

**LONG BEACH ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 20, 2026
Long Beach Island Elementary School Gymnasium
Executive (Closed) Session 6:00 PM – 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 20, 2026. Board President, Mrs. Southwick called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT: Adequate and electronic notice of this meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. The notice has been posted in the 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. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Dr. Chung, Dr. Costello, Mrs. Linkewich, Ms. Hagler, Mrs. Southwick

Absent: Mrs. Hoffacker, Mrs. Raber, Mr. Wright

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

4. **REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:** Dr. Kopack thanked the staff and shared updates on recent and upcoming activities. He reported on the observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Drama Club activities, and an upcoming presentation by Hackensack Meridian Health. He also highlighted STEAM Club initiatives and the NJASA TechSpo, which featured coding and robotics.

5. **REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL:** Mr. Birney thanked the PTA and said he looks forward to a stretch of uninterrupted instruction with continued student progress.

6. **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT:** Mrs. Southwick expressed her appreciation to the teachers and everyone who came out.

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

8. **BOARD CORRESPONDENCE:** None

9. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

RESOLVED, THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:

December 16, 2025:	Regular and Closed Session
January 6, 2026:	Reorganization/Regular (Public) Session

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

Motion by Ms. Hagler, Seconded by Mrs. Linkewich

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

Ayes:	Dr. Chung, Dr. Costello, Mrs. Linkewich, Ms. Hagler, Mrs. Southwick
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None

10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- PTA Liaison: Ms. Hagler reported a brief update on current fundraisers and the upcoming meeting.

11. **PERSONNEL**

A. Stipend Positions

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

- **STEAM Club:** 2 Teachers, 3 hours each @ \$55/hour: Laura Daly and Cathy McBride
- **Drama Club:** 2 Teachers, 10 hours each @ \$55/hour: Janelle Gosline and Julia Townsend

B. Leave of Absence

Motion to approve unpaid medical leave of absence for employee #4274, beginning January 13, 2026 until further notice.

C. Leave of Absence

Motion to approve an unpaid leave of absence for employee #4274 from March 2, 2026 through March 6, 2026.

Motion by Ms. Hagler, Seconded by Mrs. Linkewich

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

Ayes: Dr. Chung, Dr. Costello, Mrs. Linkewich, Ms. Hagler, Mrs. Southwick

Nays: None

Abstain: None

12. **POLICY**

A. Policy/Regulation Approval

Motion to approve the second reading and adopt the following new and revised policies and regulations:

I. N.J.A.C. 6A:23A – Fiscal Accountability, Efficiency, and Budgeting Procedures

- P 0142.1 Nepotism (M) (Revised)
- P 0142.1C Nepotism – Charter School (M) (Revised)
- P 0174C Legal Services – Charter School (M) (Revised)
- P 0177C Professional Services – Charter School (M) (Revised)
- P 1220 Employment of Chief School Administrator (M) (Revised)
- P & R 1570C Internal Controls – Charter School (M) (Revised)

II. General Policy and Regulation Guide Updates

- P & R 1552 Sexual Harassment – Staff (M) (New)
- P & R 2530 Resource Materials (Revised)
- P & R 2535 Library Material (M) (New)
- P 3362 Sexual Harassment (M) (Abolished)
- R 3362 Sexual Harassment of Teaching Staff Members Complaint Procedure (Abolished)
- P 4352 Sexual Harassment (M) (Abolished)
- R 4352 Sexual Harassment of Support Staff Members Complaint Procedure (Abolished)
- P & R 9130 Public Complaints (Revised)

Motion by Ms. Hagler, Seconded by Mrs. Linkewich

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

Ayes: Dr. Chung, Dr. Costello, Mrs. Linkewich, Ms. Hagler, Mrs. Southwick
Nays: None
Abstain: None

13. BUILDING/GROUNDS/TRANSPORTATION/FINANCE

A. Financial Reports

1. Financial Reports of the Secretary to the Board of Education

Motion to approve financial reports for the month of December 2025.

- a. Report of the Secretary dated December 31, 2025
- b. Report of the Treasurer dated November 30, 2025 and December 31, 2025

2. Statement of Cash Balances

Motion to accept the Statement of Cash Balances for the month of December 2025 which are reconciled with the Board Secretary's Reports by fund for that month.

3. SBA Certification

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11 (c) 4, I certify that as of December 2025 no budgetary line item account has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11 (b).


_____, 2/18, 2026
Meghan Lee, School Business Administrator

B. Transfers

Motion to approve the December 2025 transfer report.

C. Bills List

Motion to approve the January 2026 Bills List, totaling \$288,853.88

D. Travel and Training

Motion to approve the following travel/training expenses.

Date	Name	Position	Workshop	Location	Cost
1/30/2026	LisaAnne Baumann	Human Resources/Payroll Coordinator	Mastering School District Payroll Workshop	MOESC	Registration \$199.00 Mileage

Motion by Ms. Hagler, Seconded by Mrs. Linkewich

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

Ayes: Dr. Chung, Dr. Costello, Mrs. Linkewich, Ms. Hagler, Mrs. Southwick
Nays: None
Abstain: None

14. EDUCATIONAL

A. HIB Report

Motion to accept the Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying report as presented in Executive Session.

- B. Student Safety Data System Report Period 1
Motion to approve the Student Safety Data System (SSDS) 2025-2026 Report Period 1 (September 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025) as presented.

Motion by Ms. Hagler, Seconded by Mrs. Linkewich

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

Ayes: Dr. Chung, Dr. Costello, Mrs. Linkewich, Ms. Hagler, Mrs. Southwick
Nays: None
Abstain: None

15. **UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Fortuna Park Escrow Agreement
Motion to accept an escrow agreement dated December 11, 2025 in relation to the sale of the Long Beach Island Grade School.
- B. Board Committees
Motion to approve the 2026 Board Committees as presented.

Motion by Ms. Hagler, Seconded by Mrs. Linkewich

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

Ayes: Dr. Chung, Dr. Costello, Mrs. Linkewich, Ms. Hagler, Mrs. Southwick
Nays: None
Abstain: None

16. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. Dates to Remember
January 30: 2nd Marking Period Ends and Techspo '26
February 2: 3rd Marking Period Begins
February 5: The Secret World of Robots Assembly
February 13: Early Dismissal - Teacher Inservice
February 16: School Closed - Presidents' Day
February 17: Board of Education Meeting, LBI Elementary School, 6:30 p.m.
February 19: PTA Meeting, LBI Elementary School, 4 p.m.

17. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

18. **RESOLUTION:** Resolved that the Board of Education will open its next scheduled meeting (Executive Session) on **February 17, 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 Ms. Hagler, Seconded by Mrs. Linkewich

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

Ayes: Dr. Chung, Dr. Costello, Mrs. Linkewich, Ms. Hagler, Mrs. Southwick
Nays: None
Abstain: None

Regular Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2026

19. **EXECUTIVE SESSION #2 (If Needed):** N/A
20. **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 pm.

Motion by Mrs. Linkewich, Seconded by Ms. Hagler. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meghan Lee
Business Administrator/Board Secretary