

Bass River Elementary School
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 19, 2020

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **RECOGNITION**

“This is to advise those present at this meeting of the Board of Education of the Bass River School District, in the County of Burlington, that adequate notice of this meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act. The notice has been posted in the Board of Education Office. The notice was also mailed to the Press of Atlantic City, Asbury Park Press and filed with the Municipal Clerk of Bass River Township.”

3. **ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Allen, Mr. Foder, Mrs. Heinrichs, Mr. Schmidt

ABSENT: 0

Others Present: Mrs. Siobhan Grayson, Principal/Superintendent
Mr. Jonathan Yates, Board Secretary
Mr. Nicholas Brown, Business Administrator
Mr. Paul Kalac, Board Solicitor

4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

5. **MOTION TO AMEND AGENDA**

Motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Mrs. Heinrichs and carried by voice vote to amend agenda for Finance section letter I, change to 2020.

Voice Vote

Ayes: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Allen, Mr. Foder, Mrs. Heinrichs, Mr. Schmidt

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Mrs. Heinrichs, seconded by Mr. Foder and carried by voice vote to approve the minutes February 18, 2020 Regular Meeting ([Attachment #1](#)), February 18, 2020 Executive Minutes ([Attachment #1a](#)), March 3, 2020 Special Meeting ([Attachment #1b](#)), and the March 3, 2020 Executive Meeting ([Attachment #1c](#)).

Voice Vote

Ayes: Mr. Allen, Mr. Foder, Mrs. Heinrichs, Mr. Schmidt

Nays: 0

Abstain: Mrs. Adams

7. **BOARD PRESENTATION**

a. Financial Recap - Mr. Brown

- Mr. Brown provided a presentation to the Board and public, highlighting the School Funding Reform Act and District historical financials.

b. Send/Receive Presentation - Mrs. Grayson

- Mrs. Grayson provided a presentation to the Board and public outlining the send/receive agreement and how it will afford a proactive means to provide more educational opportunities for Bass River students in light of the financial challenges facing the District.
- c. Budget Presentation - Mr. Brown & Mr. Yates
- Mr. Yates provided the Board and public a presentation outlining the send/receive agreement budget as well as current expenses.

8. **REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

- a. Superintendent's Update
- Mrs. Grayson updated the Board and public on how the school has responded to the current Coronavirus (Covid-19) situation. She thanked the Board, administration and both Burlington and Ocean County Superintendents and health departments for their guidance and support.
 - Mrs. Grayson fielded a question on how the District will handle the education of students if school should close due to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, explaining that she will follow the guidance of both Burlington and Ocean County DOE and health departments.
- b. NJSBA CSA Evaluation Process
- c. Attendance Report ([Attachment #2](#))
- d. HIB Report:
- i. February: 0 Reports/Investigations
- e. Safety & Security Drill Report:
- i. Fire Drill: 2/28/2020
 - ii. Safety & Security Drill: Lockdown (Active Shooter) 2/27/2020

f. Enrollment

Out of District	1	3-Russomanno	9
PS-Schneider	5	4-Manzer	11
K-Nino	10	5-Wallis	12
1-Gouveia	15	6-Kraus	21
2-Callan	10		
		Total	94

9. **FINANCE**

Motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Mrs. Heinrichs and carried by roll call vote to approve the following Finance items as listed A through I:

- A. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve all Line Item Transfers and Adjustments as per attachments. ([Attachment #4](#))
- B. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve all bills and claims for March 17, 2020 which have been examined by a member of the board and are presented for approval. ([Attachment # 3](#))
- C. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the January Board Secretary's Monthly Certification: Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 3, that as of January 2020, no major budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the Bass River Township Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1 and N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.2, and no budgetary line item has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (a)1. In accordance with

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to advertise said tentative budget in The Press of Atlantic City in accordance with the form suggested by the State Department of Education and according to law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a public meeting be held in the Bass River Elementary School Library, New Gretna, New Jersey on April 30, 2020 for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2020-2021 School Year.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Mr. Allen, Mr. Foder (yes with the exception of the bill to Weiner Law Group)
Mrs. Heinrichs, Mr. Schmidt

Nays: 0

Abstain: Mrs. Adams

Discussion

- Mr. Foder asked a question regarding an item on the bills list regarding a current Board litigation. Mr. Yates explained he could not go into further detail due to litigation.
- A local resident (Mr. Naples) attempted to comment, but was told his comments must be shared during public comment only.

10. **SEND/RECEIVE AGREEMENT**

Motion by Mrs. Heinrichs, seconded by Mr. Schmidt and carried by roll call vote to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Bass River Township Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as “Board”) operates a prekindergarten through sixth grade school district; and

WHEREAS, the Board is experiencing financial distress and declining enrollment; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that it does not have the resources to provide its students with a thorough and efficient education during the 2020-2021 school year and the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:38-8 authorizes any board of education to enter into a sending-receiving relationship with another district whereby it sends its pupils to the receiving district’s schools for one grade or more in exchange for tuition payment; and

WHEREAS, the Little Egg Harbor Township School District operates a prekindergarten through sixth grade school district; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to explore appropriate alternatives for educating its students, the Board retained Southern Regional Institute & Educational Technology Training Center (“SRI & ETTC”) of Stockton University for the purpose of conducting a feasibility study on entering into a sending-receiving relationship with the Little Egg Harbor Board of Education (“Little Egg Harbor”); and

WHEREAS, the results of the feasibility study indicated that the Board’s prekindergarten through sixth grade students could receive a thorough and efficient education at Little Egg Harbor; and;

WHEREAS, at the Board’s March 3, 2020 special meeting, the Board accepted the feasibility study conducted by SRI & ETTC; and

WHEREAS, Little Egg Harbor has expressed a desire to enter into a send-receive agreement with the Board in which it will educate the Board's prekindergarten through sixth grade school district on a tuition basis; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to enter into a sending-receiving agreement with Little Egg Harbor to send its prekindergarten through sixth grade students to Little Egg Harbor beginning in the 2020-2021 school year.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board has determined that its prekindergarten through sixth grade students can receive a thorough and efficient education at Little Egg Harbor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board will enter into an appropriate sending-receiving agreement whereby Little Egg Harbor will receive the Board's prekindergarten through sixth grade students beginning in the 2020-2021 school year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board authorizes its legal counsel to prepare and negotiate a sending-receiving agreement with Little Egg Harbor.

Roll Call Vote

- Ayes:** Mrs. Adams (upon condition of meeting with legal counsel and meetings with the public before entering into agreement), Mr. Schmidt (upon condition of meeting with legal counsel and meetings with the public before entering into agreement).
Nays: Mr. Allen, Mr. Foder
Abstain: Mrs. Heinrichs

Discussion

- A local community member (Mr. Naples) wished to speak at this time, but was reminded that the Board must conduct their business first and the public will have the opportunity to speak during public forum.
- Mr. Foder requested to make a motion to table this vote. Hearing no second the Board proceeded with the motion to approve. The Board Attorney provided guidance on this.

11. **FACILITIES**

Motion by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Foder and carried by roll call vote to approve the following Facilities items as listed:

- A. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve a Major Amendment to the Long Range Facility Plan to provide for security enhancements.

Roll Call Vote

- Ayes:** Mrs. Adams, Mr. Allen, Mr. Foder, Mrs. Heinrichs
Nays: Mr. Schmidt
Abstain:

12. **TRAVEL/TRAINING**

Motion by Mr. Allen seconded by Mrs. Heinrichs and carried by roll call vote to approve the following seminars/workshops and all associated costs:

Staff Name	Seminar / Workshop	Event Date	Cost
Mr. Kevin Foder, Board Member	NJSBA School Finance Conference Registration	February 28, 2020	\$99.00

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Allen, Mrs. Heinrichs, Mr. Schmidt

Nays: 0

Abstain: Mr. Foder

Discussion

- Mr. Yates reminded the Board that the April NJSBA training has been cancelled and therefore does not appear on the agenda.

FIELD TRIPS

Motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Mrs. Heinrichs and carried by roll call vote the following field trips as follows:

Grade (s)	Destination	Date	Time
6th	Pinelands Regional Middle School 7th Grade Orientation	Thursday, May 21st, 2020	8:50-1:30 (Sharing bus w/Eagleswood)
6th	Frog Pond Elementary School Interdistrict Field Day	Wednesday, May 27th, 2020	8:50-2:00
Band / Chorus Members	Pinelands Regional High School Regional Concert Dress Rehearsal	Thursday, June 11, 2020	8:45-1:00

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Allen, Mr. Foder, Mrs. Heinrichs, Mr. Schmidt

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Discussion

- Mr. Yates explained that these trips are being approved in the hope that they will occur, but he will notify the Board of any changes.

13. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The floor is now open to members of the public. The Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express with each statement made by a participant limited to three minutes as cited in Policy No. 0167. There is a sign-in sheet located on the podium. Please sign in before you speak.

- Mrs. Grayson requested permission from the Board to read a public comment from a staff member.
- Mr. Swanseen

- Expressed concerns regarding the send/receive agreement; the feasibility study and having Little Egg Harbor business administrators negotiating for Bass River Township. Would suggest independent review.
- Chris Naples
 - Wants the decision to be tabled due to the coronavirus situation. Bass River has no representation; conflict of interest with Little Egg Harbor.
- Ronald Nicklow
 - Would propose something sent to community through possible referendum; petition to see what the community feels about this decision.
- Brett Nicklow
 - Daughter loves attending this school.
- Mr. Brown invited members of the public to speak that are attending meeting virtually. Hearing none, he proceeded with the meeting.

14. **BOARD FORUM**

- Mr. Foder
 - Thanked everyone. We are going through something no one has ever faced right now. My hat's off to administration, worked very hard on budget. This is very stressful for everyone right now. He appreciates everyone's comments.
- Mrs. Adams
 - Appreciates public coming forward and sharing their concerns. We do appreciate all comments. Board is under great constraints with financial difficulty and must rely on experts and legal counsel. We take this very seriously. Stands firm on Little Egg Harbor school district. She thanks Mrs. Grayson, Mr. Yates and Mr. Brown for the presentation. She wishes everyone well.
- A community member was reminded that his comments should have been shared during public forum.

15. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion by Mr. Foder, seconded by Mrs. Heinrichs and carried by voice vote to approve the Board resolution to move to Executive Session.

Time: 11:03 am.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education meet in closed session to discuss matters as listed below. Item(s) so discussed will be disclosed to the public providing it does not violate New Jersey statutes and regulations regarding disclosure of information affecting this matter.

Voice Vote

Ayes: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Allen, Mr. Foder, Mrs. Heinrichs, Mr. Schmidt

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion by Mr. Foder, seconded by Mrs. Heinrichs and carried by voice vote to approve adjournment of Executive Session.

11:29 am.

Voice Vote

Ayes: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Allen, Mr. Foder, Mrs. Heinrichs, Mr. Schmidt

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

16. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Mr. Foder, seconded by Mr. Allen and carried by voice vote to approve that the Board adjourn the meeting.

adjourn at 11:30 am

Voice Vote

Ayes: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Allen, Mr. Foder, Mrs. Heinrichs, Mr. Schmidt

Nays: 0

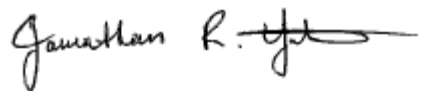
Abstain: 0

MEETING SCHEDULE

Special Meeting - March 25, 2020

Regular Meeting - April 17, 2020

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan R. Yates". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Jonathan Yates
Board Secretary