

Bass River Elementary School
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
(VIRTUAL MEETING)
March 25, 2020

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **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: 5:30 pm.

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. Foder, Mrs. Heinrichs, Mr. Schmidt

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

(Mr. Allen arrived at 5:33 pm)

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

5:52 pm.

Voice Vote

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

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

3. **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 and filed with the Municipal Clerk of Bass River Township.”

4. **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

5. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

6. **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.

- Joni Burns
 - Supports yes vote on send/receive agreement.
- Debbie Callan
 - Supports yes vote on send/receive agreement.
- Roseanne Lubrano
 - Supports yes vote on send/receive agreement.
- Jennifer Gouveia
 - Supports yes vote on send/receive agreement. Feels it would be in the benefit of students and staff.
- Chris Manzer
 - Read statement in support of send/receive agreement.
- Amanda Miller
 - Read letter from executive members of Bass River PTO in support of send/receive agreement.
- John Dondero
 - Supports yes vote on send/receive agreement.
- Ann Pomponio
 - Supports yes vote on send/receive agreement.
- Elizabeth Nino
 - Supports yes vote on send/receive agreement.
- Ginni Taylor
 - Supports yes vote on send/receive agreement.
- Ed Bourguignon
 - Supports yes vote on send/receive agreement.
- Regina Schneider
 - Supports yes vote on send/receive agreement.
- Angela Randall
 - Supports yes vote on send/receive agreement.
- Colleen McGettigan
 - Supports yes vote on send/receive agreement.
- Carl Swanseen
 - Expressed that after much research he supports a yes vote on send/receive agreement, but urges the Board to think of the community and the resources they have available.
- Christina Vezos
 - Supports yes vote on send/receive agreement.
- Allison Russomano
 - Supports yes vote on send/receive agreement. Read letter on behalf of Bass River Township Education Association members.
- Patty Martin
 - Supports yes vote on send/receive agreement.
- Chris Naples

- Although it's very tough, this is the right decision. Supports yes vote on send/receive agreement.
- Tracey Esposito
 - Supports yes vote on send/receive agreement.

7. **SEND/RECEIVE AGREEMENT**

Motion by Mr. Foder, 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, at its regular business meeting on March 19, 2020, the Board's Motion to approve the sending-receiving relationship with Little Egg Harbor failed; and

WHEREAS, as the Board is desirous of obtaining additional information regarding the feasibility of the sending-receiving relationship.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board has determined that due to fiscal restraints and declining enrollment, its prekindergarten through sixth grade students may no longer be able to receive a thorough and efficient education at Bass River; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board has determined that its prekindergarten through sixth grade students may be able to receive a thorough and efficient education at Little Egg Harbor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board wishes to further explore and consider the feasibility of entering 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; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED Bass River officials shall conduct at least two (2) internal meetings with its legal counsel to review and consider the terms and conditions of the sending-receiving agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that prior to voting on whether to approve the final sending-receiving agreement with Little Egg Harbor, Bass River will hold an advertised meeting to allow public comment on the sending-receiving relationship; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that after public comment on the final sending-receiving agreement with Little Egg Harbor, the Board will reconsider its March 19, 2020 Motion to approve the sending-receiving relationship with Little Egg Harbor.

Roll Call Vote

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

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Discussion

- Mr. Foder expressed that once the Board Attorney is finished. He would like the Board to seek an independent attorney for a further exploration.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

adjourn at 6:34 pm

Voice Vote

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

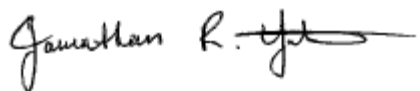
Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

MEETING SCHEDULE

Regular Meeting - April 17, 2020

Respectfully Submitted,



Jonathan Yates
Board Secretary