

LONG BEACH ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

Long Beach Island, New Jersey

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

The Board of Education of the Long Beach Island School District, Ocean County, met in executive session at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Ethel Jacobsen School, 200 Barnegat Avenue, Surf City, New Jersey on December 2, 2015, to discuss matters of Attorney-Client Privilege. All members were notified in writing of the meeting date. In accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law, the Long Beach Island Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting by having the date, time and place thereof posted in *The Press of Atlantic City*.

The special meeting was called to order by the Board President, Mrs. Bott at 6:30 p.m.

The following members of the Board of Education were present:

Jennifer Bott	representing	Ship Bottom
Steve Evert	representing	Long Beach Township
Allyn Kain	representing	Surf City
Kristy Raber	representing	Surf City
Colette Southwick	representing	Long Beach Township
James Donahower	representing	Harvey Cedars (arrived at 6:13 p.m.)
Marilyn Wasilewski	representing	Barnegat Light
Georgene Hartmann	representing	Long Beach Township
Bonnie Picaro	representing	Long Beach Township

Absent: None

Also present:

Peter Kopack, Superintendent
Enrico Siano, Interim SBA/Board Secretary
Dennis McKeever, Esq. (left at 7:15)
Anthony Sciarrillo, Esq. (arrived at 7:10 p.m.)
Frank Birney, Principal

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Roll call was taken by Mr. Siano.

Adequate Notice of Meeting: Adequate Notice of Meeting statement was read by Mrs. Bott.

Mrs. Bott addressed the public with a written statement.

Mission Statement: Mr. Donahower read the Long Beach Island School District Mission Statement.

Presentation on School Consolidation: Mrs. Bott, Dr. Kopack, Mr. Siano, Mrs. Southwick, and Mr. Birney presented the PowerPoint Presentation to the public. Mrs. Bott noted that there was a change to the slide entitled, "Renovate Both Schools." Remove 1.4 million soft cost.

Public Comment on Agenda Item:

Fran Lawlor, LBIEA President, asked questions/commented on the following:

- Read a written statement on behalf of the teachers in support of school consolidation
- Spoke about student interaction following Superstorm Sandy

Suzanne Gilbert, Surf City, asked questions/commented on the following:

- Read a written statement as a former teacher in the Long Beach Island School District
- Loss of Programs for students

Walter Orosemont, Ship Bottom, asked questions/commented on the following:

- Interaction of students
- Bullying
- Bus location on EJ plan

Jen Begonia, Barnegat Light and LBI PTA Vice President, asked questions/commented on the following:

- Thanked the BOE
- Consolidation opportunities
- Transition Team

Bob Butkus, Ship Bottom, asked questions/commented on the following:

- Price for EJ include Ship Bottom lot?
- Seek more than 2.5 million?
- Two gyms necessary for EJ School?
- Appraisal on Ship Bottom property
- Complimented Education Association
- Use of LBI Grade School after Superstorm Sandy and future use as safe shelter
- Affordable Housing – gave information to BOE

Mr. Sciarrillo discussed the deed restriction on EJ School property.

Joyce Bartlett, Surf City, asked questions/commented on the following:

- How was sale price for EJ School determined?
- Comparison of sale of schools—savings vs. cost
- District assets

Peter Rossi, Ship Bottom, asked questions/commented on the following:

- Complimented teachers and students
- Referendum on keeping both schools open
- LBI School used after Superstorm Sandy
- LBI School—snow plowing by Borough of Ship Bottom

William Huelsenbeck, Mayor of Ship Bottom, asked questions/commented on the following:

- Consolidation
- Complimented teachers
- Upgrades at EJ School
- Funding of upgrades at EJ School

- Surf City purchase offer letter
- Negotiating with BOE
- Bus garage
- Exploring options from towns
- Structural repairs at the LBI Grade School
- Neglect of maintenance at LBI Grade School
- Possible bidder project—burden on Ship Bottom
- Affordable housing—increased enrollment
- Move to LBI School, repurpose EJ School
- Ship Bottom letter—purchase of land adjacent to EJ School
- Offer for Ship Bottom property bordering EJ School
- Land Trust
- How bid can be made on adjacent property to EJ School?

Frances Hodgson, Surf City, asked questions/commented on the following:

- Offers on EJ property: 2.5 mil from Surf City, 2.6 mil from Ship Bottom and offer of funds from Long Beach Township
- 2% Budget Cap (exclusions)
- Offer for Ship Bottom property adjacent to EJ School
- Quorum law

Mary Alice Basile, Ship Bottom, asked questions/commented on the following:

- Residency of Teachers and Board Members

Joseph Mancini, Mayor of Long Beach Township, asked questions/commented on the following:

- Thanked the BOE
- Left out property value of Ship Bottom lot adjacent to EJ School in presentation-presentation inaccurate
- BOE negotiate with Surf City and Ship Bottom
- Complimented teachers
- Bus parking on EJ plan

Mary Alexander, Ship Bottom, asked questions/commented on the following:

- Bus parking outside—increased expenses for cleaning snow during winter

Joe Valyo, Ship Bottom, asked questions/commented on the following:

- Appreciated BOE process
- Bus garage
- EJ School location to bridge closer than LBI School for evacuation
- LBI School certified as safe shelter—is EJ School also?
- Gym elevation and safe shelter
- New gym needed—declining enrollment

Dawn Kennedy-Little, Long Beach Township, asked questions/commented on the following:

- Reference materials used to come to consolidation conclusion?
- Presentation—advantages and disadvantages to all choices

Bill Hodgson, Surf City, asked questions/commented on the following:

- Presentation numbers slanted
- Decision already made?
- Ship Bottom property sale adjacent to EJ School not factored into presentation
- Surplus—why services cut
- Negotiate—Surf City and Ship Bottom

Barbara Wright, Surf City, asked questions/commented on the following:

- Concerns with EJ property if sold—housing units on property? Asked Surf City Council—no answer

William Mills, Ship Bottom, asked questions/commented on the following:

- Loss of playground if LBI School property sold

Rick McDonough, Ship Bottom, asked questions/commented on the following:

- Cost to LBI School District for consolidation studies
- Comparison of June and December presentations
- Neglect of maintenance at LBI Grade School
- Required repairs vs. optional for EJ and LBI
- Talk to towns
- Structural problems at LBI School
- Transparency
- Referendum on sale of LBI School

Ken Flynn, Ship Bottom, asked questions/commented on the following:

- Facilities Comparison—positives and negatives
- Keep both schools

Ron Kraft, Ship Bottom, asked questions/commented on the following:

- Complimented BOE
- Accurate drawings in presentation?
- LBI School building asset to district
- Repurpose EJ School
- Decision timeline

John Hay, Ship Bottom, asked questions/commented on the following:

- Student mentoring
- Presentation: EJ and LBI single site solutions

Karen Beutel, North Beach, asked questions/commented on the following:

- Integration of older and younger students—positive experience

Sharon Dugan, Ship Bottom, asked questions/commented on the following:

- Talk with Mayor Huelsenbeck?
- Requested a BOE motion to open dialogue with Mayors

Jonathan Oldham, Mayor of Harvey Cedars, asked questions/commented on the following:

- Is the sale of LBI School a done deal?
- Requested that BOE talk to Surf City and Ship Bottom Mayors

Mrs. Bott gave a review of previous meetings with the Mayors.

Stacey Fuessinger, Ship Bottom, asked questions/commented on the following:

- June presentation—5 mil bid for EJ property
- Prior request for BOE to meet with Mayors

Don Kangelosi, Ship Bottom, asked questions/commented on the following:

- Requested December 2nd meeting minutes prior to the next BOE meeting

Bill Kunz, Long Beach Township, asked questions/commented on the following:

- Complimented BOE on presentation
- Possible legal challenge from Borough of Ship Bottom over sale of school
- Meeting district's financial needs for consolidation—Mayors and taxpayers
- Repurpose EJ School
- Choice
- No more data—make decision

Steve Moser, Ship Bottom, asked questions/commented on the following:

- Thanked the BOE and teachers
- Noted time presentation was posted on district website
- Meet with Mayors of Ship Bottom and Surf City
- Requested no vote by BOE at the December 15th meeting
- Transparency
- EJ property: negotiation of property, stipulations for use of property

Mr. Sciarrillo spoke about presenting questions to BOE in advance of the meetings.

Willie Kahl, Ship Bottom, asked questions/commented on the following:

- Fear that BOE is missing the big picture
- Selling LBI School at low real estate market
- Open space
- Communication with Mayors
- Comparison of June 2nd presentation and December 2nd presentation
- Affordable housing

Susan Hughes, Ship Bottom, asked questions/commented on the following:

- Appreciate BOE's time
- Bidders development plans
- Bidding process

Mr. Sciarrillo spoke about proposals for purchase of schools, bidder review and parameters, and referendum.

At approximately 9:35 p.m., a motion was made by Marilyn Wasilewski, seconded by Colette Southwick to end public comment. All in favor.

Mr. Evert confirmed with Mr. Sciarrillo the BOE process to approve the sale of a school.

A motion was made by Bonnie Picaro, seconded by Georgene Hartmann to approve meeting with the Mayors of the Long Beach Island Consolidated School District to discuss the potential sale of a school and means to move forward with school consolidation.

Discussion: Board Members expressed their views on the sale of the Long Beach Island Grade School and school consolidation.

Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried:

	8 ayes
	1 nay (Wasilewski)

The Board returned to Executive Session. No action was be taken.

At 10 p.m. a motion was made by Colette Southwick and seconded by Steve Evert to adjourn. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathy Sheplin, Assistant Board Secretary