

LONG BEACH ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 24, 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 March 24, 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. **ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: None

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

4. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:** Dr. Kopack and Ms. Lee presented the Preliminary Budget Presentation.

5. **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT:** Mrs. Southwick congratulated Dr. Kopack for his nomination on Superintendent of the year for Ocean County.

6. **REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:** Dr. Kopack provided updates on Southern Regional scholarships, the PTA School Dance, a social media resilience presentation presented by the Ocean County Prosecutor’s Office, and the Drama Club play.

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:

February 17, 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 Mrs. Hoffacker, Seconded by Mrs. Raber

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

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

Nays: None

Abstain: Dr. Chung

10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Building/Grounds/Transportation/Finance: Mrs. Southwick reported the committee discussed architectural proposals and Kidscare.
- Curriculum: Dr. Kopack reported on internet safety; Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs; the 250th anniversary of the United States; TechSpo; professional development; NJSLA Adaptive; NJ School Performance Results; reward systems; iExcel; teacher evaluations and professional growth models; AI and future readiness; PTA enrichment programs; stipends; and SAIL leadership program.
- PTA Liaison: Ms. Hagler gave an update on upcoming events.

11. **PERSONNEL**

A. Substitute Personnel

Motion to approve the employment of substitute personnel for the 2025-2026 school year as listed below pending receipt of required paperwork and completion of required substitute orientation:

Susan Tatto Teacher/Paraprofessional

B. Letter of Intent to Retire

Motion to accept a letter of intent to retire from John Moroli, Custodian, effective August 1, 2026. Mr. Moroli has been employed in the district since 1991.

C. Letter of Resignation

Motion to accept a letter of resignation from Sarah Franka, School Social Worker, effective March 2, 2026. Ms. Franka has been employed in the district since 2017.

D. Stipend Positions

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

- **Yearbook Coordinator:** 1 teacher, up to 35 hours @ \$55/hour - Kera Freeman

Motion by Mrs. Hoffacker, Seconded by Mrs. Raber to approve Personnel items A-D:

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

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

12. **BUILDING/GROUNDS/TRANSPORTATION/FINANCE**

A. Budget 2026-2027

1. ADOPTION OF PRELIMINARY BUDGET 2026-2027

The Superintendent recommends approval to adopt the Preliminary Budget for 2026-2027:

BE IT RESOLVED that the tentative budget be approved for the 2026-2027 School Year using the 2026-2027 state aid figures and the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUES	TOTAL
2026-2027 Total Expenditures	\$14,894,701	\$68,446	\$14,963,147
Less: Anticipated Revenues	\$7,116,468	\$68,446	\$7,184,914
Taxes to be Raised	\$7,778,233	-	\$7,778,233

And to advertise said tentative budget in *The Press of Atlantic City* in accordance with the form required by the State Department of Education and according to law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held at the Long Beach Island Elementary School located at 200 Barnegat Avenue, Surf City, NJ 08008 on April 28, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2026-2027 School Year.

2. Travel Expenditures

WHEREAS, the Long Beach Island Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.2 et seq. Requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-1.2, which includes attendance at regularly scheduled in-state county meetings, Department or Association sponsored events or in-state professional development activities for which the registration fee does not exceed \$150 per employee or board member, where prior Board approval shall not be required unless the annual threshold for a staff member exceeds \$1,500 in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and

WHEREAS, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3 et seq. but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A: 23A-7.3 et seq. as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3 to a maximum expenditure of \$6,000 for all staff and board members.

3. Capital Reserve Withdrawal

That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED that the Long Beach Island Board of Education approves the Capital Reserve withdrawal for the 2026-2027 budget in the amount of \$6,000,000. The district intends to utilize these funds for:

Addition and Renovations at Long Beach Island Elementary School to the New Jersey Department of Education, DOE State Project #29-2760-020-21-1000

Renovations at Long Beach Island Elementary School to the New Jersey Department of Education, DOE State Project #29-2760-020-21-2000

4. Maintenance Reserve Withdrawal

That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED that the Long Beach Island Board of Education approves the Maintenance Reserve withdrawal pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A – 14.2 (d) for the 2026-2027 budget in the amount of \$100,000. The district intends to utilize these funds for:

Required Building Maintenance

Motion by Mrs. Hoffacker, Seconded by Mrs. Raber

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

B. Financial Reports

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

Motion to approve financial reports for the month of February 2026.

A. Report of the Secretary dated February 28, 2026

B. Report of the Treasurer dated January 31, 2026

C. Report of the Treasurer dated February 28, 2026

2. Statement of Cash Balances

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


_____, 4/29, 2026
Meghan Lee, School Business Administrator

C. Transfers

Motion to approve the February 2026 transfer report.

D. Bills List

Motion to approve the March 2026 Bills List, totaling \$387,495.81

E. Travel and Training

Motion to approve the following travel/training expenses.

Date	Name	Position	Workshop	Location	Cost
May 14, 2026	Bianca Aniski	School Nurse	Pediatric Seizures 101	Virtual	\$40

Regular Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2026

May 14, 2026	Denise Lake	School Nurse	Pediatric Seizures 101	Virtual	\$40
June 2, 2026	Karen Beetel	Teacher	Canva 1 for Beginners & Canva 2	Stockton University	\$188 registration & mileage
April 24, 2026	Meghan Lee	Business Administrator	Criminal History and School Bus Safety Training Program	Ocean County College	Mileage
May 5, 2026	LisaAnne Baumann	HR/Payroll	Criminal History and School Bus Safety Training Program	Stockton University	Mileage
May 5, 2026	Brooke Mandarakas	Transportation Coordinator	Criminal History and School Bus Safety Training Program	Stockton University	Mileage
April 21, 2026	Stephanie Ivancich, Kim Maschi, Suzanne D'Arcangelo, Patti Gerety, Jackie Ramilo, Bianca Aniski	Teacher Teacher Speech Pathologist Teacher Teacher School Nurse	Closing Out the I&RS Year	Virtual	7 ETTC Credits

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

Date	Grade	Destination	Teacher in Charge	Trip Objective	Cost
March 26, 2026	6	STAC, Stafford Intermediate	Gosline/ Rothstein	Sportsmanship Day	Transportation
May 1, 2025	3	Insectropolis and Winding River Park, Toms River	Freeman/ DiBiasi	Students will explore the characteristics, habitats, and importance of insects through hands-on experiences to deepen their understanding of life science concepts.	\$460 plus transportation

Motion by Mrs. Hoffacker, Seconded by Mrs. Raber

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

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

13. **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. June 11, 2026 and June 12, 2026 will be changed from early dismissal to full days of school.

Motion by Mrs. Hoffacker, Seconded by Mrs. Raber

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

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

14. **UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Settlement Agreement
BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve the settlement agreement with employee #4172, and authorize the President to execute the same on behalf of the Board.

Motion by Mrs. Hoffacker, Seconded by Mrs. Raber

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

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

- B. *Addendum* Long Range Facility Plan Amendment
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Long Beach Island Board of Education to approve the amendment of the Long-Range Facilities Plan to address the five-year reporting requirements and to be consistent with proposed school facilities projects. Further, the Board authorizes Spieze Architectural Group Inc., to make the submission to the Department of Education on behalf of the district.

- C. *Addendum* Amended Proposal for Architectural Services
WHEREAS, the Board of Education previously engaged Spieze Architects for architectural services related to district projects; and

WHEREAS, Spieze Architects has submitted an amended proposal to include additional scope of services necessary to support ongoing and expanded project needs; and

WHEREAS, the amended scope of services includes:

- Exterior stair replacement, as well as installation of a ramp and canopy at Door 2;
- Ceiling replacement in all remaining classrooms;
- Cabinetry and sink installation in all remaining classrooms;
- Ceiling and lighting replacement in the Media Center;
- Ceiling replacement in all hallways;
- Reconfiguration of the gymnasium and administrative spaces into Board of Education offices and faculty areas, including window replacement; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the amended proposal and determined that the additional services are necessary and in the best interest of the district;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the amended proposal from Spiezle Architects for architectural services, including the additional scope as presented; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate this agreement.

Motion by Ms. Hagler, Seconded by Mrs. Hoffacker

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

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

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Dates to Remember

March 25: Dress Rehearsal - Elephant and Piggie: We are in a Play, Jr 10am
March 26: Grade 6 Sportsmanship Day 9am
March 27: Elephant and Piggie: We are in a Play, Jr @ 6:00pm
April 1: STEAM Night 5pm
April 3: End of the 3rd Marking Period and early dismissal
April 6-10: Spring Break
April 13: Beginning of the 4th Marking Period
April 16: Skateboard Workshop
April 17: Report Cards Issued
April 23: PTA Meeting 4pm Media Center
April 28: Board of Education Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.

B. Kindergarten Registration 2026-2027

Kindergarten registration for the 2026-2027 school year will open on April 14th. Please contact the Long Beach Island Elementary School or visit the district website at www.lbischools.org for registration information.

C. 6th Grade Graduation Rescheduled

The 6th Grade Graduation ceremony will be held on Monday, June 15, 2026 at 6pm in the Long Beach Island Elementary School gymnasium.

16. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

- 17. RESOLUTION:** Resolved that the Board of Education will open its next scheduled meeting (Executive Session) on **April 28, 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. Hoffacker

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried:

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

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

19. **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 pm.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Meghan Lee
Business Administrator/Board Secretary