

Bass River Elementary School
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
April 25, 2022

1. 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.”

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Bitzberger, Mr. Foder, Mr. Swanseen
ABSENT: Mr. Williams
Others Present: Mr. Stephen Edelstein, Board Solicitor
Mr. Paul Kalac, Board Solicitor

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Time: 5:04 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. Swansween
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0

Motion by Swanseen, seconded by Bitzberger and carried by voice vote to adjourn the Executive Session.

Time: 6:12 pm

Voice Vote

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

4. MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA

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

Voice Vote

Ayes: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Bitzberger, Mr. Foder, Mr. Swanseen
Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

5. RESIDENT’S FORUM - AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

The Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to comment. Each statement made by a participant is limited to three minutes as cited in Policy No. 0167. The public may comment on any item on the agenda at this time. General public comment will occur later in the meeting.

- A local resident asked where the Business Administrator was.
 - Mr. Foder replied that he had an emergency.
- A local resident asked if the school was sold.
 - It was explained that this resolution is on the agenda for tonight to confirm or not, the sale of the building.
- General Board discussion ensued concerning public comment.
 - The Board Attorney recommended that the right thing to do is to move on.

6. RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT HIGHEST BID

Motion by Mr. Swanseen, seconded by Mrs. Bitzberger and carried by roll call vote to approve THAT:

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:20-2 et seq., and District Policy #7300, the Bass River Board of Education (the “Board”) is authorized to sell any real property, capital improvements or personal property, or interests therein, no longer needed for school purposes, by open public sale at auction, to the highest bidder; and

WHEREAS, the Board determined that the Bass River Elementary School Property (located at 11 North Maple Avenue, New Gretna, New Jersey; Block 56, Lots 36 and 37) was no longer needed for school purposes and therefore held a public auction, via GovDeals, in connection with the sale of same; and

WHEREAS, when the auction closed on or about March 11, 2022, Eli Blech (“Mr. Blech”) of Lakewood, New Jersey was the highest bidder for the Bass River Elementary School Property, with a final bid of **\$757,500.00**; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to accept Mr. Blech’s final bid of **\$757,500.00**;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Bass River Township Board of Education that the Board hereby accepts the highest bid of **\$757,500.00** offered by Mr. Blech for the Bass River Elementary School Property, consistent with the terms and conditions set forth on and linked to the relevant auction webpage of the GovDeals website, including but not limited to the “Purchase Agreement”; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED by the Bass River Township Board of Education that the Board hereby authorizes and directs Board officers, employees, agents and/or professionals to perform all of the tasks and execute all of the documents that will affect the purpose and intent of this Resolution.

Voice Vote

Ayes: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Foder, Mr. Swanseen

Nays: 0

Abstain: Mrs. Bitzberger

Discussion

- Mr. Swanseen informed the Board and public that after much research and reaching out to the township commissioners, business administrator and legal representation on the possibility of retaining the school, he has come to the conclusion that it is not feasible.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Mr. Foder, seconded by Mrs. Bitzberger and carried by roll call vote to approve the appointment of Katherine VanTassel as School Business Administrator effective May 4, 2022.

Roll Call Vote

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

8. SEMI WAIVER

Motion by Mr. Swanseen, seconded by Mrs. Adams and carried by roll call vote to approve THAT: RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the submission of a Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Waiver to the Burlington County Office of Education for the 2022-2023 school year. ([Attachment #1](#)) as per N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3.

Roll Call Vote

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

Discussion

- The Board Attorney clarified the meaning of the SEMI Waiver.

9. 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.

- A local resident asked if the Board is moving forward on trying to access a Bass River seat on the Little Egg Harbor Board of Education.
 - Mrs. Bitzberger replied that the Board is moving forward and it is going very well.
 - General discussion ensued.
- A local resident asked a question regarding the sale of the school.
 - The Board Attorney intervened and explained that it is not appropriate for questions to be asked of Mr. Blech in public session; and it is not a question for the Board as to what will be done with the school.
 - Mrs. Adams asked the Board Attorney to provide further information as it is not the Board's privilege to comment on the purchase of the building. The Board Attorney then provided clarifying information on how the situation and the sale of the school building has transpired. He said now the steps for the Board to sign the agreement of sale and take whatever steps are necessary for transfer of title. He explained that the use of the building is of no concern to the Board and the Board has no right to ask Mr. Blech what his plans for it are.

- A local resident asked why the sale of the building was not put to a referendum to the town people to see what they wanted.
 - The Board Attorney explained that public buildings are not sold by referendum, they are sold by auction; and there was no interest by the governing body of the town to acquire the building, even for free. He said he knows this because he spoke with the municipal solicitor.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Swanseen, seconded by Mrs. Bitzberger and carried by voice vote that the Board adjourn the meeting at 6:49 pm.

Voice Vote

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

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

MEETING SCHEDULE

Regular Meeting - (Tuesday - May 9, 2022)

Respectfully Submitted,



Nicholas K. Brown
Business Administrator