

LONG BEACH ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 6, 2026
Long Beach Island Elementary School Gymnasium
Organization/Regular (Public) Session 6:30 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Board of Education of the Long Beach Island School District, Ocean County, met in the gymnasium of the Long Beach Island Elementary School, 200 South Barnegat Avenue, Surf City, New Jersey on January 6, 2026.

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Meghan Lee, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and read the following announcement:

"This meeting is hereby called to order. Adequate and electronic 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, Long Beach Island Elementary School building, and on the district website. The notice was also mailed to *The Press of Atlantic City* and *The Sandpaper*, and filed with the Municipal Clerks of Barnegat Light, Harvey Cedars, Surf City, Ship Bottom and Long Beach Township."

2. **FLAG SALUTE**

3. **OATH OF OFFICE**

The Oath of Office was administered by Ms. Lee, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, to the newly elected Board members who represent the following constituent districts:

- A. Barnegat Light (3 years) – Thomas Costello
B. Long Beach Township (3 years) – Brielle Hoffacker

4. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Dr. Chung, Dr. Costello, Ms. Hagler, Mrs. Hoffacker, Mrs. Linkewich, Mrs. Raber, Mrs. Southwick, Mr. Wright

Absent: None

Also Present: Dr. Peter Kopack, Superintendent
Meghan Lee, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Erin Jensen, Board Attorney

5. **ACCEPTANCE OF ELECTION RESULTS**

Motion to have the combined statement of results of the 2025 school election made a part of the organization meeting minutes.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number of Votes</u>
Thomas Costello, Barnegat Light	216
TJ Fluehr, Harvey Cedars	200
Brielle Hoffacker, Long Beach Township	1,333

Motion by Mrs. Hoffacker, Seconded by Ms. Hagler

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

Ayes: Dr. Chung, Dr. Costello, Ms. Hagler, Mrs. Hoffacker, Mrs. Linkewich, Mrs. Raber, Mrs. Southwick, Mr. Wright
Nays: None
Abstain: None

6. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A. Nominations for President of Board of Education for a one-year term, beginning tonight.

NOMINATION(S) 1. Mrs. Southwick 2. _____

NOMINATED BY: Ms. Hagler _____
Second: Mrs. Raber _____

MOTION TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS FOR PRESIDENT:

Motion by Mrs. Hoffacker, Seconded by Mrs. Southwick

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

Ayes: Dr. Chung, Dr. Costello, Ms. Hagler, Mrs. Hoffacker, Mrs. Linkewich, Mrs. Raber, Mrs. Southwick, Mr. Wright

Nays: None

Abstain: None

VOTE: Mrs. Southwick

Motion by Mrs. Hoffacker, Seconded by Mrs. Raber

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

Ayes: Dr. Chung, Dr. Costello, Ms. Hagler, Mrs. Hoffacker, Mrs. Linkewich, Mrs. Raber, Mrs. Southwick, Mr. Wright

Nays: None

Abstain: None

RESULTS: PRESIDENT Mrs. Southwick

Board President, Mrs. Southwick, took the chair:

B. Nominations for Vice President of the Board of Education for a one-year term, beginning tonight.

NOMINATION(S) 1. Ms. Hagler 2. _____

NOMINATED BY: Mrs. Hoffacker
Second: Mrs. Raber

MOTION TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS FOR VICE PRESIDENT:

Motion by Mrs. Hoffacker, Seconded by Mrs. Raber

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

Ayes: Dr. Chung, Dr. Costello, Ms. Hagler, Mrs. Hoffacker, Mrs. Linkewich, Mrs. Raber, Mrs. Southwick, Mr. Wright

Nays: None

Abstain: None

VOTE: Ms. Hagler

Motion by Mrs. Hoffacker, Seconded by Mrs. Southwick

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

Ayes: Dr. Chung, Dr. Costello, Ms. Hagler, Mrs. Hoffacker, Mrs. Linkewich, Mrs. Raber, Mrs. Southwick, Mr. Wright
Nays: None
Abstain: None

RESULTS: VICE PRESIDENT Ms. Hagler

7. **ESTABLISHMENT OF ANNUAL MEETING CALENDAR**

Resolved to establish the 2026 Annual Meeting Calendar. All public meetings will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the gymnasium of the Long Beach Island Elementary School, 200 South Barnegat Avenue, Surf City, NJ unless otherwise noted. Executive (closed) sessions will be held prior to the public meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. The Long Beach Island Board of Education reserves the right to cancel, postpone, or change the meeting dates, times and places with proper notice according to law.

Month	Meeting	Comment
January	January 20, 2026	
February	February 17, 2026	
March	March 16, 2026 (Monday)	Preliminary Budget Review
April	April 28, 2026	Public Budget Hearing
May	May 12, 2026	
June	June 16, 2026	
July	July 14, 2026	
August	August 18, 2026	
September	September 22, 2026	
October	October 20, 2026	
November	November 17, 2026	
December	December 15, 2026	
January 2027	January 5, 2027	Reorganization 6:00 pm

Motion by Mrs. Hoffacker, Seconded by Ms. Hagler

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

Ayes: Dr. Chung, Dr. Costello, Ms. Hagler, Mrs. Hoffacker, Mrs. Linkewich, Mrs. Raber, Mrs. Southwick, Mr. Wright
Nays: None
Abstain: None

8. **OFFICIAL BOARD NEWSPAPER**

Motion to authorize *The Press of Atlantic City* as the official newspaper of the Board.

Motion by Ms. Hagler, Seconded by Mrs. Raber

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

Ayes: Dr. Chung, Dr. Costello, Ms. Hagler, Mrs. Hoffacker, Mrs. Linkewich, Mrs. Raber, Mrs. Southwick, Mr. Wright
Nays: None
Abstain: None

9. **POLICIES**

Motion to adopt all policies established by the previous Board of Education, with the regulations promulgated thereunder, until such time as this present board might wish to make changes.

Motion by Mrs. Hoffacker, Seconded by Ms. Hagler

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

Ayes: Dr. Chung, Dr. Costello, Ms. Hagler, Mrs. Hoffacker, Mrs. Linkewich, Mrs. Raber, Mrs. Southwick, Mr. Wright
Nays: None
Abstain: None

10. **CURRICULA**

Motion to readopt the Long Beach Island School District Curricula which are aligned with the most recent State Board adopted version of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS).

Motion by Mrs. Hoffacker, Seconded by Ms. Hagler

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

Ayes: Dr. Chung, Dr. Costello, Ms. Hagler, Mrs. Hoffacker, Mrs. Linkewich, Mrs. Raber, Mrs. Southwick, Mr. Wright
Nays: None
Abstain: None

11. **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

Motion to adopt all educational programs and practices established by the previous Board of Education, with the regulations promulgated thereunder, until such time as this present Board might wish to make changes.

Motion by Mrs. Hoffacker, Seconded by Ms. Hagler

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

Ayes: Dr. Chung, Dr. Costello, Ms. Hagler, Mrs. Hoffacker, Mrs. Linkewich, Mrs. Raber, Mrs. Southwick, Mr. Wright
Nays: None
Abstain: None

12. **EVALUATION MODELS**

Motion to adopt the following evaluation models for the Long Beach Island School District, until such time as this present Board might wish to make changes.

Teachers: Charlotte Danielson Framework for Teaching Evaluation Instrument
Principal: Strong Leader Effectiveness Performance Evaluation System

Motion by Mrs. Raber, Seconded by Ms. Hagler

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

Ayes: Dr. Chung, Dr. Costello, Ms. Hagler, Mrs. Hoffacker, Mrs. Linkewich, Mrs. Raber, Mrs. Southwick, Mr. Wright
Nays: None
Abstain: None

13. **RULES/REGULATIONS/ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVES/DISTRICT PLANS**

Motion to adopt all rules, regulations, administrative directives, and district plans, including, but not limited to, the District Procedure Manual and Internal Controls, Technology Plan, School Emergency Management Plans, Code of Student Conduct, Purchasing Manual, Long Range Facility Plan, Comprehensive Maintenance Plan, Asbestos Hazardous Emergency Response Act, Integrated Pest Management, and Indoor Air Quality plan. The Board reserves the right after review, to amend, supplement, or rescind any of the rules, regulations, plans, and administrative directives.

Motion by Mrs. Hoffacker, Seconded by Ms. Hagler

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

Ayes: Dr. Chung, Dr. Costello, Ms. Hagler, Mrs. Hoffacker, Mrs. Linkewich, Mrs. Raber, Mrs. Southwick, Mr. Wright

Nays: None

Abstain: None

14. **BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR AUTHORIZATION**

Motion that the Board of Education approve the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to approve bids, approve account transfers, pay bills, approve construction change orders and approve travel in accordance with policies 6471 and 3240, Board member Travel Expenses; Staff Travel Expenses and N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12, in between board meetings on an emergency basis with lists of such bids, transfers, payments, construction change orders and travel subject to presentation and ratification at the next business meeting of the board.

Motion by Mrs. Hoffacker, Seconded by Ms. Hagler

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

Ayes: Dr. Chung, Dr. Costello, Ms. Hagler, Mrs. Hoffacker, Mrs. Linkewich, Mrs. Raber, Mrs. Southwick, Mr. Wright

Nays: None

Abstain: None

15. **SUPERINTENDENT'S AUTHORIZATION**

Motion that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools or his designee to employ school personnel to fill vacancies in existing job classifications as they may occur in between board meetings on an emergency basis with a list of those employed subject to presentation and ratification at the next business meeting of the board.

Motion by Mrs. Raber, Seconded by Ms. Hagler

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

Ayes: Dr. Chung, Dr. Costello, Ms. Hagler, Mrs. Hoffacker, Mrs. Linkewich, Mrs. Raber, Mrs. Southwick, Mr. Wright

Nays: None

Abstain: None

16. **BANKING SERVICES**

RESOLVED, the Long Beach Island Board of Education approves the following as its official depositories for 2026:

Ocean First Bank

- General Operating Account
- Capital Reserve Account
- Payroll Salary Account
- Payroll Agency Account
- Unemployment Trust Account
- Cafeteria Account

Motion by Mrs. Hoffacker, Seconded by Ms. Hagler

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

Ayes: Dr. Chung, Dr. Costello, Ms. Hagler, Mrs. Hoffacker, Mrs. Linkewich, Mrs. Raber, Mrs. Southwick, Mr. Wright

Nays: None

Abstain: None

17. **AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN CHECKS**

Motion required to authorize the signing of checks for 2026 as follows:

Required Account Signers for General Account (need 3 out of 5)

- Board President
- Business Administrator/Board Secretary
- Treasurer of School Monies
- Superintendent
- Principal

Motion by Mrs. Hoffacker, Seconded by Ms. Hagler

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

Ayes: Dr. Chung, Dr. Costello, Ms. Hagler, Mrs. Hoffacker, Mrs. Linkewich, Mrs. Raber, Mrs. Southwick, Mr. Wright

Nays: None

Abstain: None

18. **PETTY CASH ACCOUNT**

Motion to authorize maintaining the following petty cash account for 2026:

Board Office: \$250

Motion by Mrs. Raber, Seconded by Ms. Hagler

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

Ayes: Dr. Chung, Dr. Costello, Ms. Hagler, Mrs. Hoffacker, Mrs. Linkewich, Mrs. Raber, Mrs. Southwick, Mr. Wright

Nays: None

Abstain: None

19. **BOARD COMMITTEES (Tabled)**

Motion, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve 2026 Board Committees as presented.

Motion by Mrs. Hoffacker, Seconded by Ms. Hagler

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

Ayes: Dr. Chung, Dr. Costello, Ms. Hagler, Mrs. Hoffacker, Mrs. Linkewich, Mrs. Raber, Mrs. Southwick, Mr. Wright

Nays: None

Abstain: None

20. **CODE OF ETHICS**

RESOLVED, that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A: 12-24.1, the members of the Long Beach Island Board of Education shall abide by the following Code of Ethics for School Board Members:

- A. I will uphold and enforce all laws, rules and regulations of the State Board of Education, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes should be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.
- B. I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will seek to develop and maintain public schools which meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex or social standing.
- C. I will confine my board action to policy making, planning, and appraisal, and I will help to frame policies and plans only after the board has consulted those who will be affected by them.
- D. I will carry out my responsibility, not to administer the schools, but, together with my fellow board members, to see that they are well run.
- E. I will recognize that authority rests with the board of education and will make no personal promises nor take any private action that may compromise the board.
- F. I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or for the gain of friends.
- G. I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals or the schools. In all other matters, I will provide accurate information and, in concert with my fellow board members, interpret to the staff the aspirations of the community for its schools.
- H. I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the chief administrative officer.
- I. I will support and protect school personnel in proper performance of their duties.
- J. I will refer all complaints to the chief administrative officer and will act on the complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution.

Motion by Mrs. Hoffacker, Seconded by Ms. Hagler

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

Ayes: Dr. Chung, Dr. Costello, Ms. Hagler, Mrs. Hoffacker, Mrs. Linkewich, Mrs. Raber, Mrs. Southwick, Mr. Wright
Nays: None
Abstain: None

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF CODE OF ETHICS FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

(The Business Administrator will distribute at the meeting for signature.)

21. **Continue with Board of Education Regular Meeting**

22. **PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:** None

23. **BOARD CORRESPONDENCE:** None

24. **School Board Recognition Month in New Jersey**

WHEREAS, The New Jersey School Boards Association has declared January 2026 to be School Board Recognition Month, a time when all residents can acknowledge the contributions made by our local school board members; and

WHEREAS, The Long Beach Island Board of Education is one of 581 local school boards in New Jersey, which sets policies and oversees operations for public school districts; and

WHEREAS, The Long Beach Island Board of Education embraces the goal of high-quality education for all New Jersey public school students; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's local school boards help determine the educational goals for approximately 1.4 million children in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's 5,000 local school board members, who receive no remuneration for their services, act as advocates for public school students as they work with administrators, teachers and parents for the betterment of public education; and

WHEREAS, School boards strive to provide the resources necessary to meet the needs of all students, including those with special needs; and

WHEREAS, Boards of education provide accountability to the public; they communicate the needs of the school district to the public; and they convey to school administrators the public's expectations for the schools; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey can take pride in its schools, which rank among the nation's best in key achievement indicators such as the National Assessment of Educational Progress scores, and the preparation for college through advanced placement offerings and SAT assessments; Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Long Beach Island Board of Education, does hereby recognize the services of local school board members throughout New Jersey as we join communities statewide in observing January 2026 as SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Long Beach Island Board of Education urges all New Jersey citizens to work with their local boards of education and public school staff toward the advancement of our children's education.

Motion by Mrs. Hoffacker, Seconded by Ms. Hagler

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

Ayes:	Dr. Chung, Dr. Costello, Ms. Hagler, Mrs. Hoffacker, Mrs. Linkewich, Mrs. Raber, Mrs. Southwick, Mr. Wright
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None

25. **PERSONNEL**

A. Stipend Positions

Motion to approve stipend/XCOMP positions for the 2025/2026 school year with approved timesheets:

- **After-School Drama Club:** 2 Teacher, up to 20 hours each @ \$55/hour: Janelle Gosline and Julia Townsend

Motion by Mrs. Hoffacker, Seconded by Ms. Hagler

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

Ayes:	Dr. Chung, Dr. Costello, Ms. Hagler, Mrs. Hoffacker, Mrs. Linkewich, Mrs. Raber, Mrs. Southwick, Mr. Wright
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None

26. **BUILDING/GROUNDS/TRANSPORTATION/FINANCE**

A. Travel and Training

Motion to approve the following travel/training expenses.

Date	Name	Position	Workshop	Location	Cost
1/14/2026	Stephanie Ivancich	Teacher	Wellness Grant Workshop	Stockton University, Atlantic City NJ	Mileage
2/13/2026	Suzanne D'Arcangelo	Teacher	Myo & Speech Therapy: Bridging the GAP	Virtual	Registration \$70
3/26/26	Suzanne D'Arcangelo	Teacher	Best Practices in School Age Stuttering	Stockton University, Galloway, NJ	7 ETTC Credits and mileage

Motion by Mrs. Hoffacker, Seconded by Ms. Hagler

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

Ayes: Dr. Chung, Dr. Costello, Ms. Hagler, Mrs. Hoffacker, Mrs. Linkewich, Mrs. Raber, Mrs. Southwick, Mr. Wright

Nays: None

Abstain: None

27. EDUCATIONAL

A. Preschool Tuition

Motion to establish Preschool tuition rates for the 2026-2027 school year as follows:

Full-Day PreK: \$4,000 (Transportation may be provided for resident students only.)

Half-Day PreK: \$3,000 (Transportation may be provided for resident students only.)

B. 2026-2027 Choice Students

Motion to approve 42 Choice students for the 2026-2027 school year.

Motion to approve Educational items A-B:

Motion by Mrs. Raber, Seconded by Mrs. Hoffacker

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

Ayes: Dr. Chung, Dr. Costello, Ms. Hagler, Mrs. Hoffacker, Mrs. Linkewich, Mrs. Raber, Mrs. Southwick, Mr. Wright

Nays: None

Abstain: None

28. UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

A. Grant Acceptance

Motion to accept the following grant. There will be no financial impact to the Board of Education from these grants:

- Resiliency Grant in the amount of \$1,000 through AtlantiCare Healthy Schools, Healthy Children as a "One Book, One School" reading program within our school.

B. Fortuna Park Escrow Agreement (Tabled)

Motion to accept an escrow agreement dated December 11, 2025 in relation to the sale of the Long Beach Island Grade School.

Motion by Mrs. Hoffacker, Seconded by Ms. Hagler

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

Ayes: Dr. Chung, Dr. Costello, Ms. Hagler, Mrs. Hoffacker, Mrs. Linkewich, Mrs. Raber, Mrs. Southwick, Mr. Wright

Nays: None

Abstain: None

29. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A. **Dates to Remember**

January 8: Rock Out for Reading Assembly
January 15: PTA meeting, Terrace Tavern, 6 p.m.
January 19: School Closed
January 20: Board of Education Meeting, Long Beach Island Elementary School, 6:30 p.m.
January 30: 2nd Marking Period Ends
February 2: 3rd Marking Period Begins
February 5: The Secret World of Robots Assembly
February 13: Early Dismissal - Teacher Inservice
February 16: School Closed
February 19: PTA Meeting, LBI Elementary School, 4 p.m.
February 17: Board of Education Meeting, Long Beach Island Elementary School, 6:30 p.m.

30. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** A comment was provided concerning the intended uses outlined in the grant application.

31. **RESOLUTION:** Resolved that the Board of Education will open its next scheduled meeting (Executive Session) on January 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the gymnasium of the Long Beach Island Elementary School, 200 South Barnegat Avenue, Surf City, NJ 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 6:30 p.m. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., as amended by P.L.2020, c.11, and Section 8, c. 34 (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-18.11) the Board may conduct a public meeting remotely by electronic means during a state of emergency so long as reasonable public notice and provision for public input is made under the circumstances.

Motion by Mrs. Hoffacker, Seconded by Ms. Hagler

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

Ayes: Dr. Chung, Dr. Costello, Ms. Hagler, Mrs. Hoffacker, Mrs. Linkewich, Mrs. Raber, Mrs. Southwick, Mr. Wright

Nays: None

Abstain: None

32. **EXECUTIVE SESSION (If Needed):** N/A

33. **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 pm.

Motion by Mrs. Raber, Seconded by Mrs. Hoffacker. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meghan Lee
Business Administrator/Board Secretary