

LONG BEACH ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

Long Beach Island, New Jersey

MINUTES OF THE WORKING MEETING

Tuesday, April 5, 2016

The Board of Education of the Long Beach Island School District, Ocean County, met in executive session at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Ethel Jacobsen School, 200 Barnegat Avenue, Surf City, New Jersey on April 5, 2016, to discuss matters of Attorney-Client Privilege, Student Issues, and Personnel. All members were notified in writing of the meeting date. In accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law, the Long Beach Island Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting by having the date, time and place thereof posted in *The Press of Atlantic City*.

Executive Session:

The meeting was called to order by the Board President, Mrs. Bott at 5:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call was taken by Kathy Sheplin.

The following members of the Board of Education were present:

Jennifer Bott	representing	Ship Bottom
Tom Beaty	representing	Long Beach Township
Georgene Hartmann	representing	Long Beach Township
Bonnie Picaro	representing	Long Beach Township (arrived at 6:15 p.m.)
Colette Southwick	representing	Long Beach Township
Kristy Raber	representing	Surf City
Allyn Kain	representing	Surf City
Marilyn Wasilewski	representing	Barnegat Light
James Donahower	representing	Harvey Cedars (left at 7:18 p.m.)

Absent: None

Also present:

Peter J. Kopack, Superintendent

Megan C. Gally, SBA/Board Secretary

Nicholas Savio, Esq.

Frank Birney, Principal

At 5:34 p.m. a motion was made by Colette Southwick, seconded by Kristy Raber to enter into closed session for discussion of Personnel, Attorney/Client Privilege, and Student Issues. All in favor.

At 7:02 p.m. a motion was made by Colette Southwick, seconded by Kristy Raber to adjourn. All in favor.

Minutes of the closed session meeting will be released to the public when the reasons for nondisclosure no longer exist.

Public Session:

The meeting was called to order by the Board President, Mrs. Bott at 7:07 p.m.

The following members of the Board of Education were present:

Jennifer Bott	representing	Ship Bottom
Tom Beaty	representing	Long Beach Township
Georgene Hartmann	representing	Long Beach Township
Bonnie Picaro	representing	Long Beach Township (arrived at 6:15 p.m.)
Colette Southwick	representing	Long Beach Township
Kristy Raber	representing	Surf City
Allyn Kain	representing	Surf City
Marilyn Wasilewski	representing	Barnegat Light
James Donahower	representing	Harvey Cedars (left at 7:18 p.m.)

Absent: None

Also present:
Peter J. Kopack, Superintendent
Megan C. Gally, SBA/Board Secretary
Nicholas Savio, Esq.
Frank Birney, Principal

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Roll call was taken by Kathy Sheplin.

Adequate Notice of Meeting: Adequate Notice of Meeting statement was read by Mrs. Bott.

Mission Statement: Mrs. Bott read the Long Beach Island School District Mission Statement.

Correspondence: New Jersey School Boards Association: Bonnie Picaro 30 year recognition – Mrs. Bott congratulated Mrs. Picaro on her 30 years of service to the Long Beach Island Board of Education. Mrs. Picaro then read the attached statement and announced that she will run for re-election to the Board.

Board Committee Reports:

- The Building and Grounds Committee met on March 23, 2016. Mrs. Southwick reported on ESIPS, EJ fence, EJ door threshold, EJ HVAC, and RFP for architect.

Mrs. Picaro asked about the interview process for architects. Ms. Gally responded.

- The Public Relations Committee met on April 5, 2016. Mr. Donahower reported.

School Consolidation: Mr. Donahower read a statement and noted that a meeting was held with Board Members and Ship Bottom Officials and that the Board is in receipt of a new letter from Ship Bottom. Mrs. Bott noted that the Board and Ship Bottom are moving forward with discussions for sale of school.

President’s Remarks: Mrs. Bott addressed the public regarding the following topics: school consolidation

Comments from the Public on Agenda Items: None

Superintendent’s Report/Recommendations/Board Action: Dr. Kopack addressed the Board and public as follows: Thanked members of the public for coming to the meeting, thanked Bonnie Picaro for her years of service to the Board of Education, thanked Miss Scholey and Student Council for hosting Family Fitness Night, and thanked Ms. McBride for the Science Fair.

PERSONNEL:

A motion was made by Kristy Raber, seconded by Colette Southwick to approve the following items:

- (a) **Basic Skills Teacher:** To approve advertising for a full-time Basic Skills teacher for the remainder of the 2015-16 school year (Title I funds).

Mrs. Picaro asked if this was a replacement teacher. Mrs. Bott responded.

(ADDENDUM ITEM)

- (b) **Unpaid Leave Request:** To approve an unpaid leave request for Julie Oldham, School Guidance Counselor, for four days (to be determined) in May 2016.

Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried: 8 ayes

DISTRICT/STATE/FEDERAL:

A motion was made by Marilyn Wasilewski, seconded by Kristy Raber to approve the following item:

- (a) **Grant Acceptance:** To accept a grant from DonorsChoose.org in the amount of \$378.76 for the purchase of Legos for an interactive Lego wall for 3rd grade students to use in various subject areas (math, science, etc.).
- (b) **Grant Application:** To approve the submission of a grant application from Bianca Aniski to the Garden Club of Long Beach Island for fencing for the EJ School Garden in an amount not to exceed \$1,110.00.
- (c) **NCLB Grant Amendment:** To approve submission of an amendment to the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Grant FY 2016 in the amount of \$29,750 and accept the modifications for these funds upon the subsequent approval of the FY 2016 NCLB amendment application as follows:

From: Title 1 Supplies	To: Title 1 Teacher	\$17,008
From: Title 1 Other Services	To: Title I Teacher	\$12,742

- (d) **Contractor Payment:** To approve payment to C & M Door Controls, Inc. in the amount of \$29,561.25 (PO# 1500179) for repairs to Ethel Jacobsen School doors as per contract.
- (e) **Request for Proposal:** Resolved, that the Board of Education will seek Request for Proposals (RFPs) for architectural services. The Board authorizes the Business Administrator to seek proposals from architectural firms licensed in the State of New Jersey.

Mr. Beaty commended teachers and administration on grant applications.

Mrs. Southwick asked if Garden Club Grant application was for fence installation. Mrs. Bott and Mr. Birney responded.

Mrs. Picaro asked if the Garden Club grant went along with the original grant (Atlanticare) for fencing. Mr. Birney responded.

Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried: 8 ayes

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

A motion was made by Colette Southwick, seconded by Marilyn Wasilewski to approve the following items:

(a) **Professional Day Requests:** To approve professional day requests as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Employee(s): | Julie Oldham |
| Conference: | Collecting Artifacts for Domain 4 Evaluation for Student Pupil Services (Counselors) |
| Location: | Toms River |
| Date: | April 7, 2016 (PM) |
| Rationale: | To gain information regarding how to gather artifacts for Domain 4 as part of the evaluation tool for School Counselors. |
| Cost: | Mileage |
| Employee(s): | Shelley Smith/Amy Ferrer |
| Conference: | Technology Plan 2016-2018 |
| Location: | In-house |
| Date: | April 21, 2016 (PM) |
| Rationale: | To update the LBI School District's Technology Plan as recommended by the NJ Department of Education. |
| Cost: | None |
| Employee(s): | Peter Kopack |
| Conference: | NJASA 2016 Spring Leadership Conference |
| Location: | Atlantic City |
| Date: | May 13, 2016 |
| Rationale: | To attend the Leadership Conference and to gain information from award winning English Teacher and Keynote Speaker, Dr. Ernst Morrell. |
| Cost: | \$275 registration and mileage |
| Employee(s): | Megan Gally |
| Conference: | NJ Association of School Business Officials: Active/Associate Education 5 th Annual Conference |
| Location: | Atlantic City |
| Date: | June 8-10, 2016 |
| Rationale: | To attend annual conference. |
| Cost: | \$150 registration and mileage |

(ADDENDUM)

Employee(s): Megan Gally
Conference: NJASBO: Pupil Transportation
Location: Robbinsville
Date: May 7, 2016
Rationale: Required for administrative program.
Cost: \$60 registration and mileage

Employee(s): Megan Gally
Conference: NJASBO: Food Service
Location: Robbinsville
Date: May 18, 2016 (Evening)
Rationale: Required for administrative program.
Cost: \$60 registration and mileage

- (b) **Building and/or Grounds Usage Requests:** To approve building and/or grounds usage requests as follows pending receipt of proof of insurance and space availability:
- LBI PTA Used Clothing Fundraiser, EJ Parking Lot, Saturday, May 21, 2016, 8-3 p.m.
 - LBI PTA Meeting, LBI Media Center, April 18, 2016, at 7 p.m.

Mr. Beaty thanked the PTA for all they do.

Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried: 8 ayes

(c) **Dates to Remember:**

- April 5: Student Council Spirit Day – “Dress for Success”
Grade 5T Swim Program at St. Francis
LBI Student Council Meeting
Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m.
- April 6: Grade 4 PARCC Testing
D.A.R.E. Program continues: 5K and 5T
Grade 4S Swim Program at St. Francis
- April 7: Grade 4 PARCC Testing
Grade 4S Swim Program at St. Francis
- April 8: National D.A.R.E. Day
Grade 4 PARCC Testing
- April 11: Grade 4 PARCC Testing
After-School Chorus
- April 12: Grade 4 PARCC Testing
Grade 5T Swim Program at St. Francis
After-School Chorus

- April 13: Grade 6 PARCC Testing
D.A.R.E. Program continues at LBI: 5k and 5T
Grade 6L Swim Program at St. Francis
- April 14: END OF 3RD MARKING PERIOD
Grade 6 PARCC Testing
Grade 6L Swim Program at St. Francis
- April 15: BEGINNING OF 4TH MARKING PERIOD
Grade 6 PARCC Testing
- April 18: Grade 6 PARCC Testing
After-School Chorus
- April 19: Grade 6 PARCC Testing
After-School Chorus
Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m.
- April 20: Grade 6 PARCC Testing
D.A.R.E. Program at LBI: 5K and 5T
- April 21: PARCC Make-Up Testing
Grade 6 – Stafford Project “AWARE” at STAC Center
- April 22: Report Cards issued via portal
EARTH DAY
PARCC Make-Up Testing
Theme Day – “Crazy Hair Day” – Birthdays-Personality of the Month
PTA Assembly – “Earth Dome” for Grades 3-6
- April 25: Grade 3 PARCC Testing
Grade 6 – Stafford Project “AWARE” at STAC Center
After-School Chorus
- April 26: Grade 3 PARCC Testing
EJ Play – “How Does Your Garden Grow”
LBI Band Practice
After-School Chorus
- April 27: Grade 3 PARCC Testing
D.A.R.E. Program at LBI: 5K and 5T
LBI Dress Rehearsal
LBI Band Concert
- April 28: Take Your Child to Work Day
Grade 3 PARCC Testing
- April 29: ARBOR DAY
Student Council Spirit Day – “LBI IS ALIVE!”

Public Comment:

Stacey Fuessinger, Ship Bottom, commented, asked questions about the following:

- Why new architect? Mrs. Bott responded.
- OPRA lawsuit. Mr. Savio responded.

Michael Spark, Barnegat Light, commented, asked questions about the following:

- Asked how much OPRA lawsuit will cost the BOE? Ms. Gally responded: insurance deductible of \$5,000.

Board Resolution:

A motion was made by Colette Southwick, seconded by Allyn Kain to approve the following:

- (a) **RESOLUTION:** Resolved that the Board of Education will open its next scheduled meeting on April 19, 2016, in Executive Session 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, the motion carried: 8 ayes

The Board did not return to executive session.

At 7:43 p.m. a motion was made by Kristy Raber and seconded by Colette Southwick to adjourn. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathy Sheplin, Assistant Board Secretary

The following words are my own thoughts from my 30 years on the board.

During my time on the board we have gone from having most of the control over the occurrences in the district to having little control over these situations. Little by little the state and federal governments have decided to exert control with well-meaning, but misguided, mandates to improve the education system. These mandates have made it extremely difficult for the administrators and teachers to do their jobs. The teachers have continuously risen to the occasion and have worked hard to ensure that our students receive the utmost education, in spite of the difficulties presented by the governments. Our students continue to excel, even in the face of these obstacles.

We now have an excellent superintendent, principal, and business administrator. This has been a challenging task to find the right people for these positions and I believe we have done this and I see it as a success for the board and the district. Our district should continue to thrive under their guidance, in spite of the final challenge we are now faced with; the question of what to do with LBI Grade School.

We have recently made a decision to try and work with Ship Bottom in order to save LBI Grade School instead of tearing it down. My position has evolved from wanting to sell the school to wanting to save it. In the very beginning, our plan was, sell the school to get a state of the art -new building. We all agreed we would not take less than what we had with the 2 buildings. It became obvious that we would not even come close to getting what we needed and we would get a lot less with one building, I began to look at LBI differently. I originally wanted the school district to search for ways in which the school could be utilized by making it a community center, while still maintaining ownership. The island has lost so many landmarks because they were located on large parcels and developers purchased these parcels, tore down the historic structures in order to build as many new homes as possible. I see the board as being in a unique position to be a part of recognizing that we can save the school in many different ways. One of which is working with the town of Ship Bottom and will require a referendum to raise the funds necessary. This agreement with Ship Bottom will be a benefit to the community and a win for those who have expressed a desire to preserve an island landmark.

On Facebook recently, there were comments being made about all the old buildings that used to be here. They talked about how sad it was that no one saved them and what a loss it is for the island, I don't want it said that we as a board helped to destroy another large building. There are choices and we can consider these other options.

As a district, we are now embarking onto consolidating into one building {EJ with an addition}. The current administration and teachers will continue to make their focus the education of our students, as they have always done, whether it is in one building or two. To suggest our teachers can only be successful in one building is not giving them the credit they are due, as they have proven to be successful in any environment.

As a board member, I have tried to follow the directive to see that the schools are well run to assure a quality education for the students. Our district is made up of students, parents, taxpayers and our mayors from each town. All play a part in seeing that a district functions well. I hope I have represented each group fairly and have taken under consideration the impact that each may have offered or suggested, and that I tried to resolve whatever issue they have had.

Because this last challenge, to save LBI - in my opinion - has divided our board, I have decided to run for reelection this next year. Bringing a new person into this situation isn't fair to them or to the board, so I have decided to remain until the issue is resolved. I have very much enjoyed my time on the board and with the district and want to ensure I leave it in the best place possible.

Bonnie Picaro