

LONG BEACH ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 17, 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 February 17, 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. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **OATH OF OFFICE**

The Oath of Office will be administered to the newly appointed Board member, Mr. TJ Fluehr who represents the following constituent district:

A. Harvey Cedars TJ Fluehr (term expires December 31, 2028)

4. **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.

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

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

5. **ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: Dr. Chung, Mrs. Hoffacker

Also Present: Dr. Peter Kopack, Superintendent
Meghan Lee, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Frank Birney, Principal/CST Director

6. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

A. Oh! Do You Know Sphero? (Techspo '26)

B. Grade 6 Student Representative

7. **REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT** – Dr. Kopack reported on grade level happenings.

8. **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT** – Mrs. Southwick thanked everyone for coming and showed her continued support for the teachers.

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

10. **BOARD CORRESPONDENCE:** None

11. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

January 20, 2026: Regular and Closed 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. Costello, Mr. Fluehr, Mrs. Linkewich, Mr. Wright, Ms. Hagler, Mrs. Southwick

Nays: None

Abstain: Mrs. Raber

12. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Building/Grounds/Transportation/Finance: Ms. Lee reported that the committee discussed a bus insurance claim, construction updates, and an amended architectural proposal.
- PTA Liaison: Ms. Hagler reported on the upcoming meeting date and enrichment planning.

13. **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 Mrs. Linkewich, Seconded by Ms. Hagler

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

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

14. **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 January 2026.

a. Report of the Secretary dated January 31, 2026

2. Statement of Cash Balances

Motion to accept the Statement of Cash Balances for the month of January 2026 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 January 2026 no budgetary line item account has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11 (b).



Meghan Lee, School Business Administrator

_____, 3/25, 2026

B. Transfers

Motion to approve the January 2026 transfer report.

C. Bills List

Motion to approve the February 2026 Bills List, totaling \$260,905.09

D. Travel and Training

Motion to approve the following travel/training expenses.

Date	Name	Position	Workshop	Location	Cost
2/26/2026	Dr. Kopack	Superintendent	Spring Testing Training	401 S. NY Rd. Galloway NJ	Mileage
3/25/2026 3/26/2026 3/27/2026	Brooke Mandarakas	Transportation Coordinator	NJSTS Annual Conference	Atlantic City, NJ	\$500 + Mileage
3/13/2026	Shelley Smith	Teacher	SRHS Scholarship Donor Breakfast	Manahawkin, NJ	No cost
3/3/2026	Patti Gerety Stephanie Ivancich Kim Maschi Jackie Ramilo	Teacher Teacher Teacher Teacher	I&RS Team Training	Online	7 ETTC Credits (total)

- E. Field Trip
Motion to approve the following field trips:

Date	Grade	Destination	Teacher in Charge	Trip Objective	Cost
6/4/2026	6	LBT Bayview Park	Rothstein/Gosline	Final Celebration	TBD

- F. Use of Facilities
Motion to approve use of facilities as follows, pending receipt of certificate of insurance:

- Stafford Soccer, Tuesdays and Thursdays, March-May

Motion by Mrs. Raber, Seconded by Ms. Hagler

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

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

15. **ANNUAL APPROVALS/CONTRACTS**

- A. Semi Waiver
Motion to approve submission of a waiver to the County Office of Education for participation in SEMI for the 2026-2027 school year. The waiver is for 40 students or fewer and the current projection of eligible students in the Long Beach Island School District is 12. SEMI is a federal reimbursement program through Medicaid for special education students who receive Medicaid. A waiver will protect against noncompliance for QSAC.
- B. Appointment of Medical Inspector
Motion to appoint Dr. Harry Larkin, MD, as medical inspector at a rate of \$300/hour and costs of vaccines for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

Motion by Ms. Hagler, Seconded by Mrs. Linkewich

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

Ayes: Dr. Costello, Mr. Fluehr, Mrs. Linkewich, Mr. Wright, Ms. Hagler, Mrs. Southwick
Nays: Mrs. Raber (Item B only)
Abstain: None

16. **EDUCATIONAL**

- A. HIB Report
Motion to accept the Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying report as presented in Executive Session.
- B. 2025-2026 School Calendar Revision
Motion to approve adjusting the 2025-2026 school calendar due to the snow day on January 26, 2026. February 16, 2026 is now a full day for staff and students.
- C. 2026-2027 School Calendar
Motion to approve the 2026-2027 school calendar.

Motion by Mrs. Raber, Seconded by Mrs. Linkewich

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

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

17. **UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Site Improvements Submission
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Long Beach Island Board of Education to approve the submission of the Site Improvements at Long Beach Island Elementary School to the New Jersey Department of Education, for review and Department approval of an "other capital project" with no state funding and amendment of the long-range facilities plan to be consistent with the project.

Further, the Board authorizes Spiezle Architectural Group Inc, to make the submission to the Department of Education on behalf of the district.

Be it further Resolved; the Board authorizes the School Business Administrator to solicit bids for the Site Improvements at Long Beach Island Elementary School.

Motion by Ms. Hagler, Seconded by Mrs. Linkewich

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

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

18. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. Dates to Remember
February 19: PTA Meeting, LBI Elementary School, 4 p.m.
February 23: PK and K Dental Health Program
February 25: Grades 1 & 2 Dental Health Program
March 13: PTA School Dance
March 16: Board of Education meeting (Preliminary Budget Review) @ 6:30 p.m.
- B. Project Child Find Required annual Project Child Find information is posted on our website for children between the ages of 3-14 who may have an educational, physical, mental, or emotional disability and may need special education services. Project CHILD FIND develops and distributes information to the public about early intervention services and special education programs throughout New Jersey.

C. Donations

- Thank you to Reynold's Garden Center for the donation of vegetable plants.
- Thank you to the LBIEA for supporting the local food drive with a donation of \$300.00 worth of needed supplies to help the St. Francis food pantry.

19. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

20. **RESOLUTION:** Resolved that the Board of Education will open its next scheduled meeting (Executive Session) on March 24, 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. Raber, Seconded by Mrs. Linkewich

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

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

21. **EXECUTIVE SESSION #2 (If Needed):** N/A

22. **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Meghan Lee
Business Administrator/Board Secretary