

Bass River Elementary School
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
February 22, 2022

1. **CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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 Meetings 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.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion by Mr. Foder, seconded by Mrs. Bitzberger and carried by voice vote approve the agenda as presented.

Voice Vote

Ayes: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Bitzberger, Mr. Foder, Mr. Williams

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Discussion

- Mr. Williams - Are we going to have issues with the advertisement of the time of this meeting? Mr. Williams stated the meeting was advertised as starting at 7:00 pm. And presented a copy of the ad from the Press of Atlantic City. Inquired if we are in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.
 - Mr. Kalac read the ad from the Press of Atlantic City. Mr. Foder read from the Township website regarding the same. Mr. Kalac was consulted, who advised the Board that they should continue the meeting.
- Mrs. Adams - Requested to add a resolution to the agenda regarding a petition to request representation on the Little Egg Harbor Board of Education.

4. **ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Bitzberger, Mr. Foder, Mr. Williams

ABSENT: 0

Others Present: Mr. Jonathan Yates, Board Secretary
Mr. Nicholas Brown, Business Administrator
Mr. Paul Kalac, Board Solicitor

5. **BOARD WORK SESSION**

- Audit Presentation - Mr. Jerry Conaty
 - Mr. Conaty from Holman Frenia & Allison provided the Board a presentation of the audit report. He highlighted areas of the audit report; Letter of Transmittal and Managements Discussion and Analysis, which give insight into the activity of the District and some of the initiatives that are going on. He explained there are no modifications necessary to bring the District into compliance with accounting standards, which is the best opinion they can give. He provided information on Fund Balance at year end.

- Mr. Foder - asked Mr. Conaty to explain the Management Rep Letter.
 - Mr. Conaty provided an explanation.
- Mrs. Adams - asked what the excess surplus was for the budget year 2022-2023.
- Mr. Williams - Ask what the cost per pupil is for Bass River students to attend Little Egg Harbor school.
- Mrs. Bitzberger - Can you actually produce a per pupil cost for Bass River students?
 - Mr. Brown advised that we will provide a per pupil cost for Little Egg Harbor and a tuition cost per pupil to attend Little Egg Harbor.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- [Open Board Seat](#) - Bass River Residents
 - Deadline has been extended until Thursday, March 10, 2022.
 - Mrs. Adams - Does this reflect the last day before it goes to the County Superintendent?
 - Mr. Brown advised that it will close, but he will check the actual date.
- Update on Sale of School Building
 - Mr. Foder - Attended a township meeting and the township stated they have been attempting to gather information from Mr. Brown.
 - Mr. Brown stated and Mrs. Adams agreed that they had a meeting with the township and provided a binder to the township with information on the building. The township has not followed up with Mr. Brown.
 - A discussion took place regarding the township's potential desire for the building.
 - Mrs. Bitzberger clarified her misunderstanding? Is there a minimum bid on the school building?
 - We have held 2 walkthroughs already.
 - 2 more scheduled this week.
 - 21,000+ views.
- Dumpsters at School - Donation Request
 - Township is requesting we donate the dumpster to them.
- Potential Buyer Walk-Throughs
 - As outlined above, multiple walkthroughs have been scheduled.
- Shared Services Process
 - Mr. Foder - What if the school is not sold by then? Are we going to put that responsibility on them?
 - Mr. Brown confirmed the affirmative.
 - Mr. Williams - Asked Mr. Kalac if he has anything in writing regarding the termination of the Shared Services agreement.
 - Mr. Kalac advised that he does indeed have this in writing. Mr. Kalac read the certified resolution.
 - Mr. Williams - Asked if there was a resolution that was discussed in public?
 - Mrs. Adams - inquired about the same.
 - Mr. Kalac advised that he does not know if there was a resolution.
 - Mr. Foder - Asked what has changed in the last two years and why the Business Administrators can no longer continue the agreement?
 - Mr. Kalac advised Mr. Foder this is not an inquisition on the Business Administrators.
 - Mrs. Adams - Clarified that the Board would like to know why the agreement was terminated.
 - Mr. Brown advised that he spoke to Mrs. Adams regarding his intent to end

the shared service agreement prior to the Pinelands Board meeting.

- Mr. Kalac - Asked Mr. Foder to hold his comments regarding the share service agreement.
- Mr. Foder - Stated it was a sneaky undermining deal. He claims this was a part of an agenda. Mr. Foder said he looks like an idiot. He thinks everyone involved was lied to.
- Mr. Williams - Believes there is a paper trail to somewhere; mentioned Stevie Wonder.
- Mr. Brown - States he is leaving because of something in his personal life. Urged the Board to post for a new Business Administrator.
 - Possibly interview before March meeting.
- Mr. Yates explained it is their (his and Mr. Brown's) intent to finish out the business of the District with regard to the sell of the building and the budget process. After which time, there will be little more work to do for the incoming Business Administrator.

7. **OLD BUSINESS**

- Gov Deals Contract
 - Questions from the Board regarding this agreement.
 - Questions addressed by Mr. Kalac's firm.
- Regionalization Update
 - The next meeting for the Regionalization Committee will be scheduled soon.

8. Motion by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Bitzberger and carried by roll call vote to approve THAT: **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accept the annual audit reports (AMR/CAFR) as presented. There are no audit recommendations; therefore no corrective action plan is required at this time. (CAFR-[Attachment #1](#), AMR-[Attachment #1a](#))

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Bitzberger, Mr. Williams

Nays: Mr. Foder

Abstain: 0

9. **AMEND AGENDA TO INCLUDE REPRESENTATION FOR LEH BOE**

Motion by Mr. Foder, seconded by Mr. Williams and carried by roll call vote to amend the agenda to include the following petition as requested by Mrs. Adams:

Resolved that the Board of Education accept the petition to the Little Egg Harbor BOE; that they make available a place on the Little Egg Harbor BOE for a representative from Bass River Township.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Bitzberger, Mr. Foder, Mr. Williams

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Discussion:

- Mr. Williams - He knows the law doesn't allow it, but believes they should push for it anyway.

- Mrs. Bitzberger - Are we going to include signatures from all residents, not just sending parents? People should keep in mind that we are having taxation with representation.
- Mr. Foder - We could be left with no representations for the elementary schools, we need to push this to the state level. Believes this is a very good thing to be done. Do they need to be registered voters?
 - Yes.

10. 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.

- Karl Swansen - What all is included in the shared services? Has the Board initiated a search for replacement services? How much is the outstanding debt? If bids come in is the Board obligated to accept that bid? He is disappointed that communications with the township hasn't gone better. Asked if the Board has heard from the commissioners since the last meeting. What happens if Regionalization comes along regarding Bass River seats on the new Regional K-12.
- Scott Ruch - What I saw tonight was embarrassing. Urged the Board to have compassion and come together in these last two months to ensure they still have a say in the education of Bass River students. What happens if on May 3rd, the Board hasn't hired a new BA?
 - Mrs. Adams advised she would go to the County Office of Education at that point. In the event that a Little Egg Harbor seat would go to Bass River, how would that Board configuration work?
 - Mrs. Bitzberger - Upset there will be no representation on the Little Egg Harbor school board. Urged for public support for the petition.
- Nick Capriglione - Commission of Bass River Township; asked the Board if they have any questions for the Board.
 - Mr. Yates advised Mr. Capriglione that he is not here on official township business and Mr. Foder is not at a commissioners meeting as an official member of the Board.
- Mr. Capriglione inquired about asbestos in the building, oil tank in the ground, and any other concerns that the township or residents should be made aware of.

11. BOARD FORUM

- Mr. Foder - Stated he was at the last township meeting as a member of the township. Appreciates the residents who attended the meeting. Was Ms. Martin invited to tonight's meeting?
 - Mrs. Adams advised that she spoke to Ms. Martin and she declined.
 - Mr. Foder inquired if Dr. McCooley was?
- Mr. Williams - Thinks a lot was said here tonight. Referenced the newspaper and cautioned that education in this state and country are in trouble. Said we cannot tolerate cancel culture any longer. Referenced dictators; said it has to end, the citizens, the parents, the grandparents all need to be heard for the sake of our children. Said he thinks tomorrow there may not be an America.
- Mrs. Adams - We are all neighbors and need to stick together for our students. Wants to make sure the decisions we make together as a Board keep our students in mind. Wants a smooth transition for our students. Acknowledges Mr. Brown's challenges and said she is praying for him and his family. Would like all the neighbors, residents, everyone to work together and show transparency.

12. **EXECUTIVE SESSION (Mr. Brown & Mr. Yates were excused from Executive Session)**
Motion by Mr. Foder, seconded by Mr. Williams and carried by voice vote to approve the Board resolution to move to Executive Session.

Time: 8:33 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, Mrs. Bitzberger, Mr. Foder, Mr. Williams
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0

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

Time: 9:02 pm

Voice Vote

Ayes: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Bitzberger, Mr. Foder, Mr. Williams
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0

13. **ADJOURNMENT**
Motion by Mrs. Bitzberger, seconded by Mr. Foder and carried by voice vote to approve that the Board adjourn the meeting.

adjourn at 9:03 pm

Voice Vote

Ayes: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Bitzberger, Mr. Foder, Mr. Williams
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0

MEETING SCHEDULE

Regular Meeting - (Wednesday, March 16, 2022)

Respectfully Submitted,



Nicholas K. Brown
Business Administrator

