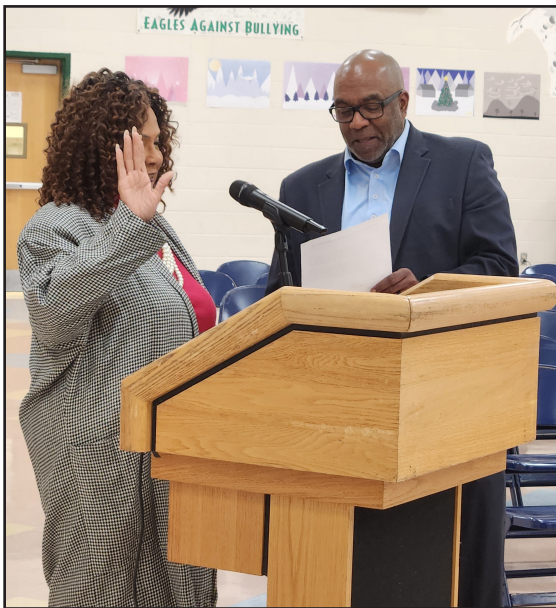
Currently there is a board vacancy to fill Debbie Esposito’s position. Esposito was a board member who died in November 2023, after filling the position for only one year. There are currently eight applicants for the position and each applicant will be interviewed at the Board of Education meeting on Jan. 10.

“So, the order of the agenda will be as we go through the items that we do on Jan. 10, the first action item on next week’s agenda will be to interview these eight applicants publicly. My intention is to give each at least five minutes. As you know, during our public portion we give four minutes, but we will give each



Photos Courtesy of Geneva Gerwitz

Above, left: Newly sworn in Board of Education members Rita Martin (left) and John Shaw. Above, center: Newly-elected Board of Education President Cheryl Pitts (left) with newly-elected Board of Education Vice President Joe Thomas. Above, right: Camden County Commissioner Jonathan L. Young Sr. (left) swearing in Board of Education member John Shaw. Below, left: Board member Rita Martin (left) being sworn in by Camden County Commissioner Jonathan L. Young Sr. Below, right: The Board of Education for 2024 after new members have been appointed and sworn in. Back row (l-r): Board member John Shaw, President Cheryl Pitts, board member Julie Peterson, board member Kelly Thomas and Superintendent Dr. H. Major Poteat. Front row (l-r): Board member Rita Martin, Vice President Joe Thomas and board member Rebecca Nieves.



of these applicants five minutes. I am asking that by tomorrow [Jan. 4], if you [board members] can forward to me any questions that you feel we should ask these applicants. And I am asking that by tomorrow because we up against a deadline because we have to contact them to let them know that we expect them to be here next Wednesday, January 10,” Board President Cheryl Pitts said.

After the meeting, the board will go to executive session to discuss the applicants and determine who will fill the position. The decision will be announced after the executive session concludes but the individual will not be sworn in until they pass a background check.

In addition, the board approved the list of sub-committees and appointed delegates to each sub-committee and each board member choose a school in the district to represent. In addition, the meeting dates from January 2024 through August 2024 were approved.

The meeting adjourned. The next Board of Education meeting will be held on Jan. 10 at 6 p.m. at the Winslow Twp.

Board of Education Administration Building. The meeting will begin one hour earlier than normal to allow adequate time for interviews to be conducted.

This article was produced in collaboration with New Jersey Civic Information Consortium and Rowan University.

Kids found extra joy this holiday season

FOLSOM, N.J.—The Folsom Environmental Commission held their Second Chance Plastic Toy Drive on Dec. 23. “Like new” plastic toys were available for free at Folsom Borough Hall on Rt. 54. Why only plastic toys? Each year they save over 200 pounds of plastic from ending up in a land fill.

The Folsom Environmental Commission (FEC) collected “like new” plastic toys from Nov. 13 through Dec. 6 and made them available for free Dec. 16 for

area residents to select and pick up in front of Borough Hall on Route 54. The donated plastic toys were very clean and in excellent condition but were cleaned once again by FEC members. This was the fourth year that the FEC did something special for kids to brighten their Holiday.

Two members shown are Stephanie Pagano and Kathy Conway.

“It’s a win-win situation keeping plastic toys from land fills and seeing the joy on such happy faces,” they said.



Courtesy Photo

The Folsom Environmental Commission held a Second Chance Plastic Toy Drive on Dec. 23 at Borough Hall.

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Coasters
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And our popular “Puputerie” Boards
These adorable snack filled pup boards make the
“Pawfect” gift for your favorite furbaby