

LONG BEACH ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

Long Beach Island, New Jersey

SPECIAL MEETING

August 28, 2019

Long Beach Island Grade School Gym

Special (Public) Session 7:00 PM

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Board of Education of the Long Beach Island School District, Ocean County, met in the Gym of the Long Beach Island Grade School, 201 20th Street, Ship Bottom, New Jersey on August 28, 2019.

Board President, William Fenimore, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and read the following statement:

"This is to advise those present at this meeting of the Board of Education of the Long Beach Island Consolidated School District, in the County of Ocean, that adequate notice of this meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. The notice has been posted in the Board of Education Office, Ethel A. Jacobsen School building and Long Beach Island Grade School building. The notice was also mailed to *The Press of Atlantic City*, and filed with the Municipal Clerks of Barnegat Light, Harvey Cedars, Surf City, Ship Bottom and Long Beach Township."

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **ROLL CALL**

PRESENT:	Mrs. Bowker	Mr. McMenamin	Mrs. Wasilewski
	Mr. Donahower	Mrs. Raber	Mrs. Picaro
	Mrs. Hartmann	Mrs. Southwick	Mr. Fenimore

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Peter Kopack, Superintendent
Ms. Chris Kelly, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Ms. Kathleen Nestor, Esq. (arrived at 7:51 p.m.)
Mr. Tony Solimine, Bond Counsel
Mr. Frank Little, Engineer

4. **SPECIAL PRESENTATION –** Referendum and Consolidation Plan: Dr. Kopack and Ms. Kelly gave a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed consolidation plan and referendum.

Mr. Fenimore thanked Dr. Kopack and Ms. Kelly for the presentation and introduced Mr. Little, Engineer, and Mr. Solimine, Bond Counsel. The Board discussed the following:

- LBI School improvements not included in referendum
- Referendum timeline
- Possible requirement of variance for repairs to LBI School
- Educational benefits of consolidation
- Previous referendum presentation - addition at LBI Grade School
- Opportunities for expansion of LBI School in future
- Costs of modifications
- Location of LBI School students during construction
- Status of EJ School after consolidation
- Previous referendum
- Budget CAP
- Tax levy

- Yearly increase in benefits
- EJ School evaluation
- Repayment of tax levy
- Debt Service Aid

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Members of the public commented, asked questions on the following topics:

- Comparison of EJ School to LBI School
- Cost of tax impact and debt service to taxpayers
- Consolidation savings
- LBI School repairs – structural/ADA/HVAC
- EJ School status
- Condition of the LBI Grade School
- Previous referendum
- Impact of transition plan on students and teachers
- Mayors back current consolidation plan – EJ repurposed for civic center/higher education
- Tuition plan
- EJ deed restrictions
- School Ethics Commission/conflict of interest
- Difference in square footage between buildings
- LBI School temporary shoring
- Condition of pilings under building
- Flood elevations of buildings
- Reopening of LBI School after Superstorm Sandy/damage to building
- Disaster plan
- Previous bid for LBI School property
- Value of LBI School property
- Room modifications and amount of classrooms – student placement
- School security – compared between EJ and LBI
- Parking concerns after consolidating
- Class size
- Reallocation of staff from consolidation
- Consideration of referendum to repair both schools and keep both schools
- Cost of two schools – expense reductions
- Enrollment projections
- Future expansion
- Consolidation – data driven decision
- Debt Service Aid – wording up to 40% in motion
- Cost of plans, renovations and improvements

Public comment ended at 10 p.m.

6. **UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS**

Motion by Eileen Bowker, second by Bonnie Picaro to approve the following:

A. Authorization of Special Election

**RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION OF A BOND PROPOSAL AT THE
SPECIAL SCHOOL ELECTION ON DECEMBER 10, 2019**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE LONG BEACH ISLAND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THE COUNTY OF OCEAN, NEW JERSEY (not less than a majority of the full membership of the Board of Education concurring) AS FOLLOWS:

1. It is hereby determined that a bond proposal will be submitted for voter approval at the special school election to be scheduled for December 10, 2019 between the hours of __:00 __.m. and 8:00 p.m. The form of the proposal will read substantially as follows with such adjustments as may be provided by bond counsel:

BOND PROPOSAL

The Board of Education of the Long Beach Island Consolidated School District in the County of Ocean, New Jersey is authorized: (a) to provide for various renovations, alterations, improvements and upgrades at Long Beach Island Grade School, including related work, fixtures, equipment and site work; (b) to appropriate \$7,680,516 for such improvements; and (c) to issue bonds of the School District in the principal amount of \$7,680,516.

The final eligible costs of the improvements approved by the Commissioner of Education are \$7,680,516. The proposed improvements include \$0 for school construction elements in addition to the facilities efficiency standards developed by the Commissioner of Education or not otherwise eligible for State support pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-5(g). The State debt service aid percentage will equal 40% of the annual debt service due with respect to the final eligible costs of the project. The Board of Education is authorized to transfer funds among the projects approved at this election.

2. The bond proposal in Section 1 is hereby approved and, subject to the approval of the legal voters of the school district, the Board of Education hereby determines to carry out the project described therein (the "Project"). After the adoption of this resolution, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, with the advice and assistance of bond counsel, is hereby authorized to modify the wording of the bond proposal in order to conform to the school laws.
3. The Board of Education hereby acknowledges and confirms that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:24-16 and 18A:24-17 a supplemental debt statement has been prepared by the chief financial officers of the municipalities that comprise the Long Beach Island Consolidated School District, consisting of the Township of Long Beach, the Borough of Ship Bottom, the Borough of Barnegat Light, the Borough of Surf City and the Borough of Harvey Cedars (the "Constituent Municipalities"). Such supplemental debt statements shall consider the proposed authorization of bonds of the school district in the maximum amount of bonds authorized in the bond proposal. The supplemental debt statements have been filed in the offices of the clerks of the Constituent Municipalities and in the office of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary of this Board of Education prior to the final adoption of the bond proposal and will be filed in the office of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs prior to the date of the special election.

4. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to send a certified copy of the bond proposal to the County Clerk as required by N.J.S.A. 19:60-2, to request the County Clerk to submit the proposal to the voters at the special school district election and to seek the assistance of the county officials and municipal clerk in conducting the special school district election.
5. The Board of Education acknowledges receipt of the preliminary eligible cost (PEC) letter from the New Jersey Department of Education (the "Department") with respect to the Project. The Board of Education hereby elects to receive debt service aid under the *Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act*, P.L. 2000, c. 72, effective July 18, 2000 (the "Act"). The Board of Education further determines to accept the preliminary eligible costs determined by the Department as final eligible costs, to accept and locally fund the excess space costs set forth in the PEC letter and not to appeal the determination of preliminary eligible costs. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary is authorized to notify the Department of the Board of Education's elections with respect to the eligible costs and excess spaces and the election to receive debt service aid.
6. The educational plans and the schematic plans for the construction of the Project have heretofore been approved by this Board of Education, and such approval is hereby reconfirmed.
7. The Board President, the Superintendent of Schools, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Owen, Little & Associates, Inc. (the "Project Engineer"), bond counsel and other appropriate representatives of the Board of Education (the "Board Representatives") have heretofore been authorized, and such authorization is hereby reconfirmed, to submit the educational plans and the schematic plans for the Project, together with such other information as may be required, to the Department for approval and, if necessary, make any required amendment to the long-range facilities plan, in accordance with the requirements of the Act and N.J.A.C. 6A:26-2.1(f), 2.3(c), 3.1, 3.2 and 3.11 as applicable.
8. If necessary, the Board Representatives have heretofore further been authorized and directed to submit the schematic plans and any other required information to the Planning Board and the Department of Environmental Protection for review and comment, as necessary, and such authorization and direction is hereby reconfirmed.
9. The Project Engineer has heretofore been authorized and delegated the responsibility to prepare the plans and specifications for the Project in consultation with and under the supervision of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, who has heretofore been delegated the responsibility to work with the Project Engineer for this purpose on behalf of the Board of Education, and such authorizations and delegations are hereby reconfirmed and ratified, all in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-16.
10. The Board of Education representatives are hereby authorized to take all steps necessary to implement this resolution. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary is further authorized and directed to request the Ocean County Clerk, the Ocean County Board of Elections, the Ocean County Superintendent of Elections, and the Clerks of the Constituent Municipalities, as applicable, to submit the bond proposal at the School District's special school election on December 10, 2019, and the Business Administrator/Board Secretary is authorized to act on behalf of the Board of Education to make such determinations required of the Board of Education for the conduct of the election.

Board discussion continued on election times, cost of special election, LBI School maintenance and repairs, EJ School status, referendum, bonds, debt service aid, and county notice of referendum deadlines.

Upon a roll call vote, motion failed:

Ayes (4): Mrs. Bowker, Mrs. Hartmann, Mrs. Picaro, Mr. Fenimore

Nays (5): Mr. Donahower, Mr. McMenamin, Mrs. Raber, Mrs. Southwick, Mrs. Wasilewski

Abstain: 0

7. **Motion by Colette Southwick, second by Marilyn Wasilewski to approve the following:**

RESOLUTION: Resolved that the Board of Education will open its next scheduled meeting on September 17, 2019, at 6 p.m. in the Media Center of the Long Beach Island Grade School, 201 20th Street, Ship Bottom, NJ in Executive Session for matters of Attorney/Client Privilege, Negotiations, Student Issues, and Personnel and will suspend opening activities, including the Pledge of Allegiance and reading of Adequate Notice of Meeting, until the Board opens in Public Session at 7 p.m.

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

Ayes (9): Mrs. Bowker, Mr. Donahower, Mrs. Hartmann, Mr. McMenamin, Mrs. Raber, Mrs. Southwick, Mrs. Wasilewski, Mrs. Picaro, Mr. Fenimore

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION (If Needed):** The Board did not enter Executive Session

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:17 p.m., a motion was made by Colette Southwick, second by Eileen Bowker to adjourn. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kathy Sheplin
Assistant to the Board Secretary