Regular Board Meeting Minutes - Wednesday, December 10, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Long Branch Board of Education was held in the Long Branch Middle School auditorium, 350 Indiana Avenue, Long Branch, New Jersey.

Mrs. Peters, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

A. **ROLL CALL**

Mrs. Peters - President	Mrs. Youngblood Brown	Mr. Torres
Mrs. Dangler - Vice President	Mr. Ferraina	Mr. Zimmerman
Mr. Zambrano	Mr. Garlipp	Mr. Sama

Attorney Present - Janice Arellano, Esq.

B. **STATEMENT OF THE MANNER OF NOTIFICATION OF THE MEETING**
Peter E. Genovese III, RSBO, QPA, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, stated that adequate notice of the meeting of the Long Branch Board of Education has been provided by a Schedule of Public Meetings published in the Asbury Park Press. Mr. Genovese further stated that a schedule of Public Meetings has been posted in the Board of Education Office and the Office of the City Clerk, Long Branch, New Jersey.

Mr. Genovese made the following announcement: Fire exits are located in the direction indicated. In case of fire, you will be signaled by a bell and/or public address system. If so alerted to fire, please move in a calm and orderly fashion to the nearest smoke-free exit.

C. **OBJECTIONS, IF ANY, TO THE VALIDITY OF THE MEETING**
Mr. Genovese stated that the objecting member must give supporting reasons.

D. **FLAG SALUTE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
Mrs. Peters, Board President, saluted the flag and led the Pledge of Allegiance

E. **STATEMENT TO THE PUBLIC**
Mrs. Peters made the following announcement: Oftentimes it may appear to members of our audience that the Board of Education takes action with very little comment and in many cases by unanimous vote. Before a matter is placed on the agenda at a public meeting, the administration has thoroughly reviewed the matter with the Superintendent of Schools. If the Superintendent of Schools is satisfied that the matter is ready to be presented to the Board of Education, it is then referred to the appropriate Board committee. The members of the Board committee work with the administration and Superintendent to assure that the members fully understand the matter. When the committee is satisfied with the matter, it is presented to the Board of Education for discussion before any final action is taken. Only then is it placed on the agenda for action at a public meeting. All agenda attachments are available for public review. In rare instances, matters are presented to the Board of Education for discussion at the same meeting that final action may be taken.

Time may be allocated for public comment at this meeting. Each speaker may be allotted up to five (5) minutes and one (1) opportunity to address the Board when recognized by the presiding officer. Individuals wishing to address the Board shall be recognized by the presiding officer and shall give their names, addresses and the group, if any, that they represent. Although the Board encourages public participation, it reserves the right, through its presiding officer, to terminate remarks to and/or by any individual not in keeping with the conduct of a proper and efficient meeting. With the exception of those individuals whose names are on the agenda this evening, the Board will not respond to questions during the public participation portion of this meeting involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, negotiations, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance of, promotion or disciplining of any specific, prospective or current employee.

F. **OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS**
No one addressed the Board.

2. **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

A. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
That the Board approve the following minutes:

Motion by Rick Garlipp, second by Tasha Youngblood Brown.
Yea: Violeta Peters, Armand Zambrano, Joseph M Ferraina, Rick Garlipp, Tasha Youngblood Brown, Theresa Dangler, Tony Valdiviezo, Dominic Sama, Jon Zimmerman
Motion Carries

B. **STUDENT REGISTRATION - ATTACHMENT 1**

3. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

A. **STUDENTS OF THE MONTH**
The following students have been selected as "Students of the Month" for December;

SCHOOL	STUDENT
Amerigo A. Anastasia School	Tylik Jones
Audrey W. Clark School	Victoria Rucker- Davis- Lockley
George L. Catrambone School	Maya Cale Oliveira
Gregory School	Benjamin Garcia Sanchez
High School	Helen Huerta Villa
Historic High School	Zoey Lipscomb
Joseph M. Ferraina ECLC	Savai Spence
Lenna W. Conrow School	Logan Ribiero- Rodrigues
Morris Avenue School	Kendra Garcia Morales
Middle School	Sophia Da Silva Barbosa

B. **RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT**

JASON CORLEY, Athletic Administrator, has been selected to receive the Dave Salberg Sectional Award of Merit for the Central Section on behalf of the Directors of Athletics Association of New Jersey, Inc. (DAANJ).

SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL POETRY CONTEST

The following students have been recognized as winners of the Semiquincentennial School Poetry Contest for Monmouth County, sponsored by Monmouth County.

Brendan Alcott	George L. Catrambone School	Grade 3	2nd Place
Briella Alcott	George L. Catrambone School	Grade 3	3rd Place
Arthur R. Leonel	Amerigo A. Anastasia School	Grade 5	2nd Place
Arthur Martins	Amerigo A. Anastasia School	Grade 5	3rd Place

C. **SCHOOL PRESENTATION**

Morris Avenue School
At the Morris Avenue School, our students remind us that kindness is more than words. Kindness is shown through our actions. Each day, they demonstrate how even the smallest gestures can make a meaningful difference. As a school community, we commit to choosing kindness in our classrooms, in our hallways, and in the ways we treat one another. We strive to ensure that every child at Morris Avenue feels welcomed, valued, and supported. Together, we are nurturing a community where kindness truly grows.

4. **GENERAL ITEMS**

A. **APPROVAL OF ATTENDANCE AT THE NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARD CONFERENCE FOR VIOLETA PETERS AND JOSEPH FERRAINA**
That the Board approve the attendance at the National School Board Conference in San Antonio, Texas from April 9 - 12, 2026 for Violeta Peters and Joseph Ferraina at a cost not to exceed $2,309.30 per person.

Motion by Rick Garlipp, second by Dominic Sama.
Yea: Armand Zambrano, Rick Garlipp, Tasha Youngblood Brown, Theresa Dangler, Tony Valdiviezo, Dominic Sama, Jon Zimmerman
Abstain: Violeta Peters, Joseph M Ferraina
Motion Carries

B. **APPROVAL OF ATTENDANCE AT THE NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARD CONFERENCE FOR TONY VALDIVIEZO AND DOMINIC SAMA**
That the Board approve the attendance at the National School Board Conference in San Antonio, Texas from April 9 - 12, 2026 for Tony Valdiviezo and Dominic Sama at a cost not to exceed $2,309.30 per person.

Motion by Rick Garlipp, second by Theresa Dangler.
Yea: Violeta Peters, Armand Zambrano, Joseph M Ferraina, Rick Garlipp, Tasha Youngblood Brown, Theresa Dangler, Jon Zimmerman
Abstain: Tony Valdiviezo, Dominic Sama
Motion Carries

C. **APPROVAL TO APPLY AND ACCEPT THE YOUNG AUDIENCES ARTS LAB GRANT - FY2026**
That the Board approve the application and acceptance of the Young Audiences Arts Lab grant FY2026 in the amount of $5,000.

That the Board authorize Alisa Aquino, Director of Grants & Innovative Programs, or her designee, to serve as the district's contact person for the above actions.

And that, Francisco E. Rodriguez, Superintendent of Schools, be designated the Board's representative to implement the above actions.

D. **APPROVAL TO ACCEPT FUNDS FOR THE LITERACY INITIATIVE FOR FAMILIES AND THRIVING COMMUNITIES (LIFT) GRANT**
That the Board approve the acceptance of funds for the Literacy Initiative for Families and Thriving Communities (LIFT) grant for FY2026 in the amount of $60,000.

That the Board authorize Alisa Aquino, Director of Grants & Innovative Programs, or her designee, to serve as the district's contact person for the above actions.

And that, Francisco E. Rodriguez, Superintendent of Schools, be designated the Board's representative to implement the above actions.

E. **GIFTS TO SCHOOL**
That the Board approve the Gifts to School as listed:

Motion by Tasha Youngblood Brown, second by Rick Garlipp to approve items 4C - 4E.

Yea: Violeta Peters, Armand Zambrano, Joseph M Ferraina, Rick Garlipp, Tasha Youngblood Brown, Theresa Dangler, Tony Valdiviezo, Dominic Sama, Jon Zimmerman
Motion Carries

5. **PERSONNEL ACTION**

A. **APPOINTMENT OF CERTIFIED STAFF**
That the Board approve/ratify the appointment of the following named individuals who constitute a careful selection and screening of applicants and is hereby recommended for an employment contract contingent upon the successful completion of their degree program, New Jersey Department of Education certification requirements, and all other state and federal guidelines including but not limited to a criminal history clearance and successful clearance of S-141/A-3381 (P.L.2018, c.5). This initial appointment may change as district needs develop:

Name	Position
GRACIELLA BERECSKY	Position: Physical Education Teacher Location: High School Level: Step 1 $60,111 Certification: • BS Physical Education (December 2025) • Endorsement 1605: Instructional Certification - Health and Physical Education Education: Kean University Replaces: Shawn Brown, Transfer (Acct #15-140-100-101-000-01-00) (UPC: 0153-01-PHLT-TEACHR) Effective: January 5, 2026* pending certification

B. **APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY**
That the Board approve the appointment of the following-named individual as a 12 Month Secretary:

LIZBETH FLORES-LUCERO, George L. Catrambone Elementary School, Level 3, 12 Month at $56,988
Effective: December 15, 2025
Replaces: Helena Taborda (Resignation)
(Acct. #15-000-240-105-000-09-00)(UPC:0885-09-ELMPR-SEC103)

C. **RESIGNATION - STIPEND POSITION**
That the Board accept the stipend resignation of the following individuals:

SHAWN BROWN, Wrestling (Varsity) High School, Assistant Coach, effective November 21, 2025
ALEXIS CORBETT, Track (Varsity) Girls, High School, Assistant Coach, effective December 1, 2025
TIMOTHY FARRELL, Tennis (Varsity) Boys, High School, Assistant Coach, effective November 10, 2025
GARETH GRAYSON, Lacrosse (Varsity) Boys, High School, Head Coach, effective November 10, 2025
WILLIAM ROHR, Lacrosse (Varsity) Boys, High School, Assistant Coach, effective November 25, 2025

D. **SUBSTITUTE EMPLOYEES 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR**
That the Board approve/ratify the following substitutes for the 2025-2026 school year. *pending fingerprints

SUBSTITUTE INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANT 2025 - 2026 SCHOOL YEAR
Anne Barham*

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR
Anne Barham*, Graciella Berecsky*

E. **ANNUAL STIPEND POSITIONS - 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR - ATTACHMENT 2**

That the Board approve/ratify the following annual district stipend positions listed on the attached.

F. **COACHING/ATHLETIC STIPEND POSITIONS - WINTER 2025 - 2026**
That the Board approve/ratify the following annual district stipend positions listed on the attached.

LOCATION	CATEGORY	STIPEND TITLE	STAFF MEMBER	STEP	RATE
High School	1	Wrestling (Varsity) - Assistant Coach	Louis DeAngelis	3	$6,000
High School	1	Wrestling (Freshman) - Head Coach	Kevin Mammano	3	$5,500
Middle School		Coaching Paraprofessional Aide	Shawn Brown		$16/hr
Middle School	1	Basketball - Boys Assistant Coach	Robert Nelli	1	$3,400
Middle School	1	Basketball - Girls Assistant Coach	Ja'Londa Boyd	1	$3,400

G. **COACHING/ATHLETIC STIPEND POSITIONS - SPRING 2026**

That the Board approve/ratify the following annual district stipend positions listed on the attached.

High School	3	Flag Football, Head Coach	Madison Grayson	1	$4,000
High School	3	Tennis (Varsity) Boys, Head Coach	Timothy Farrell	4	$6,000
Middle School	2	Track & Field - Boys/Girls, Head Coach	Gabriela Rodrigues	1	$3,200

H. **CHANGE IN TRAINING LEVEL - 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR**
That the Board approve/ratify the change in training level for the following individual effective October 1, 2025:

AMI KASS, Teacher, moving from BA to BA+30, on the teacher's salary guide

I. **TEACHER/MENTOR PROGRAM**
That the Board approve the following individuals to assume the position of Mentor annually for a 1 year term effective December 1, 2025.

LOCATION	TEACHER	MENTOR	RATE
Amerigo A. Anastasia School	Christian Covington	Cheryl Martin	$1,000
Long Branch High School	Hope Guarino	Gina Valentine	$550

J. **ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCES/MEETINGS - ATTACHMENT 3**
That the Board approve the attendance of staff members at the conferences listed.

Motion by Rick Garlipp, second by Tasha Youngblood Brown to approve items 5A - 5J.
Yea: Violeta Peters, Armand Zambrano, Joseph M Ferraina, Rick Garlipp, Tasha Youngblood Brown, Theresa Dangler, Tony Valdiviezo, Dominic Sama, Jon Zimmerman
Motion Carries

K. **ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCES/MEETINGS - ATTACHMENT 4**
That the Board approve the attendance of staff member at the conference listed.

Motion by Rick Garlipp, second by Theresa Dangler.
Yea: Armand Zambrano, Joseph M Ferraina, Rick Garlipp, Tasha Youngblood Brown, Theresa Dangler, Tony Valdiviezo, Dominic Sama, Jon Zimmerman
Abstain: Violeta Peters
Motion Carries

L. **FAMILY MEDICAL/LEAVE OF ABSENCE**
That the Board approve/ratify the family/medical leave of absences listed:

RETURN FROM FAMILY/MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE

EMP ID 6787 effective February 17, 2026.
EMP ID 5966 effective December 15, 2025.
EMP ID 8903 effective November 17, 2025.

FAMILY/MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE USING SICK DAYS
EMP ID 6958, from November 10, 2025 to November 26, 2025.
EMP ID 5626, from October 6, 2025 to November 10, 2025.
EMP ID 6801, from October 28, 2025 to November 10, 2025.
EMP ID 8540, from October 16, 2025 to December 23, 2025.
EMP ID 5534, from October 20, 2025 to December 23, 2025.
EMP ID 8047, from November 19, 2025 to December 18, 2025.

FAMILY/MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE USING URGENT BUSINESS
EMP ID 6801, for November 11, 2025 and November 12, 2025.
EMP ID 6958, from December 1, 2025 to December 3, 2025.

FAMILY/MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE USING MINUS SUB PAY
EMP ID 6801, from November 13, 2025 to November 26, 2025.
EMP ID 6958, from December 4, 2025 to December 17, 2025.
EMP ID 8821, from November 18, 2025 to November 20, 2025.

FAMILY/MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE USING UNPAID DAYS
EMP ID 6801, from November 27, 2025 to December 28, 2025.
EMP ID 6958, from December 18, 2025 to December 23, 2025.
EMP ID 8821, from November 21, 2025 to December 23, 2025.

REQUEST TO EXTEND FAMILY/MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE USING SICK DAYS
EMP ID 6151, from October 4, 2025 to November 9, 2025.

REQUEST TO EXTEND FAMILY/MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE USING UNPAID DAYS
EMP ID 8800, from January 1, 2026 to April 13, 2026.
EMP ID 6151, from November 10, 2025 to February 9, 2026.

6. **STUDENT ACTION**

A. **APPROVAL OF MONTHLY HIB REPORT P.L. 2010. C. 122 (A-3466)**
That the Board approve the monthly report as required by statute.

Reporting Period - November 20, 2025 - December 17, 2025

Summary:
Total: Eight (8) investigations, (4) four incidents confirmed as HIB

Amerigo A. Anastasia School
One (1) investigation, one (1) incident confirmed as HIB

Audrey W. Clark School
One (1) investigation, one (1) incident confirmed as HIB

George L. Catrambone School
One (1) investigation, zero (0) incidents confirmed as HIB

Gregory School
One (1) investigation, zero (0) incidents confirmed as HIB

High School

Four (4) investigations, (2) two incidents confirmed as HIB

B. **TERMINATION OF OUT OF DISTRICT STUDENTS FOR THE 2025 - 2026 SCHOOL YEAR**
That the Board approve/ratify the following termination of out of district students for the 2025 - 2026 school year listed below:

CPC HIGH POINT
Student ID# 20291991
Tuition - $105,716.52
Effective Date: November 26, 2025

C. **PLACEMENT OF STUDENTS ON HOME INSTRUCTION - 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR**
That the Board approve/ratify the placement of home instruction for the 2025 - 2026 school year for the students listed.

IN HOUSE

ID#: 110850051
ID#: 20292446
ID#: 20271560

RESIDENTIAL

LearnWell
ID#: 20288671, PHP - 30 days - $70.05/hr = $2,800.00/mth
ID#: 20389660, PHP - 30 days - $70.05/hr = $2,800.00/mth
ID#: 20271560, PHP - 30 days - $70.05/hr = $2,800.00/mth
ID#: 202810090, PHP - 30 days - $70.05/hr = $2,800.00/mth
ID#: 110850031, PHP - 30 days - $70.05/hr = $2,800.00/mth

New Hope
ID#: 20291991, PHP - 30 days - $650.00/mth - only there 5 days = $130.00

D. **FIELD TRIPS - ATTACHMENT 5**
That the Board approve the Field Trips indicated below and made part of the permanent minutes upon Board approval.

7. **CORRECTIONS/REVISION TO MINUTES**

A. **CORRECTIONS/REVISION TO MINUTES**
That the Board approve/ratify the corrections/revisions to minutes listed:

Motion by Rick Garlipp, second by Tasha Youngblood Brown to approve items 5L - 7A.
Yea: Violeta Peters, Armand Zambrano, Joseph M Ferraina, Rick Garlipp, Tasha Youngblood Brown, Theresa Dangler, Tony Valdiviezo, Dominic Sama, Jon Zimmerman
Motion Carries

8. **OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Joe Asch
432 Ocean Blvd., Unit 312
Long Branch, NJ 07740

Mr. Asch addressed the Board regarding William Gould, a Long Branch High School graduate and lifelong friend of his. Mr. Gould is a graduate of the University of Rhode Island and Cornell Law School. He has served as an attorney for the National Labor Relations Board in Washington D.C. and a consultant to the U.S. Equal Employment

Opportunity Commission to name a few, He was a professor of law at Stanford Law School retiring in 2002 where he was named the Charles A. Beardsley Professor of Law in 1984. He has numerous appointments to his credit and has been the recipient of many honors and awards. Mr. Gould has recently written a memoir that details his journey from Long Branch High School graduate to the first black law professor at Stanford University entitled "Those Who Travail and are Heavy Laden". Mr. Asch is asking that the book be placed in the High School library as he feels it relays an important message to our students that they can dream big and achieve great things.

Mrs. Peters presented Mrs. Dangler and Mr. Garlipp with plaques commemorating their time on the Board and thanked them for their dedication and service to the children and community of Long Branch.

Mr. Rodriguez also thanked them for their service to our students, parents and staff.

Mrs. Peters presented Mr. Genovese with a clock commemorating his 32 years with the Board of Education and thanked him for his dedication and service.

Mr. Rodriguez - I want to also thank Mr. Genovese's team for being here tonight supporting him. We appreciate you. Mr. Genovese leads your team but you all represent exactly what Mr. Genovese and his 32 years of service have meant and that is the dedication to our students, the families, the staff and our entire Long Branch school community. Mr. Genovese I appreciate you. I was a student, teacher, principal and now a proud Superintendent while you were here leading our district so I want to thank you on behalf of the many, many students that have crossed that stage and been a part of the Long Branch school system. You are Green Wave pride and a Green Wave spirit for us so thank you.

9. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A. **RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION - 6:26 P.M.**
That the Board approve the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975) allows for the exclusion from discussion at the public portion of a meeting of certain matters which might endanger the public interest or risk the deprivation of individual rights, and

WHEREAS, the Long Branch Board of Education wishes to discuss **personnel matters** with the resulting action being made public when a proper conclusion has been reached and there is no longer a need for confidentiality;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Long Branch Board of Education will hold a closed Executive Session in the Drama Room, 350 Indiana Ave., Long Branch, New Jersey. It is anticipated that the closed session will not last longer than 30 minutes. Action may be taken in the public portion of the meeting upon recessing of this Executive Session back into the open public meeting.

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Peter E. Genovese III, RSBO, QPA

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Motion by Rick Garlipp, second by Dominic Sama.
Yea: Violeta Peters, Armand Zambrano, Joseph M Ferraina, Rick Garlipp, Tasha Youngblood Brown, Theresa Dangler, Tony Valdiviezo, Dominic Sama, Jon Zimmerman
Motion Carries

The Board returned to open session at 6:41 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Mrs. Peters - President	Mrs. Youngblood Brown	Mr. Torres
Mrs. Dangler - Vice President	Mr. Ferraina	Mr. Zimmerman
Mr. Zambrano	Mr. Garlipp	Mr. Sama

B. **SUSPENSION OF EMPLOYEE WITH PAY - RESOLUTION - ATTACHMENT 6**
That the Board approve the suspension with pay of employee (ID #8904) effective November 25, 2025.

C. **SUSPENSION OF EMPLOYEE WITH PAY - RESOLUTION - ATTACHMENT 7**
That the Board approve the suspension with pay of employee (ID #6230) effective December 4, 2025.

Motion by Rick Garlipp, second by Violeta Peters to approve items 9B - 9C.
Yea: Violeta Peters, Armand Zambrano, Joseph M Ferraina, Rick Garlipp, Tasha Youngblood Brown, Theresa Dangler, Tony Valdiviezo, Dominic Sama, Jon Zimmerman
Motion Carries

Mr. Valdiviezo - I want to thank and recognize Mrs. Dangler and Mr. Garlipp who are pillars of the Long Branch community. For the past 3 years they have given countless hours, energy and heart to our schools and to our City. They have done this work even when it meant sacrificing time from their own families. Through it all, they have had only one agenda, to do what is best for the ones that need it the most, our children and our employees. I want to thank them for their leadership, integrity, transparency and unwavering commitment to Long Branch. Because of people like them, our community is stronger, kinder and more united. Also, a special thank you to Mr. Genovese for all of his years of service to Long Branch.

Mr. Sama also thanked Mrs. Dangler and Mr. Garlipp for their 3 years of unwavering service with integrity to the Board. He thanked them for the example they have set, stating he has learned a great deal from them. He also thanked Mr. Genovese who has served longer than he has been alive for his guidance and dedication to the Long Branch school district.

Mrs. Peters - This is my last meeting as President of the Board. I want to thank all of you for your support and your willingness to serve our community.

Mr. Rodriguez - Thank you Mrs. Peters for the last 2 years serving as Board President. Outside of meetings, we have discussed many agendas, many policies, many things happening in the community and in education. Thank you on behalf of the Long Branch Public Schools.

Mr. Ferraina - Mr. Genovese is a true example of someone who came into a position, working under several Business Administrators, bringing a certain amount of knowledge and technology at the time and he brought incredible dedication to our district which has resulted in many accomplishments that we have had in the areas of finance, building, etc. It was my pleasure to work alongside him. I am happy that I can be here to say good bye. Congratulations Pete on all that you have done.

10. **ADJOURNMENT - 6:48 P.M.**

Motion by Rick Garlipp, second by Tasha Youngblood Brown.
Yea: Violeta Peters, Armand Zambrano, Tasha Youngblood Brown, Theresa Dangler, Jon Zimmerman
Nay: Joseph M Ferraina, Rick Garlipp, Dominic Sama
Abstain: Tony Valdiviezo
Motion Carries

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Peter E,. Genovese III, RSBO, QPA
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary